

Volume 4, Issue 2
Summer, 2021



Saddle Hills County

LIVING

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Photo Contest Deadline	Sept. 17
End of Election Nominations	Sept. 20
Election Day	Oct. 18

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Saddle Hills County citizens will be joining those from the rest of the province in the Municipal General Election, to be held on October 18, 2021 alongside the Senate and Referendum Elections. The deadline for nominations is September 20, 2021 and should be submitted to the Returning Officer at the Saddle Hills County Administration Building.

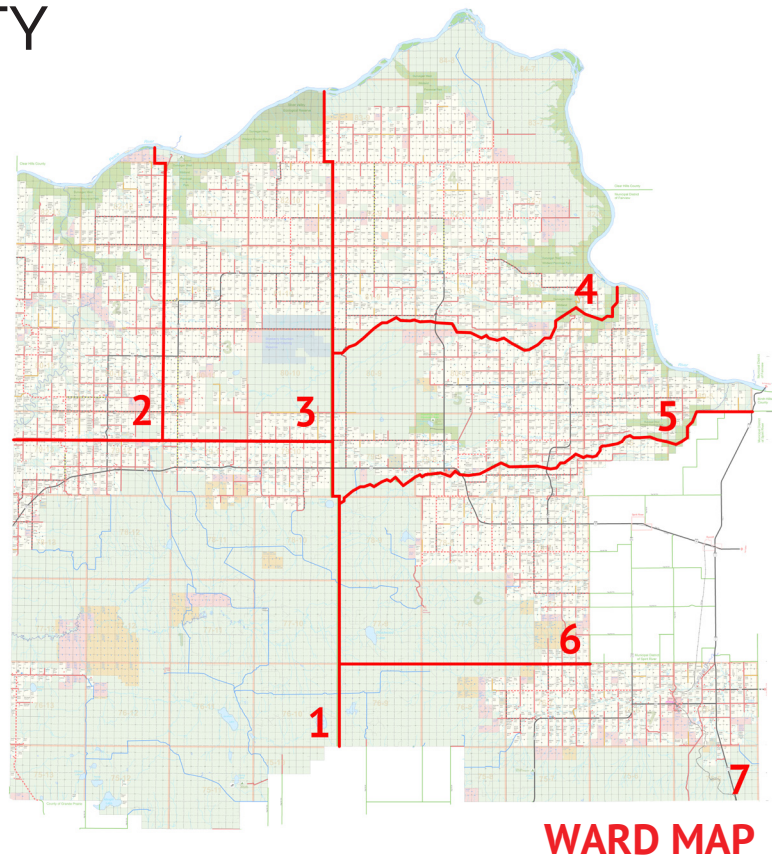
If you are intending to run for municipal office, or the school board, the County and provincial government offer information regarding eligibility to run, nominations, campaigning, campaign contributions and campaign-related expenses. Please make sure you have read through and familiarized yourself with all of the election information and requirements before submission and election day. We look forward to receiving your nominations!

2021 ELECTION ~~X~~ SADDLE HILLS COUNTY

Elected Officials receive:

- Base honorarium (annual salary)
- Per diems for Council and Committee meetings attended
- Reimbursement for travel, meals and accommodations

Saddle Hills County Candidate Information Guide can be downloaded from the County website, or a copy can be requested by emailing admin@saddlehills.ab.ca or calling the County office at 780.864.3760.



GETTING TO KNOW



Interested?
Scan the code to learn more!

LEAH MILLAR

PeaceProperty.ca

Leah Millar is a resident of Saddle Hills County. She is hardworking and passionate in Real Estate, and more importantly she LOVES selling acreages!

With her knowledge, advice, and expertise, she assists clients with their properties. She has a background in Contract Law and a BA from the University of Calgary in Law and Society. She is professional when it comes to negotiation, paperwork and contracts with Real Estate!

LEAH MILLAR

780.864.8013 **CENTURY 21**
Grande Prairie Realty Inc.

Client's Testimonial:

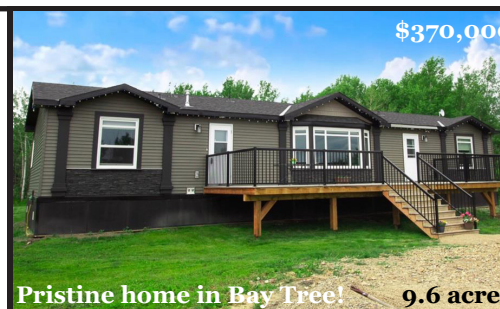
"Leah is by far the best realtor in the Peace Country. She is honest, energetic and so willing to go that extra mile for you, regardless if you have a small property or a large one."

"Her listing was professional. The quality of the photographs exceeded previous realtors and she understood the selling points of the property. Once Leah took over, the property was extremely visible; social media, websites, MLS, magazines, posters and the virtual open houses. We had regular check-in's and calls throughout the process."

"Leah it was a pleasure to work with you! You worked so hard! Your dedication to marketing and open houses sure made a big difference! In the end, you got us top dollar for our home!"



Scan me!



Scan me!



THE SADDLE HILLS COUNTY SOLAR ADVANTAGE



Situated in the Central Peace Region of Northwestern Alberta along the southern banks of the Peace River, we offer a significant source of raw solar power for the solar energy sector.

It is estimated that the average solar power system in Saddle Hills County would produce between approximately 1200-1250 kWh of energy per kW per year.

With nearly 400 farms representing some 535,000 acres, the County offers a wide array of available land in a variety of sizes.

% DISTRIBUTION OF FARMS BY SIZE

- <130 ACRES
- 130 - 399 ACRES
- 400 - 1,119 ACRES
- 1,120 - 1,599 ACRES
- >1,600 ACRES



THE REGION

The larger region, including Dawson Creek and Fort St. John, BC, Grande Prairie and Fairview, AB, represents a diverse economic environment which includes:

- manufacturing and warehousing
- transportation and logistics
- oil and gas

CENTRAL PEACE REGIONAL WATER PROJECT

Saddle Hills County is in the process of constructing a new raw water supply intake on the Peace River as well as approximately 36km of new raw water pipeline.

The \$40 million project announced in September 2019 includes \$16 million in funding from the federal government and \$20 million from the provincial government with Saddle Hills County providing the balance.

HIGHLIGHTS AND FEATURES

Economy

The larger region offers population of some 42,445 with a workforce of approximately 30,772. We are home to a thriving oil and gas industry with access to national and international markets.

Infrastructure

Saddle Hills County is connected by major road networks such as Highways 2 and 49 (AB) and Highway 97 (BC) to the major ports and centres of western Canada. Additionally, rail service by CN is close by in Dawson Creek, Rycroft and Woking.

Water and wastewater infrastructure is in place to serve the local population and we have the ability and desire to invest and expand to meet the needs of industry.

We are a short distance from airports at Grande Prairie, Dawson Creek and Fort St. John.

FARM LAND POTENTIAL

381 farms = 535,279 acres

Business Advantages

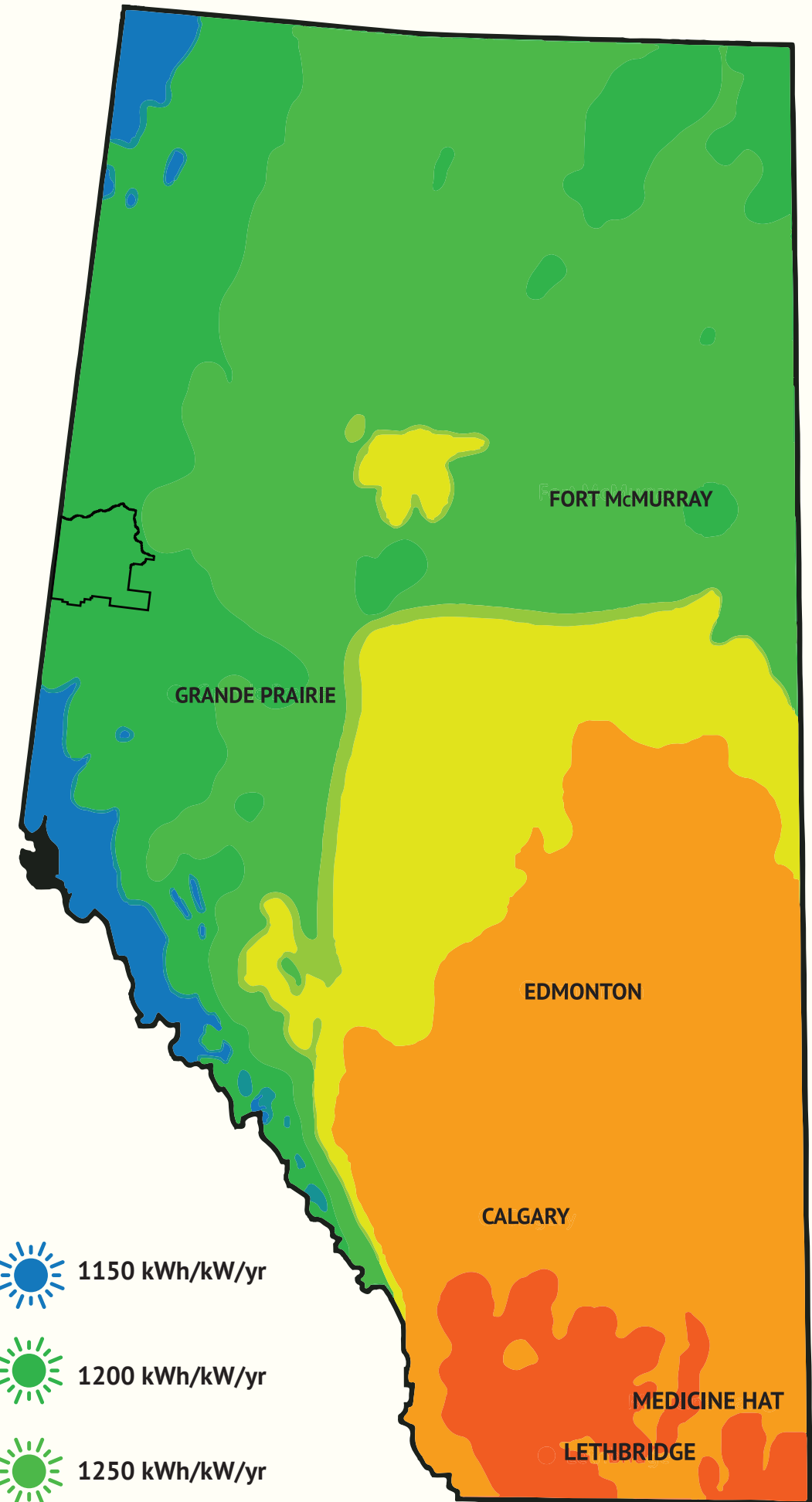
- No business tax or licensing fees
- Low provincial and local taxes
- Cost-competitiveness

Demographics

The larger region includes: cities of Grande Prairie, Dawson Creek and Fort St. John as well as the municipalities of Fairview and the Central Peace Region.

Our Community

In addition to our long history of working with the oil and gas industry, Saddle Hills County is home to a diverse agricultural community which produces crops including; pulses, cereals, canola, legumes as well as bison, elk, goats and sheep. The most common livestock is cattle, with an estimated 26,429 head.



COUNTY HISTORY

Did you know?

By Sheila Willis

According to local stories there is an interesting origin behind the name of Moonshine Lake and Trail. At the time it was only a small body of water, where the grass grew thick, surrounded by trees standing sentinel around it.

As Jack Campbell and Harry Hanrahan, well-laden with their product, were pulling up the steep incline on the northern edge of the slough, when some of the brew tipped out and run back down into the pond. From then on out the slough, pothole or pond, depending on how you want to look at it, was designated Moonshine Lake.

The idea for Moonshine Lake Park didn't take hold until around 1956/57 when local men Jack Bird, George Esselink and Lawson Scott set about garnering interest in the idea.

Together they formed a local association for the promotion of the park and each donated \$100 to it's inception. Moonshine Lake Provincial Park was eventually established in April 1959 by Order in Council 592/59.

The park was originally created for, and maintained by, the residents, but soon became a favorite spot for many people, including visitors from neighbouring Grande Prairie and Dawson Creek.

The provincial park remains to this day, offering year-round recreation. Nearby Jack Bird Pond incorporates a wildlife movement corridor, with wetland complex, containing a number of beaver ponds and is considered an excellent birdwatching site!



Through a variety of initiatives here at Saddle Hills County we are trying to tell the history of our home and residents. We've scoured the books of settlers and stories, and worked with the South Peace Regional Archives on the history of our schools, but we would love to feature some photographs and memories of residents, both in our magazines and online.

If you have anything about the area you could potentially share, please let us know at communications@saddlehills.ab.ca or calling **780.864.3760**.



Ryley Dreger - 780.832.6456
ryley@saddlevalleyventures.ca

BONANZA ASP UPDATE

A live Q&A session was held virtually on May 27, 2021 to inform participants and residents, and provide an opportunity for them to ask questions about the Area Structure Plan (ASP) that is underway for Bonanza and the surrounding area. Following the session, ISL Engineering and Land Services Ltd. prepared a draft background report, presented to the County on July 20.

A summary of the key themes that emerged from feedback received through the survey and live session included:

LIKES

- Peaceful, rural lifestyle with access to amenities such as potable water

DISLIKES

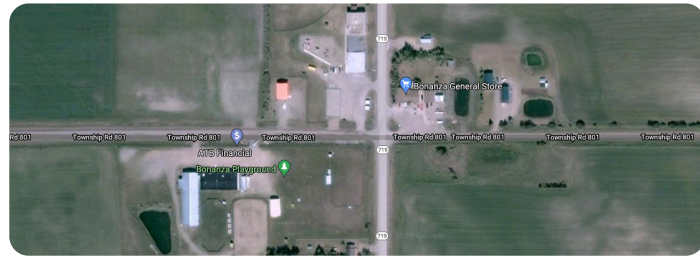
- Distance to amenities with poor road conditions
- Poor safety and security considering it is a rural area without easy access to law enforcement
- Low population to support local businesses
- Poor family support, such as childcare and school bus system

UNDESIRED TYPES OF DEVELOPMENT

- Development that pollutes the environment
- Large animal processing facilities

SUGGESTED AREAS FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Gordondale and Bonanza
- West, closer to the BC border and Dawson Creek, for employment purposes



SUGGESTED AREAS FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Areas with reliable access to water
- West of Range Road 131

SUGGESTED AREAS FOR RECREATIONAL AREAS & ACTIVITIES

Lots of options but recreational development approvals need to be considered alongside adjacent Industry approvals, such as oil and gas, to protect overall experience.

Suggestions:

- Camping sites, childcare, horse camps, dance classes, hockey, equine, bicycle and ski trails, mini golf, local stores and groceries, little library, winter indoor recreation, splash park
- Incorporate camping into the Bonanza area (a collaboration between the County and the Agricultural Society would be required to move forward)

Based on information from the background technical review and input obtained at the live session and survey, draft land-use concepts for the ASP area, and the Bonanza Community Centre, have been prepared.

The purpose of the ASP is to protect residents' quality of life and to ensure economic growth happens with the full participation of local residents and businesses.



SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND
WORKSHOPS FOR TEAMS, YOUTH,
BUSINESS AND FAMILIES.

forceactionindevelopment.com

250.784.8969

battheforce@gmail.com

@forceactionindevelopment

TRANSFER STATION HOURS AND COLLECTION SITE LOCATIONS

BLUEBERRY TRANSFER STATION **WOKING TRANSFER STATION**
SE 03-80-08-W6 SW 18-76-05-W6
(2 Miles South of the Old Blueberry Hall) (Range Road 60, South of Woking)

Wednesday and Saturday: 10am - 6pm
Oil Recycling Available

Tuesday and Saturday: 10am - 6pm
Oil Recycling Available

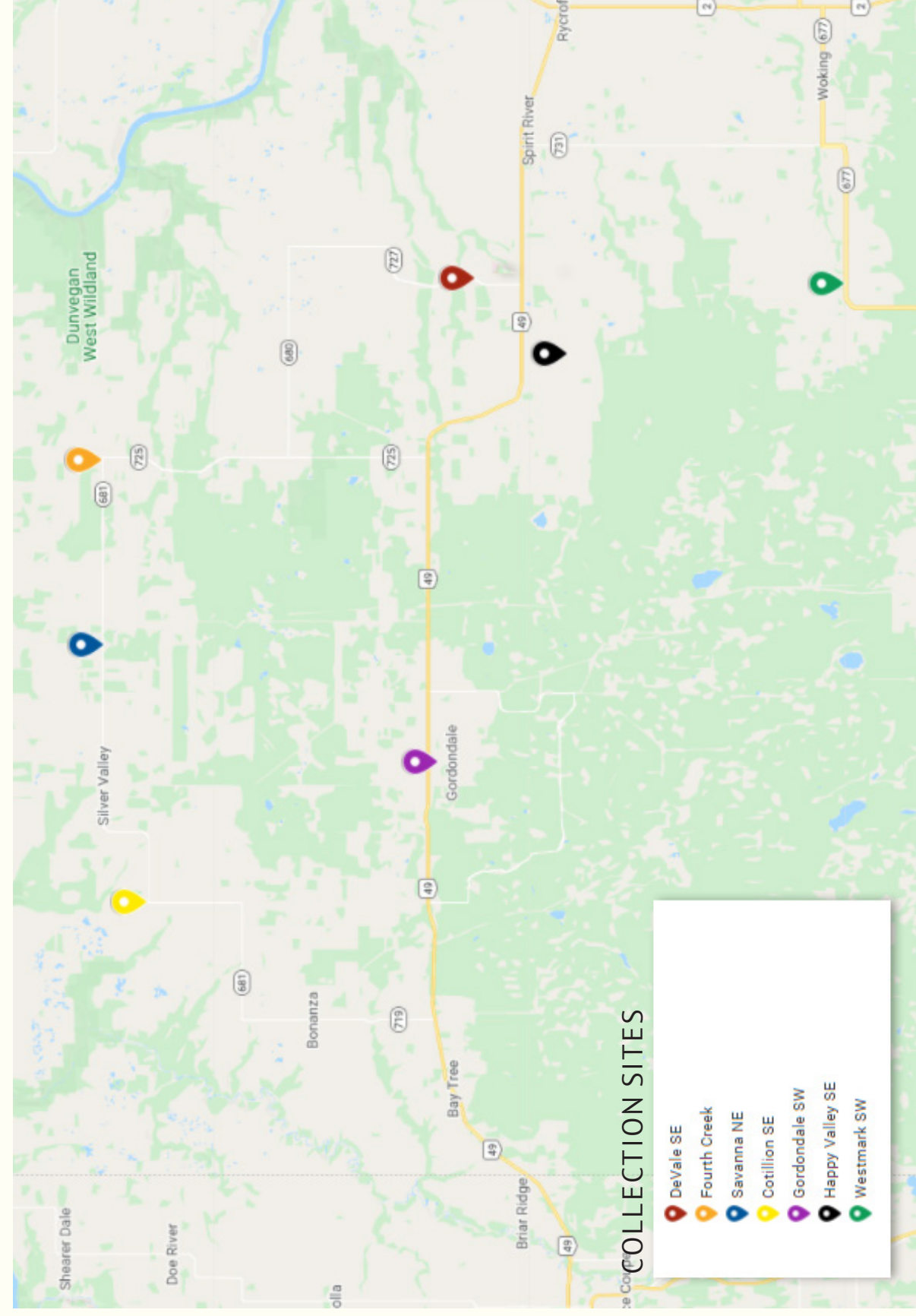
BONANZA TRANSFER STATION **GUNDY TRANSFER STATION**
NW 33-79-12-W6 SW 32-76-13-W6
(East of Highway 719, on Township Road 800) (Northwest of Gundy Hall)

Tuesday - Saturday: 10am - 6pm
Oil Recycling Available

Saturday: 10am -4pm PST (BC Time Zone)
No Oil Recycling Available

Our transfer stations offer opportunities for residents, business and industry to dispose of a variety of solid waste and recyclables for free plus a series of collection sites throughout the County provide the opportunity to dispose of solid waste and recyclables 24/7.

For fridge magnets to help remind you of our transfer station hours please contact the office or pull out and keep this page.



GRAVEL SALES NOW AVAILABLE AT WOKING TRANSFER STATION

At the suggestion of Ward 7 Councillor John Moen, Council decided to begin offering small loads of gravel at the Woking Transfer Station. The request was made after Councillor Moen mentioned that several County residents had approached him asking for the ability to purchase small amounts of gravel for home improvement projects.

At the May 11, 2021 Regular Meeting Council decided to offer gravel sales during May and June for free, with the stipulation being that these should be loaded by customer and should not exceed 0.2m³ or 200l a year.

NEW FIRE STATION

Council is committed to continuing to provide the latest and best equipment and facilities to the County's volunteer fire departments and, as a result, they have set aside \$3 million for the construction of a new fire station, to be built adjacent to the County complex. The decision was reached at the April 27, 2021 Regular Meeting.

The new centralized station will have a primary response area incorporating portions of the existing Bonanza, Blueberry and Happy Valley Fire Districts.

'Council has always believed that our fire departments are crucial in keeping our communities sustainable and our residents, businesses and industry safe. We are lucky to count among our blessings the men and women who volunteer as firefighters and first responders by putting their lives on hold when we need them' - Alvin Hubert, Reeve

FUTURE OF THE WOKING SCHOOL

The Woking School was officially closed at the end of the 2020-2021 school year and the County has been working with residents and groups in the community to explore options for owning and operating the building, pending a decision by the Alberta Ministry of Education.

A County sponsored public meeting was held on July 6 at the Woking Community Hall, at which Reeve Hubert asked for input from community groups in order to determine whether there is an established non-profit society which could take responsibility for management of the building.

As a result of the meeting and communication with the community Saddle Hills County is currently waiting on a decision by the Alberta Ministry of Education regarding the final disposition of the school. The County has been told that it could take a minimum of six weeks for the result of the decision to be announced and we will communicate this to the public at that time.

SPRING LAKE SKI HILL LEASE

At the May 25, 2021 Regular Meeting Council instructed County Administration to proceed with the assignment of the Spring Lake Ski Hill lease and committed \$46,000 to cover the security deposit and assignment costs.

The County will enter into a sub-lease agreement with the Spring Lake Ski Hill Association and the Spring Lake Equestrian Association. The two organizations operate separately from the Spring Lake Campground.

CAMPGROUND RESERVATIONS - HILLTOP LAKE

This summer marked the first season that Hilltop Lake Campground operated as a reservation-based site. Campers are now able to reserve sites, for a standard fee of \$25 per night, in advance through campreservations.ca.

The Westmark Farmers League serves as the community group responsible for maintaining and operating the campground.

'We had a very successful summer in 2021 and the changes in our operations were greeted positively by campers'

- Brice Daly, Manager of Community and Protective Services

CAMPGROUND IMPROVEMENTS - SPRING LAKE

An additional \$50,000 has been invested into the 2021 Capital Budget by Council for ongoing improvements at the Spring Lake Campground.

This year's improvements include:

- A playground structure for Loop A
 - Development of sites in Loop B
 - New picnic tables, fire pits and signage
 - Concrete ramps for the boat launch
 - A well water storage and dispensing point
- Saddle Hills County has made a number of improvements to the campground since it took over the lease in 2019. The County operates the campground alongside an on-site caretaker and support from the Community and Protective Services Department.

The lake is stocked with rainbow and brook trout, with a fish cleaning station available in the day use area. Electric trolling motor, paddle and wind powered watercraft are allowed on the lake, and the 36 overnight stalls come with parking, fire pits, picnic tables and, of course, camping space. Site reservations can be made at campreservations.ca.

STARS MID-YEAR UPDATE

Saddle Hills County has been a supporter of STARS flight operations, from the Grande Prairie Base serving northern Alberta, since 2007.

This year, because of generous donor support, including the County's, STARS initiated a pilot project, launching transport physicians as call centre consultants and ensuring that crews were equipped with safe, effective PPE materials for each mission. In addition, 12 pilots completed the initial Airbus H145 training courses and STARS successfully navigated a worldwide pandemic, keeping all 6 bases operational and ready for those in need.

SHC (NEAREST SETTLEMENT)	2019	2020	2021	TOTAL
Blueberry Mountain	1			1
Bonanza		1	1	2
Gordondale		1		1
LaGlance			1	1
Silver Valley	1			1
Valhalla	1			1
Woking	3	1		4
TOTAL	6	3	2	11

Mission Statistics

January 2021 saw the launch of transport physicians inside the Emergency Communication Centre (ECC), three days a week for an eight hour shift, saving time in the transfer of information and, ultimately, more efficient patient care.

"In true time-dependant missions where minutes matter for patient outcomes, we are seeing how these real-time decisions can make a difference. In case of a brain bleed, for instance, where the patient needs surgery to evacuate the blood and save the brain, shaving minutes off their time to tertiary care – and ultimately the operating room – can make a difference." - Dr. Greenfield

WOKING FIRE HALL GRAND OPENING

It was a full house at the new Woking Fire Hall opening, on the evening of August 4, as the community joined its volunteer firefighters and dignitaries to celebrate the grand opening.

Central Peace Fire and Rescue and Saddle Hills Council both presented plaques commemorating the new hall and thanking the firefighters and businesses that helped build it.

MLA Todd Loewen joined the celebration and spoke of the incredibly important role played by volunteer firefighters in keeping rural Albertans safe.

Fire Chief Larry Schuette thanked the County for providing Woking with such an impressive new structure to help his department fulfill its role and protect the community.

"We are extremely lucky to count among our blessings the men and women of our volunteer fire departments and our first responders who put their lives on hold when we need them.

This brand new building was built to last for generations and, thanks to the hard work of staff, contractors and businesses who built the fire hall we now have a state-of-the-art building we can all be proud of" - Alvin Hubert, Reeve



The County set aside \$3 Million for the project. Chandos was the general contractor on the project and other firms involved include Scott Builders, Turpin Kong Architects Inc., Cognidyn Engineering and 3-D Energy.

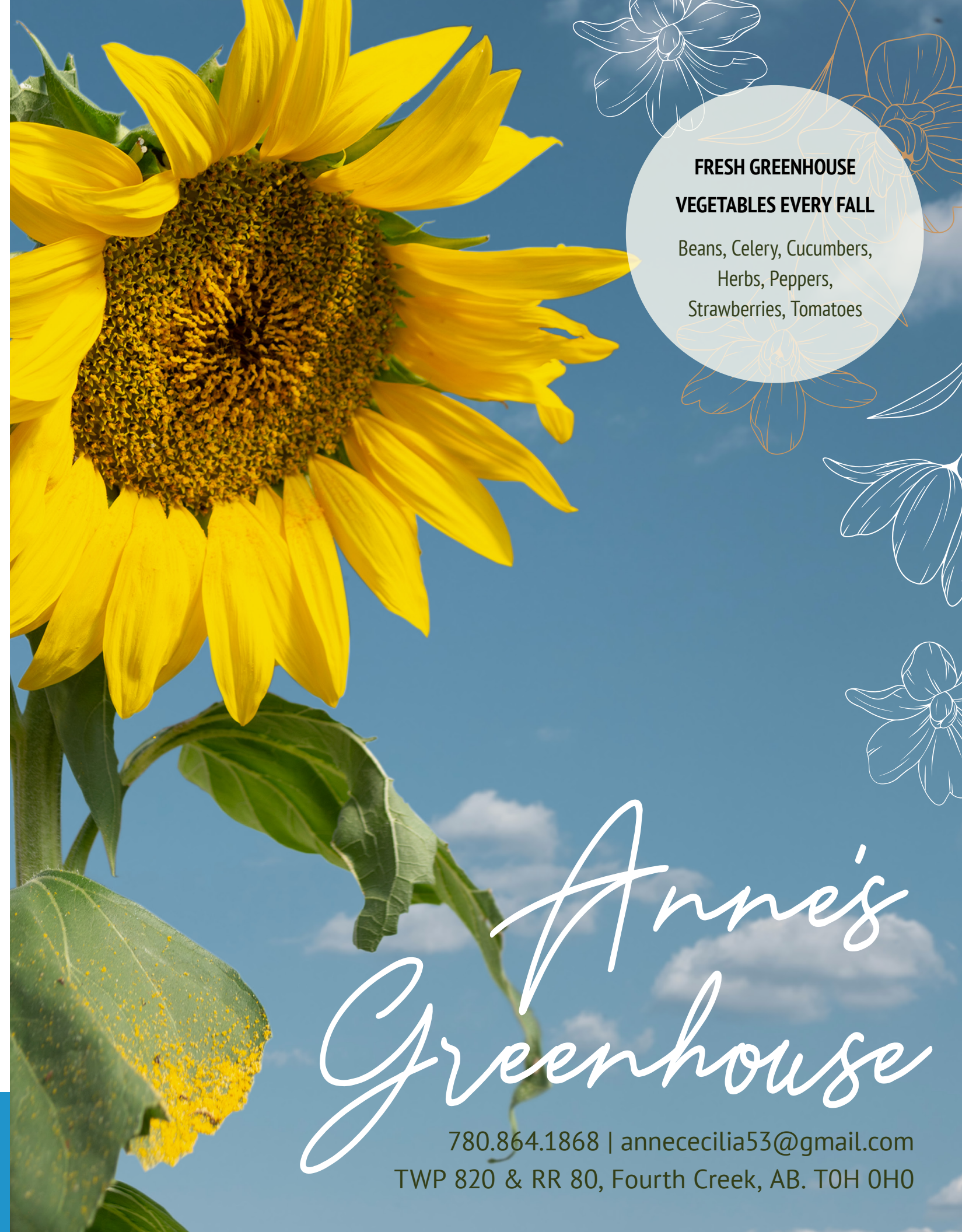
AG DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Summer 2021 was a busy one in Saddle Hills County! Seasonal staff arrived in May and were quickly put to work looking for weeds and taking care of vegetation at the County Complex and other infrastructure.

Roadside mowing throughout the County commenced in late July, the drier conditions allowing for wider cuts and less delays for mowers. Over 600 hectares of roadside was sprayed with herbicide for control of unwanted vegetation, such as noxious and prohibited noxious weeds and problem brush.

In 2021 to date, Rural Development has issued 9 weed notices for scentless chamomile, Canada thistle and yellow toadflax. The hot and dry conditions throughout the majority of the summer resulted in lower than average yields for both annual crops and forage/grasses. The drought conditions also affected weeds, causing delayed seedling emergence and reduced growth.

During the 2021 growing season the County set up 2 Bertha Armyworm traps, one in Woking and one in Cotillion. The trap in Woking had low counts throughout the 6 week period that the traps were monitored, whilst Cotillion's trap showed a consistently higher moth presence. The County, once again, participated in Provincial surveys, and seasonal weed inspectors conducted counts of grasshoppers as well as sampling for clubroot and blackleg in canola.



FRESH GREENHOUSE VEGETABLES EVERY FALL

Beans, Celery, Cucumbers,
Herbs, Peppers,
Strawberries, Tomatoes

Annie's
Greenhouse

780.864.1868 | annececilia53@gmail.com
TWP 820 & RR 80, Fourth Creek, AB. T0H 0H0

Saddle Hills County Photo Contest

Deadline for submissions:
September 17, 2021 at 4pm.

 @saddlehillspotocontest

 @shcphotocontest

WELCOME TO THE COUNTY

SHEILA DAVIS

Sheila Davis has recently joined the County as our new Payroll/Human Resources Coordinator. She was born in Mayerthorpe, Alberta and her career has taken her to many towns and cities across the province, most recently Red Deer, before re-locating to Spirit River. Sheila brings many years of experience along with her Canadian Payroll Manager (CPM) certificate, acquired in 2018.



"It's great to be back in the North among family and friends. I look forward to working with all the Saddle Hills professionals, Council and ratepayers."

RURAL POTABLE WATER



As a continued part of our regional potable water initiative this year Council invited residents of Ksituan, Woking, Savanna, Bay Tree and Bonanza to express their interest for rural potable water delivered to their residence. These areas were selected as a logical sequence to the County's existing rural water infrastructure. A rural potable water servicing agreement form is available at our website or through the County office.

There is no financial contribution required at the time of sign-up.

Maps of the areas included are available on our County website and in advertisements in the Central Peace Signal and our social media channels.

DARREN LUBECK - 780.864.3760 | DLUBECK@SADDLEHILLS.AB.CA

SHC BUSINESSES ROCK

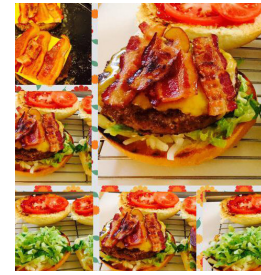
Saddle Hills County is a thriving rural community filled with incredible, talented business owners across a variety of industries. If you own a business in Saddle Hills County and would like to advertise with us, free of charge, please contact our Communications Coordinator at the County office on 780.864.3760, ext. 116, through social media or at communications@saddlehills.ab.ca.



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www.butterybites.com
 @ButteryBitesCaramels



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 AB T0H 3V0
 (780) 774-2121
mjswokingstore@outlook.com



BLUEBERRY GENERAL STORE

Junction of Hwy 725 & 680
 AB T0H 0H0
 (780) 864-2255



Potable Water Hauling
 Box 24, Bay Tree, AB T0H 0A0
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bonanza_store@yahoo.ca



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Professional Gravel Hauling Services
 (780) 864-0148
renegadegravel@hotmail.com

FAQ'S: ASK CHRISTINE



Christine Elliott is a beloved resident and employee of the County, manning our reception and phone lines and helping with all of our residents' questions and enquiries.

If you have a question Christine is always happy to help you find the answer!

DOES THE COUNTY OFFER PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENTS?

Yes! We offer pre-authorized payments for utility accounts and taxes. Please call the front office and I will be more than happy to help you set it up.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER CAMPSITES IN THE COUNTY?

There are many wonderful places to camp in the County. Why not try Fourth Creek Hall, which has some campsites available. Contact Lyla Yanishewski at lylayanishewski@gmail.com for information.

DOES THE COUNTY STILL OFFER HOME SUPPORT SERVICES?

In March 2020 the County replaced the existing Home Support Program with the new Self-Directed Home Support Services. Any County senior residents can apply! Once approved they can hire a company or individual to perform the eligible services, as described in the application. For more information contact fcss@saddlehills.ab.ca.

CAN I RENT EQUIPMENT FROM THE COUNTY FOR FARMING PURPOSES?

Yes! We rent several pieces of equipment including ATV sprayers, a Leon 100 Scraper, grain bag rollers, forage sampling probes, a Gallagher ear tag reader, laser level and rod, econ bran spreader and backpack sprayers, contact ag@saddlehills.ab.ca for more information.

If you have a question you'd like Christine to answer please call us on 780.864.3760 or email communications@saddlehills.ab.ca and your question may be featured in the next issue.



HERE AT SADDLE HILLS COUNTY WE LOVE TO SUPPORT LOCAL TALENT

Do you have an amazing photograph or video of the County you'd like to share? Saddle hills County is now available on Instagram. Tag [@saddlehillscounty](https://www.instagram.com/saddlehillscounty) to have your work or business featured on our page.



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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