

VOLUME #7, ISSUE #2  
SUMMER/FALL, 2024

Saddle Hills  
COUNTY

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY

# *Living*



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**COVER PHOTO:** Anna Richard  
**INTERIOR PHOTO:** Daniela Dolen





# SADDLE HILLS COUNTY HEALTH CLINIC

Junction of Hwy 49 & Secondary Hwy 725, RR1, Spirit River, AB. T0H 3G0  
(780) 506-0102 | @saddlehillshhealthclinic

The Saddle Hills County Health Clinic is now open and accepting patients!



The Clinic is run by Nurse Practitioner, Palvi Sharma, and specializes in providing primary care services for both acute and chronic conditions.

Nurse Practitioners in Alberta, are authorized to diagnose and treat common illnesses and injuries, prescribe medications, order and interpret diagnostic tests, and provide health education. If your condition requires specialized care beyond the scope of a Nurse Practitioner's expertise, they can refer you to another healthcare provider or specialist for further evaluation and treatment.

## BOOKING AN APPOINTMENT

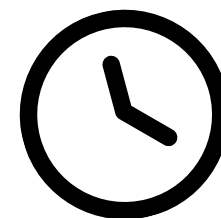
### AT THE SADDLE HILLS COUNTY HEALTH CLINIC

Saddle Hills County residents can book an appointment using our Online Booking System, available at [saddlehills.ab.ca/Saddle-Hills-Health-Clinic](https://saddlehills.ab.ca/Saddle-Hills-Health-Clinic)

First time users will be guided through setting up an account through our provider, Medeo. Once activated, patients can use this account to request appointments with Nurse Practitioner Sharma.

Please note, that until you receive a confirmation email that your appointment time has been accepted, the appointment is not confirmed. Once confirmed, you will receive a second email with the date and time of your appointment.

Please remember to bring your Alberta Health Card, Photo ID, a list of current medications (including dosages), and any relevant medical records or test results with you to your appointment.



## OPENING HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY:

9 a.m. - 12 p.m. | 1 - 3 p.m.

FRIDAY:

CLOSED

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How can I request prescription refills?

Prescription refills can be requested through a scheduled appointment. Once a prescription refill has been requested, please allow 24-48 hours for processing. Unfortunately, prescriptions are not able to be collected in B.C.

### How do I access test results?

You can access your tests results as soon as they are available, generally within 24 hours, at [myhealth.alberta.ca/myhealthrecords](https://myhealth.alberta.ca/myhealthrecords). In some cases, you may have access to results before the healthcare provider (ie. Nurse Practitioner Sharma) receives them, and the clinician may not see your results until the next clinical day. Please do not assume you will be automatically contacted if your test results are abnormal. If you do not hear from us, please follow up.

### Are telehealth appointments available?

Yes, our clinic is pleased to offer telehealth appointments for certain types of visits. However, we do request that your first appointment be in-person.



# ALUS SADDLE HILLS

## Are you a farmer or rancher with marginal or uneconomical lands?

ALUS helps you establish wetlands, tree planting, native prairie, pollinator habitat, and many other projects. Over 1,700 farmers and ranchers have enrolled more than 52,000 acres of land in the ALUS program.

## ALUS PROJECT EXAMPLES

-  Planting Shelterbelts or Eco-Buffers
-  Naturalizing flooded cropland, expanding buffers, and creating grassed waterways
-  Planting vegetation for pollinator species
-  Creating, restoring or enhancing wetlands
-  Erosion control
-  Installation of bird nests, bat boxes or other habitat structures
-  Watering systems and management fencing for livestock

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## What is the ALUS Program?

Saddle Hills County is new to the ALUS Program, launching in June 2024.

As the program is in its infancy stages, ALUS Saddle Hills is looking for agricultural producers and professionals to join our program, as either a member of the Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC) or to provide land for ecosystem services.

Saddle Hills County contains approximately 381 farms, covering 535,279 acres. We believe our producers and communities will benefit from the farm base conservation program that ALUS provides.



## For more information on your local ALUS program



**Taryn Chubey**  
**Outreach Coordinator**  
tchubey@saddlehills.ab.ca  
RR1, Spirit River, AB. T0H 3G0  
(780) 864-3760

## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS GET INVOLVED & HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF ALUS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

## Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC)

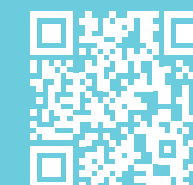
The Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC) is critical to the ALUS model. It ensures that the local programs are directed, implemented, and managed by the communities they affect.

The PAC is made up of at least 50% local producers, with the remainder filled by local government and those within the community with the environmental knowledge to implement the programs effectively. The composition of the PAC is important to ensure that the many perspectives of the community and local context are at the forefront of ALUS program development. The PAC is responsible for deciding which ALUS projects will move forward and the amount of funding allocated to projects. The varied expertise of the members allows them to make well-informed decisions, with respect to the local economy, environment, and community.

### Interested in sharing your knowledge?

ALUS Saddle Hills is now accepting PAC applications from interested community members.

**ALUS.ca**  
saddlehills.ab.ca/ALUS







### On-Farm Efficiency Program Now Accepting Applications

The On-Farm Efficiency Program (OFEP) is now open and accepting applications! The program aims to support producers in achieving environmental benefits by improving the efficient use of agricultural outputs.

Each qualified applicant is eligible for a maximum of \$150,000 in funding, over the duration of the program term (2024-2028). The minimum funding per successful application is \$500.



### Supporting Future Farmers with AFSC's Next Generation Loan

Alberta's government is supporting future farmers and ranchers through changes to Agriculture Financial Services Corporation's Next Generation Loan program.

By expanding the eligibility and updating the terms of the Next Generation Loan Program, the aim is to make it easier for young producers to enter and re-enter the agricultural industry, give greater opportunities to new and growing operations, promote succession, and encourage more people to get into farming.

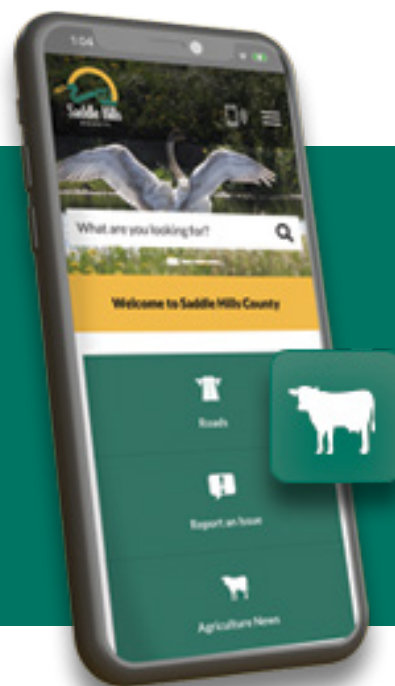


### Equine Emergency Preparedness

With multiple wildfires burning throughout the province, the Alberta Equestrian Federation (AEF) Equine Emergency Help Directory is now available online through Alberta Agriculture.

This directory connects horse owners in need with those who can provide emergency assistance. If you have the means to assist equines in need, please fill out an Equine Emergency Assistance Form online.

# #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](https://saddlehills.ab.ca/agnews) or by scanning the QR code. You can also follow the hashtag [#saddlehillsag](https://www.instagram.com/saddlehillsag) on Instagram for all the latest agriculture updates.





# AGRICULTURAL WATER MANAGEMENT WEBINAR

SEPTEMBER 12 | 7 P.M.

**PRESENTER:**  
**Shawn Elgert, Ag Water Engineer**  
w/ AB Agriculture & Irrigation

- Planning Considerations
- Dugout Design
- Construction
- Dugout Operation & Protection
- Water Quality Issues & Treatment Solutions

**REGISTER ONLINE**



[SADDLEHILLS.AB.CA/AG-WATER-WEBINAR](https://saddlehills.ab.ca/ag-water-webinar)





# Aphids: Pest Identification

by Toso Bozic, Tree Expert



Aphids are among the most frequently and widely encountered insects on trees, shrubs, and ornamental garden plants. These small, sap-sucking insects can appear in very high numbers for extended periods of time causing damage to a wide range of trees, impacting their health, growth, and overall productivity.

Aphids are prey for numerous beneficial insects, such as ladybugs, lacewings, and parasitic wasps. These natural enemies help regulate aphid populations.

## PEST ID & SYMPTOMS

Aphids belong to the superfamily Aphidoidea, encompassing thousands of species. The tiny insects have an oval-shaped body, typically measuring 1-10 mm in length, exhibit a range of colours, including green, black, brown, and yellow, with a few species even appearing bright red in colour. Some aphids conceal their bodies by coating themselves with waxy threads, earning them the name 'woolly aphids'.

Aphids reproduce both sexually and asexually. The vast majority of all aphids, regardless of their form, are female. Males, when they do occur, are usually only present in late summer and early autumn, during the last outdoor generation. During favourable conditions, particularly in spring and summer, aphids reproduce parthenogenetically, where females give birth to live young without mating. This allows for rapid population growth. In autumn, as conditions deteriorate, many aphid species switch to sexual reproduction, producing eggs that can survive over winter and hatch in spring.

Aphids exhibit varying degrees of host specificity. Some are generalists, feeding on a wide range of plants, while others are specialists, targeting specific tree species. They are inefficient feeders and some aphids will produce excessive amounts of a sticky substance called honeydew. Ants farm aphids for their honeydew, offering protection from predators in return. This mutualism can complicate aphid management, as ants can aggressively defend their aphid partners.



READ THE FULL ARTICLE  
ON OUR WEBSITE AT  
[SADDLEHILLS.AB.CA/  
APHID-ID](https://saddlehills.ab.ca/aphid-id)

# FORAGE SAMPLING & FEED TEST ANALYSIS SEMINAR

**WESTMARK HALL | OCTOBER 3, 2024 | 5:30 P.M.**

PRESENTER: BARRY YAREMCIO, YAREMCIO AG CONSULTING LTD.

**FREE REGISTRATION | DINNER INCLUDED**  
**[SADDLEHILLS.AB.CA/FORAGE-AND-FEED](https://saddlehills.ab.ca/forage-and-feed)**





# Volunteer Appreciation

Reeve, Alvin Hubert, presented nominees with certificates of recognition and gifts at the annual Volunteer Appreciation BBQ, held on August 22, 2024, at Moonshine Lake Provincial Park Group Use Area.



## LOWELL BAUMAN

NOMINATED BY: NANCY BADIUK

Nancy wrote in her nomination that, “Lowell is one wonderful man. Always helping everybody with whatever. This spring he came over and rototilled my garden and got it ready for me to plant it. He cuts the grass for me and fixed my fence last year. He cuts the grass at the church and their neighbours lawn. If more people were like Lowell this world would be a better place.”

Nancy also added that, “Lowell’s wife, Elaine, was in the Grande Prairie Hospital in May, with an infection after her second hip operation. Lowell would go and spend the afternoon with her everyday. That’s what you call a very good, caring husband.”

## CARLA DAY

NOMINATED BY: CHARLES SLEEP

This is Carla’s third consecutive year receiving a nomination for Volunteer Recognition. That simple fact alone shows not just the hard work she puts in, but the appreciation and value placed on her within this community. Her nominator, Charles Sleep, stated, “She has been absolutely tireless in the Gordondale community”.



## TRENT & KATHY HINGLEY

NOMINATED BY: SAVANNA AG SOCIETY

Trent and Kathy Hingley were nominated by the Savanna Ag Society for their help in the community over the many years they have lived here. In their nomination they wrote, “Trent and Kathy Hingley have lived in this community their entire adult life. They have never hesitated to lend a helping hand or stop by and pitch in.

They have been such a huge part of our community and the success of the Savanna Agricultural Society. They donate the use of their equipment and their time, and donate generously to see the success of the recreational complex and grounds. They have been an inspiration to so many young couples on what being a positive impact on a community is. When helping out they always have a smile on their faces and stop in at any moment to help in the kitchen and bar, run the Zamboni, clean up, work in the yard, or pitch in around the gymkhana grounds. With them moving away and retiring soon, the community is definitely going to miss such wonderful volunteers and lovely people.”



## GERALD OLTMANNS

NOMINATED BY: MELLISA MUEHRER

Gerald is a long-time resident of Westmark and has been nominated for his commitment to his community. His nominator, Melissa, wrote, “Gerald is in his 80’s and still volunteers to cut the grass at the Westmark Hall, ball diamond, and Hilltop Lake.”



## KAREN POTREBENKO

NOMINATED BY: JUDY SMITH

In the words of her nominator, Judy, “Karen will always pitch in wherever she is needed and will do so cheerfully. Karen shows by her examples how to help those in need and she is someone that you can depend on in a moments notice, she will not let you down.”



## JUDY SMITH

NOMINATED BY: KAREN POTREBENKO

Karen said of Judy, “[She] enjoys helping with community activities, at Westmark or Woking, and is willing to give a lending hand to neighbours. She is always calling friends and neighbours to keep them in touch with activities and if she hasn’t seen a community member for a while, will call them and let them know she has missed seeing them. Judy cares about everyone in the community

and makes others aware that everyone we interact with has value.”





**KEN DOLEN, IAN HOTTE, MALLORY KAISER, VERLIN LAROCHELLE, MIKE MANDEL, NATHAN MANDEL, DELANO TOEWS, DUSTIN TOEWS, DOUG YANISHEWSKI, LYLA YANISHEWSKI, AND WALLY YANISHEWSKI**  
NOMINATED BY: ANDY GREGG

As we all know, the presence of wildfires in our community has increased over the last few years, with a large fire of note being the wildfire north of Fourth Creek, in the spring of 2023.

Andy has nominated Ken, Iain, Mallory, Verlin, Mike, Nathan, Delano, Dustin, Doug, Lyla, and Wally for their help and service during this event.

In his words, “I am nominating this group of people for their dedication and service during the May 2023 Wildfire in Fourth Creek. As Deputy Fire Chief during this time, I witnessed these people to be at the forefront of the effort to defend our community from the start of the fire. Some of these people were paid by the County for their time and equipment, but their dedication and efforts were ‘over and above their pay grade’, so to speak. They were supported by many other community and family members who enabled them to be there in our time of need. Many on this list contribute to their community in various other ways as well, making them an inspiration to others to improve the quality of life we enjoy in Saddle Hills County today. To the many others who contributed to this effort and are not on this list, I express my heartfelt thanks. You are all heroes.”

Andy goes on to say, “These people spent many long days either on the front lines or in support roles to keep the firefighting efforts going for three weeks, in May of 2023. Some directed others, some provided meals and refreshments, some scouted the fire lines, and some operated heavy equipment. All knowing every effort may, or may not, pay off, but they kept trying. This determination in the face of a volatile and ever-changing event is a valuable attribute for any citizen. These volunteers stopped what they were doing during one of the busiest times of the year, spring planting, to support their community that was threatened by this wildfire. Their dedication and time spent is an inspiration to all.”

*Photographs taken by Beverly Lomosad, Editor of the Central Peace Signal*



**THE**  
*Wilderness*  
**IS OUR BACK YARD**

**Saddle Hills**  
COUNTY

# 2024 PHOTO CONTEST

THEME: **RECREATION**



 **MARCIA DAY**  
2023 CONTESTANT



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

[SADDLEHILLS.AB.CA/2024-PHOTO-CONTEST](https://saddlehills.ab.ca/2024-photo-contest)



# Student Bursaries

Recipients of the 2024 Student Bursary Program were present at the August 13, 2024 Council Meeting, to receive their award and recognition from Council.

This year saw another record number of applicants, with **Ashlyn Bourassa, Levi Boychuk, Georgia Chipps, Aron Derkson, Jessie Derksen, Maria Derksen, Rory DeSmet, Paige Dolen, Sierra Evans, Addison Hubert, Lauren Konashuk, Roy McRann, Joshua Moxness, Arika Pullishy, Evan Pullishy, Chloe Richard, and Dane Singer** all receiving \$2,100 in funding, a combination of which was provided by Saddle Hills County and the Northern Alberta Development Committee (NADC).

Levi, Rory, Paige, Sierra, and Lauren, were present at Council to receive their awards.

Congratulations to all recipients, we can't wait to see what you achieve and the skills you'll bring back to our Northern Alberta community.

## ASHLYN BOURASSA

Ashlyn will be attending Northwestern Polytechnic in Fairview, to pursue her first year of a two-year course, in Animal Health Technology, with the hopes of becoming a Veterinary Technologist in Northern Alberta upon graduation.



## LEVI BOYCHUK

Levi was present at Council to receive his award from his Ward Councillor, Don Hoffart. Levi is a previous bursary recipient and is continuing his studies at Northwestern Polytechnic in Grande Prairie, entering his second year of his Bachelor of Commerce degree. He hopes to one day become an accountant, offering his services to Peace Region residents and producers.

## GEORGIA CHIPPS

Georgia is a previous Saddle Hills County Bursary recipient and is now entering her third year of post-secondary education, studying for a Bachelor of Nursing at Northwestern Polytechnic in Grande Prairie. Upon degree completion, she hopes to continue her education and gain a second qualification in midwifery.

## ARON DERKSEN

Aron is a prior recipient of the Saddle Hills County Student Bursary and is now entering the second 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 aid farmers, with an interest specifically in auto guidance and equipment monitoring.

## JESSIE DERKSEN

Jessie is a previous recipient of the Saddle Hills County student bursary and is now entering his fourth year of post-secondary education, studying Mechanical Engineering at the University of Alberta. Currently, he is looking to use his degree to move into the world of electrification, be it automotive, offroad, materials transport, or even applications in agricultural technologies.

## MARIA DERKSEN

Maria will be attending the University of Alberta, in Edmonton, to begin the first year of a Bachelors of Science program, majoring in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology. She hopes to use her education to advance the field of agriculture and increase the environmental sustainability of the industry, and plans to work in her home of Saddle Hills County after completion of her degree.



## RORY DESMET

Rory was present at Council to receive his award from his Ward Councillor, Ed Armagost. He will be entering his first 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.



## PAIGE DOLEN

Paige was present at Council to receive her award from her ward Councillor, Ed Armagost. Paige is entering her first year at Northern Lake College, studying for a Primary Care Paramedic Certificate. The program is mixed delivery, meaning she will be able to complete the course with a mixture of in-person time and remote work. Upon completion of the program, she hopes to transfer to the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, in Edmonton, to complete the Advanced Care Paramedic Program. She hopes to one day work for the STARS Air Ambulance Service and, in the meantime, plans to continue to live and work in Northern Alberta.





## SIERRA EVANS

Sierra was present at Council to receive her award from her Ward Councillor, and Saddle Hills County Reeve, Alvin Hubert. Sierra is a previous bursary recipient and is entering her fourth year of post-secondary education, studying for her Bachelors of Education through an online course at the University of Calgary, specializing in Early Elementary to K-3. This is the final year of her degree before she becomes a qualified teacher. She has undertaken her practicums and worked as a casual Classroom Supervisor at the Bonanza School, where she hopes to teach upon graduation.

## ADDISON HUBERT

Addison is entering her second year of a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing, at Grant MacEwan University, in Edmonton. After obtaining her degree she aspires to work as a Registered Nurse (RN) in a clinical setting, with an ultimate goal of specializing in emergency room or critical care and working in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU). She plans to further her education by pursuing a Master of Science in Nursing or a Doctorate of Medicine, focusing on roles, such as a Nurse Practitioner or General Practitioner. Upon completion of her studies, she plans to return to the Peace Region to provide healthcare services in the community.



## LAUREN KONASHUK

Lauren was present at Council to receive her award from her Ward Councillor, and Saddle Hills County Reeve, Alvin Hubert. Lauren is a previous bursary recipient and is entering her fourth year of post-secondary education, studying for a Bachelor of Science, specializing in Immunology and Infection at the University of Alberta. She continues to study for the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) and plans

to write the exam this August. After medical school, she hopes to complete residency and eventually practice in the Peace Country.

## ROY MCRANN

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

## CHLOE RICHARD

Chloe is a previous bursary recipient and will be attending her third year of post-secondary education at Vancouver Island University, to study for a BA in Criminology. She is interested in pursuing a career in law post-graduation, enabling her to support people with complex issues on a more personal level.



## JOSHUA MOXNESS

Joshua is currently employed as a Seasonal Weed Inspector with Saddle Hills County. He will be entering his second year of post-secondary education, studying for a Bachelor of Commerce at Northwestern Polytechnic, in Grande Prairie. After two years, students enrolled in the program are required to transfer to the University of Alberta, to complete their studies. He aims to finish his degree majoring in something closely related to business economics and management and, with this, hopes to become a successful business owner or operator in the Peace Region.

## ARIKA PULISHY

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 will be entering her second year at Northwestern Polytechnic in Grande Prairie, studying for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Upon completion of her degree she hopes to work at the Grande Prairie Hospital in one of the following fields: ER, surgical nurse, or as a nurse practitioner.

## EVAN PULLISHY

Evan is a previous recipient of the Saddle Hills County Student Bursary and is currently employed as a Seasonal Weed Inspector at the County. Evan is entering his fifth year at the University of Alberta studying for his BSc in Biological Sciences and Nutrition. 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 to either medical or graduate school to train to become a healthcare professional, working as either a General Practitioner or Sports Medicine Therapist in the Peace Region

## DANE SINGER

Dane is a previous recipient of the Saddle Hills County Student Bursary and is currently employed as a Seasonal Weed Inspector at the County. Dane will be entering his second year at Lethbridge College studying for his Natural Resource Compliance Diploma. He aims to become an Alberta Fish and Wildlife Officer upon completion of his education.



# County News



## NORTHMARK ROAD PAVING PROJECT

Work has begun on the Northmark Road (Township Road 764) Asphalt Paving Project.

The project will see 5.6 km of the road paved, east from Range Road 70 to Highway 731. Paving is due for completion by October 15, 2024.

Please watch out for workers and large equipment, slow down, and drive with caution through this area.



## MOVE-UP MAGAZINE PARTNERSHIP

Saddle Hills County is now a proud sponsor and partner of Move Up Magazine, a business and lifestyle magazine distributed throughout Northern Alberta.

As of August 2024, residents of Saddle Hills County will receive four copies of the magazine per year, free of charge, directly to their mailbox.

Find out more and review previous editions at [moveupmag.com](https://moveupmag.com)

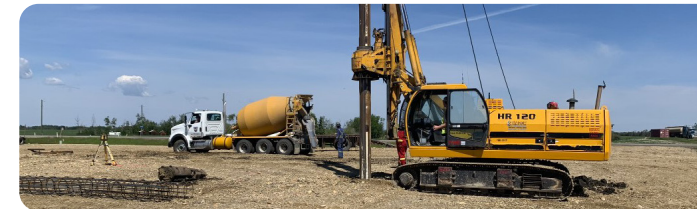
## MAJOR FIBER CONSTRUCTION IN WOKING NOW COMPLETE

Northern Lights Fiber announced in July, that all major fiber construction activities in Woking are now complete and that the hamlet has been connected to the Project Aurora Transport backbone.

Drop crews will mobilize in the area as required, and as more people sign up for service, to bring fiber to your homes. Technicians will then follow to complete the in-home installation.

*"Northern Lights Fiber would like to thank the community of Woking and Saddle Hills County for helping us successfully execute this project. It has been a great collaborative effort in bringing high speed, reliable fiber internet to this great community."*

If you have any further questions or you want to sign up for service, you can connect directly with Alexis, your Community Ambassador, at 1-780-228-1698 or by email at [alexis@canadianfiberoptics.ca](mailto:alexis@canadianfiberoptics.ca)



## BLUEBERRY FIRE HALL UPDATE

Construction work began on the Blueberry Fire Hall in June, with foundations beginning to be laid at the new site.

At the October 30, 2023 meeting, Council accepted the proposal submitted by K&M Building Contractors (2004) Ltd. for the construction of the new fire hall and directed Administration to enter into a contract based on the proposal.

## ASPHALT CHIPSEALING

Crews completed asphalt chipsealing in August, to extend the life of asphalt paving on Range Road 93, from Highway 681 to Township Road 830, and on Range Road 102, for one mile south from Highway 49.



## MEMORIAL BENCH AT SPRING LAKE

Kayla Stremel, whose father recently passed, sent in a request to Council to be allowed to install a memorial bench in the Spring Lake Day Use Area, in his honour. In her request, Kayla stated that Spring Lake was "an exceptionally special place to him, and to me" and that they camped there nearly exclusively all of her life, where he taught her how to fish and where they shared some of her most cherished memories. Council voted unanimously in favour. Installation and location will be coordinated with County Administration, with funding to be covered by the family.

## RV SANI-DUMP & WATER FILL

At the December 5, 2023, Capital Budget Meeting, Council voted to add \$25,000 to the 2024 Interim Capital Budget to construct an RV Sani-Dump and Water Fill Station in the Hamlet of Woking, with the site selection to be decided at a later date. Administration reviewed several locations and identified a County owned property with sanitary line access, away from residences. Upon review of the proposal put forward, Council voted unanimously to proceed with the construction of the RV Sani-Dump and Water Fill Station on Lot 1, Block 1, Plan 1120506, south side of 51st Avenue, in Woking.



## TRUCK FILL VOLUMES

At the June 11, 2024 meeting, Council asked Administration to look into possible ways to display real-time truck fill volumes on the Saddle Hills County website or through an app. After liaising with both staff and outside contractors, Administration brought a report back to Council at the August 13 meeting, including a method to have the volumes displayed on the county website and a quote for estimated costs. After discussion, Council voted unanimously to bring the quote back to the 2025 budget deliberations for review.

**Let's make it to 100% in 2024**  
**Recycle every container!**







# Funding our Future

Ensuring the future of Saddle Hills County and its residents has been one of Council's goals for many years. From things like ensuring the long-term viability of our roads and infrastructure to the success of our youth and, most recently, finding new solutions to rural healthcare and internet access, providing reliable long-term solutions to access important resources like water is just another way Saddle Hills County, with the help of our G5 neighbours, is hoping to support the ongoing economic growth and sustainability of the Peace Region community.

We are pleased to formally announce that the Central Peace Regional Water Project has been awarded an additional \$22,700,000 in grant funding from the provincial government, through the Water for Life Grant Program. The program covers up to 90% of costs for eligible projects. This is additional partial funding to help complete Phases 1 and 2 of the project, a collaborative effort between the G5 municipalities of Birch Hills County, the MD of Spirit River, Saddle Hills County, the Town of Spirit River, and the Village of Rycroft. Phases 1 and 2 consist of pumping water from the Peace River to raw water reservoirs in the Town of Spirit River and Village of Rycroft.

Saddle Hills County Administration has been working with contractors, MPE Engineering Ltd., on this project. In 2023, MPE Engineering requested quotations for this part of the project (Contract 2). Contract 2 covers the construction 2.4 km of waterline on the south bank of the Peace River, including 1.8 km of underground steel pipeline, drilled to 40 m below the surface. Due to the quotations being substantially higher than the original estimate, the project was placed on hold until additional funding could be confirmed. Thanks to the additional funding provided by the Government of Alberta through the Water for Life Grant, the project is now able to continue.

At the August 27, 2024, Council Meeting, Councillors reviewed the original 2023 Request for Proposals for Contract 2 and reached out to prior bidders. The lowest bidder, Option Excavating, confirmed their interest in completing the project and Council voted unanimously to enter into a contract with them, at a cost of \$14,264,931.60 (plus GST) for the 2.4 km of waterline.

Currently, MPE Engineering is working on the design of the pumping station and intake line, which requires additional geotechnical work to complete and is scheduled for mid-September.

To date, the funds allocated for this project total \$65,222,222, with 90% covered by grant funding from the Governments of Alberta and Canada. These funds will help to complete the River Intake, Pumping Station, and the first portion of one of the raw water pipelines needed to finish the overall project. The final cost of the project is yet to be determined.

Alongside this, Saddle Hills County was also awarded \$280,000 through the Province of Alberta's Drought and Flood Protection Program, for the Ksituan Additional Raw Water Storage project. This project entails the construction of a supplemental raw water storage facility to help supply the Water Treatment Plant during times of potential drought or low streamflow.



# Our Community

## Upcoming Events



### FALL TRAIL RIDE - SEPT. 7

The Happy Valley Ag & Recreation Club is hosting their annual Fall Trail Ride on September 7, 2024.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. at the Ag & Recreation Club Grounds, with riders set to leave at 11 a.m. Registration begins at 9 a.m., with riders set to leave at 11 a.m. and includes smoker BBQ raffle, chest draw, chicken plop bingo, and a dessert auction! The steak supper is open to all and tickets cost \$30 per person.



### BONANZA CHRISTMAS MARKET - OCT. 19

The Bay Tree Market on 49 and Bonanza Ag Society are hosting a Christmas Market at the Bonanza Hall, on October 19, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (AB time). From gifts to grub, head on down and grab your seasonal goodies!



### LADIES NIGHT - TUES.

Head down to the Rycroft Library on Tuesday evenings starting in October, from 7-9 p.m. for weekly ladies night.



### KIDS KREATE - WEDS.

Head down to the Rycroft Community Library every other Wednesday, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. and kreate together!



### COMMUNITY CAFE - FRI.

Head down to the Rycroft Community Library every Friday, at 5:30 p.m. for an evening of local talent.

@saddlehillrecreation

## GET SUPPORT | GET INVOLVED

### PROGRAM & ACTIVITY GRANTS | DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Program and Activity Grants are available to small community groups, clubs and organizations including schools. Activities in which the group, club, or organization may be involved include athletics, culture, arts, crafts, and health and well-being. Any group wishing to apply for assistance, should complete a Program and Activity Grant Application Form on our website at [saddlehills.ab.ca/grants](https://saddlehills.ab.ca/grants)

### CAPITAL, OPERATING, COMMUNITY SIGNS & CEMETERY GRANTS

DEADLINE: OCTOBER 15, 2024

**CAPITAL GRANTS:** Intended for community organizations looking for assistance with capital expenditures to enhance the lifestyle of County residents, such as building or renovating Community Halls, building playgrounds, or other capital projects.

**OPERATING GRANTS:** Intended for community organizations looking for assistance with operating expenses are asked to apply for funding through our Operating Grants program. This program assists with funding for specific operating costs for eligible groups, such as electricity, internet, heating, water, insurance, and other utilities. Funding covers up to 85% of eligible expenses.

**CEMETERY MAINTENANCE GRANTS:** Community organizations, societies, and non-profits responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of Cemeteries throughout the County should apply for funding through our Cemetery Maintenance Grants program.

**COMMUNITY SIGNS GRANTS:** Registered non-profit societies and community groups in Saddle Hills County are encouraged to apply for the Community Signs Grant Program, which allows for the installation of signs designating communities within the County ie. Bay Tree, Gordondale.

Any community group or organization wishing to apply for any of the above mentioned grants, should complete and submit the applicable form, at [saddlehills.ab.ca/grants](https://saddlehills.ab.ca/grants)

### SEEKING MEMBERS-AT-LARGE | DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Saddle Hills County is currently seeking members-at-large to sit on a number of boards and committees, with terms expiring in 2024. The following boards have openings available (numbers indicate number of positions available):

- Agricultural Services Board (2)
- ALUS Partnership Advisory Committee (3)
- Central Peace Assessment Review Board (3)
- Saddle Hills County Municipal Library Board (1)
- Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (2)

Those interested in applying to sit on these boards, should complete and submit a Member-at-Large Application, either online or at the County Administration Building.



# Helping Seniors Connect

Saddle Hills County was excited to be invited to the unveiling of the new GENIE kiosk at the Central Peace Health Complex Long-Term Care Facility in Spirit River, on June 25, 2024. The kiosk and simple, easy-to-use software will allow residents to more easily connect with loved ones.

The GENIE software is an easy-to-use messaging platform designed for seniors in long-term care to use independently, to remain connected with their loved ones.



The software consists of three components, a GENIE kiosk (pictured), and Ambient Access website and mobile app. The GENIE kiosk remains in the long-term care unit for residents' use, while family members and friends can message them and manage their account through the Ambient Access online services.

The kiosk will display a resident's profile, showing them any messages they have received, including voice messages and recordings, videos, texts, and pictures, which they can then reply to by picking up the receiver and recording their response. The response is then sent to the loved one to view at their convenience. While the communication isn't real-time, it allows residents to keep in touch with loved ones and long distance family members and friends on their own time and at their own pace. The kiosk also features a rotating home screen, where the onsite kiosk manager can add things such as calendars, events, happy birthday messages, and more, for residents to view when accessing the machine.

Judy Brown and Diane Chabot (pictured) were present at the unveiling, along with members of the residents/family council, to view an online demonstration of the software. The 15 current unit residents and their family members are all planning to use the kiosk for future communications.

Saddle Hills County provided the funding of \$10,000 for the project. The County is proud to be able to support local residents in long-term care through the implementation of this software, and is grateful for the hard work of carers, volunteers, and staff, who make things like this possible.





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



[www.saddlehills.ab.ca](http://www.saddlehills.ab.ca)



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