

Volume 3, Issue 2

Winter 2020



Saddle Hills County

# Living

About Our Cover .....	2
2020 Photo Contest .....	2
Central Peace Water Project .....	2
Savanna Water Treatment Plant Opens .....	3
Major 2020 Environmental Services Projects .....	3
The Saddle Hills Advantage .....	4-5
New Working Fire Hall Opens .....	6
Business Directory & Business Features .....	6
County Expands Recycling Options .....	7
Agriculture .....	8-9
Council Highlights .....	10-12
2020 Photo Contest .....	13-15

## About Our Cover

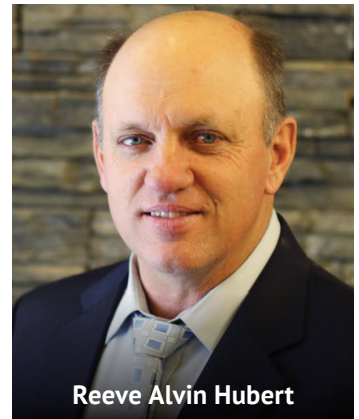
One of the many stunning photographs which were submitted in our 2020 ‘Let’s Be County Proud’ Photo Contest this beautiful winter landscape shot was taken by Jenny Enns.

## 2020 Photo Contest

You’ll find a sampling of some of the winning photos on pages 12-15 of this issue and on the Photo Gallery page of the County website.

## Central Peace Water Project (Phases 1 & 2)

Saddle Hills County is pleased to announce a project the County has been working on since 2015 to provide a reliable source of water from the Peace River for the Central Peace Region.



Reeve Alvin Hubert

The project includes the construction of a new raw water supply intake on the Peace River as well as approximately 36 km of new raw water pipeline.

The \$40 million project announced in September includes \$16 million in funding from the Federal Government and \$20 million from the Provincial Government with Saddle Hills County providing the balance.

“We look forward to proceeding with this exciting project and its associated benefits to the long-term sustainability of the Central Peace Region,” said Saddle Hills County Reeve Alvin Hubert.

“The project will provide a reliable source of water for residents, business and industry,” he added.

The County tendered the engineering and design of the project in August and in October awarded the contract to MPE Engineering Ltd.

It is expected that, once the construction tender is awarded, land is secured, a water diversion license has been obtained as well as the required permits and approvals, the project will have an anticipated two-year construction schedule.





The plant is expected to be open for public use by the end of 2020.

*\*Howitt Construction Ltd. representatives were unable to attend.*

## Savanna Water Treatment Plant Opens

Members of the public, Councillors, contractors who helped build the new Savanna Water Treatment Plant & Truck Fill, and County staff were all on hand for the ribbon cutting ceremony at the plant on Monday, October 26, 2020.

Representatives from MPE Engineering Ltd., Haj Oshiki and Mirek Grzeszczuk, and AGS Mechanical Contractors Ltd., Matt Gannon, Brad Walchuk and Parker Brown, were thanked by Reeve Alvin Hubert for their work on the project, and a plaque, which was donated by AGS Contractors was unveiled\*. The plaque will be mounted at the facility.

Howitt Construction Ltd. built the reservoirs for the project.

Tours of the facility were offered to the public with appropriate COVID-19 measures.

Reeve Hubert said, “This Water Treatment Plant and Truck Fill represents another major investment in the future of Saddle Hills County. With this new plant, we are extending our Rural Potable Water Initiative to one more section of the County.”

The \$12 million project represents another step in the County’s plan to provide potable water to residents, businesses and industry through an integrated system with focus on efficiency, growth and accessibility. Construction began in the summer of 2019.



(L-R) Councillors Ed Armagost, John Moen, Willis Fitzsimmons, Reeve Alvin Hubert, Councillors Ken Titford, Lawrence Andruchiw, Deputy Reeve Kristen Smith.



Reeve Alvin Hubert presents Yvonne Thomsen with the grand prize.



Savanna Water Treatment Plant and Truck Fill Plaque Donated by AGS.

*Photographs by Monica Randell*



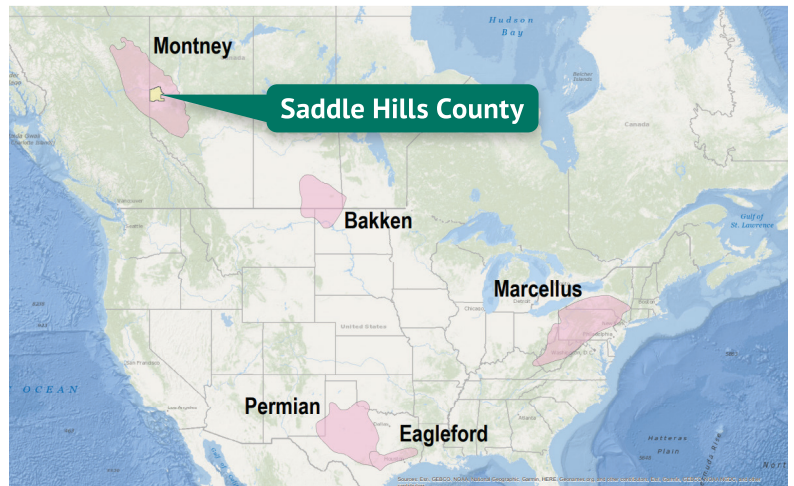
# Right in the Heart of the Montney Play

AN IDEAL OPPORTUNITY FOR PETROCHEMICAL MANUFACTURERS

## The Montney Play—Facts\*

- One of the largest known gas reserves in the world
- 12,719 billion m<sup>3</sup> of marketable natural gas\*\*
- 2,308 million m<sup>3</sup> of marketable NGLs
- 179 million m<sup>3</sup> of marketable oil

\*\*145 years of Canada's 2012 consumption



\* Data Source: <https://www.cer-rec.gc.ca/en/data-analysis/energy-commodities/natural-gas/report/ultimate-potential-montney-formation/the-ultimate-potential-unconventional-petroleum-from-montney-formation-british-columbia-alberta-energy-briefing-note.html>

## Transportation

- **Roads:** Major highways to Vancouver or Edmonton.
- **Rail:** Connections in Woking, Rycroft, Dawson Creek or Grand Prairie.
- **Air:** Two nearby airports, daily flights to Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver

## Water

**Central Peace Regional Water Project:** This \$40 million project was announced in September of 2020, and will provide a reliable source of raw water.

## Power

Alberta has a strong, stable, and highly reliable electricity system that has the capacity to support current needs and provide for future economic growth.

**LET US HELP YOU MAKE YOUR NEXT MOVE**

Call our CAO, Cary Merritt: 780-864-3760 ext. 122

Email: [admin@saddlehills.ab.ca](mailto:admin@saddlehills.ab.ca) | Phone: 1-888-864-3760 | Mailing Address: RR#1 Spirit River, AB, T0H 3G0  
Web: [www.saddlehills.ab.ca](http://www.saddlehills.ab.ca) | [facebook.com/saddlehillscounty](https://facebook.com/saddlehillscounty) | [twitter.com/saddlehillsab](https://twitter.com/saddlehillsab)



Saddle Hills County provides, not only a location at the center of the Montney Play, we offer road, rail and air connections to all major Western Canadian ports and airports.

The larger region represents a diverse economic environment which includes:

- Agriculture
- Manufacturing and Warehousing
- Transportation and Logistics
- Oil and Gas

With many strategic advantages, Saddle Hills County is well-equipped to provide opportunities for oil, gas and petrochemical manufacturing.



## Economy

- Key part of a robust local and regional economy
- A strong and reliable tax base
- Thriving oil and gas industry
- Access to national and international markets

## Infrastructure

- Located in middle of the Montney Gas Formation
- Easy access to airports at Grande Prairie, Dawson Creek and Fort St. John
- Connected by major road networks such as Highways 2 and 49 (Alberta) and Highway 97 (BC)
- CN Rail in Dawson Creek, Rycroft and Woking
- Water and wastewater infrastructure

## Business Advantages

- No business tax or licensing fees
- Low provincial and local taxes
- Cost-competitiveness

## Demographics

- The larger region\* offers a population of some 42,445 with a workforce of approx. 30,772.
- Sectors served include: Agriculture, Oil & Gas, Forestry and construction of the huge Site C Dam near Ft. St. John, BC.
- \*The larger region includes: cities of Grande Prairie (Pop. 63,166), Dawson Creek (Pop. 12,978) and Fort St. John (Pop. 20,155) as well as the municipalities of Fairview (Pop. 2,998) and those of the Central Peace Region (Pop. 6,085).

## Investment Opportunities

Saddle Hills Economic Development Strategy identifies a number of targeted growth opportunities.

- Agriculture
- Export
- Petrochemical Manufacturing
- Tourism
- Water and Sewer Infrastructure Development
- Housing

## Our Community

We are hard-working people with a strong sense of community and, true to our motto, "The Wilderness is our Back Yard", we offer a tremendous number of opportunities for those who enjoy hunting, fishing, hiking, kayaking, boating or camping.

## New Woking Fire Hall Opens

The new Woking fire hall opened January 11, 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic prevented a grand opening ceremony. The \$2.7 Million project was completed in 2020 after being tendered in early 2019.

It joins fire halls in Bonanza and Savanna in providing state-of-the-art facilities for Saddle Hills County's volunteer fire departments.

Reeve Alvin Hubert said, "We believe it is our responsibility to ensure that our firefighters and first responders have the very best equipment, training and facilities we can provide them."

## Business Directory & Business Features

The County has partnered with the Central Peace Signal newspaper to provide feature stories on some of the businesses in our community and the people who make them work. You can find many of our local businesses in our **Business, Community & Attractions Directory**.

If your business is not listed, please get in touch with our Communications Coordinator for a free listing: [communications@saddlehills.ab.ca](mailto:communications@saddlehills.ab.ca)

## Subscriptions

**Print Subscribers:** Online access is free for print subscribers during the term of their subscription.

**Online Only:** If you currently are not a print subscriber, you may opt for an online-only subscription. **Subscribe Now!**



The Woking fire department is made up of volunteers and led by District Fire Chief Larry Schuett.



<https://directory.saddlehills.ab.ca/>



The Central Peace Signal has been publishing since 1978, covering northern Alberta's Central Peace region: Birch Hills County, Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133, Saddle Hills County, Town of Spirit River, and the Village of Rycroft.

## Newstand Copies

Copies of The Signal are available at newstands for \$1.25 a copy.

## Advertising

For advertising information, please download our media kit: [www.thecentralpeacesignal.ca/media-kit](http://www.thecentralpeacesignal.ca/media-kit)



## County Expands Recycling Options

Saddle Hills County is participating in a new provincial pilot program which will allow residents to drop off a greater number of electronics products for recycling at its transfer stations.

The County is participating in the Alberta Recycling Management Authority's (ARMA) Electronics Recycling Pilot Project. Included in the pilot project will be audio visual equipment, telecom, cell phone and wireless devices, electronic gaming equipment, small home appliances, portable power tools, toys, musical instruments and solar panels.

There will be no charge to recycle these items for the duration of the pilot. With the data that ARMA will gather from this project, they will be able to provide the government with critical information that will help them determine the best course of action to modernize the electronics recycling program for the long-term.

The following five categories will be included in the pilot and under each category are some examples of the products that will be accepted:

**Small Appliances:** Clock, Fan, Hair dryer, Heater, Iron, Microwave, Residential Air Conditioner, Toaster, Shaver, Vacuum

**Audio/Visual:** CD Player, Clock Radio, Digital Camera, DVD Player, Headphones, Satellite Dish, Satellite Radio, Speakers, Video Camera

**Telecommunications:** Answering Machine, Cell Phone, Landline Phone, Modem, Router, Pager, Satellite Phone, Speakerphone

**Power and Air Tools:** Drill, Grinder, Miter Saw, Nail Gun, Residential Air Compressor, Sharpener, Shop Vacuum, Skillsaw, Table Saw

**Games, Toys and Music:** Action Figure, Amplifier, Guitar, Keyboard, Microphone, Ride-on Toy, Electronic Toys, Video Gaming Equipment

The electronics recycling pilot is a two-year project that expands the scope of electronic products Albertans can recycle without adding new consumer fees. It's operated by the ARMA and will inform how government can advance electronics recycling in the future.

## Major 2020 Environmental Services Projects

Completion of the Savanna Water Treatment Plant and Truck Fill occurred along with two other major Environmental Service projects in 2020:

- Bonanza Rural Water Project with Bonanza Water Plant Upgrades
- Completion of Woking Water Plant Upgrades

## Major 2020 Road Projects

Three of the many road projects in the County in 2020 were:

- Rebuild of Rge. Rd. 72 from Northmark Road to Twp. Rd. 771
- Rebuild of Rge. Rd. 134 from Hwy. 49 to Twp. Rd. 782
- Replacement of large culvert on Twp. Rd. 810



# Agriculture

## Harvest 2020

Harvest 2020 seemed to go smoother for most County producers compared to previous years. We saw fairly nice weather for harvest, but excessive moisture early on drastically reduced yield in some areas. Although yield may have been low, grain prices look to be competitive and gaining strength.



Photo by Lyla Yanishewski

## “We are not invincible, but we feel we must be”

– Anonymous Producer

We envision a culture in Agriculture where all producers are encouraged, empowered and supported to take care of their mental wellbeing.

**Do More Ag** is helping to realize this culture in agriculture by creating awareness about mental health and breaking the stigma that currently exists, while building a community of support and resources for those impacted and affected. We will help all producers realize they are not alone and they have an entire industry behind them.

How can you **Do More**? Sometimes it’s as easy as being able to **Talk More, Ask More and Listen More.**

**TALK MORE  
ASK MORE  
LISTEN MORE**



Visit the Website:

[www.domore.ag](http://www.domore.ag)



## 2020 At A Glance

Although COVID-19 slowed down the rest of the world, it didn't slow down the weeds or vegetation.

## Vegetation Management

Over 1,200 hectares (ha) of roadside ditch were sprayed for weed management and vegetation control. Roadside mowing was off to a slow start due to continued rains in early summer, but finished strong and was completed by the end of August.

## Weed Management

Due to ongoing rain and field conditions, weed management was difficult across the County. Summer fallow fields and fields that didn't receive a pre-seed herbicide application had significant weed issues – particularly overwinter perennials. With the wet conditions, there were increased infestations of yellow toadflax along field edges and Dam's Rocket in various locations.

## Pest Management

Excessive moisture reduced grasshopper thresholds to extreme lows. There was various flea beetle pressure throughout the County. Diseases such as root rot, mildews and Ascochyta thrived due to high moisture conditions. Saddle Hills County had two Bertha Armyworm traps in Doe Creek and Fourth Creek. Both had low counts throughout the year. Fourth Creek had climbing populations towards end of season. The 2020 Clubroot survey resulted in no positive cases.



Photo by April Thomi



## Canada Post Savanna Store Mailboxes

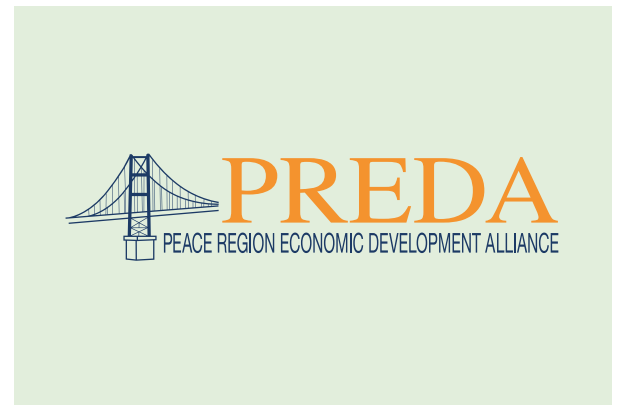
Council decided at its August 8, 2020 regular meeting that the Savanna Store Canada Post mailboxes should remain at their current location for the time being, until such time in the future when there is a request to move them and, further, to send a request to Canada Post to upgrade the mailboxes at the site.

## PREDA Membership Fee Set At .75 Per Capita

The Peace Region Economic Development Alliance (PREDA) is one of nine regional economic development alliances in the province of Alberta.

It is a partnership of 47 municipalities, educational institutions, business groups and Community Futures working together to guide regional economic development of Alberta’s northwest.

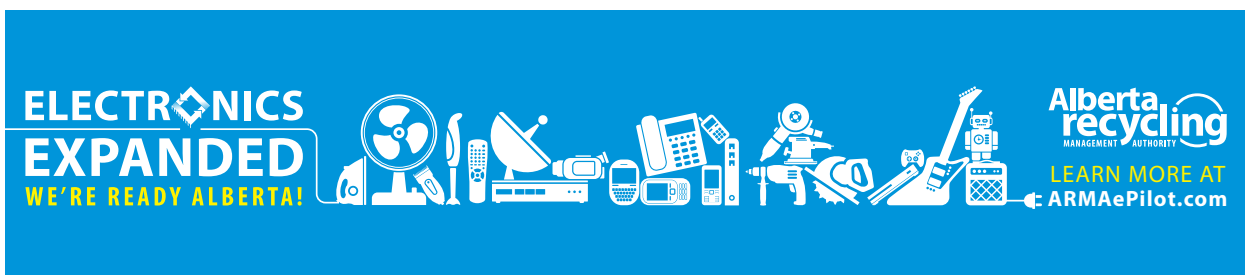
Member municipalities help cover some of the costs of operating the organization through a membership fee which, in 2020, was increased from 50 cents per capita to 75 cents per capita.



## Electronic Waste Program

Council decided in August that Saddle Hills County should participate in the Registered Electronics Municipal Collection Site Pilot Program including advertising to inform the public of the program.

*(See our feature on the program on page 7)*







## 2020 Operating and Capital Budget Adjustments

Council decided at its August 25, 2020 regular meeting, that some of the projects that were removed from the 2020 budget when the economic impact of COVID-19 was unknown, should be added back into this year's budget.

Among the items and projects added were:

- Several essential pieces of equipment for the Operations Department
- Road construction/improvement projects
- Funds for 2020 Rural Waterline Project
- Necessary improvements to the Cotillion Campground

## Council Awards Engineering & Design For Central Peace Water Project (Phase 1 & 2)

At its October 27, 2020 Council meeting, Council instructed Administration to enter into a contract with MPE Engineering Ltd. for the Engineering and Design for the Central Peace Regional Water Project - Phase 1 and 2 for a value of \$3,561,250 including a request for MPE Engineering to incorporate Thurber Engineering Services in their Geotech design.

### Meeting with the County of Grande Prairie

That Council accepted a meeting request from the County of Grande Prairie to discuss various items of potential interest to both parties in November or early January.

### 2020 RMA Fall Convention

That Council decided to meet with the Minister of Environment to discuss the status of landfill reclamations during the RMA Convention on November 3rd and 4th or at another date at the Minister’s convenience.



Alberta Minister of Environment & Parks Jason Nixon

### Photo Contest Winners Announced

The overall winner of this year’s *Let’s Be County Proud* photo contest is Britney Jacob. Winners of each category were chosen by the public on the County’s photo contest Facebook page and the overall winner was the entry with the largest number of votes.



[facebook.com/shcphotocontest](https://facebook.com/shcphotocontest)

All entries as well as the category winners can be viewed on the Facebook page. A collection of the first place winners in each category will be posted on the County website and printed copies of the winners and submissions will be made available.





# 2020 Photo Contest

*Let's Be County Proud*

While we cannot exhibit all of the submissions we received here, we do have a full collection of all submissions on our website and we would like to thank everyone who participated.

**We've provided a random sample of some of the excellent photos submitted this year over the next few pages.**

*\*Please note: Some of the photos presented here have been cropped in order to fit in this format.*



Anna Richard



Kelsey O'Connell



Reese Dolen



Gracie Ventimiglia



Mallory Kaiser





Corry Heinrichs



Lyla Yanishewski



Gracie Dolen



Jo Ann Edey



Kyla Dahms





Dessa Nicholson



Kali Rycroft



Mallory Kaiser



Corry Heinrichs



Anna Richard



Junction of Highway 49 and Highway 725, RR 1, Spirit River, Alberta, Canada, T0H 3G0

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Monday to Friday 8:15 AM to 4:30 PM



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