



April 2018

Saddle Hills County Living



Welcome To Your Newsletter



Hopefully this newsletter finds winter finally gone and spring - and all that goes with it (except the mud) - here to stay.

In our continuing commitment to accountability and transparency with all of you, we have tried to find new and effective ways to keep all of you informed and involved not only with your community but also your County.

Our hope is that this new County newsletter becomes more than a simple regular update on current county projects and initiatives, but also an important part of community life and community information in our County.

I hope you enjoy our first edition and please ... let us know how we are doing and what you think we should add.

Communication is a two-way street so please let us know what's good and what we could do better. Send us your photos, community events or just drop us a line to let us know what's going on in your part of the County. You'll find our contact information on the back page.

On behalf of County Council

Reeve Alvin Hubert

Council Adopts 2018–2020 Strategic Plan

On December 12, 2017, Saddle Hills County Council adopted its 2018–2020 Strategic Plan laying out some of its major priorities and objectives.

Council went through a rigorous process which involved narrowing down a long list of possible goals and objectives to a series of top priorities.

The Plan was distributed throughout the County, published on the County website and is available by request through the County office.



Saddle Hills County Council set out a series of strategic goals and objectives in its 2018–2020 Strategic Plan.

Where Your Tax Dollars Go

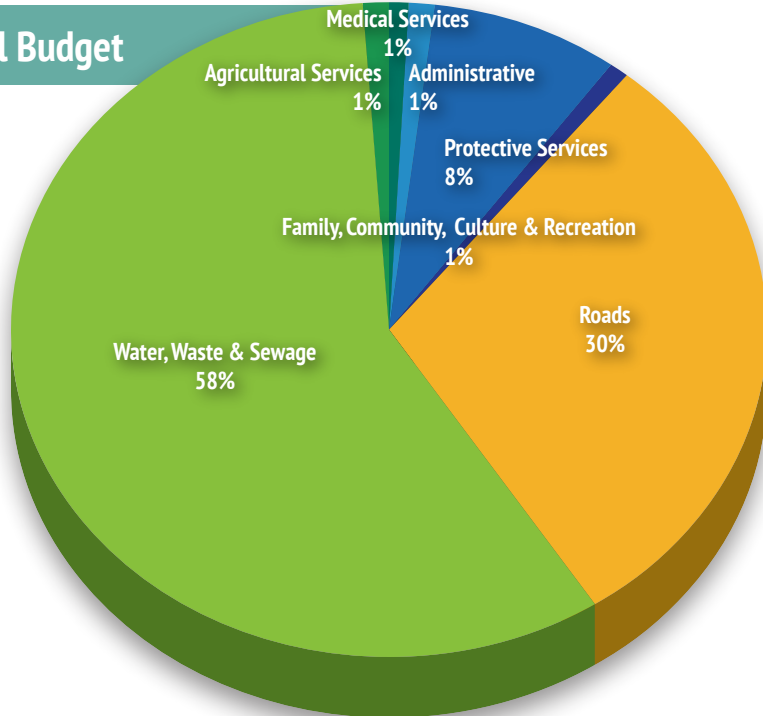
Council's Top Priorities 2018-2020

During its strategic planning sessions for 2018-2020, Saddle Hills County Council identified the following top priorities for the immediate future (in order of priority):

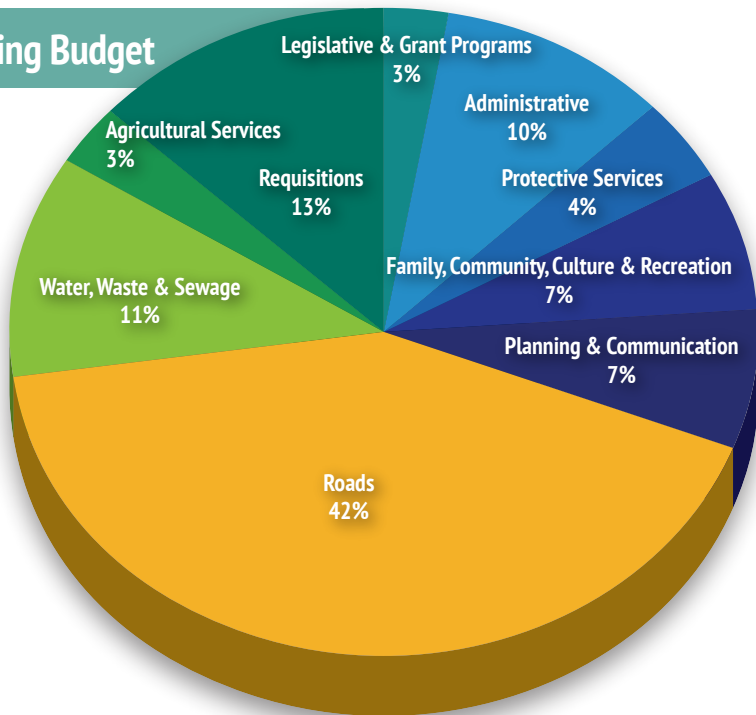
1. Road revitalization
2. Potable water
3. Modern communication
4. Emergency management
5. Seniors
6. Wastewater
7. Landfills
8. Economic development
9. Regional collaboration
10. Community group support



Capital Budget



Operating Budget





Council's Plan To Engage The Public

Saddle Hills County Council will engage with ratepayers through a series of general open houses throughout the year.

The first of these general open houses was held the Savanna Rec Plex on March 15 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The other two are planned for July and November with dates and places still to be determined.

Road Revitalization A Major Objective

Road revitalization is the top priority of Council in its 2018–2020 Strategic Plan. As part of that objective, the Operations Department has been engaged in a major evaluation and prioritization of roadwork and graveling throughout the County.

Proposed Gravel Program – 2018

Approximately 600 kms of County roads are proposed for graveling in 2018. All roads that received shoulder pulling in 2017 will be graveled again in 2018. The County is planning on purchasing 1-½" gravel on heavy-use roads providing more durability. Crushing in both county gravel pits of approx. 50.000m³ each pit is planned.

Proposed Road Repairs – 2018

The County has a proposed budget of \$765,000 for road repair at approximately 20 locations in 2018 and plans to deal with numerous washouts, medium sized culverts, ditch erosions and failed areas including:

- White Mountain Tower Road – 4.8 kms from Twp. Rd. 781 to Twp. Rd. 774
- Twp. Rd 822 at Rge. Rd. 123 – washout and hanging culvert
- Rge. Rd. 75 and Twp. Rd. 681 – medium size culvert replacement

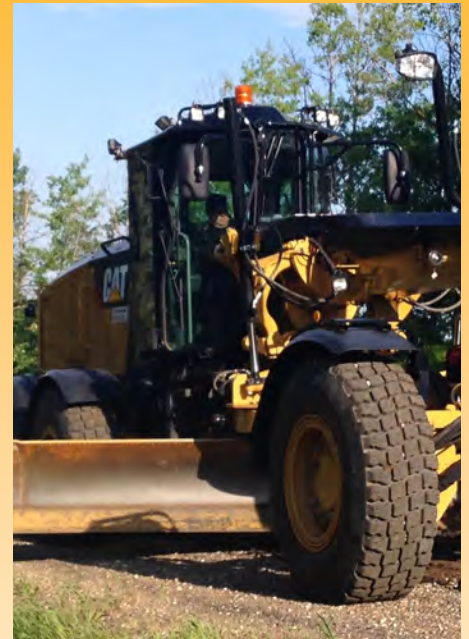
Technical repairs are planned requiring more earthwork and innovative procedures.

Proposed Shoulder Pulling and Road Strengthening Program – 2018

With a proposed budget \$485,000 for approx. 32 kms of roadways the County plans to reshape and re-compact road surfaces to improve drainage and increase strength. This includes heavy use industry roads identified by administration.

The work to be done in 2018 includes repairing:

- Rge. Rd. 72, North of Twp. Rd. 764 – 3 miles
- Rge. Rd. 82, South of Twp. Rd. 830 – 6 miles
- Saddle Hills Road (old Hwy) – 2 miles





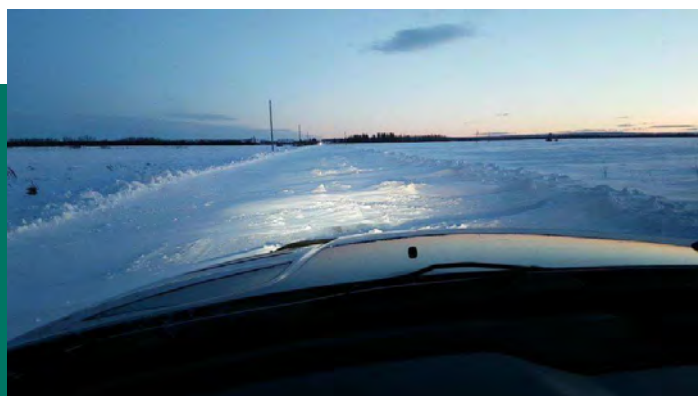
Snow Crews Praised For Work During Snow Storms

The Operations Department has done an amazing job of representing the County this winter.

The County's Facebook page went crazy with over 28,000 people seeing our posts, hundreds sharing them and a slew of positive comments from ratepayers thanking the grader operators and snow plow operators for all their hard work during the storms.

Thanks to photos and videos supplied by the Operations Department we were able to chronicle the efforts of our workers.

Construction Project Coordinator Bentley Lorenz (L) and Foreman (West) Ryley Dreger (R) are seen in the Public Works building standing next to the list of all the positive comments from ratepayers about the County's snow plowing efforts.



Community Capital Grants

Saddle Hills County Council presented its 2018 Capital Grants to Community Groups at its February 13 regular Council meeting.

The meeting saw representatives from community groups from all over the County and beyond speak about their projects, how the money will be used to enhance community life in the region and discuss some of the specific uses the grants will be used for.

Gordondale Community Club is in the process of deciding whether it intends to renovate its current hall or build an entirely new one. Council will support the group whichever decision it makes and therefore presented group members with a symbolic cheque for \$750,000 or \$400,000. If the community decides build a new hall the \$750,000 will be allocated over a two-year period.

In the case of the Fourth Creek Community Association, the \$750,000 grant for their new hall will be allocated over two years. Council told both Gordondale Community Club and Fourth Creek Community Association that, rather than hold up their projects, if more funds were need in the first year, they should come back to Council and ask.

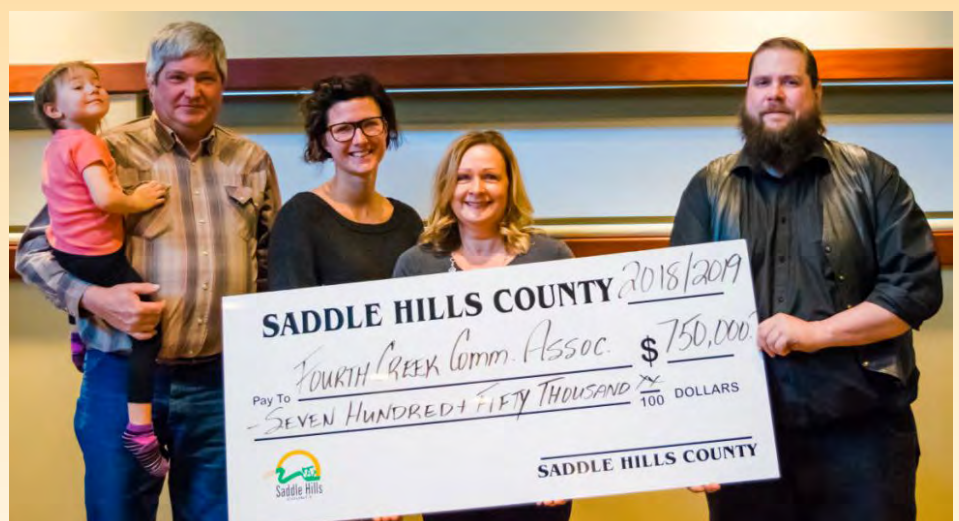
Photos by Denise van Rootselaar



(L to R) Councillor Ken Titford, Deseray McClellan, Megan Lundquist, Larry Rudy, Reeve Alvin Hubert.



(L to R) Councillor Ken Titford, Margery Lewicki, Lurind Jeaneaux.



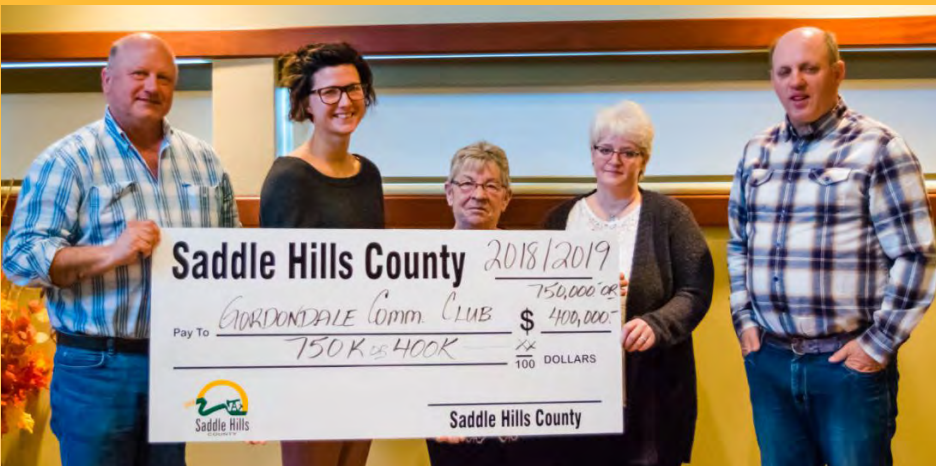
(L to R) Councillor Ed Armagost (w Anja Fitzpatrick), Deputy Reeve Kristen Smith, Lyla Yanishewski, Kevin Grams.



FREE Computer Lessons Every Month

The County, with the help of Peace Region Internet Society (PRIS) offer free computer lessons at the Fourth Creek Community Hall on the last Tuesday of every month from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

For more information or to register, please contact Community Development Coordinator Ula Knelson at (780) 864-3760 or email uknelson@saddlehills.ab.ca.



(L to R) Councillor Ken Titford, Deputy Reeve Kristen Smith, Sherill Day, Carla Day, Reeve Alvin Hubert.



(L to R) Deputy Reeve Kristen Smith, Councillor Ed Armagost (w Anja Fitzpatrick), Terri Fitzpatrick (w Avva Fitzpatrick).



(L to R) Councillor Lawrence Andruchiw, Connie Poss, Monica Sellin, Nancy van Rootselaar.

Land Use Planning

The planning and development function of Saddle Hills County is seeing many changes in 2018 with the Modernized Municipal Government Act (MMGA) coming into effect. Municipalities across Alberta are ensuring their planning documents reflect the many changes of the new MMGA. The County is currently updating its Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and Land Use Bylaw (LUB). These planning documents guide land use development and subdivisions within the County. In conjunction with the changes within the MMGA, many other pieces of legislation are reflected within these documents. For example, with the upcoming legalization of Cannabis, the County's planning documents are being updated to address provisions regarding various potential developments around the new legislation.

A new requirement of the MMGA is that municipalities are required to have an Inter-municipal Development Plan (IDP) with each neighbouring municipality that they share a boundary with. The deadline to have these documents in place is April 1, 2020.

The intent of these documents is to ensure coordination of inter-municipal programs and service between neighbouring municipalities.

Get Involved



This Affects You!

MDP, LUB Planning Open Houses Winter 2018

The Planning and Information Systems Department held a series of Open Houses throughout the County starting in the spring of 2017 to gather public input on revisions to the County's Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and Land Use Bylaw (LUB).

The last of those Open Houses were held in March, 2018 in Woking, Blueberry Mountain, Bonanza and Savanna.



Kaisers Represent County At Forum

Mallory and Shaun Kaiser attended the Canadian Young Farmers Forum in Saskatoon sponsored by the Saddle Hills County Agricultural Service Board.



County Discusses AFSC Pea Seeding Deadline With Ministry Of Ag & Forestry



2017 seeding was a trying spring for numerous producers across Alberta. With above average soil moisture from the previous fall it was difficult for producers to get crops off the field then the new crop in the ground prior to crop insurance deadlines.

Effective May 15th, 2017, numerous AFSC crop seeding deadlines were extended except for field peas.

This meant that peas seeded after the deadline no longer qualified for wildlife damage.

The Agricultural Service Board and Council of Saddle Hills County met on January 31st, 2018 to discuss the AFSC pea seeding deadline with Ministry officials. It was a very positive and productive discussion between the parties.

The County is asking for testimonials from pea growers comparing yields prior to the seeding deadline and after.

If you would like to provide information please contact Saddle Hills County's Agricultural Foreman Dessa Nicholson by phone at 780-864-3760, or by email at dnicholson@saddlehills.ab.ca.

County Proceeds With Bonanza–Bay Tree Rural Potable Water Line Project

At its February 27/28 Council meeting, Saddle Hills County Council decided to proceed with the Bonanza–Bay Tree Rural Potable Water Project (Phase 1 of 5).

The project is a \$3.1 million project which includes a potable water line from the Bonanza water treatment plant to Bay Tree providing an opportunity for residents to access potable water delivered through a low-volume, trickle system water delivery pipeline.

An open house was held March 27 to communicate potable water plans to the Bonanza–Bay Tree area and to provide an opportunity for the public to submit rural water servicing agreements or expressions of interest.

The County is finalizing the detailed design and proceeding with tendering the project which will be divided into three contracts including:

1. Bonanza Water Treatment Plant Upgrade
2. Bay Tree Water Supply Main Line
3. Confirmed Distribution Lines & Servicing



Residents will see much the same above-ground activity as they did during the installation of the pipeline from the Bonanza water treatment plant into the center of Bonanza.





Modern Communications

By the end of 2017, two new mobility towers had been installed within Saddle Hills County. The County partnered with the mobility provider for the construction of one of those towers. Reports from the mobility provider indicate that the mobility usage within the County, since the implementation of these mobility towers, has seen staggering increases. The County continues to work with wireless service providers to explore further opportunities for extending services to the public, whether it be internet or mobility services.



IS YOUR FAMILY
PREPARED?

Emergency

May 6-12 Preparedness **Week**

Wireless Emergency Alerts Begin

Alberta Emergency Alert (AEA) issues alerts for weather events, natural and man-made hazards, Amber Alerts, and other emergencies that could pose an immediate threat to life. This life-saving network warns Albertans of an occurring or impending emergency or disaster and tells them what action to take to protect themselves and their families.

Alerting continues to evolve and find new ways to provide alerts to Canadians. Effective April 6th 2018, the most serious alerts will go directly to wireless devices (compatible smartphones, some tablets, and potentially other electronics) in an impacted area.

Wireless Public Alerting (WPA) marks a significant change in the way the public will receive alert messages.

This short alert message will be the first indication of a serious emergency event and compliments other alert distribution methods such as radio/TV and social media.

Wireless Service Providers (for example Rogers, Telus and Bell) and the Weather Network (Pelmorex) will be communicating direct-to-consumers, and through social media and radio/TV campaigns that share key messages. For example, consumers will start to receive WPA text messages and mail inserts from their service provider.

Emergency Preparedness



Your emergency preparedness guide



Build A Kit

In an Emergency You Will Need 3 Days of Some Basic Supplies:

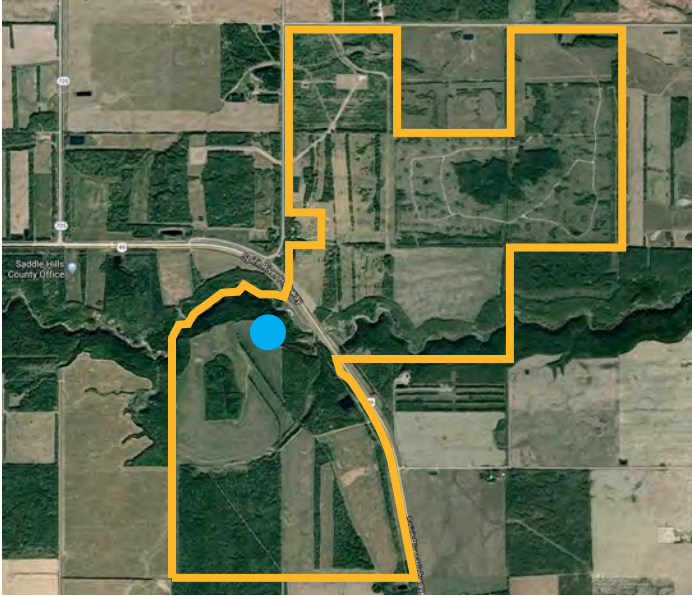


- Supply of Water (4L per person per day)
- Non Perishable Food for All Family Members and Pets
- Emergency Contact Numbers
- Flash Light, Battery Powered Radio and Extra Batteries
- An Extra Set of Car Keys, Credit Cards and Cash
- A Change of Clothes for Each Family Members
- Extra Eyeglasses or Contact Lenses
- Important Family Documents
- Prescriptions or Special Medications
- Alternative Chargers for Electronic Communication Devices
- Insurance Documents
- First Aid Kit
- Sanitation Supplies



IS YOUR FAMILY PREPARED?

New Stocked Fish Pond To Open In 2018



Blue dot shows the location of the new ACA fish pond.

In 2011, the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) acquired the big parcel of land (now known as the Shell True North Forest conservation site) with financial support from Shell plus hunters and anglers of the Province.

Paul Hvenegaard, Regional Manager for the ACA says, “We soon realized that the pond on the property (south of Ksituan River, on the west side of Hwy 49) had good potential for development into a stocked trout pond.”

The pond and the entire property are open to the public for hunting, angling and other recreational pursuits, with the exception of motorized traffic. This summer, the ACA plan to install a couple of garbage receptacles, picnic tables and place large boulders to manage traffic at the site. In addition, some floating docks will be installed to provide better access for fishing.

For more info on the ACA: www.ab-conservation.com

Non-Profit Development Sessions A Hit

In 2018 Saddle Hills County has continued a series of workshops put on by Alberta Culture and Tourism and Community Futures in order to assist non-profit organizations throughout the County.

The sessions were intended for non-profit organizations and community leaders on a variety of governance and fundraising issues facing non-profits.



The Non-Profit Development Workshops for local community groups were well attended.

Economic Development Fundamentals Sessions

Natalie Gibson, Economic Development Expert for InnoVisions & Associates, was at the County office on Tuesday, March 4, leading sessions on the fundamentals of economic growth.

Tuesday morning the training was attended by Council, members of the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) and members of the Management Team. Gibson also led an afternoon session for Councillors and members of the CDAC. Then on Wednesday, March 5, she led a session for Council.

Key Elements

The training focuses on some of the key elements of economic development including strategic planning, the process of economic development and the pillars of economic growth and community sustainability.

Gibson pointed out that, according to the Economic Developers Association of Canada (EDAC), “80% to 90% of new business investment comes from your existing business community,” and encouraged the County to develop goals, strategies to support those goals, value proposition(s), target audience(s) and then messages and methods of delivering them to the chosen target audiences.

The sessions were organized by Ula Knelson, Community Development Coordinator for the County.



Natalie Gibson (right), Economic Development Expert for InnoVisions & Associates, is seen addressing one of the three sessions on Economic Development Fundamentals given to Council, members of the CDAC and staff. From left: Director of Community & Protective Services, Brian Ballard, Rural Development Manager, Elaine Armagost and Director of Planning and Information Systems, Laurie Jackson.



Staff, Council and members of the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) devoted time to studying the Essentials of Economic Development. (Left to right):

Legislative Officer Andrew Hicks, Councillor Lawrence Andruchiw, Doug Yanishewski (CDAC), Councillor Ken Titford, Reeve Alvin Hubert, Corporate Services Director Cary Merritt, Rebecca Fitzsimmons (CDAC), Denise van Rootselaar (CDAC), Corry Heinrichs (CDAC), Community Development Coordinator Ula Knelson.

Ag Services Gearing Up For Busy Summer

In Saddle Hills County, agriculture is managed by the Rural Development Department. The Manager of Rural Development is tasked with managing weed and pest control, animal health, soil erosion, and water conservation programs. The department is also responsible for vegetation management on all County rights of way.

Each summer, seasonal staff are hired and designated as Weed and Pest Inspectors, to inspect for weeds and pests on private land. The team works to provide advice, education and resources to the residents and welcomes suggestions, inquiries and reports.

Saddle Hills County remains relatively free of crop pests and weeds allowing for sound agricultural practices and many choices for crop rotation. Crop pests and weeds are most times introduced to new areas by accident and sometimes remain undetected for several seasons.

The best way to prevent unintentional introduction is to

ensure that any farming, industrial and recreational equipment, livestock, and pets are cleaned of all debris and mineral soil prior to import to the County. The Agricultural Fieldman is authorized under the Agricultural Pests Act to freeze any equipment that is suspected of carrying a listed pathogen, collect samples and send them to the laboratory for testing.

The equipment cannot move until the tests are received, verifying whether or not the debris is pathogenic.

We should be concerned with sustainable and healthy agriculture and best practices.

So tell your neighbours, and if you see dirty equipment, machinery or rigs coming into the County, please call your Agricultural Fieldman at 780-864-3760.

Watch the County website and the Signal newspaper to get to know your weed inspectors.



Agricultural Foreman Dessa Nicholson is getting ready to hit the ground running with her team of Weed & Pest Inspectors.

Coming Events

April 20

- **7:00pm – 9:00pm**
3D Sign Workshop, Bonanza Community Hall

April 27

- Bonanza School Bingo

May 6

- Flower Arranging Course at Blueberry Mountain Hall given by The Little Petal Company. Please call 780-864-3432.

May 31

- Deadline for Program and Activity Grants.

June 1

- Bursary application deadline

June 17

- **9:00am – 11:00am**
Annual Father's Day "Toonie" Pancake Breakfast put on by Blueberry Mountain Goodwill Society

June 17

- Staff Appreciation BBQ

July 20, 21, 22

- Bonanza Fair & Bingo

Aug 17, 18, 19

- Savanna Fall Fair

Aug 23

- Volunteer Appreciation BBQ, Moonshine Lake

Notices

Woking Truck Fill

Woking Truck Fill will be changing from a coin-operated system to a key fob system in the next few months. Customers will be able to set up accounts by going to the County Office and obtaining a key fob.

Transfer Station Hours

Gundy station is open Saturdays 10:00am–4:00pm (BC Time)

Effective May 1 2018, all other County transfer stations hours will be from 10:00am–6:00pm as follows:

- **Blueberry Mountain:** Wednesday, Saturday
- **Bonanza:** Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday
- **Woking:** Tuesday, Saturday

2018 Dust Control Applications Deadline April 30

Saddle Hills County is now accepting applications for dust control in 2018. The forms are available online or at the County Office. Send your filled out forms by:

Mail: Saddle Hills County,
RR 1, Spirit River,
Alberta, T0H 3G0

Fax: 780-864-3904

Email: brybak@saddlehills.ab.ca

This is YOUR County Newsletter. Please send us your input, feedback, suggestions, ideas on topics you want covered, and issues you want to know more about at:

Email: communications@saddlehills.ab.ca

Fax: 780-864-3904

Mail: RR 1, Spirit River, Alberta, Canada, T0H 3G0

