

Volume 1, Issue 2



August 2018

Saddle Hills County Living



Table of Contents

County Tackles Hundreds Of Kilometers Of Road Work	3
Flood Damage	4
Dust Control	5
Woking Sewage Lift Station Update	6
Woking Truck Fill Update	6
Solid Waste and Recyclables in Saddle Hills County	7
County Wins Recycling Award	8
Public Involvement Key To Planning Updates	9
GIS Update	9
Development Permits	9
Savanna Fire Hall Update	10
Boat Launch Study	10
Playground Equipment Upgrade	10
Campground Study Conducted	10
Please ... Help Us Keep Our County Clean	11
Weed & Pest Control Update	11
Rural Potable Water Sign Up	12
August Open Houses and Public Events	12
Resident Survey	13
In Our Back Yard Gardening Contest	14
New Parade Trailer Is a Hit	14



County Tackles Hundreds Of Kilometers Of Road Work

The County's Operations department has been devoting their efforts this summer to road repair and revitalization at a number of locations across the County. With over 1,800 kilometers of roads to maintain every year, the County prioritizes its annual road work project plan with direction from Council in order to deal with the most pressing and important issues first.

"We recognize that we can't get to every ratepayer concern and every road problem, but using our Public Service Request (PSR) system, we are able to prioritize and get the most important work done," says Director of Operations Ron Pelensky.

The first step occurs long before the snow melts as the Operations Department performs a road audit and agrees on a series of priorities for the coming season. Those suggestions are then presented to Council for approval. This year's priorities included 610 kilometers of graveling (including 120 km of 1 ½" gravel for roads classified as 'Heavy Use') as well as shoulder pulling of approximately 32 kilometers of roadways as well as some specific road and drainage repairs.

The shoulder pulling and road strengthening program has included the following repairs:

- Road top ripped up, material equalized, re-crowned and compacted
- Shoulders pulled up and shaped to a 3:1 side slope
- Soft spots dug out, back-filled and compacted
- Centerline culvert clean-out or replacements as required
- Rate of gravel applied at double the normal rate with re-application at regular rate the following year

The road repair and revitalization program has been accomplished in conjunction with both the dust control program and with a large amount of flood damage repair due to the flooding of spring 2018. The County is also repairing three large culverts.





Flood Damage

In April of 2018 Saddle Hills County experienced extensive damage (over 900 files) as a result of overland flooding. A Disaster Recovery Program (DRP) application has been submitted to the Province of Alberta with an estimate of damage to the County's infrastructure and an estimate of the number of private properties which experienced damage due to the flooding.

County crews and contractors have been working steadily throughout the summer on the damage to County infrastructure including: washouts, ditch erosion, culvert replacement, and shoulder repair.



The County experienced extensive damage to its road infrastructure during the spring flood of 2018.

Dust Control

This year, in addition to the regular dust control program, Council directed the Operations Department to test three new non-corrosive products for dust control. Three products were chosen and applied in the Happy Valley and Northmark areas. The performance of each product will be monitored and Council will be deciding how to move forward during next year's dust control season.



Three new non-corrosive dust control products were tested on County roads this summer.

Woking Sewage Lift Station Update

One of Council's priorities in 2018 was to provide the Hamlet of Woking with a new sewage lift station. The lift station is responsible for pumping sewage to the sewage lagoon north east of the hamlet.

Because the former system was past its prime (30 years old), Council decided to provide the residents of Woking with an updated, modern facility with new pumps, central pump management system and a larger capacity.

In addition, the line to the lagoon will be 'Pigged' * to further ensure the lines are flowing at maximum capacity enabling the County to manage the system most effectively.

Work is expected to be completed in the fall of 2018.

**Pigging,' in the context of pipelines, refers to the practice of using devices known as 'pigs' to perform various cleaning maintenance operations. This is done without stopping the flow of the content in the pipeline.

Woking Truck Fill Update

This summer the County is beginning the process of converting the Woking Water Truck Fill to the same Key FOB system which is in place at all other County truck fills.

Residents wishing to purchase water from the truck fill will need to open an account at the County office and deposit funds on the account.

Every user will be issued a Key FOB and password to access the system.

The system is expected to be in place for September 5th, 2018.





Solid Waste and Recyclables in Saddle Hills County

Saddle Hills County operates an award-winning multifaceted waste and recycling system which provides for the diverse needs of residents, businesses and industry in the County.

Through a combination of collections sites, transfer stations and a number of programs including both a Single Stream Recycling and our Oil Recycling Program, the Environmental Services Department strives to answer the needs of all ratepayers and stakeholders.

Recycling

Saddle Hills County collects all recyclable items in one recycling container. This is described as Single Stream Recycle. The County began its co-mingled recycling program in 2017, where most food and beverage containers such as cardboard, paper, plastic, aluminum and steel cans are accepted together.

Collection Sites

A series of collection sites are spread throughout the County providing the opportunity to dispose of household waste and recyclables in as convenient a location as possible for as many residents as possible. At each of these sites you will find waste collection bins and recycling bins designed to accommodate household waste and recycling.

The collection sites are located outside our transfer stations providing 24/7 availability and at other key locations around the County:

- DeVale SE 3-79-07-W6 (North of Hwy. 49 on Hwy 727)
- Fourth Creek SE 29-81-08-W6 (Fourth Creek Hall)
- Savanna NE 24-81-10-W6 (Savanna Rec Plex)
- Cotillion SE 18-81-11-W6 (Hwy 681 and Rge. Rd. 115)
- Gordondale SW 08-79-10-W6 (Gordondale Hall)

- Happy Valley SE 13-78-08-W6 (Happy Valley Fire Hall)
- Westmark SW 15-76-07-W6 (Westmark Hall)
- Transfer Stations (Blueberry, Woking, Bonanza)

County transfer stations offer opportunities for residents, business and industry to dispose of a variety of household solid waste and other recyclable materials including:

- Vehicles (tires and batteries must be removed and fluids drained)
- Tires
- Metals (all metals)
- White goods (appliances including refrigerator)
- Clean burnable wood (including trees and branches)
- Electronic waste (computers and televisions)
- Paint
- Batteries
- Pesticide containers
- Grain bags



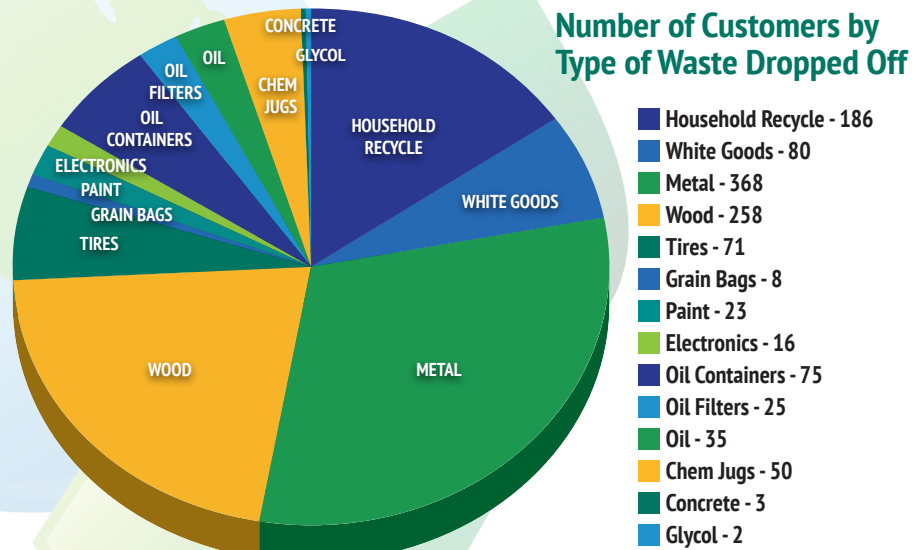
County Wins Recycling Award

Saddle Hills County has been awarded Alberta Recycling's 2018 Collection Site Award of Excellence for transfer station sites serving a population of under 5,000.

Since 2008, Alberta Recycling annually recognizes three registered municipal collection sites that display excellence in the management of their electronics, paint and tire collection sites, meeting all program requirements and at the same time making recycling convenient and safe for their residents. The other two winners are recognized in the medium and large categories.

This year the Collection Sites Awards are being presented on September 6th during the Alberta CARE Recycling Conference in Fort McMurray, held at the Quality Hotel and Conference Centre.

The award presentation will be published in Alberta Recycling's 2018 Progress Report which is distributed to MLAs, municipal CAOs, and at various municipal conferences, tradeshows, community events etc. throughout the year.



Public Involvement Key To Planning Updates

Saddle Hills County's Planning and Information Systems Department has been engaged in updating its planning documents and processes to comply with recent amendments to the Municipal Government Act (MGA).

The MGA provides direction with respect to planning and development, and requires that all County bylaws and policies comply with the MGA, the Subdivision and Development Regulations and various other pieces of legislation while maintaining consistency with one another.

The MGA has recently undergone a major review and update with respect to the planning sections of the Act and, as a result, the County has initiated a complete review and update of the Land Use Bylaw (LUB) and Municipal Development Plan (MDP) in order to keep current with the new legislation but also to give the documents a fresh and user-friendly makeover. The process included significant input from the public and stakeholders throughout the various stages over the past year and in June of this year, County Council passed the County's new LUB and MDP.

Updating existing documents and creating new ones involves balancing the needs of developers with the strategic priorities of the municipality and creating development standards that ensure consistency, fairness and sustainability.

The new MGA also requires the County to establish a Regional Collaboration Framework and Inter-municipal Development Plan with each of the County's five adjacent neighbours (County of Grande Prairie, MD of Spirit River 133, Birch Hills County, MD of Fairview and Clear Hills County). The department is working to ensure these documents are in place within the legislated timeframe.

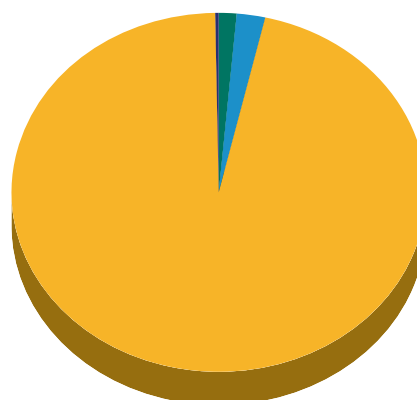
GIS Update

GPS Data Collection

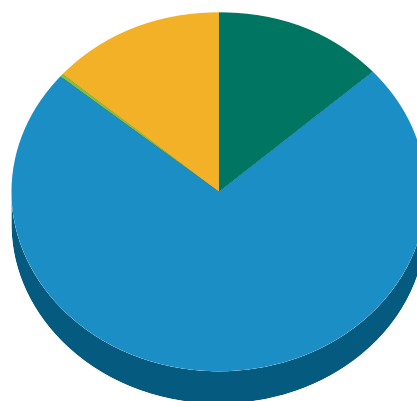
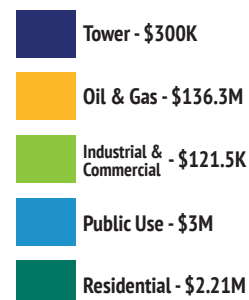
GPS (Global Positioning System) Data Collectors completed their data collection of the County's approaches, signs and culverts, in April, May and June, and began mapping the County's crossing agreements and other roadside approvals. The GPS data will be added to the County's GIS (Geographic Information System) database.



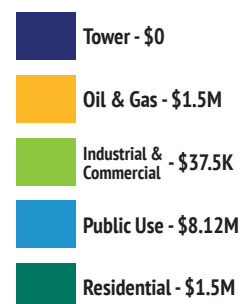
Development Permits



Development Permits 2017 2nd Quarter



Development Permits 2018 2nd Quarter



Savanna Fire Hall Update

The new Savanna Fire Hall is well on its way to completion. Residents have been able to see as the exterior walls and roof went on during the summer. Interior work will begin in the fall and the contractor is scheduled to complete the project at the end of October.

Boat Launch Study

The County has engaged a consultant to conduct a study to identify possible sites for a boat launch along the Peace River in Saddle Hills County. The study includes preliminary engineering and estimated costs to proceed with the project.

Playground Equipment Upgrade

Families with children will have noticed the new playground equipment installed at three locations around the County this summer. The County has replaced both the Hilltop Lake Campground playground and the playground in the Hamlet of Woking.

In addition, through a combination of grant funding and donations from Birchcliff Energy and TransCanada Corporation, the County was able to assist with a new playground at Bay Tree Park.

Campground Study Conducted

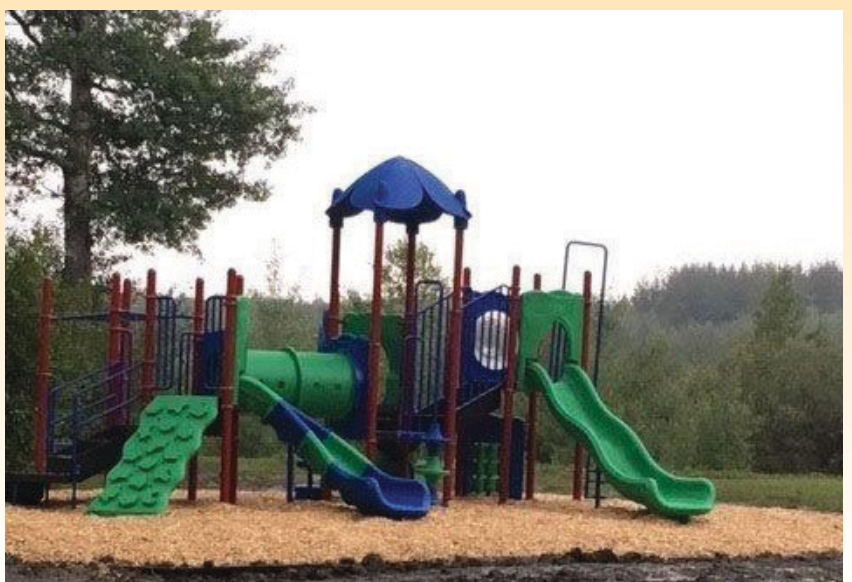
The County is looking into the feasibility of upgrading and/or expanding the campgrounds at Hilltop Lake and Cotillion. In August two surveys were conducted which will contribute to the Campground Expansion Studies that will be presented to Council in the fall.



Aerial view of new Savanna fire hall



New Woking playground equipment



New Hilltop Lake Campground playground equipment

Please ... Help Us Keep Our County Clean

Saddle Hills County currently provides seven waste collection sites throughout the County which are designed to accept household waste and offer opportunities to recycle household materials.

The sites are strategically located to be close to areas that ratepayers drive by regularly, allowing people to access them 24 hrs/day.

In addition, the County provides three Waste Transfer Stations complete with extensive recycling opportunities.

Please do not drop off large waste items, such as those in the photo, at County waste collection sites. Please place all waste inside the

bins and please take larger loads to the transfer sites.

The locations and hours of our transfer stations are published on our website. If you call the County

office during regular business hours we will gladly direct you to the closest location for you.

Thank you for helping us keep our County clean.



DeVale collection site in July 2018

Weed & Pest Control Update

A large portion of the weed infestations in the County this year have been Scentless Chamomile, Orange Hawkweed and Toadflax. Agricultural Coordinator Dessa Nicholson says, "I'd like to thank our ratepayers for their due-diligence and cooperation in managing weed infestations in the County."

As of August 20, 2018 the County had issued 77 weed notices (compared to 42 at the same time last year). Nicholson says she is pleased that farmers are working with the County to control weeds and pests.

"I hope that together we'll be able to say that we have the best crops in Alberta," she says.

Currently weed and pest inspectors are conducting pest surveys in the County for various crop diseases. Please exercise caution when you see them.



Rural Potable Water Sign Up

Saddle Hills County Council is proceeding with the Bonanza – Bay Tree Rural Potable Water Project (Phase 1) and is in the early planning stages for possible future expansion of the rural potable water system.

The areas of Ksituan, Bay Tree and Bonanza were selected by Council as a logical sequence to the County's existing rural water infrastructure. Open houses were held on August 14 in Bonanza and August 15 at the County Complex to gain further public input and offer the opportunity for residents to sign up.

If Council deems the responses from an area to represent sufficient public demand and the project meets the other criteria of Council's policy, they may include a new water line expansion project to that area in their future budgets.

August Open Houses and Public Events

August was a busy month in terms of public involvement and participation. Council held three open house and an Industry Appreciation BBQ on August 14 and 15.

Two of those events were devoted to Rural Potable Water. The first was held in Bonanza on August 14 and the second was held in conjunction with the General Open House at the County Complex on August 15.

The Industry Appreciation BBQ was held at the County Complex on August 15.



Photos on this and previous page are from the August 14th Rural Potable Water Open House at the Bonanza Community Hall and the General Open House and Rural Potable Water Open House at the County Complex August 15.



Resident Survey

In the interest of finding out how residents feel about the levels of service they receive from the County and the job the County does, Saddle Hills County once again conducted a survey during the month of August which combined three options for residents to participate – online, phone, mail. September 4th is the deadline for receiving completed surveys at the County office.

Council will be reviewing the results once they are tabulated.



In Our Back Yard Gardening Contest

Judging day for Saddle Hills County's 'Visit Our Own Back Yard' summer beautification promotion was August 16, 2018 and the participants were all congratulated by the judges for doing a wonderful job on their gardens.

The promotion was launched by Council in an effort to increase local tourism and to encourage residents to get out, explore and discover the County.

While the promotion focused on beautifying the County, part of the purpose of the project was to emphasize the importance of adding plant species to your garden which are not only attractive and hardy to our area but are crucial in sustaining bee, butterfly and bird populations.

It was also hoped that gardeners in Saddle Hills County will embrace the value of a self-sustaining garden, e.g. fruit trees, vegetable garden and berry bushes.

Each winner will receive a \$500 gift certificate to be used at one of Saddle Hills County's three greenhouses (in 2018 or 2019) - Anne's Greenhouse in Fourth Creek, Bay Tree Bloomers Greenhouse in Bay Tree, and Sharon's Greenhouse in Gordondale - and other prizes.

The County would like to thank our greenhouses, participants and the public for embracing the promotion.



New Parade Trailer Is a Hit

In order to increase its commitment to supporting community organizations throughout the County, Council purchased a parade trailer to represent the County at area parades. The trailer was manufactured by Isaac Ironworks of Savanna. County staff selected a theme of 'Summer Fun' and decorated the trailer.

On August 11th the County won second prize in the Chepi Sepe Days parade in Spirit River.



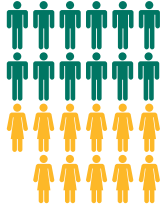
DID YOU KNOW...

Have a look at
Saddle Hills County
by the numbers



POPULATION

2,288



51.1%
male
48.9%
female

42.9 median age

5

fire halls

3

water treatment plants

10

community halls

5,837 km²

177 km² bigger than Prince Edward Island

more than

1,800

kilometers of roads



communications towers

8

ball diamonds

5

campgrounds

9

playgrounds

2 ag facilities

1

ski hill

2

cross-country ski trail networks

1

snow-shoeing trail network

Stay In Touch

For more information on County projects and programs or in order to report an issue of concern please stay in touch through any of the following means:

Saddle Hills County
Junction of Highway 49 and
Highway 725
RR#1 Spirit River, Alberta
T0H 1G0

Tel: 780-864-3760
Fax: 780-864-3904
Email: admin@saddlehills.ab.ca

You can find us online:
Facebook: [@saddlehillscounty](https://www.facebook.com/saddlehillscounty)
Twitter: [@saddlehillsab](https://twitter.com/saddlehillsab)
Web: www.saddlehills.ab.ca

