

Fall 2025 Newsletter

# Yellowhead County's Yellowheadlines

A newsletter for Yellowhead County residents, visitors, property-owners, and other stakeholders that highlights municipal news, projects, and County services.

TRANS - CANADA  
16



## ALOOK INSIDE ➤

INDIGENOUS FLAG-RAISING	2
COUNTY RODEO RIDERS	6
COUNTY PRIDE WINNERS	9
MEET OUR FCSS TEAM	14
CADOMIN HALL OPENING	17
FUN WINTER ACTIVITIES	18



# FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

## TREATY 6, TREATY 8, AND MÉTIS FLAGS JOIN MUNICIPAL, PROVINCIAL, AND CANADA FLAGS

THIS CEREMONY MARKS A MILESTONE IN STRENGTHENING THE BONDS BETWEEN LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND IN HONOURING THE TREATIES, THE PEOPLE, AND THE SHARED FUTURE WE ARE BUILDING TOGETHER.

On Saturday, September 20, 2025, representatives from Treaty 6, Treaty 8, and the Otipemisiwak Métis Nation were invited guests at a flag raising ceremony at the Yellowhead County Administration office in Edson.

Honoured guests included Treaty 6 Elder Ernest Arcand, Treaty 8 Elder Mike Beaver (Bigstone Cree Nation), Treaty 8 Elder Dustin Twin (Swan River First Nation), Treaty 8 Elder Dorothy Courtereille (Whitefish First Nation), and Otipemisiwak Elder Leona Clarke.

Raising these flags together symbolizes Yellowhead County's commitment to recognizing the land and the peoples represented by the treaties on which the County is located. The Métis and First Nations, represented by Treaty 6 and Treaty 8, are recognized in the *Constitution Act, 1982*, whose traditional territories include Yellowhead County.

Each Elder spoke on behalf of their land and people before their flags were raised. Each of these nation's flags are now alongside the flags of Yellowhead County, Canada, and Alberta. They will be permanently flown at



**Photo:** The Treaty 6, Treaty 8, and Otipemisiwak Métis Nation flags will now fly permanently alongside the Yellowhead County, Alberta, and Canada flags at the Yellowhead County offices in Edson and Wildwood.

the Yellowhead County offices in Edson and Wildwood. Following the ceremony, attendees visited with each other while enjoying bannock and jam, alongside tea and coffee.



Yellowhead County has always been a gathering place of people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and geographic locations. It is an important region for first nations to gather, hunt, and harvest.



**Photo:** Attendees applauded after the Treaty 6, Treaty 8, and Otipemisiwak Métis Nation flags were raised at the Yellowhead County office in Edson on September 20.

This area also represents the area that connects the prairies to the other side of the Rocky Mountains. It was the First Nations and Métis, through their knowledge of the land and geography, that allowed the European explorers and settlers to traverse and survive on the landscape.

The name of our municipality, Yellowhead County, is itself derived from an Iroquois Métis trapper, fur trader and explorer—Tête Jaune, translating to Yellow Head.

Tête Jaune, like many other Indigenous people, had a deep knowledge of the land that helped guide the changes in this region through the centuries. The region provided the resources that were needed to rely on to be able to survive and flourish.

Indigenous communities continue to play an important role in the development of this area with the growth of Indigenous-led businesses located or operating in Yellowhead County. They are important members of our local business and resource-industry community and play a vital role in the development and growth of our economy – from investors in large-scale energy projects and energy-related businesses and employers to smaller businesses – some of which are based on traditional land knowledge and Indigenous customs.

Yellowhead County is home to the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation reserves, Alexis Elk River 233 and Alexis Cardinal River 234 in the south part of the County. These lands have long served as places for hunting, gathering, spiritual practices, and community life. Many families continue to maintain a strong and vital connection to this land, with traditional land use remaining central to your identity and cultural continuity.



**Photo:** Attendees visited with each other following the flag raising ceremony.

Today, nearly 10% of Yellowhead County's population is Indigenous, reflecting the ongoing presence, importance, and contributions of Indigenous peoples and businesses to our region.

## YOUR 2025-2029 COUNCIL



**Mayor**  
Wade Williams  
Yellowhead  
County



**Councillor**  
Patrick Soroka  
Division 1  
Evansburg & Area



**Councillor**  
Anthony Giezen  
Division 2  
Wildwood & Area



**Councillor**  
Penny Lowe  
Division 3  
Niton/Carrot  
Creek Area



**Councillor**  
David Russell  
Division 4  
Shiningbank, Peers,  
Rosevear  
Creek Area



**Councillor**  
Shallen Erickson  
Division 5  
Pinedale/Wolf  
Creek Area



**Councillor**  
Brigitte Lemieux  
Division 6  
Edson & Area



**Councillor**  
Jo-Ann Sobon  
Division 7  
Edson West Area



**Councillor**  
Jack Williams  
Division 8  
Robb, Cadomin,  
Brule, Hinton Area

# Land Acquisition

## Yellowhead County fosters economic development and growth with new land acquisition in west part of County

**On July 15, 2025, Yellowhead County Council announced the acquisition of land from the provincial government in the County's western region to promote economic growth in tourism & recreation development.**

**Yellowhead County has acquired approximately 1,850 acres of land on the west side of the County.**

This purchase aligns with long-term strategies for the sustainable development of the region and will foster economic development and growth in the County.

"We're excited to announce that Yellowhead County has acquired approximately 1,850 acres of land on the west side of the County as part of our long-term strategy for the sustainable development of our region. This purchase aligns with Council's Strategic Plan for 2022-2025, which provides direction to "Build a Robust and Adaptable Economy" with direction to "Put a focus on enhanced tourism attraction" and "Work towards Jasper/Hinton Airport becoming a potential economic driver."

This land acquisition will enable us to create recreational amenities and opportunities for residents, while expanding tourism attractions in our region, thereby fostering economic development and growth. Although specific long-term goals will emerge over time, the intent of this land purchase is to support economic diversification and recreational development in our region while minimizing any environmental impacts.

It has taken over five years to reach this point, and we would like to thank the Province of Alberta and its Public Lands Division for their collaboration with us in helping to bring this to fruition. A special thank you goes out to MLA Martin Long for his unwavering guidance and assistance over the past five years, which helped ensure our success.

We look forward to collaborating with the community to transform this land into a valuable and sustainable resource for future generations to enjoy.

We encourage Yellowhead County residents and any other interested parties to monitor the County webpage, which will outline project milestones and advancements in the years to come."

~ Mayor and Council for Yellowhead County



# Construction Projects in 2025

This was a busy year for Yellowhead County  
Infrastructure & Transportation

Capital Project	Additional Information	2025 Budget (\$)
Bridge File 07552 - Structure Replacement	Replacement of bridge on RGE RD 170A lost in 2023 floods	\$3,700,000.00
Bridge File 71009 - Culvert Replacement	Tributary to McLeod River on TWP RD (Old Highway 16)	\$966,000.00
Cadomin Lagoon	Cadomin Lagoon monitoring wells	\$30,000.00
Robb Lagoon	Perimeter fencing installation	\$120,000.00
Long Lake Road Embankment Slope Failure - Landslide	Long Lake Road embankment slope rehab	\$692,000.00
Cadomin Sewer Lift station Generator	New back up power for Cadomin sewer lift station	\$160,000.00
Cadomin Water Treatment Plant Generator	New backup power for Cadomin water treatment plant	\$160,000.00
Robb Main Lift Station Generator	New back up power for Robb main effluent lift station	\$160,000.00
TWP RD 542 - Hwy 748 to Range Road 165 Paving	Road rehabilitation included base rebuild and paving	\$10,000,000.00
TWP RD 544 - East of Hwy 32	Road rehabilitation included base rebuild, grade elevation, widening and surface regravelling	\$2,200,000.00
RGE RD 144A - South of TWP RD 541	Road rehabilitation included base rebuild, grade elevation, widening and surface regravelling	\$409,000.00
Marlboro Sewer Outfall, Force Main and Lagoon	Phase one of a multi phase project to bring sanitary sewer and water servicing to Marlboro	\$7,400,000.00
Rock Lake Road Maintenance	Brushing and road base reestablishment in select sections	\$404,000.00
Asphalt Crack Sealing	Resealed cracks on all paved road surfaces	\$270,000.00
Maintenance Gravel Program	Spread gravel on targeted residential and industrial roads throughout the County	\$4,000,000.00
County Right-of-way Mowing	Mowed ditches of all County developed roads	\$480,000.00
Asphalt Line Painting	Repainted lines on asphalt roads	\$200,000.00
West Yellowhead Regional Landfill Leachate Pond Expansion	Expanded the leachate containment pond at the West Yellowhead Regional Landfill	\$460,000.00
Access Improvements to the West Yellowhead Regional Landfill	Upgraded base and paved access area of the West Yellowhead Regional Landfill	\$400,000.00



# YELLOWHEAD COUNTY BREEDS 'EM TOUGH.

**WILDWOOD'S BRONC BUSTIN' 2025 SHOWCASED SOME OF THE BEST SADDLE BRONC RIDERS IN THE CANADIAN AND U.S. PRO RODEO CIRCUITS, INCLUDING SEVERAL HOMEGROWN ALBERTA AND YELLOWHEAD COUNTY RIDERS.**

Over the last several years, when you look up the standings in the Canadian Pro Rodeo Association (CPRA) and the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA), Alberta consistently stands out in the top 20 for Saddle Bronc Riding.

More specifically, one Yellowhead County community and family stand out — the Hay family from Wildwood will be familiar to anyone who follows professional rodeo.

Brothers Dawson, Logan, and Devon Hay, along with their father Rod, have each made their mark in professional rodeo. Their uncle Denny Hay and cousin Ben Andersen have also added to the family's long list of accomplishments in the arena.

The fact that these young riders are performing so well and breaking into the top 20 of the U.S. pro rodeo scene is a testament to their skill, hard work, and natural-born talent — not to mention their lineage and coaching.

## Family Tradition of Champions

In September 2025, Dawson was ranked No. 2 in the PRCA World Standings for Saddle Bronc Riding, and his brother Logan held 18th place in the PRCA and an impressive 12th in the CPRA.

The youngest Hay brother, Devon, is following in his older brothers' footsteps while taking a slightly



**Photo:** Yellowhead County pro rider Logan Hay tries for maximum points at his hometown's annual event in Wildwood. This year marks the event's 20th anniversary which brought in riders from Canada, the US and Australia.

different approach. He's currently studying at a U.S. college, competing on his collegiate rodeo team, and recently made his Canadian Finals Rodeo debut in 2023, qualifying in novice saddle bronc riding.

None of the boys would likely be where they are today without their dad, Rod. Rod's passion for all things rodeo runs deep in his sons' veins, who all took up the sport at a young age after travelling and watching their father compete in this high-adrenaline arena.

Rod, who retired in 2010, is an eight-time national champion at the Canadian Finals Rodeo (CFR) and holds the record for the most championships by a bronc rider in Canada. He was recognized for his contributions to the rodeo world when he was named Canadian Cowboy of the Year in 2014 and inducted into Canada's Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame in 2019.

**Photo (left):** Rod Hay and son Logan get a chance to bond this past June.

Rodeo riding can take a lot out of someone; not only is it physically demanding, but Rod says it's "a hectic lifestyle for the boys with travelling." The brothers spend much of the year on the road, competing in rodeos across Canada and the United States.



**Photo (above):** Dawson Hay soaking in the excitement at the 20th Anniversary event.

## Balancing Rodeo and Real Life

Outside the arena, the Hays lead busy lives. "Dawson is married, has a young daughter, and a new son on the way," Rod said. "Logan lives just west of us here in Yellowhead County," where he helps his parents (Rod and mom Shelley) manage their cattle ranch near Wildwood. Meanwhile, Devon continues his studies south of the border while competing on the collegiate circuit with his rodeo team.

## It's a Rodeo Family

Not only do the Hay brothers have a rodeo legend for a dad, but their uncle, Denny Hay, was the 1998 Canadian Pro Rodeo Association year-end Saddle Bronc Riding Champion, right between two of the years Rod took that same honour home. Their grandfather was also a competitive rodeo rider, continuing the family's deep rodeo heritage.



**Photo:** Yellowhead County rider from Peers, Chance Barrass, a prominent competitor in the CPRA, battles it out for a spot in this year's Bronc Bustin' event.

These days, it's their cousin, Ben Andersen, from Eckville, AB, who's travelling the circuit and competing alongside the Hay brothers in saddle bronc riding. You'll often see Andersen

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Wildwood Bronc Bustin' event is the first single-event rodeo sanctioned by both the CPRA and PRCA.

Started by Rod Hay in 2005, 2025 marks its 20th anniversary. It has quickly become an action-packed event that showcases some of the best Saddle Bronc riders in Canada.

right alongside the Hays at events such as the Calgary Stampede and Wildwood's Bronc Bustin'. Andersen was ranked 10th in Canada and 14th in the U.S. earlier this fall.

Both Dawson and Logan competed in this year's 20th Anniversary Wildwood rodeo, along with Andersen and twenty-seven other riders from AB, BC, Australia, and the US, including Chance Barrass, another local Yellowhead County rider, who also joined the local and visiting cowboys to compete in this year's Wildwood event.



**Photo:** Ben Andersen from Rocky Mountain House joins his cousins and fellow cowboys riding the world-class horses from the Calgary Stampede.

## Wildwood Bronc Bustin' 2025

This summer's 20th Annual Wildwood Bronc Bustin' Rodeo, held June 15, drew record crowds and showcased world-class bronc talent as part of the CPRA circuit.

Rod expressed pride in how far the hometown event has come. "It's growing into a world-class event," he said. "It's become a great event for this community."

With a family legacy that continues to inspire both in the arena and at home, the Hays have ensured that Wildwood's name remains synonymous with rodeo excellence — in Alberta, across Canada, and beyond.

## Calgary Stampede

All three Hay brothers have competed in the Calgary Stampede, with 2022 marking the first year all three participated together. Logan won the 2022 Champion and Dawson won in 2023. Rod was also a fixture at the *Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth* throughout his professional career, winning four times, and his brother Denny winning in 1998.

## More County Rodeo Riders:

**Taylor Manning:** This two-time Canadian Barrel Racing Champion started her career in Yellowhead County and has been at the top of the game for Canadian Barrel Racing since she was a teenager. She finished second in this year's regular season standings and was named 2025 CPRA Cowgirl of the year.

**Chance Barrass:** Chance is another Yellowhead Saddle Bronc Rider who continues to compete at a high level. Over the past few years, he's been competing in Canada and the US riding with some of best in rodeo.

**Caitlin McArthur:** She competed in her own backyard at the Medicine Lodge Rodeo in the past, and her placing for the CFR Aggregate Standings was a strong fifth place in 2025.

**Robyn Armstrong:** Breakaway Roping is the sport of this local cowgirl who competes in rodeos across Alberta.

**Photo (below):** The image for the 2025 Wildwood Bronc Bustin' Rodeo (held here by Rod Hay) was created by local artist Kay Scherer. The drawing of Logan Hay on the bronc Exotic Warrior was used for the event poster and a limited edition print.

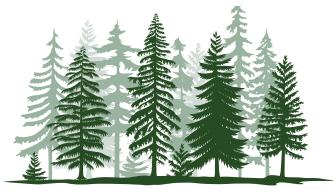


All photos on this page are from the 2025 Wildwood Bronc Bustin' Rodeo. Photos by Billie-Jean Duff.

**Background Image:** Dawson Hay.

# Getting a Christmas Tree

Based on fact sheets by Toso Bozic, ISA Certified Arborist



**Christmas in Canada is a magical time** filled with traditions, joy, and festive decorations. Among the most iconic symbols of the season is the Christmas tree. The tradition of decorating evergreen trees during the holiday season has deep roots, and holds a special place in the hearts of many Canadians.

The practice of **decorating trees** during the winter season has ancient origins, with various cultures incorporating evergreen plants into their celebrations. In Canada, the tradition of the Christmas tree can be traced back to the 18th century. European settlers brought the custom with them, and it gradually became a cherished part of Canadian holiday festivities. In the early days, families often ventured into the woods to cut down their own trees.



**Photos:** Different types of tree options offer different qualities including smell, shape, and colour. **Left:** Pine Tree. **Right:** Fir Tree.

## Types of Christmas Trees in Canada

Before diving into the selection process, it's essential to understand the different types of Christmas trees available. Each type has unique characteristics that can influence the overall look, scent, and longevity of the tree. Balsam fir, Spruce, and Pine are the main choices for a live tree and each have their own unique qualities. For more details and sub-species, visit [www.yhcounty.ca/yardwhispers](http://www.yhcounty.ca/yardwhispers).

## WINTER BURNING TIPS

### A few things to know before burning:

- Listen to weather forecasts for snow conditions and wind predictions before you set your fire.
- Refrain from burning when a **smoke inversion** is in place or forecasted. It causes smoke to get trapped close to the ground and can cause dangerous driving conditions.
- Ensure good snow cover in the burn area (more than 15 cm)
- Consult the County or Forestry on how to mitigate impacts for larger winter burns near communities or roads.
- Actively manage burn projects to reduce total burning time and smoke impacts.
- Burn debris in stages so that you can adapt to changing weather conditions and reduce smoke.

### Choose Locally Grown Trees

Locally sourced trees have a smaller carbon footprint as they don't need to be transported over long distances. In Alberta, there are very few growers that offer u-cut Christmas trees. A quick online search will show you where you can find a tree farm grower for Christmas trees or a local retailer may have some for purchase.

Another option is to cut a tree from Crown land. You'll need a free Personal Use Forest Products Permit (PUFPP) from an Alberta Government Forestry Office or online. Alberta Christmas tree permits are free to obtain, but a permit is still required to cut a tree from designated Crown land. A map shows all the places you can get a local fresh tree.

### Fire Safety

Another important consideration when having a real Christmas tree in the house is fire safety. It's a wonderful family tradition, but be sure to follow the instructions for keeping the tree watered so that it doesn't dry out and present a fire hazard. Also, real Christmas trees are 100% reusable and recyclable. Once the needles are off you can chip it or use it in a woodstove or fire pit if weather permits. You can also contact your municipality for how to recycle the tree in January.

### Live vs Plastic Tree

Every option comes with its own environmental pros and cons, as well as considerations around cost, health, safety, practicality, and nostalgia.

For more information on Christmas Trees, and other tree and shrub fact sheets, visit [www.yhcounty.ca/yardwhispers](http://www.yhcounty.ca/yardwhispers).



Fire Permit Season typically ends after October 31, but anyone burning during the winter is still responsible for safe burning practices. A surprising number of wildfires start in the winter. Anyone responsible for starting a wildfire can be fined, charged, and held liable for all costs associated with fighting that wildfire.

A lack of snow cover can leave brown, dry grass exposed and ready to ignite. Sparks from fires can inadvertently cause winter wildfires.

For more information on winter burning, and burning winter brush piles and windrows, visit [alberta.ca/safe-burning](http://alberta.ca/safe-burning) and [www.yhcounty.ca/wildfireprevention](http://www.yhcounty.ca/wildfireprevention)



Photo: Kathy Arndt

## Congratulations to the winners of our 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual County Pride Contest!

1. Erickson Property
2. Vincent Property
3. (Tie) Mitchell Property & Kremeniuk Property



Gardening season is my favourite time of the year. I love starting all my seeds indoors and watching everything grow. I grow a lot of things that you can't buy at the store like cucamelons, purple cauliflower, purple peas, lemon cucumbers, crystal apple cucumbers just to name a few. My favourite part is taking my husband out for "garden tours" in the evenings.

- Destanne Erickson



I am very impressed by the supportive community we live in. My garden changes throughout the summer blooming at different times so it's always hard to pick 4 [photos]. Thanks for allowing us to share all the beautiful gardens.

- Gillian Vincent



I just got into gardening and stuff 3 years ago... it's been a real learning experience but every year gets easier and easier. I really enjoy being in my greenhouse and learning the ways of gardening.

- Julia Mitchell



# The First Tourist

Yellowhead County's very first tourist wasn't a backpacker or road-tripper — it was James Carnegie, the ninth Earl of Southesk, who set out on an epic hunting and exploration journey through the region in 1859–1860.

An aristocrat with a passion for fine firearms, horses, and sport hunting, James Carnegie, the ninth Earl of Southesk, was eager to combine adventure with recovery from poor health.

Encouraged by a Hudson's Bay Company official, he decided to experience Rupert's Land (Western Canada) for himself, hoping, in his own words, to enjoy "good sport among the larger animals" while restoring his strength in the open air of a "healthy climate."

His journey began at Fort Garry, where Sir George Simpson — governor of the Hudson's Bay Company — outfitted the expedition. Southesk was accompanied by six men, including Toma, an Iroquois canoe man, and Duncan Robertson, his Scottish game manager. The party carried an impressive load of supplies: weapons, horses, provisions, crates of biscuits, jam, dried tongues, and even an India-rubber bath — along with 40 kilograms of tobacco.

From Lac Ste. Anne, guide André Cardinal led the group toward the Embarras River. Following advice from trader Henry Moberly, Southesk avoided the game-scarce Athabasca Valley and instead hunted along the McLeod River. Days of slogging through thick brush and boggy trails finally brought him a



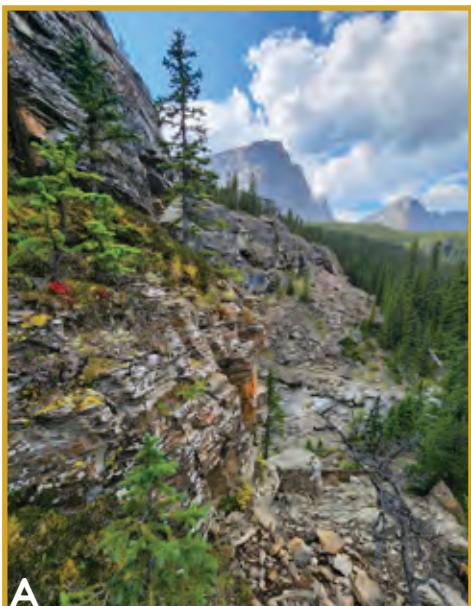
*Photo: The Ninth Earl of Southesk, James Carnegie. Courtesy of Royal Alberta Museum.*

view of the Rockies. The moment left him awestruck: "For a moment, I was quite overwhelmed. Then one of those strange tides of emotion... rushed through me from head to foot. I trembled all over, my limbs lost their strength, I could hardly sit on my horse. But... I felt myself ready for any labours that might bring me nearer to so splendid a goal."

From there, Southesk's party trekked over the Cardinal Divide and into the Medicine Tent River valley, where they hunted mountain sheep before turning back eastward along the Brazeau River toward the North Saskatchewan.

Southesk's adventurous spirit left a lasting mark on Yellowhead County. Mount Toma, Southesk River, and Mount LaGrace — named for an Indigenous hunter with a playful, trickster nature — still bear the names from his travels.

Nearly 150 years later, in 2009, his great-great-grandson David Carnegie, the current Earl of Southesk, retraced much of the original route on horseback. Reflecting on the hardships his ancestor endured, David admitted with admiration: "He was made of sterner stuff."



**A**



**B**



**C**

*Photos: You can follow much of the Earl of Southesk's journey by visiting the Coal Branch Public Land Use Zone. The area features many beautiful spots to recreate in, including areas to hike and ATV. **A:** A view of Mount LaGrace and Mount Toma at Ruby Falls. **B:** Top of Ruby Falls with Mount LaGrace in background. **C:** A view of Crystal Falls near the Cardinal River headwaters.*

# Kindred Spirits: Celebrating 100 years of the Evansburg Cemetery

On July 12, 2025, the Yellowhead County Heritage Program commemorated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Evansburg Cemetery. The event, called Kindred Spirits, invited visitors to stop by and take a self-guided tour of the cemetery, enjoy some beautiful views, place flowers on loved ones' graves, and more.

The tour led people to new features of the cemetery including the lookout, walking trail, information panels on overcoming grief, and the wind phone, which is a phone "connected only to the wind."

The tour also involved informative stops by historic gravesites, such as Charlotte Arnup and Aldina Harke. Aldina is the first record in the cemetery register. "Each cemetery in the municipality has a unique history," said Madison Sharman, Yellowhead County's Heritage Coordinator.

A board was provided for visitors to share their thoughts. The question "What advice do you have for someone experiencing



**Photo:** The wind phone is a stop on the self-guided tour of the Evansburg Cemetery.

grief?" inspired answers such as "Remember them in their good light," and "It gets better over time. Time heals."

Approximately 100 people attended the event. "I'm so happy with the turnout. Everyone was so happy and lovely," said Sharman.

Visitor Joan Melvin said, "A great big shoutout to Yellowhead County for the heartwarming and informative event to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Evansburg Cemetery! The new lookout, walking path, wind phone, and restoring of the headstones have made it a most welcoming place to come visit loved ones who are no longer with us! The Melvin and McGowan families are very appreciative!"



"By far, the best part of the day was seeing people reconnecting at the cemetery," Sharman said. "Giving each other hugs, talking about loved ones, and celebrating all the life the cemetery represents."

Kindred Spirits was possible thanks to the collaborative efforts of several departments across Yellowhead County, including Parks and Recreation, Transportation, Agricultural Services, FCSS, and Corporate Services.

The self-guided tour can be found at [www.yhcounty.ca](http://www.yhcounty.ca).



## Yellowhead County Launches Chronicle: A New Era for Cemetery Management and Local Heritage

Yellowhead County has officially launched **Chronicle**, a new online cemetery management system that modernizes cemetery records while preserving community history. After extensive research, Chronicle was selected as the most suitable application to meet the County's administrative needs and its long-term heritage goals.

In May 2025, high-resolution aerial surveys were conducted for five cemeteries—Evansburg, Empyrean, Robb Coal Branch, Mercoal, and Mountain Park. These detailed maps were uploaded into Chronicle, giving staff the ability to accurately draw plot lines, mark existing burials, and identify available plots. The new system eliminates many of the challenges of traditional recordkeeping and creates a more streamlined process for managing cemetery operations.

Beyond its administrative benefits, Chronicle is also designed with history and community in mind. Each plot can include photographs, family histories, and personal stories, all of which are publicly accessible. For families, this

offers a meaningful way to preserve memories for future generations. For researchers and historians, it creates a valuable resource for genealogy and local history.

Although the project is still in its early stages, a portion of the Evansburg Cemetery has already been completed and is now available for public viewing online. Anyone can explore this resource by visiting [us.chronicle.rip](http://us.chronicle.rip) and search for Evansburg.

As more family histories are collected and shared, the platform will grow into a rich archive that supports genealogical research and encourages heritage tourism. One exciting feature is the option to create self-guided cemetery tours using a smartphone, blending local history with modern technology to engage residents and visitors.

With the launch of Chronicle, Yellowhead County is taking an important step toward preserving its past while planning for the future—ensuring that the stories of these communities continue to be remembered and shared for generations to come.

# It's been a Yellowhead County

# Summer



Bear (Sasquatch?) Chase Triathlon  
Bear Lake



Slam Dunk!  
Green Grove Pool



The Best of Friends



Dressed to Extinguish  
YCFD Station 12



Totally Twinning!  
Marlboro Playground



Wheels and  
Robb Pump



Kids Can Definitely Can  
Millers Lake



PV Daze  
Evansburg



Swim  
Green



ing Lesson Fun  
n Grove Pool



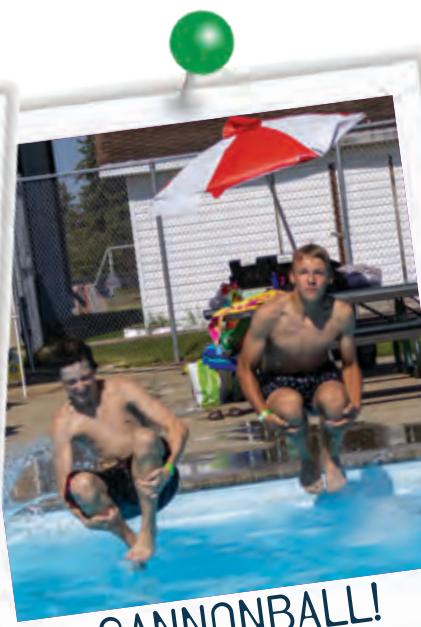
Bear-y fast bikers!  
Bear Lake - Bear Chase Triathlon



Smiles  
track



Photo Op!  
Tipple Park Museum



CANNONBALL!  
Green Grove Pool



Family Fun on the Dock  
Long Lake



What time is it Mr. Wolf?  
Marlboro Hall



From Wildfires to Wild fish!  
Millers Lake - Kids Can Catch

## SUMMER STUDENT SNAPSHOT!

atch!



Green Grove Pool Lifeguards  
Sun's out, squad's out



Marlboro Awesome  
Adventure Camp



Nothing says summer like a  
poolside BBQ!



Agricultural Services  
Weed Inspectors

# Family and Community Support Services: Meet Our Team!

Yellowhead County's FCSS team is a group of dedicated, compassionate, and service-oriented individuals who work to enrich the lives of County residents.



**Photo:** The FCSS team (from left to right): Karen Schatz (Community Outreach Coordinator), Natalie Tremblay (Program Assistant), Jenna Truemner (Children's Program Coordinator), and Sierra Goddard (FCSS Supervisor). A Youth Services Coordinator position was in the process of hiring at the time of publication, and the team brings on a few summer students each year.

## Children's Program Coordinator – Jenna Truemner

Jenna works primarily with children up to age 12. "I offer preventative social programming for this age group, across the County," Jenna said, providing examples such as Roots of Empathy, summer camps, Family Time, after school programs, family dances, and more.

One of Jenna's favourite parts about working in Yellowhead County is that there are many different hamlets and communities. "Each community is a little bit different... there's unique needs that come up," she said. "Each day is a little bit different because you're dealing with different people."

Working in various rural areas presents unique challenges, as each community may have different resources and services available. 'We have to make sure we're not duplicating services already offered by other agencies,' Jenna explained.

Program participants aging out is another matter Jenna deals with. "Because I work with up to age 12, once they

reach 13, they may no longer be able to participate in some of the programs that we're offering," Jenna explained. "We're kind of continuously rebuilding our target audience."

The reward of seeing people build relationships and connect with one another makes it all worth it for Jenna



**Photo:** FCSS' Awesome Adventure Camp in Marlboro.

"It's been really great to see families who may be new to the area coming to some of the programs and building some relationships that are carrying outside of the program," she said. "We've seen a couple families in the past year that have really made these connections."

Another thing Jenna loves is seeing what former program participants are up to. "We're seeing some be employed by Yellowhead County for seasonal positions, or we're seeing some going on to have their own families," she said.

Jenna had a message for any resident that may be looking for FCSS services but isn't sure where to start: "If you're unsure about anything, definitely reach out to the office. We can point you in the right direction."



**Photo:** FCSS' Awesome Adventure Camp in Peers.

## Program Assistant – Natalie Tremblay

Natalie spends a lot of time working alongside Jenna, and watching children come out of their shell has become one of her favourite things. "They come in and they're super quiet and don't really want to interact and then three months later they're coming in like 'hi' and off they go," she said. "Or kids come in crying for a program and then at the end of the day they don't want to go... and it's memorable for them obviously too, then. I think that's a pretty neat thing."

Natalie said that one of the biggest challenges working with FCSS in rural areas is putting on programs and not seeing a great turnout because people may not realize anything is going on.

"The opportunities are there for the community... they just need to know that it's there," Natalie said. "I think people don't even realize that you can just show up or make a phone call... or even suggest a program. People just don't know."

Natalie hopes to continue to grow in her role moving forward. "There's so much to learn and there's opportunities," she said. "If you want to do it, and you want to grow, then it's there. So that's my plan."

## Community Outreach Coordinator – Karen Schatz

Karen offers support to individuals from 18 years of age to seniors. She helps people deal with different levels of government to access resources, and assists with navigating paperwork and phone systems that can be “very overwhelming.”

A big part of Karen’s role is working with seniors, and helping them fill out paperwork for Old Age Security, Canada Pension Plan, Seniors Financial Assistance with the provincial government, and Guaranteed Income Supplement with the federal government.



**Photo:** Karen and Natalie at Yellowhead County FCSS’ Seniors Appreciation event at the Wildwood Community Hall on June 18, 2025.

Read more about this event on the next page!

“I also help adults that are struggling financially and try to get them resources such as Income Support or AISH,” Karen said. Working in rural areas brings its own set of challenges. “Transportation is an issue, and it is very high in demand, especially to medical appointments,” said Karen. “Then with mobility issues you have the walkers and the wheelchairs that the transportation has to accommodate, as well. It’s hard because Yellowhead County is so vast.”

“It’s been challenging and rewarding in the same breath,” Karen continued. “When you can find the resources that people need, and their quality of life improves, that’s totally awesome. It’s rewarding to help other people.”

## FCSS Supervisor – Sierra Goddard, BCYC, CCYCC

Sierra’s role primarily involves supporting the staff that facilitate programming in Yellowhead County, as well as “working on building community within all of the hamlets and the small rural areas that we have in the municipality.”

“I have always loved the aspect of building community and helping people become interconnected with one another,” Sierra said.

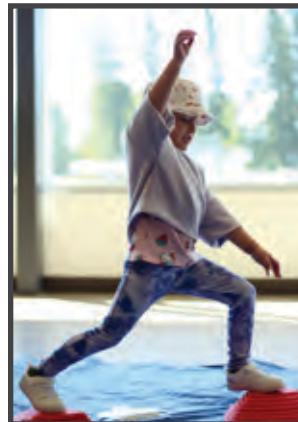
One of the main challenges in Sierra’s role is making sure that everyone throughout the County knows what is available to them. “It’s really important for folks to know where they can access resources and information,” she said. “People can always give us a call at the office with what they’re looking for. My job is to dive deep and find these different resources.” Cost-sharing agreements with neighbouring municipalities mean that Yellowhead County residents can take advantage of FCSS programs in places like Edson and Hinton.

“One of the really unique things about FCSS in the province

is that each of us do very different things. What we do in Yellowhead County FCSS is going to look different than what happens in other municipalities,” said Sierra. “A lot of that has to do with the resources that are available.”

“When we look at Edson or Hinton, there’s lots of great agencies out there... so [they] fill in gaps in those areas,” Sierra explained. For remote areas of the municipality, they have access to fewer agencies that provide direct in-community support, resulting in Yellowhead County FCSS needing to offer more services.

“If somebody is coming in with a need, we’re going to assess what’s needed for that person and then we’re going to refer them on to the correct services,” Sierra said.



**Photo:** FCSS’ Adventure Play Camp in Peers.

## The Team Dynamic

The FCSS team is truly that: a team, working together to overcome challenges and support residents across Yellowhead County.

Sierra, Jenna, and Karen have each been with Yellowhead County for over a decade, and Natalie joined the team just over a year ago. “An awesome year,” she said.

“Our team is fantastic,” said Sierra. “They are some of the most resilient people that I know.”

Jenna echoed that sentiment, noting that recent challenges include COVID and wildfires and funding changes, to name a few. “We’re kind of forced, in a sense, to pivot and I think it just speaks to the flexibility of our team and how we’re able to adapt, and that we can always, always count on each other and step up when we need to,” she said.

“They’re a super bunch to be with... it’s a good dynamic,” said Natalie. “There’s tons to learn from them all.”

“They’re absolutely wonderful. I couldn’t have better coworkers,” said Karen. “It’s been quite a journey with Yellowhead County Family and Community Support Services. There have been a lot of changes, but it’s a growing and learning adventure.”

# When in Doubt, Reach Out!

If you want information on available programs or supports, or even if you’re just unsure, you can reach out to Yellowhead County FCSS at 780-325-3782 or stop by the Wildwood Office, and they can help point you in the right direction.

You can also keep up-to-date on upcoming events and programs at [www.yhcounty.ca](http://www.yhcounty.ca) or at [www.facebook.com/YellowheadCountyFCSS](http://www.facebook.com/YellowheadCountyFCSS)



# 2025 Seniors Appreciation

Yellowhead County Family & Community Support Services (FCSS) held their annual Seniors Appreciation event on June 18, 2025 at the Wildwood Community Hall. This year's event was "very successful," said Community Outreach Coordinator and event organizer Karen Schatz, noting that 86 people attended which is the best turnout they've had since COVID.

Following their welcome, guests were given a presentation on fraud/scam tactics by Julie Matthews, a consumer protection expert and certified fraud examiner who is passionate about fraud prevention, especially in rural areas.



**Photo:** Julie Matthews gave a presentation on fraud/scam tactics.

"Julie kept the audience very attentive with scenarios that have actually happened with people," said Karen. "The comments were that people that were at the event learned a lot from Julie and will be extra careful when it comes to someone trying to get their personal information from them."

The seniors were then treated to a meal catered by Pembina River Catering/Westend Meals on Wheels, followed by some entertainment by Elmer Riehl and his band.

"We found people swaying to the music and people that got up and were dancing to the music," said Karen. "They even did a yodeling song at the request of one of the participants. Everyone enjoyed the music!" The day ended with door prizes given out to some lucky attendees.

Attendees were able to leave evaluations of their experience, and 46 people handed in evaluations with their positive comments that highlighted Julie's presentation, the food, the entertainment, and the time to socialize and connect with friends and neighbours. "Lots of great info and met lots of new friends, it was nice to connect with people that I've met in other community events and converse," read one evaluation.

"Seniors are a vital part of our community. They are the volunteers who share their skills, knowledge, and experience that are very valuable in our communities, whether they serve in community groups for community halls, recreation and agricultural societies, special projects, intergenerational programs, cemeteries, and more," Karen said. "This was a special thank you to the seniors in our communities that give their time to the people in our communities. This is a chance to recognize the seniors for what they do."



**Photo:** Guests enjoyed the music provided by Elmer Riehl and his band.

Behind every successful event are the people that make it happen. Four Yellowhead County staff members worked the event, including Karen, FCSS Summer Staff members Megan Fosheim and Colby Carter, and FCSS Program Assistant Natalie Tremblay.

In addition, eight volunteers from several different agencies headed up information tables for guests to check out. Information tables included the Wildwood Library on behalf of Yellowhead County Libraries, Hearing Care Doctors, McLeod River Primary Care Network, Yellowhead Women's Shelter, Alzheimer Society of Alberta and NWT, the Lobstick Literacy and Learning Society, and Yellowhead County FCSS.

## DO YOU HAVE A BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF INCOME TAX?

Want to help people in your community?  
Become a volunteer!

Volunteer with Yellowhead County FCSS to help people by doing their taxes!

With the **Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP)** you help people with lower incomes complete their income tax so they continue to receive government benefits.



As a CVITP volunteer, you will receive training, guidance, and tax software.

Contact Karen at Yellowhead County FCSS at 780-325-3782 or 1-800-814-3935 if you are interested in becoming a volunteer.

## GENERATIONS CONNECT

### Pen Pal Program



Join our Intergenerational Pen Pal Program for a unique exchange of wisdom, stories, and friendship.



This FREE program is seeking participants ages 55+

For more information or to join please contact Sierra at 780-325-3782 or [sgoddard@yhcounty.ca](mailto:sgoddard@yhcounty.ca)



# Cadomin Hall Grand Opening

## Cadomin residents welcome the new hall

The Cadomin Community Hall officially opened on July 19, 2025 to a group of Cadomin residents, dignitaries, visitors in the hamlet, and families with a historic connection to the hamlet and the Coal Branch region.

The official opening featured a full day of family-friendly events and activities, historical exhibits, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony that drew approximately 300 attendees throughout the day. The celebrations concluded with a dinner and donor recognition event attended by 150 guests. In addition to local residents, several families with historical ties to the hamlet returned to take part in the occasion.

The Cadomin Hall is a new focal point in the hamlet, serving as a facility



that will host community events, local groups and meetings, weddings, family reunions, and more. As the hamlet has continued to get busier over the last several years with a mix of full-time residents, part-time locals, and visitors to the area, there was an increased need for a new facility for the community.

"We're extremely excited to have the new hall up and running and open to the public," said Wade Williams, Mayor of Yellowhead County. "Cadomin is a beautiful location, and this hamlet really represents the amazing history of our municipality and the energy of our residents and community members. This hall will be a great hub for the community, and I know it'll be a great place to host all types of events for generations to come."

The vision for the hall began to take shape in 2019 with the formation of the Cadomin Community Society. In the years that followed, planning and fundraising efforts gained momentum, and in 2022 funding was secured from the Cadomin Community Society, Yellowhead County, and the Provincial Government, and donations from several families, businesses, and industries connected to the community.

The new hall features a large event room, a kitchen, a lobby and community room, and a basement that can be



used for activities and games. "Our first summer's events were a success thanks to the support of community volunteers and visitors from across the County and the Province. Thanks to everyone," said Anita Lunden, an active member and past president of the Board of the Cadomin Community Society.

To rent the Cadomin Hall, contact the Cadomin Community Society.



Since the opening this summer, there have already been two great events that brought in visitors from all over.

The first was the Second Annual Cadomin Artisan Fair which took place on August 30th and included over 50 vendors and hundreds of guests, and also raised funds for the Hinton Search and Rescue (HSAR).

The following weekend was the first ever Cardinal Divide & Conquer Gravel Ride. A sunny day of gravel road-riding over a grueling 106 kilometres of "the best dang gravel north of the border" and 1,409 metres of elevation.



# Winter Activities to Explore

There's a great variety of wonderful trails to explore in Yellowhead County, from Evansburg in the east to the Coal Branch region in the west.

Throw a stick in any direction in Yellowhead County and you're bound to hit a trail you haven't explored yet. Covering more than 22,000 square kilometres, the region offers endless opportunities for hiking, biking, quadding, and horseback riding through the summer, but when winter rolls in, there's no better cure for cabin fever than getting out on the County's incredible network of winter recreation trails. From the rolling prairie fields in the east to the rugged Rocky Mountain foothills in the west, it'll take you a while to experience them all.

There's plenty of natural attractions and scenery that take on a whole new look in a wintery snow-scape. You can try snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, ice-skating, snowmobiling, or winter-walking trails in the winter. Regardless of your ability or activity choice, there's a trail to suit your needs, whether it's a provincial or municipal park trail, a recreation club trail, or a crown-land or private trail. Visit [exploreyellowhead.ca](http://exploreyellowhead.ca) for more details and get outside this winter!

Did you know that Yellowhead County has a cross-country ski and snowshoe rental program? Call our Parks & Recreation department to find out more.



## X-Country Skiing

- > Hornbeck trails
- > Hinton Nordic Centre
- > Willmore Park trails

## Fat-Biking

- > Willmore Park bike trails
- > Hinton Area bike trails
- > Switzer Park

## Snowshoeing

- > Willmore Park trails
- > Hinton Area trails
- > Switzer Park

## Ice-Skating

Bear Lake Skate Loop  
Outdoor Rinks:

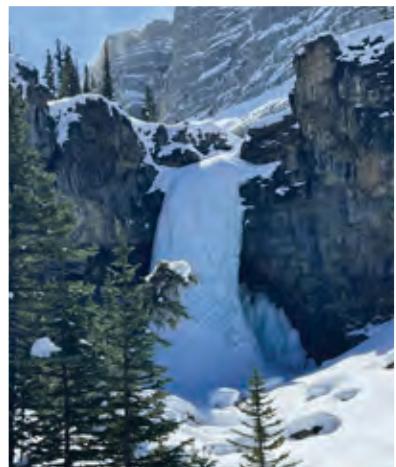
- > Niton Junction > Peers
- > Marlboro > Brule
- > Wildwood > Robb

# Snowmobiling in the County

From winding trails to sweeping mountain views, there's nothing like firing up your machine and getting out for a ride on a snowy winter day.

As you can imagine, in an area where you're likely to get snow at least half the year, winter sports can be quite popular. Mix that with a love of gas-fuelled machinery combined with a region covering over 22,000 square kilometres of crown land, with beautiful vistas of the Rocky Mountains and forested areas for as far as the eye can see, you're going to get a big interest in snowmobiling.

This sport is enjoyed by all sorts, from family and friends going out for a fun ride to a cabin or shelter to have a fire and some hot chocolate and marshmallows – to those looking for a more adventurous and challenging ride. And then throw in the annual group poker rally and other fun events and you have really something for everyone.



between fundraising, trail maintenance, building shelters and cabins, and of course getting out and doing some riding.

The group maintains over 300 kilometres of maintained trails. Trails extend down to the Coal Branch, where those adventurous enough can stop and hike in behind the frozen Ruby Falls; or head north, where trails and warm up cabins will get you all the way to Whitecourt's trails system.



**Darin Nelson, the President of Sno-Seekers, answered a few questions about the club's trails and shelters in the County:**

## What are the main snowmobile trails in Yellowhead County?

The Edson area has three main areas with approximately 300 kilometres of maintained trails that link from Whitecourt directly to Robb.

The north trails have three warm-up shelters and interlink into the Whitecourt trail system. The south area is home to the newest warm-up shelter. There's a view of the mountains and the trails lead to the community of Robb. The Lovett area has great off-trail, open meadow riding in the flats below the Rocky Mountains.

## Are there any cabins or warm-up shelters in the area?

The Edson Sno-Seekers have five warm-up shelters:

- Swartz Creek Cabin is located on the south loop.
- Lovett Cabin is located at the Lovett staging area.
- Sundance Shelter, Pepperhill Cabin and Tom Hill warm-up shelters are all on the north trail system.
- There's also a picnic spot called Larry's Lunch on the north trails.

Maps, membership event information, and more can be found at the Edson Snowmobile Association's website at [www.edsonsnoseekers.ca](http://www.edsonsnoseekers.ca)





## JOIN OUR 2025 PHOTO CONTEST!

We want to see  
your photos of  
Yellowhead  
County!

**Have a photo of a hamlet, our beautiful landscape, or from an event in the County?**

**You could win some great prizes including Yellowhead County swag or a gift card to a local business!**

- 1. Go to [www.yhcounty.ca/photos2025](http://www.yhcounty.ca/photos2025)**
- 2. Fill out the entry and photo release form**
- 3. Send the form and your photo(s) to [communications@yhcounty.ca](mailto:communications@yhcounty.ca)**

Feel free to contact Yellowhead County's Chief Administrative Officer or General Managers with questions, concerns, or comments.

---

**Luc Mercier**

– Chief Administrative Officer

---

**Albert Bahri**

– General Manager of Protective Services

---

**Jeffrey Morrison**

– General Manager of Corporate Services

---

**Crystal McNernie**

– General Manager of Community Services

---

**Cory Armfelt**

– General Manager of Infrastructure & Planning

**Yellowhead County**

780-723-4800

1-800-665-6030

Fax: 780-723-5066

**Office Locations**

**Edson Office (Main)**

2716 - 1st Avenue

Edson, AB T7E 1N9

**Hours of Operation**

Monday to Friday

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Wildwood Office**

53404 Rge Rd 92A

Wildwood, AB

**After-Hours Emergency**

**Utilities, Bylaw, Transportation: 780-723-3221**

Visit the Yellowhead County website at [www.yhcounty.ca](http://www.yhcounty.ca)

