



Railway Avenue Maintenance

Saddle Hills County would like to inform the public that Railway Avenue located off Highway 677 known as the Railway Avenue located in Woking is a private road owned by CN Rail and maintenance of the road is the responsibility of CN Rail. Currently Saddle Hills County and CN Rail are working towards development of a maintenance agreement.

Library Board

Saddle Hills County is seeking applications to fill vacant library board positions. Any resident interested in becoming a member is encouraged to submit their application to the County Office. For more information, please contact Sandy Peddle at the administration office at 780-864-3760.

Additional Help Available For Producers In Peace Region

The Government of Alberta is waiving the rental fees, retroactive to January 1, for producers in the Peace Region who utilized the province's Emergency Water Pumping Program.

More than 200 Peace Region producers used that program, which allowed them to rent aluminum pipe and pumps from the department of Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) to fill dugouts or other suitable basins from nearby water sources. The total cost of reimbursing the rental fees is expected to be approximately \$150,000. Producers will be contacted by ARD.

"We are well aware of the challenges faced by producers in the Peace Region this year and we wanted to find additional ways to assist them during these difficult times," said Jack Hayden, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. "Access to water is key for farm operations that need to make sure they have enough water over the winter months."

Producers in the Peace Region can also apply for the Peace River Water Hauling Program that the government is offering this winter. The program will provide for a third of eligible costs to a maximum of \$5,000 to haul water for agriculture use between January 1, 2010 and March 31, 2011. Application forms are available online and the deadline to apply for the program is April 7, 2011.

Transfer Station Hours

The Transfer Stations will be closed for the Holidays December 24, 25, & 31, 2010 & January 1, 2011 for New Years.

Site	Day	Times
Woking	Tue	12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Blueberry	Wed	12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
	Sat	1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Bonanza	Fri	12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
	Sat	8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Gundy	Sat	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services

St. John's Lutheran Church of Northmark welcomes you to a Christmas Eve Service, Friday, December 24, 2:30 p.m. at the Woking Community Hall. Special Music will be provided by German Singers!

The Growing Forward Water Management Program is also available and provides technical assistance and support for developing water sources at the farm level. Program payment is based on one third of eligible project costs to a maximum of \$5,000 per eligible producer.

"In addition to the programs that provide short-term solutions to water access, my department is also working with affected municipalities on longer term solutions to regional water supplies," said Hayden. "We want to assist producers in meeting these challenges head on."

Producers across Alberta affected by drought and excess moisture have received approximately \$770 million in support through Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) insurance programs and AgriRecovery this year alone. Through AFSC, Alberta has some of the best crop insurance programs in Canada, including AgriStability and AgriInsurance.

The Alberta government has a clear plan for a strong economic recovery. An important part of The Way Forward is maintaining support for programs and services Albertans need most, such as health care, education and safe and vibrant communities. For more information on the plan visit Alberta.ca.

Closed for Christmas

Saddle Hills County Council and staff would like to extend warm wishes of health and gladness to all residents this holiday season. Saddle Hills County offices will be closed for the holidays starting on December 24 until Tuesday December 28. Offices will also be closed January 3rd.

Christmas Safety Deep Frying the Turkey

If you are planning to use a deep fryer to cook your turkey this year please see the video at the above link and take the following precautions:

- always use the deep fryer outdoors on a flat level surface where it is unlikely to get knocked over
- monitor the temperature closely and don't overheat
- do not overfill the unit
- use leather gloves to handle the pot
- ensure the turkey is completely thawed before placing in the fryer

View the safety video at www.saddlehills.ab.ca to learn more. Have a safe and happy Christmas season!

Christmas Safety Love Christmas Trees

If you are planning to have a live Christmas tree, please exercise the following precautions:

- choose a tree that is not dried out (needles should bend, not snap)
- place the tree away from heating vents or fireplaces
- water the tree often
- use only ULC approved indoor lights (bulbs should remain cool to the touch)
- never use candles or other open flames on or near a Christmas tree

View the safety video at www.saddlehills.ab.ca to learn more. Have a safe and happy Christmas season!

Silver Valley Block Party

A Block Party will take place at the Silver Valley Hall on January 15th at 4:00 p.m. Activities will include bingo, board games, card games, and kid's games. Hot chocolate and hot dogs will be provided. Bring a dish, snack or dessert and don't forget your Christmas Tree for the fire. Admission is free. There will be fun for the whole family so hope to see you there!

Agriculture And Rural Development Water Management Programs Currently Available

Emergency Water Pumping Program. For a nominal fee, a producer or group of producers can rent six-inch or eight-inch aluminum pipe and pump(s) from Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) to fill dugouts or other suitable catch basins from nearby water sources. Equipment is delivered to the pumping site and technical assistance is provided for proper operation.

Producers in the Peace Region who have participated in the program from January 1 through December 15, 2010 will have their rental fees refunded. Producers in the eligible municipalities who accessed the Emergency Water Pumping Program directly from ARD will have their refund processed automatically.

Peace River Water Hauling Program. Program payment is based on one third of

eligible costs to a maximum of \$5,000 per eligible producer living in the Peace Region. Hauling expenses, such as mileage to haul the water, will be eligible. Purchases of hauling equipment (tanks, vehicles, pumps, etc) are not eligible. Applications must be received by April 7, 2011.

Residents in Saddle Hills County are eligible for the program.

Application forms are online at www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/general/progserv.nsf/all/pgmsrv418

Growing Forward Water Management Program is available to provide technical assistance and financial support for developing water sources at the farm level. Program payment is based on a third of eligible project costs to a maximum of \$5,000 per eligible producer.