



## DO I NEED A Burn Permit?

If you are planning to conduct a controlled burn in Saddle Hills County, there are some requirements that you need to be aware of. Within Forest Protection Areas, Burn Permits are required in Fire Season from April 1 to October 31. Permits are available from Alberta Sustainable Resource Development Forest Protection Division at 780-538-8080.

When planning to conduct a controlled burn in any area outside of the Forest Protection Area, you are required to notify Saddle Hills County Office at 780-864-3760. Staff will record the location, date, duration & extent of the burn as well as your contact information. This information is forwarded to the local fire Department, 9-1-1 Dispatch Centre & Alberta Sustainable Resource Development in order to help prevent false alarms. It is also advisable to notify the County for burns within the Forest Protection Area during the winter months November 1 – March 31. For further information or to determine if your location is within the Forest Protection Area Please contact the Saddle Hills County Office at 780-864-3760.

## Land Use Bylaw Review Open Houses

Saddle Hills County is in the process of reviewing and updating our Land Use Bylaw #106-2001. Download the current land use bylaw at [www.saddlehills.ab.ca](http://www.saddlehills.ab.ca). Some questions under review are:

- Should agriculture land be preserved or should residential development be encouraged?
- Should one subdivision from every quarter section of land be permitted? (as per the current Land Use Bylaw).
- Current lot size restrictions under Agriculture District for Country Residential parcels are set at a minimum of 5 acres and maximum of 10 acres? Do agree with these size restrictions or should these be changed?

We are looking for your input and comments on these and other land use planning issues. Do not wait until you intend to subdivide or develop your land to find out if the Land Use Bylaw will accommodate your needs. Your input into this process is valuable. Open House dates and times are forthcoming. Plan to participate!

## SEND IN YOUR Snappiest Snapshot

Saddle Hills County is presenting a photo contest for residents who enjoy local photography. Residents can send their favourite shots from any season as many times as they wish to Saddle Hills County and be entered to win \$30 for first place, \$20 for second place, and \$10 for third place. Prize money will be awarded for each of the following categories: (1) Scenery, (2) Industry, and (3) People, places, things. Submissions should include both JPEG format digital and 8" x 10" print copies of the photo and will be considered property of Saddle Hills County. Submissions will not be returned to the submitting resident.

Deadline for submissions is August 14th, 2009. Submissions should be addressed to "Photo Contest" and mailed to the address in the green area below. When making a contest submission please include information about the photographer (ie. name, mailing address, email address, and phone number) and information about the photo (ie. geographical location, date taken, and the category).

## Where in the County is this?

### A CONTEST TO TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF SADDLE HILLS COUNTY GEOGRAPHY

If you know where this photo was taken, you could win great prizes! Cut out this photo and keep it on your fridge or another safe place with your answer. Another photo will appear in next week's edition of the Saddle Hills Community Update. Once all six photos have been displayed, watch for instructions about how to send your answers for your chance to win!



All seniors and disabled ratepayers may request to have their driveways cleared by their local grader operator free of charge. All other ratepayers can purchase flags for a cost of \$50.00. Flags can be obtained at the Saddle Hills County Office and local stores. Ratepayers will be required fill out a Snow Plow agreement. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this service, please feel free to contact the Saddle Hills County Public Works Department at 780-864-3670. A few points to remember regarding the Snow Plow Agreement are presented below.

- Firstly, the priority will be to clear all local infrastructure prior to having driveways plowed.
- A Snowplow Agreement must be in place prior to having any driveway plowed.
- The grader operator will typically make one pass into and one pass out of each driveway to allow the ratepayer to access the road from their home.
- Access to granaries, barns, or any other outbuildings will not be plowed.
- Snowflags must be placed at the end of the driveway, where they are clearly visible to grader operators. However, elderly and/or handicapped ratepayers may contact the County office to have their driveways plowed if they are physically unable to place the flag at the end of the driveway. Also, snowplow agreements can be delivered to those ratepayers that are physically unable to make it into the office.

## Janitorial Services TENDER

Janitorial Services are required for Saddle Hills County Administration Building, 5201 – 47 Street, Spirit River, AB and Field Operations Shop, 5203 – Highway 49, Spirit River, AB. Position will commence May 1, 2009. The tender packages will be available at the office for pick up. Closing date for tenders is Friday, March 6, 2009, 2:00 p.m. For more information, call 780-864-3760.

## Pondering a Shelterbelt? APPLY BEFORE MARCH 15

If you own more than 5 acres, you can get free shelterbelt trees from PFRA. Application forms are available at the County office or online at [www.agr.gc.ca/pfra](http://www.agr.gc.ca/pfra). Application must be submitted to PFRA before March 15, 2009 to receive trees in May.

## Ag Service Board Breakfasts

Come on down to the Saddle Hills County Ag Service Board Breakfasts for some great food and hear a compelling new speaker at each one! The breakfasts kick off at 9 a.m. and the speakers at 10 a.m. Ratepayers are welcome to come hear any speaker that interests them. We hope to see you there! The remaining breakfasts are as follows:

**Mar. 3 Blueberry Mountain Comm. Hall**  
With Jaime Borduzak from the Peace Country Beef & Forage Association & Garry Ropchan from the Central Peace Conservation Society on "Applied Research Associations."

**Mar. 4 Gordondale Community Hall**  
With Elaine Fitzpatrick from AFSC on "Crop & Livestock Insurance."