

VOLUME #8, ISSUE #3
FALL, 2025

Saddle Hills
COUNTY

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY

Living

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COVER PHOTO: Shelby LeClerc
INTERIOR PHOTO: Brittany Dolen



2025 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

THE NEXT MUNICIPAL ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 20, 2025.

An election will be held for each of the seven Councillor positions, representing each of the County's wards. The Reeve and Deputy Reeve are then elected from among the members of Council at the annual Organizational Meeting. Elections will be conducted in accordance with the Local Authorities Election Act and other applicable municipal bylaws and policies.

VOTING & ELECTION DAY

ADVANCE VOTE

An Advance Vote will take place on **Monday, October 13, 2025**, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., at the Saddle Hills County Administration Building.

ELECTION DAY

Election Day will take place on **Monday, October 20, 2025**.

Every Voting Station will open promptly at 10 a.m., and will remain open continuously until 8 p.m.

Voting Stations will be located at the following facilities (subject to change):

Gundy Hall (Ward 1)

Bonanza Community Hall (Ward 1)

Savanna Rec. Plex (Wards 3 & 4)

Saddle Hills County Administration Building (Ward 5)

Woking Community Hall (Ward 7)

Councillors for Wards 2 and 6 have been acclaimed; therefore, no election will take place in these wards.

Eligible electors must vote at the designated Voting Station assigned to their ward. If you are unsure which station to vote at, please contact the Returning Officer, at jyanishewski@saddlehills.ab.ca.

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to vote in the 2025 Municipal Election, you must meet all of the following requirements:

- be at least 18 years old,
- be a Canadian citizen,
- reside in Saddle Hills County.

VOTER IDENTIFICATION

In order to vote in the 2025 Municipal Election, electors will be required to complete and sign the Elector Register, either in advance through **Voterlink**, or on Election Day, and provide proof of identification and current residence.

The main forms of identification are an Driver's Licence or Alberta Identification Card. The identification produced must have the voter's name and address.

If you have a PO Box address listed on your photo ID, please also bring a second form of identification with your municipal address or legal land location listed.

REGISTER TO VOTE

Voters will be required to register to vote in Municipal Elections as per proposed changes to the Local Authorities Election Act (Bill 20 – Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2024). The voters list will be provided to the County under a Data Sharing Agreement with Elections Alberta.

Voters are encouraged to register to vote by visiting **Voterlink** in advance of the election.

ELECTION BY ACCLAMATION

If at the close of nominations, at 12 p.m. on Nomination Day, the number of candidates nominated for any office is the same as the number required to be elected, the Returning Officer will declare the candidate(s) to be acclaimed to the office for which they were nominated.

RESULTS

Unofficial election results will be posted online as soon as possible after the closure of voting stations on Election Day.

The official results will be posted and released at 12 p.m. on **Friday, October 24, 2025**.



On Thursday, August 21, 2025, the sun was shining on Moonshine Lake Provincial Park as Saddle Hills County hosted its annual Volunteer Appreciation BBQ. Volunteers, along with their families, supporters, and community members, gathered to enjoy a delicious steak supper provided by Albert’s Catering. The event celebrated the outstanding contributions of this year’s nominated volunteers, with heartfelt words and recognition shared in their honour.



Saddle Hills County added an extra touch of excitement to the evening by offering three door prizes for all attendees. Everyone had the chance to enter the draw, and at the end of the event, three lucky names were drawn, each walking away with a prize and a big smile!



The Albert’s hosted a wonderful steak dinner, complete with their famous homemade donuts for dessert, a true community favourite! Neighbours gathered to share a delicious meal and great conversation. We are incredibly grateful to the Alberts for their hospitality and continued service to the community.



DARRYL BATES
 NOMINATED BY: LEO & JOANNE LEFEBVRE & COTILLION BUTTE RECREATION ASSOCIATION

In the nomination received from the Cotillion Butte Recreation Association, the group wrote, “Darryl Bates was our volunteer foreman for the building of the new Cotillion Hall. Darryl has spent many hours meeting with engineers, contractors, and utility companies, ordering and picking up supplies, and on phone consultations, travelling many miles over the last two years to oversee the building of the new hall. He has been tireless - there on a moments notice to take care of any arising issues that came along. The beautiful hall will be a lasting testimony to the hard work Darryl has put in to take it to completion. We will love and use the hall for many years to come.”

They added that, “Darryl has given much of his time and money to make the new Cotillion Hall possible for the benefit of our community. He has made countless trips to Grande Prairie and Dawson Creek, never asking to be compensated for his time or fuel. When a need arose, he quickly took care of whatever needed to be done. Darryl is an inspiration to us to give of ourselves and work towards the betterment of our community.”

Leo and Joanne added the following, “Darryl is an asset to our community. He is the kind of neighbour that will help anyone in need. He made the lead push when it came to building the new Cotillion Hall, and put in so many hours planning and organizing right from the start, not stopping until the last inspection was done. Thank you, Darryl.”

RYAN CONNOLLY & MELISSA MUEHRER
 NOMINATED BY: DENISE VAN ROOTSELAAR ON BEHALF OF WOKING WILLING WORKERS AND COMMUNITY BLOOMS

In her nomination, Denise wrote, “Melissa Muehrer & Ryan Connolly are amazing volunteers who always step up and help whenever they’re called upon. Their positive, energetic attitudes make them a pleasure to work with. Their community spirit really shines through.”

DIAMOND CURTIS
 NOMINATED BY: JENN VAN ROOTSELAAR

In her nomination, Jenn wrote, “Diamond has volunteered to be on the board of the Woking Multiplex Association this past year. She is a great addition to the board. She has a positive attitude and will happily help where needed. The multiplex and Woking have both greatly benefitted from her volunteer efforts.”

KYLA DAHMS
 NOMINATED BY: JENN VAN ROOTSELAAR

Jenn said of Kyla, “Kyla has volunteered to be on the board of the Woking Multiplex Association since its inception and has taken on the role of treasurer over the past couple of years, which is a huge time commitment. Kyla is always the first to volunteer when something needs to get done, and she has become an indispensable board member, as well as community member.”

DOREEN HUNT

NOMINATED BY: DENISE VAN ROOTSELAAR ON BEHALF OF WOKING WILLING WORKERS AND COMMUNITY BLOOMS

In her nomination, Denise wrote, “Doreen Hunt has been a tireless volunteer for the Woking Willing Workers for many years. She is one of the hardest workers and is always ready and willing to lend a hand.”

MONA KLINGBELL

NOMINATED BY: DENISE VAN ROOTSELAAR ON BEHALF OF WOKING WILLING WORKERS AND COMMUNITY BLOOMS

Denise said, “Mona Klingbell loves to volunteer wherever she can. Her kind, upbeat, enthusiastic attitude makes her an amazing asset for both the other volunteers and the guests who attend our events.”

MARY KNOBLAUCH

NOMINATED BY: DENISE VAN ROOTSELAAR ON BEHALF OF WOKING WILLING WORKERS AND COMMUNITY BLOOMS

Denise said, “Mary is one of our most dedicated, invaluable volunteers in all aspects of our community and a leading influence in the beautification of our hamlet. She believes strongly in living a life in service of her community and has been leading by example for decades. She also extends the generosity of her time at her Church and the Central Peace Hospital Auxiliary. Her impact truly has no bounds.”

LYNNE & MICKEY MUEHRER

NOMINATED BY: DENISE VAN ROOTSELAAR ON BEHALF OF WOKING WILLING WORKERS AND COMMUNITY BLOOMS

Densie wrote of Lynne, “Lynne Muehrer is an exceptional volunteer. She has put in endless hours at the Westmark Hall, and she always shows up when we need her at the Woking Community Hall. She is a true leader and driving force in our communities.”

She also added, “These volunteers inspire others through their enthusiastic attitudes, energetic spirits, and tireless dedication to their communities. When you have an amazing group of people who are willing to do their part and have fun while doing it, it’s infectious. It inspires other to want to be a part of something that is positive and engaging.”

KAREN POTREBENKO

NOMINATED BY: DENISE VAN ROOTSELAAR ON BEHALF OF WOKING WILLING WORKERS AND COMMUNITY BLOOMS

This is Karen’s second year in a row receiving a nomination for her volunteer service in the community. In her nomination, Denise wrote, “Karen Potrebenko is always ready and willing to lend a hand. She is very hardworking and reliable, easy to get along with, and has endless energy.”

JUDY SMITH

NOMINATED BY: DENISE VAN ROOTSELAAR ON BEHALF OF WOKING WILLING WORKERS AND COMMUNITY BLOOMS

This is also Judy’s second year in a row receiving a nomination for her volunteer service in the community. Denise wrote of Judy, “Judy Smith is such a positive and energetic force who is willing to step up wherever needed. Very humble with a great sense of humour, and a boss when it comes to fundraising - in particular gift donations; a skill that is not for the fate of heart and she does it with ease and kindness.”

APRIL THOMI

NOMINATED BY: JENN VAN ROOTSELAAR

Jenn said of April, “April has also been on the Woking Multiplex Association board since inception. Over the years, she has spearheaded the annual fundraiser dinners and has always done a fantastic job. The multiplex and the community of Woking are lucky to have her.”

DENISE VAN ROOTSELAAR

NOMINATED BY: JENN VAN ROOTSELAAR

In her nomination, Jenn wrote, “Denise has volunteered on many boards over many years now for the Woking area. She is always willing to lend a hand to help better her community. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Woking Multiplex Association board and is an invaluable asset to both the multiplex and Woking community.”

JENN VAN ROOTSELAAR

NOMINATED BY: DENISE VAN ROOTSELAAR ON BEHALF OF WOKING WILLING WORKERS AND COMMUNITY BLOOMS

“Jenn Van Rootselaar has been a leading force for the Woking Multiplex Association. Her level of commitment, perseverance, and tenacity has been integral to the success of several projects, including the creation of the Woking Fitness Centre, and the Association as a whole.”

GARRY & SHIRLEY WURM

NOMINATED BY: DENISE VAN ROOTSELAAR ON BEHALF OF WOKING WILLING WORKERS AND COMMUNITY BLOOMS

In her nomination, Denise wrote, “Shirley Wurm & Garry Wurm have been instrumental in the beautification of the Woking Hamlet. They are avid volunteers who can often be found in the Day Use Park or the entrance areas of the hamlet fixing this or that, tending to the flowers. They are an invaluable asset to our community.”

To these, and the many people who volunteer hours of their own time to contribute to our community in Saddle Hills County, thank you, we are fortunate and grateful to have you.



LIVESTOCK TAX DEFERRAL

Saddle Hills County added to designated regions

Saddle Hills County Included in Livestock Tax Deferral

Due to the ongoing drought experienced in the area, Saddle Hills County has been added as a designated region for the Livestock Tax Deferral Provision. Farmers operating in designated regions affected by drought, flooding or excess moisture may qualify for the Livestock Tax Deferral Provision. This allows them to defer reporting some of the income earned from selling breeding livestock until the next tax year.



ON-FARM VALUE-ADDED GRANT

helping producers grow sales and production

On-Farm Value-Added Grant Program

The On-Farm Value-Added Grant Program supports primary producers in adding value to their agricultural products to grow sales, expand production capacity, explore market opportunities, and create jobs in Alberta.

Applicants may apply once per program fiscal year, from April 1 to March 31. All eligible capital expenses will be cost-shared, with 25% paid through the grant and 75% by the applicant.



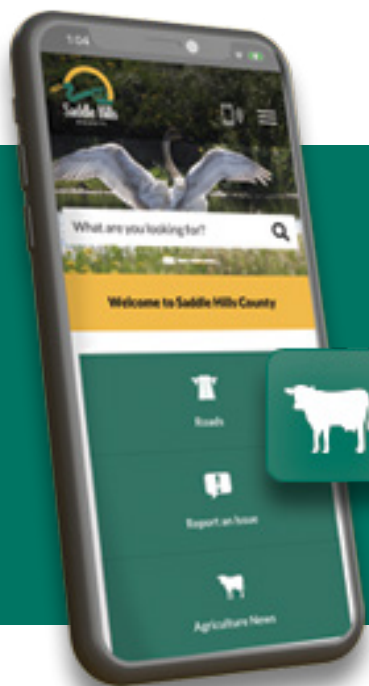
LOW YIELD ALLOWANCE INCREASE

farmers able to use poor crops for feed

Low Yield Allowance Increase for Farmers

The federal and provincial governments have increased the low yield allowance through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, so farmers can use poor crops for feed. By adjusting the low yield allowance, Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) is enabling farmers to salvage crops for livestock feed in an effort to reduce producers' feed-related costs. Affected producers should contact AFSC at least five days in advance of harvest.

#agnews



STAY UP TO DATE

ON AG NEWS FROM SADDLE HILLS COUNTY



Agriculture is at the heart of our community. Keep informed of all the latest Agriculture News in Saddle Hills County or get more information on any of the stories below by visiting the dedicated Agriculture News stream on our website at saddlehills.ab.ca/agnews or by scanning the QR code. You can also follow the hashtag **#SaddleHillsAg** on Instagram for all the latest agriculture updates.



USE CODE
SHC
FOR \$100 OFF

AG DRONE SCHOOL w/ LandView Drones

FOURTH CREEK HALL October 27 & 28, 2025

REGISTER HERE:

landviewdrones.com/event-details/ag-drone-school-saddle-hills-ab



'25 SADDLE HILLS COUNTY PHOTO CONTEST

'THROUGH THE GENERATIONS: THEN & NOW'



FT. SPECIAL GUEST JUDGES

Tammy Brauer - Executive Director, Mighty Peace Tourism
 Jesse Boily - Reporter/Photographer, Town & Country News
 Mallory Kaiser - 2024 Photo Contest Winner



CONTEST RULES & CATEGORIES:
[SADDLEHILLS.AB.CA/2025-PHOTO-CONTEST](https://saddlehills.ab.ca/2025-photo-contest)

FOLLOW ALONG & VOTE  
 @SADDLEHILLSPHOTOCONTEST

It's that time again - we are accepting entries for the 2025 Saddle Hills County Photo Contest!

This year's theme, is 'Through the Generations: Then & Now'.

Whether your family has lived in this area for generations or you recently moved here (welcome!), our community is all about connections - family to family, past to present, present to future.

For this year's contest, we would like you to submit images that embody this theme, whether that is generational family images, images of an annual event, images of the family farm or homestead, composite images, images that focus on County history or something not listed here - show us what it is that you think best illustrates your connection to your home, to the land, and to each other.

CONTEST RULES

- There will be no categories, only Adult and Youth (under 18).
- Each participant may enter up to five images, taken in and around Saddle Hills County.
- Participants must be residents of Saddle Hills County, but anyone can participate in the public judging.
- **Submission deadline has been extended to November 2, 2025.**
- Photos must be high resolution JPEGs.
- Photos are available for Saddle Hills County to use for promotional purposes, as per the waiver in the application.
- A Photo Contest Reception will take place at the Saddle Hills County Administration Building, in conjunction with the Christmas at the County event, on December 4, 2025, at which time the winners will be announced.

JUDGING & PRIZES

There will be prizes awarded in both Public and Judges' Choice (12 prizes total). In the event of a tie, both entries will win.

1ST PLACE: \$150 | 2ND PLACE: \$100 | 3RD PLACE: \$75

There will also be a Grand Prize for the overall winner (top ranked in both Public and Judges' Choice), of a large, framed copy of the winning image. The overall winner will also be asked to participate as a judge in the 2026 Photo Contest. A selection of winning images will also be featured in the 2026 Saddle Hills County Calendar.

All submissions will be posted on our dedicated social media pages, the Saddle Hills County Photo Contest page on Facebook and Saddle Hills County Photo Contest on Instagram.

Public judging will be determined by the number of 'likes' each image receives, by combining the numbers from both social media pages. The judging period will take place from **November 3-14, 2025.**

ENTER THE CONTEST

Send your photographs to us by November 2, 2025. Photographs can be submitted online using our Photo Contest Submission Form, at saddlehills.ab.ca/2025-Photo-Contest

If you have any problems using the online form please contact our Communications Coordinator, at communications@saddlehills.ab.ca or (780) 864-3760.



Farm the Ground Up:

SOIL HEALTH WORKSHOP

w/ Kris Nichols, Ph. D

OCTOBER 22, 2025 | 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.
SAVANNA REC. PLEX

REGISTER ONLINE: saddlehills.ab.ca/Soil-Health
LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

NEW

SATURDAY HOURS

THE BLUEBERRY, BONANZA, AND WOKING TRANSFER STATIONS WILL BEGIN OPERATING 9 A.M. - 5 P.M., ON SATURDAYS, AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2025.

The stations will continue to operate at the same hours on all other days, and the hours at the Gundy Transfer Station will remain the same.

TRANSFER STATIONS

Our Transfer Stations offer opportunities for residents, businesses, and industry to dispose of a variety of solid waste and recyclables for free.

Bonanza, Blueberry, and Woking Transfer Stations all accept Oil Recycling.
Gundy Transfer Station does **not** accept Oil Recycling.

NEW HOURS (NOV. 1)

BLUEBERRY TRANSFER STATION

Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

BONANZA TRANSFER STATION

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

WOKING TRANSFER STATION

Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

GUNDY TRANSFER STATION

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. PST (B.C. Time)

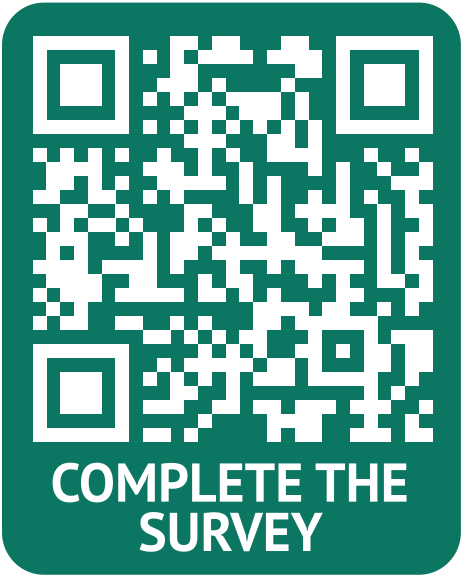
For more information on our Transfer Stations, including accepted items and recyclable materials, please visit saddlehills.ab.ca/Transfer-Stations



Recreation Feasibility

Saddle Hills County is seeking public input on the future of an old Alberta Transportation site, located on the east side of the Pouce River crossing, north of Township Road 801.

Alberta Transportation are in the process of reclaiming the site and turning it back into crown land, without public access. We are exploring the feasibility of turning the site into a recreation lease, dependent on public feedback.



SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS
COMPLETE THE SURVEY: [SADDLEHILLS.AB.CA/POUCE-REC-SURVEY](https://saddlehills.ab.ca/pouce-rec-survey)
You can also pick up a physical copy at the Saddle Hills County Administration Building.

CONTACT US
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE REACH OUT TO US.
(780) 864-3760
COMMUNICATIONS@SADDLEHILLS.AB.CA



Temporary Clinic Closure

Beloved Nurse Practitioner, Palvi Sharma, will soon be embarking on a new journey, and will be commencing maternity leave in October of this year. On behalf of everyone at Saddle Hills County, we wish her the best with this exciting step into motherhood, and look forward to welcoming her back in the near future.

While recruitment efforts remain ongoing, regretfully no cover has currently been attained, and the Saddle Hills County Health Clinic will be temporarily closed, beginning October 1, 2025, for a period of up to 18 months.

At this time, clinic patients are advised to begin arranging alternative care through their primary care providers, if available. Alternatively, patients may utilize walk-in clinics or virtual care services (such as 811), or visit the emergency room for more urgent concerns. Existing patients have been provided with prescription refills, where appropriate, to cover them for a reasonable period, until alternative care can be arranged. This should hopefully avoid interruptions in medications while patients navigate this transition period.

We understand that the temporary closure of the clinic is unfortunate news, but assure residents that we will continue to seek cover and, should a suitable candidate be found, re-open the clinic as soon as possible.

We thank you for your continued support of the Saddle Hills County Health Clinic. Further updates will be provided, as available.

County News



SPRING LAKE SKI HILL UPGRADES

Representatives from the Spring Lake Ski Hill Association were present at the September 9, 2025 Council Meeting, to provide an update on their budget and activities over the last year, and request additional funding. Council voted unanimously to provide a 2025 Operating Grant of \$35,000, as well as \$32,500 in 2025 Capital Grant funding, broken down as follows:

- \$9,000 – T-Bar Improvements
- \$8,500 – Additional Adult Rental Skis
- \$3,000 – Tablets for Rental Shop
- \$10,000 – Trail Development for a Third Run
- \$2,000 – Two-way Radio System

Alongside this funding, Council also provided a letter of support for the Association's Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) grant application.

AGGREGATE SALES

At the July 22, 2025 Council Meeting, Council requested that Administration seek a public gravel pit licence from Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors for the Silver Valley (Cotillion) Pit, in order to be able to sell gravel to residents. This request has since been approved and Administration brought forward a policy to the September 9, 2025 meeting, outlining

conditions for sale, as well as a summary of local gravel supplier prices. Council accepted the policy as amended and requested that gravel prices be added to the Master Rates Bylaw, at the following rates:

- Pit Run - \$10 p/tonne
- Reject Sand - \$10 p/tonne
- ¾" Gravel - \$22 p/tonne
- 1 ½" Gravel - \$22 p/tonne

MASKWA MEDICAL CENTER UPDATE

Ken Drysdale and Brent Hoyseth attended the August 12 council meeting, to provide an update on the Maskwa Medical Center.

Saddle Hills County has committed \$3.5 million to the \$35.7 million project, included in the 2025 Final Budget. The facility will house an Academic Teaching Clinic, retail space, and a medical specialist clinic aiming to deliver treatment plans within 10 days of referral. The 22,000 sq. ft. teaching space, in partnership with the University of Alberta's Faculty of Family Medicine, will train 20 resident physicians onsite, graduating 10 annually.

The design of the center is now complete, the 60-year land agreement with Northwestern Polytechnic is finalized, and construction began in June 2025. Clark Builders are leading construction using 70% local trades. Discussions around a fourth floor addition to the project are ongoing, as the need for a Physiotherapy Clinic for Neurorehabilitation and Pediatric Services has been identified.

DECLARATION OF AG DISASTER

At the July 22, 2025 Council Meeting, Administration presented a recommendation from the Agricultural Service Board for Saddle Hills County to begin gathering information in support of declaring an Agricultural Disaster. After reviewing the recommendation and supporting documentation, Council unanimously voted to declare an Agricultural Disaster for 2025, due to ongoing drought conditions across the County.

The full declaration can be found on our website, at saddlehills.ab.ca/AgNews.

PROPERTY TAX COMPARISON

At the June 24, 2025 Council Meeting, Council directed Administration to draft a Property Tax Comparison webpage for improved ratepayer communication and bring forward the information to the next Council Meeting. Administration presented Council with the draft page, comparing Saddle Hills County's mill rate with that of neighbouring municipalities, at the July 8, 2025 Council Meeting. Upon review of the information, Council voted unanimously to adopt the Property Tax Comparison page, as presented.

You can view this page on our website, at saddlehills.ab.ca/Property-Tax-Comparison



2025 KINETTE GOLF TOURNAMENT

At the June 24, 2025 Council Meeting, Administration brought forward a request from the Kinette Club of Spirit River for sponsorship of their 22nd Annual Hole-In-One Charity Golf Tournament, to be held on September 6, 2025.

After review of the sponsorship options, Council voted unanimously to purchase a Platinum sponsorship in the amount of \$2000, with funds coming from Council's Hospitality/Sponsorship Budget.

Councillors Danny Roy and Don Hoffart attended on behalf of Saddle Hills County Council.

2025 N. ALBERTA TOURISM SUMMIT

A sponsorship request was received from Mighty Peace Tourism for the 2025 Northern Alberta Tourism Summit. The event will be held on November 17th-18th, 2025, in Grande Prairie.

The Summit will feature expert speakers, interactive workshops, and valuable networking sessions, including a dynamic keynote on rural identity and revitalization, success stories from regional tourism operators, and engaging presentations on tourism marketing, digital tools like AI and social media, Indigenous tourism development, and the growing potential of Agri-tourism. Together, these sessions will provide practical insights and inspiration to strengthen tourism across Northwest Alberta.

At the September 23, 2025 meeting, Council voted to be a Rejuvenator sponsor for the event, for a cost of \$2,500.



**MENTAL HEALTH
SUPPORT**
Scan to connect with
crisis support and resources.



Recipients of the 2024 Student Bursary Program were present at the August 12, 2025 Council Meeting, to receive their award and recognition from Council. This year saw another record number of applicants, all receiving \$2,500 in funding, a combination of which was provided by Saddle Hills County and the Northern Alberta Development Committee (NADC).

ASHLYN BOURASSA

Ashlyn is a prior recipient of the Saddle Hills County Student Bursary and is now entering her second year of a two-year course, in Animal Health Technology, at Northwestern Polytechnic in Fairview. She hopes to become a Veterinary Technologist in Northern Alberta upon graduation, and plans to complete her practicum at one of the local veterinary clinics in the Peace Region. Ashlyn received both a Student Bursary and Veterinary Education Bursary.

RYLAN BOURASSA

Rylan is entering his fourth, and final, year of the Ag Heavy Equipment Technician program, at Northwestern Polytechnic in Fairview. He currently works full time for a large grain farm in Saddle Hills County and plans to continue this career for many years to come.

LEVI BOYCHUK

Levi is a previous Saddle Hills County Bursary recipient and is entering his third year of study, completing a Bachelor of Commerce program through the University of Alberta. He hopes to one day become an accountant, offering his services to Peace Region residents and producers.

ARON DERKSEN

Aron is another prior Saddle Hills County Bursary recipient and is now entering the third year of his post-secondary education, studying Computer Engineering at the University of Alberta, in Edmonton. This field is intended to bridge the gaps between electrical hardware and software which is essential in development of control and automation systems. He would like to apply this knowledge to agricultural technology to improve farmer efficiency, with an interest specifically in precision monitoring and controls.

MARIA DERKSEN

Maria received her first Saddle Hills County Student Bursary last year, and will be attending the University of Alberta, in Edmonton, to begin her second year of a Bachelors of Science program, majoring in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology/Psychology. She has chosen to focus her studies on genetic engineering, specializing in plant genetics, intending to use her work to advance work in the agricultural field.



RORY DESMET

Rory was present at Council to receive his award from Saddle Hills County Reeve, Kristen Smith. Rory received his first Saddle Hills County Student Bursary last year, and will be entering his second year of post-secondary education at the University of Lethbridge, studying combined degrees in General Science and Education, majoring in Math, Physics, and Psychology. Upon completion of his degree, he hopes to pursue a career in education in a small, rural school setting. In his spare time, Rory also likes to participate in sports coaching and will be completing his second season as a coach with the Savanna School Soccer program this year.



SAMUEL DIETSCHKE

Samuel was present at Council to receive his award from Saddle Hills County Reeve, Kristen Smith. He will be entering his first year of the two-year ThinkBIG Service Technician program, at Northwestern Polytechnic, in Fairview. Long-term he hopes to build a stable and rewarding career as a heavy equipment technician.



ROSE EARL

Rose was present at Council to receive her award from Saddle Hills County Reeve, Kristen Smith. She will be embarking on her first year of a Bachelor of Education degree with the aim of working in the education field upon graduation.



REBECCA FREDERICK

Rebecca was present at Council to receive her award from Saddle Hills County Reeve, Kristen Smith. She will be entering her second year of her Masters program at Florida Tech., pursuing a Master of Arts in Behaviour Analysis Practice. Upon graduation, Rebecca hopes to become a Board-Certified Behaviour Analyst (BCBA), with the initial goal of working with children to provide behaviour plans and guidance for families. Eventually, she would like to open her own clinic where children can learn a variety of skills to increase their independence and quality of life.

ROY MCRANN

Roy is a prior Saddle Hills County Bursary recipient and will be entering his second year studying for a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in Accounting, at Northwestern Polytechnic, in Grande Prairie,. Upon completion of his education, he hopes to become a chartered professional accountant and return to Saddle Hills County to give back to the community.



JOSHUA MOXNESS

Roy is a prior Saddle Hills County Bursary recipient and will be entering his second year studying for a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in Accounting, at Northwestern Polytechnic, in Grande Prairie,. Upon completion of his education, he hopes to become a chartered professional accountant and return to Saddle Hills County to give back to the community.

SEAN OTHEN

Sean will be attending Northwestern Polytechnic in Grande Prairie, to undertake his first year of a four-year course in Business Administration and Computer Science. Upon graduation, he hopes to pursue a career in analytics.



ARIKA PULLISHY

Arika is a previous recipient of the Saddle Hills County Student Bursary and is currently employed as a Seasonal Weed Inspector at the County. She was present at Council to receive her award from Reeve Kristen Smith. Arika will be entering her third year of post-secondary education, studying for a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, with a minor in sociology (police studies), at MacEwan University, in Edmonton. Upon graduation, she hopes to join the Edmonton Police Service and complete the necessary training to be a police officer, with the eventual goal of moving back to the Peace Region.

EVAN PULLISHY

Evan is a previous recipient of the Saddle Hills County Student Bursary and is entering his sixth year at the University of Alberta, studying for his Masters in Surgery. He transferred to the UoA after completing the first two years of his post-secondary education at Northwestern Polytechnic in Grande Prairie. Upon completion of his degree, he plans to apply for medical school and continues to aspire to work as a healthcare professional in the Peace Region.

CHLOE RICHARD

Chloe is a previous bursary recipient and will be attending her fourth, and final, year of post-secondary education at Vancouver Island University, to study for a BA in Criminology. She is interested in pursuing a career as a Parole Officer post-graduation, hoping to support individuals recently released from custody find stable housing, access resources, and secure meaningful employment.



TEEGHAN SHURA

Teeghan was present at Council to receive her award from Saddle Hills County Reeve, Kristen Smith. Teeghan will be entering her first year of post-secondary education, undertaking a BsC in Cellular, Molecular, and Microbial Biology, at the University of Calgary. After completing two-years in the program, she hopes to transfer to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program, with the goal of becoming a veterinarian specializing in large animal care.

DANE SINGER

Teeghan was present at Council to receive her award from Saddle Hills County Reeve, Kristen Smith. Teeghan will be

ETHAN WILLMS

Ethan will be entering his first year of a Driver Training diploma at Northwestern Polytechnic, in Grande Prairie, to complete his third and fourth class power engineering tickets. He hopes that this, combined with his Class 1 Driver's Licence, will allow him to continue to be employed throughout Northern Alberta well into the future.

KARA BINETTE - VETERINARY EDUCATION BURSARY

Kara is enrolled in the Veterinary Technologist program at Northwestern Polytechnic, in Fairview. She sees veterinary medicine as important as not only does it protect the animals we love, but also the livestock we depend on and the communities built around them.



ALYVIA CRUMLY - VETERINARY EDUCATION BURSARY

Alyvia was present at Council to receive her award from Reeve Kristen Smith. Alyvia is enrolled in the Veterinary Technologist program at Northwestern Polytechnic, in Fairview. She sees veterinary medicine as one of the most rewarding careers as it is one of the meaningful ways to give back to the community.

Our Community

Upcoming Events



YOUNG AGRARIANS BUSINESS BOOTCAMP - OCT. 1 - NOV. 5

Join the Young Agrarians Business Bootcamp for New Farmers and gain practical insights into writing your own farm business plan. This 11-week online course will cover everything from writing a mission statement to creating a financial plan and defining a marketing strategy. The course runs from October 1 to December 10, 2025. Live sessions will be held on Wednesday evenings, from 6-8 p.m. MST.



FITNESS FOR LIFE - TUES. & THURS.

Fitness 4 Life is a free, games-based physical activity program that helps kids to improve self-confidence and body image, teaches them how to work together as a team, and expands their movement vocabulary to help develop athleticism. Sessions will take place on Tuesdays, at the Rycroft School, from 3:40 - 4:30 p.m., and Thursdays, at Centennial Hall, from 3:30 - 4:20 p.m.



SADDLE HILLS ULTRA RUN - OCT. 4

The Saddle Hills Ultra Run starts and finishes at the beautiful Spring Lake Ski Hill, in Saddle Hills County. The 20km loop follows scenic equestrian trails and challenges runners with over 200m of elevation gain, per lap! Rolling through the foothills, this rugged and rewarding course is not to be missed. Participants can choose from 20km, 40km or 60km distances, with both solo or relay team **options available**.



HOME ROUTES FT. ASHLEY GHOSTKEEPER - OCT. 4

Head down to the Cotillion Hall, on October 4, 2025, at 7:30 p.m., for another Home Routes Concert, featuring Métis-Cree singer songwriter, Ashley Ghostkeeper. Get your tickets now, at www.homeroutes.ca



BONANZA CHRISTMAS MARKET - OCT. 18

Start your Christmas shopping early, at the Bonanza Christmas Market, on October 18, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Bonanza Community Hall. Hosted by the Bonanza and District Agricultural Society and the Bay Tree Market on 49, browse wares from local vendors and artisans in lots of time for the holiday season. For more information, contact Kate Turner at (780) 500-7344.

RESIDENTS OF SADDLE HILLS COUNTY

NEVER MISS AN UPDATE

GET THE APP

The app uses state-of-the-art technology to notify residents of breaking news, documents, videos, and events, instantly delivered via push notifications.



HOW TO GET THE APP

- 1 DOWNLOAD**
Scan the QR code above or visit the App Store or Google Play Store and Search 'Saddle Hills County'
- 2 REGISTER**
Fill out your info and check your email to verify your account.
- 3 LOG IN**
Get the latest news, events, jobs, & more right at your fingertips!



- NEWS
- EVENTS
- SURVEYS
- JOB OPENINGS

Download the free app today



Campground Closures

Saddle Hills County is lucky to be home to three municipally run campgrounds, at Spring Lake, Hilltop Lake, and Cotillion Park, as well as the provincially run Moonshine Lake Provincial Park. We are also lucky to be home to the prime fishing and wildlife spotting locations of the Shell True North Pond and Jack Bird Pond.

Bookings for Cotillion Park, Hilltop Lake and Spring Lake Campgrounds can be made through lets-camp.ca

Sites at Moonshine Lake Provincial Park can be reserved through the Alberta Parks Reservation System.

2025 CLOSING DATES

SPRING LAKE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

COTILLION PARK: OCTOBER 16, 2025

HILLTOP LAKE: OCTOBER 31, 2025

MOONSHINE LAKE: SEPTEMBER 3, 2025



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

Phone: (780) 864-3760 | Fax: (780) 864-3904 | Toll Free: 1 (888) 864-3760

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



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