



Quarterly Highlights Newsletter

MARCH
2026

A NEWSLETTER
FOR RESIDENTS OF
CLEARWATER COUNTY

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A Message from the Reeve

Hello everyone,

Serving as Reeve is a unique experience, and I would like to begin by thanking my fellow members of Council for their support. Municipal government works best when there is a willingness to listen, work together, and represent the people who live here. Council members deserve recognition for the time, thought, and commitment they bring to the Council table as they work through the responsibilities of this term.

Good planning means ensuring decisions reflect both the infrastructure available and the County's ability to responsibly fund and maintain services over time. Just as importantly, it means listening carefully to residents. Council's goal is to represent the perspectives and priorities of the people who live in Clearwater County as accurately as we can, so that residents feel heard and know their community is being thoughtfully considered in the decisions being made.

Clearwater County Council and administration are working together to align priorities for infrastructure upgrades, services, and community amenities across the region. Careful planning and responsible investment help ensure everyone can continue to rely on well-maintained facilities and services.

I would also like to extend sincere appreciation to the employees of Clearwater County. From road maintenance and utilities to administrative support and the many municipal services provided across the region, staff play an essential role in keeping the municipality operating every day. Their professionalism and dedication are greatly appreciated.

In the months ahead, Council has initiated two separate planning items. The first involves additional public engagement sessions regarding the White Goat, Saunders, and Alexo development nodes. These sessions relate to the Area Structure Plans previously adopted by the County and are intended to give residents more time to gain a clearer understanding of the proposals and potential development that could occur in those areas. They also provide an opportunity for residents to ask questions and share their



Reeve
Jordon
Northcott

perspectives or concerns.

The second item involves the Municipal Development Plan. After hearing feedback and concerns from residents across Clearwater County, Council has scheduled a public hearing for April 14, 2026 regarding the Municipal Development Plan. Everyone is welcome to attend the hearing in person or provide written correspondence to administration or Council if they wish to share their thoughts or suggest possible amendments. Council will carefully consider the feedback received as part of this process.

Council would like to congratulate the businesses and community members who were recently honoured at the local business awards banquet. Council would also like to acknowledge the many residents and business owners across Clearwater County who may not have been formally nominated or recognized but who invest significant time and effort into their work and service to the community. Council is aware of the hard work that goes into running a business and providing services, and those contributions are valued throughout our region.

Many residents have also taken the time to share thoughtful and respectful conversations with members of Council. Clearwater County is fortunate to have a community made up of hardworking and considerate people, and Council remains committed to listening and working on behalf of the residents of this region.

There are also updates throughout this newsletter highlighting recent Council decisions, capital projects, and programs taking place across the County.

As we move forward, Council remains committed to standing up for residents, advocating for the community when working with provincial partners, and making thoughtful decisions that support the long-term stability of the region.

Jordon Northcott

Reeve, Clearwater County



Clearwater County Council Term (2025-29)



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Council Meetings

Meetings are scheduled the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 9:00 a.m., unless otherwise indicated.

Council agendas are posted the Thursday before each meeting.

Schedule of meetings and agendas can be found by visiting:

<https://clearwatercounty.civicweb.net/Portal/Default.aspx>

Council meetings are live streamed & recorded.

Watch them at your convenience:

www.clearwatercounty.ca/Council or
www.youtube.com/ClearwaterCounty.

Stay up-to-date on Clearwater County Council discussions and topics by reading the Council highlights (pages 4-8) or by watching meetings!

Upcoming Council Meetings:

APRIL 14 & 28, 2026

MAY 12 & 26, 2026

JUNE 9 & 23, 2026

Strategic Planning Meetings

Strategic Planning Council Committee of the Whole meetings are scheduled to discuss and prepare the upcoming budget year.

Upcoming Strategic Planning:

APRIL 13, 2026

MAY 25, 2026

JUNE 22, 2026



Council Highlights

Regular Council Meeting
January 13, 2026

Bylaws

Bylaw 25/062

Following public hearing proceedings, Council granted second and third readings to Bylaw 25/062, for the purpose of amending the Land Use Bylaw to redesignate +/- 4.13 acres of SW 07-38-06-W5M from the Agricultural District "A" to the Country Residential Agricultural District "CRA."

Bylaw 25/063

Following public hearing proceedings, Council granted second and third readings to Bylaw 25/063, with an amendment to the south boundary, for the purpose of amending the Land Use Bylaw to redesignate +/- 22.0 acres of NE 26-38-04 W5M from the Agricultural District "A" to the Industrial District "I."

Bylaw 25/058

Following public hearing proceedings, Council tabled second reading of Bylaw 25/058, for the purpose of amending the Land Use Bylaw to redesignate 7.0 acres of SW 14-39-07 W5M from the Agricultural District "A" to the Industrial District "I," and requested additional information be brought back from Alberta Transportation.

Bylaw 25/069

Council granted first reading to Bylaw 25/069, for the purpose of amending the Land Use Bylaw to redesignate +/- 8.5 acres of NE 09-36-06-W5M from the Agricultural District "A" to the Country Residential Agricultural District "CRA."

Bylaw 25/035

Council lifted Bylaw 25/035 from the table and defeated second reading,

for the purpose of amending the Land Use Bylaw to redesignate +/- 4.5 acres of NW 08-41-04-W5M from the Agricultural District "A" to the Country Residential Agricultural District "CRA."

Delegations

Rocky Chamber of Commerce

Council heard a presentation from members of the Chamber of Commerce regarding information about economic development in our region. Council accepted the presentation for information.

Rocky Mountain Chuckwagon Association

Rocky Mountain Chuckwagon Association President Lillian Hay and Vice President Rod Tomyn appeared before Council as a delegation to request support for the 2026 Battle of the Rockies & the World Professional Chuckwagon Association (WPCA) World Finals.

Council accepted the presentation for information.

As per Council policy, this request was to be brought to a future meeting for funding consideration.

Medicine River Watershed Society

Council considered a request from the Medicine River Watershed Society to attend a joint meeting with the society and Hon. Brian Jean, Minister of Energy, Hon. Grant Hunter, Minister of Environment, along with MLAs Jason Nixon, Jennifer Johnson and Devin Dreeschen.

Council approved the request and endorsed the Medicine River Watershed Society's letter.

Ratepayer Request for Waiver of Taxes

Council considered a request



Council Highlights Continued

to waive penalties for several taxable properties that are the responsibility of an industrial ratepayer.

A motion to waive penalties was defeated.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Program

Council authorized the Reeve's signature on the Amending Conditional Grant Agreement No. 2 between the Government of Alberta and Clearwater County for \$520,000 to support the municipality's Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) team to March 31, 2027.

Office of the CAO

Policy Revisions

Council considered revisions to the following policies: Council-001 Council Remuneration, Council-002 Conferences and Training for Councillors and Council-003 Travel and Subsistence. Council adopted the above policies as amended.

Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission Review

Council authorized Reeve Jordon Northcott's attendance at the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission's public hearing in Edmonton on January 19, 2026, to present "Proposed Electoral Boundary Changes Affecting Clearwater County."

CAO Recruitment and Hiring

Council discussed the recruitment and hiring of a Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), as the position will become vacant as of May 23, 2026. Council determined the recruitment process will be administered by an executive search firm with the assistance of Clearwater County's HR department.

Authorization for Attendance

Council authorized councillor attendance and remuneration for the following events:

- AB Munis 2026 Spring Municipal Leaders Caucus and Conference – from March 25 to 27, 2026, in Edmonton.
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Conference – from June 4 to 7, 2026, in Edmonton.

Regular Council Meeting
January 27, 2026

Bylaws

Bylaw 25/061

Following public hearing proceedings, Council defeated second reading of Bylaw 25/061, as amended, for the purpose of amending the Land Use Bylaw to redesignate 10 acres of NW 29-37-04-W5M from the Agricultural District "A" to the Country Residential Agricultural District "CRA."

Bylaw 25/065

Following public hearing proceedings, Council defeated second reading of Bylaw 25/065, for the purpose of amending the Land Use Bylaw to redesignate +/- 5.0 acres of SE 35-36-05-W5M from the Agricultural District "A" to the Country Residential Agricultural District "CRA."

Bylaw 25/066 & Bylaw 25/067

Following public hearing proceedings, Council defeated a motion to adopt the Jans Outline Plan and defeated second reading of Bylaw 25/066, for the purpose of amending the Land Use Bylaw to redesignate +/- 9.5 acres from Agricultural (A) District to the Recreation - Minor (R-Mi) District.

Council defeated second reading of Bylaw 25/067, for the purpose



Council Highlights Continued

of amending the Land Use Bylaw to redesignate +/- 7.0 acres from the Agricultural (A) District to the Country Residential Agricultural (CRA) District.

Bylaw 25/070

Council granted first reading to Bylaw 25/070, for the purpose of amending the Land Use Bylaw to redesignate +/- 8.85 acres of SE 03-39-04-W5M from the Agricultural District "A" to the Country Residential Agricultural District "CRA."

Delegations

Parkland Airshed Management Zone (PAMZ)

Kevin Warren, Executive Director of Parkland Airshed Management Zone (PAMZ), appeared before Council as a delegation to present on PAMZ activities, including air quality monitoring and education.

Council accepted the presentation for information.

Clearwater Library Board Accountability Agreement

Council approved the Clearwater Library Board Accountability Agreement and endorsed the Reeve's signature.

Ratepayer Request for Waiver of Taxes

Council considered a request to waive penalties for late payment of property taxes.

A motion to waive penalties was defeated.

Authorization for Attendance

Council authorized councillor attendance and remuneration for the following events:

- 2025 Community Business Awards – March 6, 2026, in Rocky Mountain House.

- Rocky Gas Co-op event – retroactively authorized for December 17, 2025.

Closed Session

Upon coming out of closed session, Council passed the following motions:

- Council appointed Jan Chant to the Rocky Mountain House/Clearwater County Community Wellness Association for a term effective from January 27, 2026, to October 31, 2027.
- Council approved the hiring of It's Logical Strategic Planning Services to facilitate Council's Strategic Planning Sessions for development of Clearwater County's Strategic Plan, effective 2026.

Regular Council Meeting
February 10, 2026

Bylaws

Bylaw 26/071

Council granted first, second and third readings to Chief Administrative Officer Bylaw 26/071, for the purpose of establishing the position of Chief Administrative Officer and to define the duties, powers and function of that position.

Bylaw 26/072

Council granted first, second and third readings to Clearwater County Agricultural Services Board Bylaw 26/072, for the purpose of establishing Clearwater County's Agricultural Services Board as a council committee.

Bylaw 26/073

Council granted first, second and third readings to Strategic Planning Committee Bylaw 26/073, for the purpose of establishing the committee as a council committee.



Council Highlights Continued

Some changes include power and authority of the committee and meeting dates. Strategic Planning Council Committee of the Whole meetings will be scheduled for the fourth Monday of each month, excluding August and December.

Bylaw 25/068

Council postponed first reading of Bylaw 25/068, for the purpose of repealing Bylaws 25/045 and 25/046 for the Saunders - Alexo and Whitegoat Lakes Development Nodes.

Council then directed administration to bring back a public engagement proposal for both development node Area Structure Plans for Council's consideration.

Delegations

Mountain View and Neighbours Women in Business

Debora L. Rice-Salomons, with Mountain View and Neighbours Women in Business, appeared before Council as a delegation to share information about their upcoming awards event on March 6, 2026.

Council accepted the presentation for information.

Clearwater County Recreation Boards

Council directed administration to continue with the recreation boards as per the existing bylaws.

Caroline Signage Replacements

Council approved new signage replacements in the Hamlet of Caroline, as recommended by the Strategic Planning Committee of the Whole.

FRIAA FireSmart Vegetation Management Program

Council endorsed the Clearwater County's Forest Resource

Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) grant funding application, with funding in the amount of \$200,000 for vegetation and fuel management adjacent to Nordegg.

Authorization for Attendance

Council authorized councillor attendance and remuneration for the following event:

- 2026 Alberta Tourism Advocacy Summit – retroactively authorized for February 8-9, 2026.

Closed Session

Upon coming out of closed session, Council passed the following motions:

- Regarding agenda item 11.2, Nordegg Residential Phase 2 Lots - Lily Ave, Council approved the Nordegg Lily Ave. residential lots to be priced as amended in closed session.
- Regarding agenda item 11.3, CAO Recruitment, Council directed administration to extend the Request for Quotes (RFQ) to three more executive search firms.

Regular Council Meeting
February 24, 2026

Bylaws

Bylaw 25/069

Following public hearing proceedings, Council postponed second and third readings to Bylaw 25/069, for the purpose of amending the Land Use Bylaw to redesignate +/- 8.5 acres of NE 09-36-06-W5M from the Agricultural District "A" to the Country Residential Agricultural District "CRA." This item was referred to the Municipal Planning Commission for a site visit.

Bylaw 26/077

Council granted first reading to



Council Highlights Continued

Bylaw 26/077, for the purpose of amending the Land Use Bylaw to redesignate +/- 5.0 acres of SW 04-38-04-W5M from the Agricultural District “A” to the Country Residential Agricultural District “CRA.”

Bylaw 26/078

Council granted first reading to Bylaw 26/078, for the purpose of amending the Municipal Development Plan.

Development Node Public Engagement

Council approved adjustments to the Planning and Development operating budget in order to conduct additional public engagement for the Area Structure Plans for the Saunders-Alexo and Whitegoat Development Nodes and contracting consulting services for the review of Clearwater County's Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw.

Regional Solid Waste Services Agreement

Council reviewed the amended and restated “Regional Solid Waste Services Agreement” and postponed a motion to approve to allow more time for Council review. Council will consider approving the agreement at a future meeting.

Leslieville Cemetery Expansion

Council approved the Capital Projects Grant Funding Agreement with the Leslieville Cemetery Board as presented.

Letter to Federal Agriculture Minister

Council endorsed a letter put forward by the Agricultural Service Board with the Reeve’s signature. The letter to the Federal Agriculture Minister expresses concerns about the recently announced closure of Federal Agricultural Research Centres.

Broadband Reallocation

Council increased the Broadband

capital budget by \$72.1M (UBF grant projects + Rocky East), supported by \$57.48M in new grant revenue and \$14.63M from restricted surplus. This adjustment was required because the 2026 budget had initially been approved only for operating costs for the first few months of the year, pending the February 13, 2026 Broadband Committee meeting, where the project received formal approval following due diligence, updated federal/provincial funding commitments, and confirmation of long-term financial viability. See page 19 for full news release.

Carry Forwards from 2025

Council reallocated funds for several items, including \$253K for the Leslieville Cemetery land purchase, \$70K for network equipment, \$200K for Heritage mine site restoration, \$13K for elevator repairs, and \$195K for WCB premium increases (offset by a matching reduction in contingency), all funded through increased transfers from restricted surplus or contingency adjustments.

April Strategic Planning Meeting

Council voted to reschedule the April Strategic Planning Council Committee of the Whole meeting to April 13, 2026.

Closed Session

Upon coming out of closed session, Council passed the following motion: that Council approve the hiring of Davies Consulting Group to facilitate Council’s recruitment of a Chief Administrative Officer for Clearwater County.



Did You Know...



DID YOU KNOW...

The area around your home, the Home Ignition Zone, is the most important place to focus your FireSmart efforts. It is made up of three areas:

1. Immediate Zone 0 m to 1.5 m

The Immediate Zone is a non-combustible area that starts at the house and extends to a 1.5 metre perimeter around the home and attached structures, including decks.

2. Intermediate Zone 1.5 m to 10 m

Elements in the Intermediate Zone are managed so they don't transmit fire to your home.

3. Extended Zone 10 m to 30 m

The goal in the Extended Zone is not to eliminate fire, but to reduce its intensity.

Check out the **FireSmart Begins at Home Guide** for an in-depth look at how you can build wildfire resiliency. Visit www.firesmartcanada.ca for more tips!



Capital Projects

Capital Project Status Update Reports are prepared by Administration and presented to Council at the last Council meeting of each month. This report was presented on **February 24, 2026**.

Read the full report at www.clearwatercounty.ca/news.

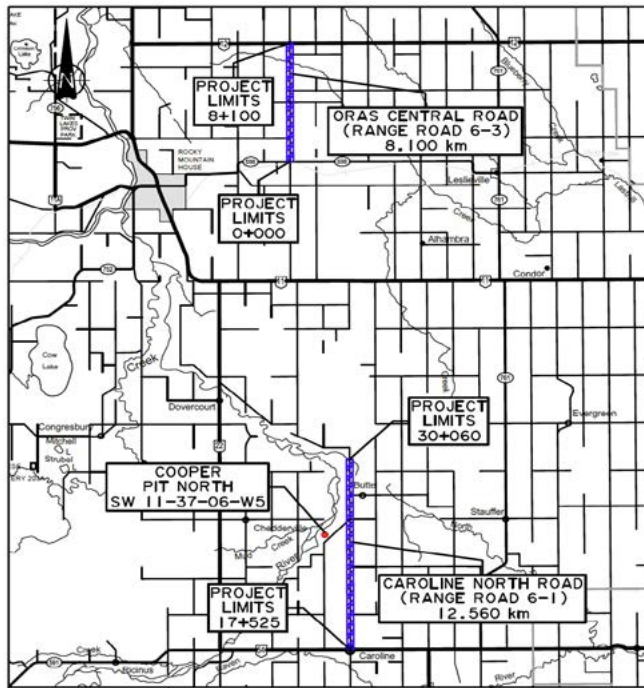


General Capital				
Project	Budget	Completion Date	Project Description	Current Activity/ Status
Twp Rd 41-3 Survey	\$100,000	Q4 2026	Due to a historical survey error, that predates Clearwater County, the County is required to purchase land, for the road right-of-way, along Township Road 41-3.	Staff will be engaging affected landowners in the coming months to formalize purchase agreements.
Gravel Pit Acquisition	\$3,000,000	Q4 2026	Staff are currently looking to acquire an aggregate source north of Hwy 598, south of Hwy 53 and east of Hwy 22.	Exploration for a gravel resource in that area will continue over the course of 2026.
Range Rd 6-4 (Benz Rd) Erosion Repair	\$1,190,000	Q4 2026	Riverbank and erosion repair, along Range Road 6-4, due to encroachment of the tributary of the Clearwater River.	Staff have applied for a Drought Flood Protection Grant. Tender development is underway.
Leslieville Cemetery	\$253,000	Q3 2026	The 2026 budget includes expanding the Leslieville Cemetery (5 acres).	Staff intend to complete due diligence requirements and formalize a purchase agreement in the coming months



Capital Projects

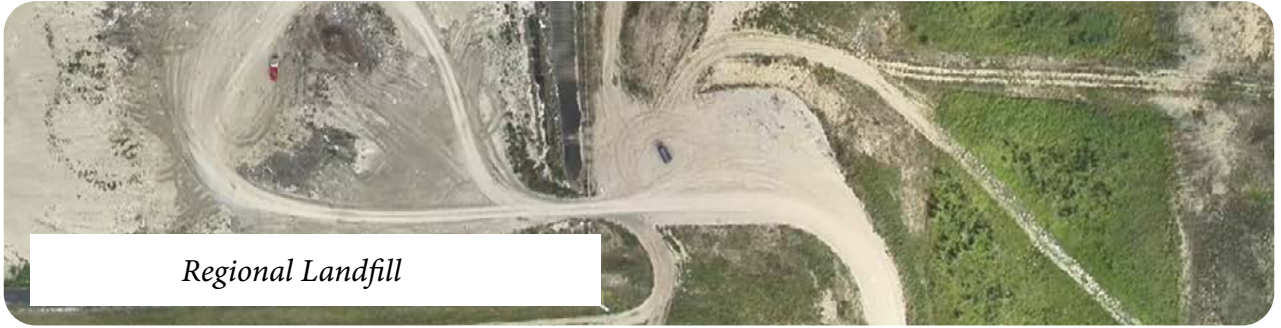
Asphalt Overlay - Project Location Map



Asphalt Overlay				
Project	Budget	Completion Date	Project Description	Current Activity/ Status
2025 Asphalt Overlay	\$35,000	Q4 2026	Wall St. Road 21.1 km Warranty inspection and coordination.	Warranty inspection is scheduled for Q4 2026.
2026 Asphalt Overlay	\$5,643,000	Q4 2026	Oras Road Central (RR6-3) from Highway 598 to Highway 12 - 8.0 km. Caroline North Road (RR 6-1) from Township Road 37-5 to Caroline - 12.50 km. Total 20.5 km	Tender was posted for public bid on January 29 and closes on February 19, 2026



Capital Projects



Regional Landfill

Landfill and Transfer Stations

Project	Budget	Completion Date	Project Description	Current Activity/ Status
Leachate Evaporator	\$225,000	Q3 2026	Purchase of Leachate Evaporator to reduce the amount of leachate required to be disposed of offsite.	Leachate Evaporator has been procured. Installation to be completed in the spring/summer months.
Cell Maintenance	\$25,000	Q4 2026	Complete assessment and inspection on the industrial cell cap. Develop capital plan for 2027.	Staff intend to procure engineering to complete this work in the coming months.
Nordegg Transfer Station Upgrades	\$20,000	Q4 2026	Complete assessment of the waste requirements for the transfer station infrastructure.	Staff intend to procure engineering to complete this work in the coming months.
Collection Assets	\$60,000	Q2 2026	Acquire four 40yd roll off bins for various transfer stations.	Roll-off bins have been procured with a delivery date in the upcoming months.



Capital Projects



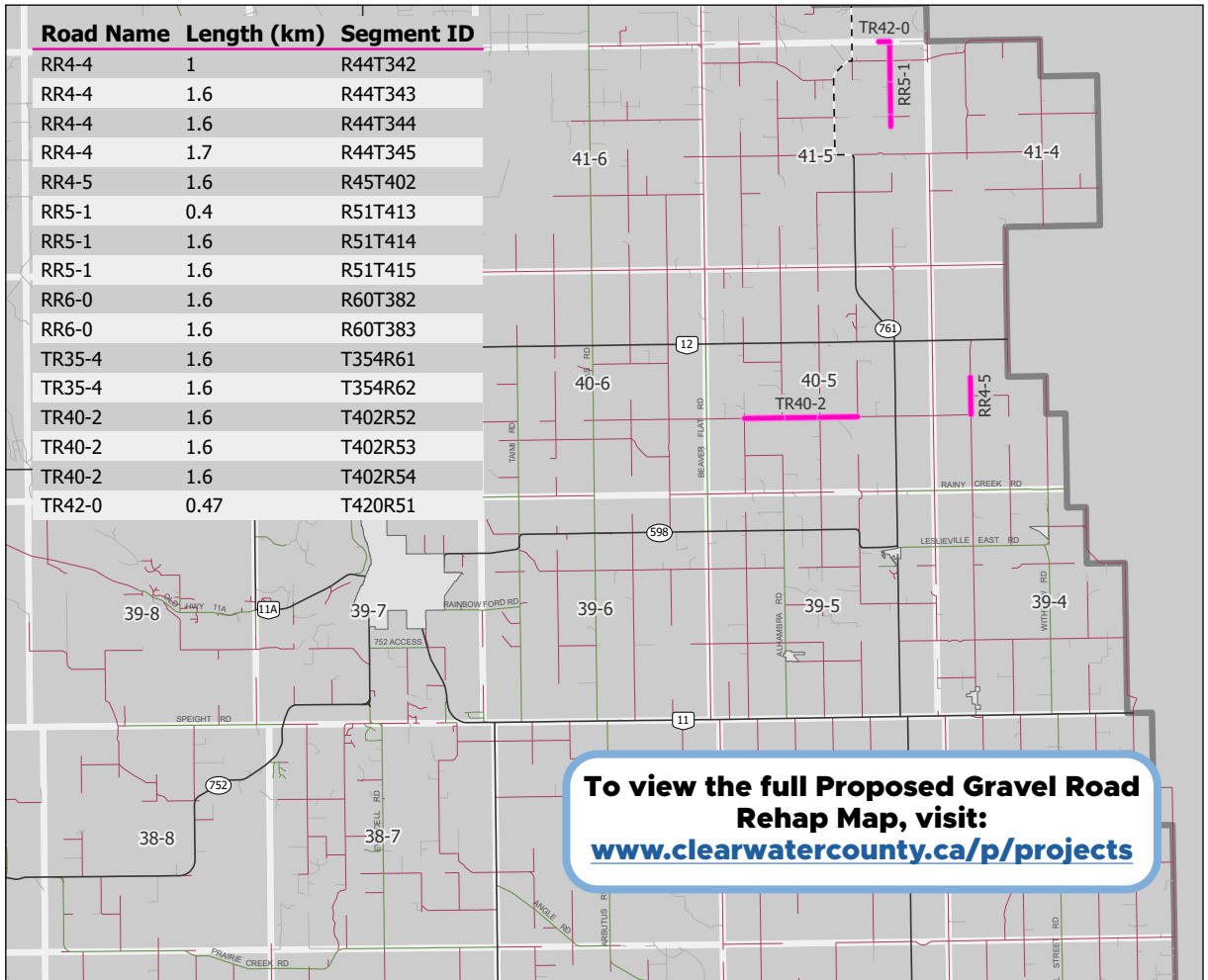
Caroline Lagoon

Wastewater Systems

Project	Budget	Completion Date	Project Description	Current Activity/ Status
Caroline Lagoon Upgrades	\$200,000	Q4 2026	Engineering for lagoon upgrade.	WSP Engineering has provided upgrade options. Next steps are to work on the design of the chosen upgrade option to submit to AEPA.
Caroline 49th Street Upgrades	\$725,000	Q4 2026	Infrastructure upgrades on 49th Street from 48th Ave to the south boundary.	Tender was posted on February 19 with a closing date of March 12.
Leslieville Wastewater Facility	\$475,000	Q3 2026	Water well, sludge handling, spare pumps, exterior lighting.	Procurement of an engineering firm.
Leslieville Lift Station Upgrades	\$660,000	On hold	Lift Station Wet Well Upgrades	Project is on hold due to increased construction estimate. Staff intend to review project parameters and scope.



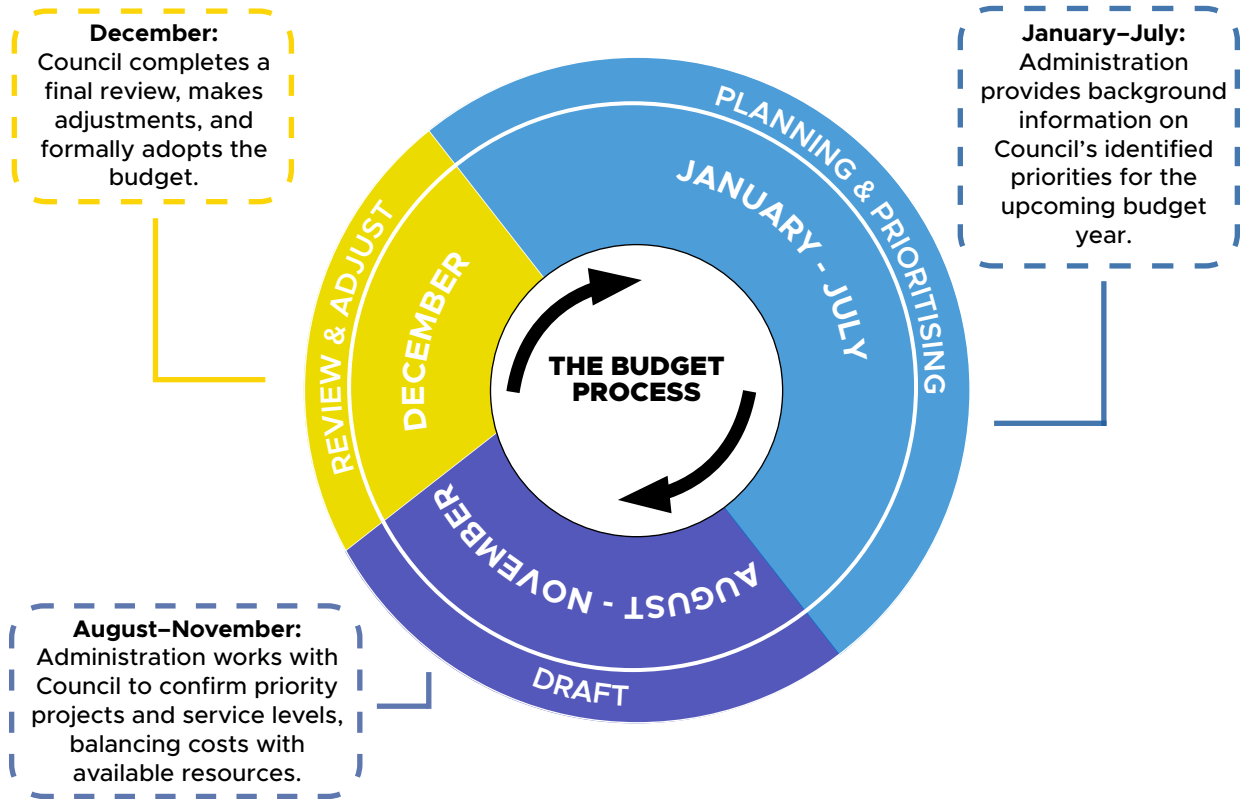
Capital Projects



Gravel Road Rehabilitation				
Project	Budget	Completion Date	Project Description	Current Activity/ Status
Gravel Road Rehab	\$4,400,000	Q4 2026	Projected rehabilitation of approximately 23 km of gravel roads	Brush disposal, borrow pit negotiations, notifications, survey and project planning.



Municipal Budgeting Does Not Stop



Did you know municipal budget planning happens all year long, not just in December?

January-July: Administration prepares background information based on Council's identified priorities for the upcoming budget year.

August-November: Administration works with Council to confirm priority projects and service levels, balancing costs with available resources.

December: Council completes final review, makes adjustments, and formally adopts the budget.

Role of Administration...

is to prepare, draft, and submit the proposed budget reflecting Council's service levels and capital priorities.

Council's Legislative Role...

is to direct Administration in budget preparation and adopt a balanced budget.

Budget deliberations may happen in December, but planning never stops.

The latest Strategic Planning meeting was held on Jan. 26.

You can watch the recording on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@ClearwaterCounty/streams



Property Assessment Notices

On February 18, 2026, Clearwater County mailed out the 2026 Property Assessment Notices. These notices shows the estimated market value of your property as of the valuation date. It reflects the market value of your property on July 1, 2025 and the characteristics and physical condition of the property on December 31, 2025. The assessment of your property is used to calculate your annual property tax notice, after Council sets tax rates, which will be sent May 2026.

Property Assessment Notices are mailed separately from Property Tax Notices. This provides property owners with a 60-day period to ensure their assessment is reasonable and to address any concerns before Property Tax Notices are mailed.

For more information about Property Assessment Notices, please visit www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/property-taxes

Learn how your property is assessed

The value of your property is determined by sales of properties with similar characteristics that sold in the area. Our assessors also consider your property's unique characteristics including:

- ▶ Location
- ▶ Building type
- ▶ Building size
- ▶ Condition
- ▶ Age
- ▶ Renovations

Questions about your Property Assessment

Contact the Assessment Department:

- Phone: 403-845-4444
- Email: assessment@clearwatercounty.ca
- Property Assessment Map: www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/property-assessment-map



Have you developed without a permit?

Being assessed for a building or property use does not necessarily mean it complies with County regulations. A development permit may still be required. In most cases, a development permit is needed to construct or place a building, or to operate a business, with limited exemptions. For questions about development requirements or permits, please contact the Planning Department at 403-845-4444.



Council Explores New Strategic Plan



Clearwater County is developing a new Strategic Plan to guide our community's future.

Following the October 2025 municipal election and the addition of new Councillors, Council directed Administration in early 2026 to begin updating the Strategic Plan. It's standard practice after elections to update the plan so it reflects the current Council's priorities and the community's evolving needs. This includes recent changes like the amalgamation of the Village of Caroline and the upcoming hiring of a new Chief Administrative Officer.

Working with It's Logical Strategic Planning Services (facilitated by experienced consultant Kelly Rudyk), the process started in January 2026. It builds on the existing 2022–2026 plan by updating our vision, values, goals, and measurable results. The approach emphasizes practical, common-sense ideas and explores tools like Priority Based Budgeting to better align priorities, services, and resources.

Key steps include:

- Reviewing background documents and conducting environmental scans
- Interviewing and surveying Council members to capture election insights and public feedback
- Holding a facilitated workshop (February 2026) with activities like SWOT analysis, goal setting/ranking, and defining success measures

A draft plan is tentatively targeted for stakeholder review in May 2026, with final approval to follow after incorporating feedback.

This will provide clear direction for administration, budgeting, and long-term planning.

We'll share more updates as the process continues. Stay tuned!



Broadband - Get Connected!

Start your path to fast, reliable internet with fibre connected from the road to your property (home or business) for the early bird rate of only \$399 for the first 100 metres.

Since November, Clearwater County Broadband authorized contractor, AFL, has been door knocking in Clearwater County to offer early-bird fibre installation. As of March 10, 2026, they have already signed up 753 residents.

Residents who are signing up understand that not only will this increase their property value by three to five percent, they are future proofing their property and the next generation to be able to stay in our community while keeping money local.



What is the Fibre Connect Program?

We connect your property to the fibre line now, so you can choose from several internet providers when service goes live in your area.

WHY CLEARWATER COUNTY FIBRE BROADBAND?

Strengthen Rural Living

Access telehealth, online learning, home security, and digital business tools — all from the peace and beauty of Clearwater County.

Connect the Whole Family

From homework to home offices, fibre keeps everyone online — reliably, effortlessly with enough speed for all your needs.

A Legacy for Clearwater County

This isn't only about speed it's about helping our community thrive — enabling seniors to age in place, creating opportunities for youth, and providing dependable internet for home security and remote work.



Recent Broadband Update

On February 13, 2026, Clearwater County Broadband Committee formally approved the County's broadband project to proceed, marking a significant milestone in the long-term initiative to expand high-speed internet access across the county.

Committee's decision follows a comprehensive due diligence process that included detailed financial review, risk analysis, and evaluation of long-term sustainability. Council carefully examined project costs, funding commitments, operational structure, and timelines to ensure the initiative aligns with Clearwater County's strategic priorities and fiscal responsibilities before voting in favour of advancing the program.

"This Council is now in a position where previous grant agreements and contractual obligations have created financial commitments," said Reeve Jordon Northcott. "Our responsibility today is to manage those commitments prudently, ensure strong oversight, and deliver infrastructure that is reliable, sustainable, and financially responsible. Our focus now is on protecting the County's long-term interests and making sure this investment is delivered successfully."

The approval follows confirmation of

additional funding support from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) and the Government of Alberta, announced January 30, 2026, in Ardrossan, Alberta by the Honourable Buckley Belanger, Secretary of State for Rural Development, and the Honourable Nate Glubish, Minister of Technology and Innovation of Alberta.

Following more than two decades of planning and feasibility work under Council direction and through the Clearwater County Broadband Committee, along with this funding announcement mark a significant milestone in the project's development.

The broadband initiative is positioned to deliver high-speed internet service to more than 4,300 households across Clearwater County, with construction anticipated to be completed by March 31, 2027.

The project will establish fibre-based infrastructure through an open-access network model, enabling multiple internet service providers to offer services.

Clearwater County will share additional information and project updates in the coming weeks through the County's official communication channels.



The History of Broadband

Clearwater County residents have asked for more detailed information about the County's broadband project. The following pages dedicated to broadband are part of our commitment to provide transparent, factual updates about the work underway. Below you will find background on how this project developed, what is being built, who is involved, and what choices residents and businesses have.

A project more than 20 years in the making.

Improving internet access in Clearwater County is not a new idea. The County has been studying, planning, and advocating for better broadband for more than two decades.

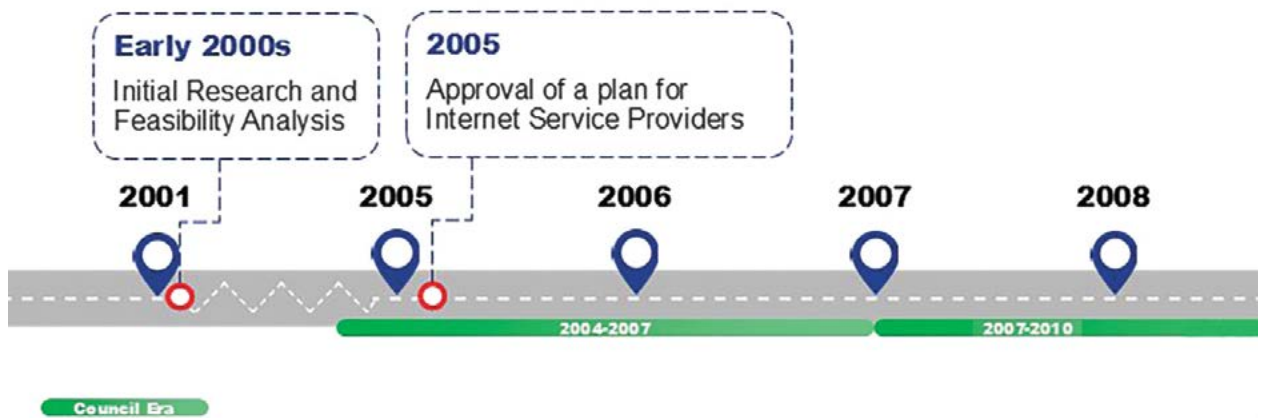
Over that time:

- Residents and businesses consistently identified reliable internet as a major challenge

- Technology options evolved from wireless and satellite to fibre-based solutions
- Provincial and federal governments introduced funding programs focused on rural broadband
- Clearwater County evaluated multiple delivery models and funding opportunities before moving forward

The current broadband project is the result of long-term planning, feasibility studies, and approved funding applications. It is not a sudden or externally driven initiative.

Residents can view a timeline of the project's development on the next page.



Clearwater County Strategic Plan:
Internet access throughout the County is important



Broadband History Continued

What the County is building

Clearwater County is constructing a County-owned fibre network. This network is infrastructure, like roads or utilities, designed to improve long-term connectivity across the County for its residents and businesses.

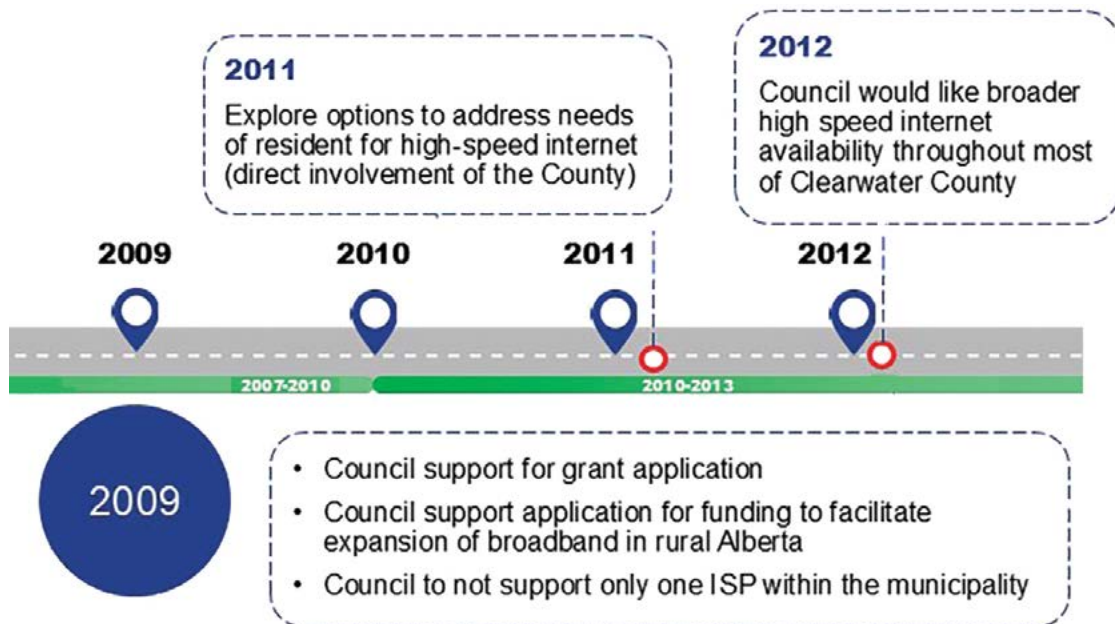
Key points:

- The fibre network is owned 100% by Clearwater County
- It is open-access, meaning no single internet provider controls it – more choice and no monopoly
- It creates the foundation for improved internet services now and in the future
- Residents are not required to connect or subscribe and may continue using existing services

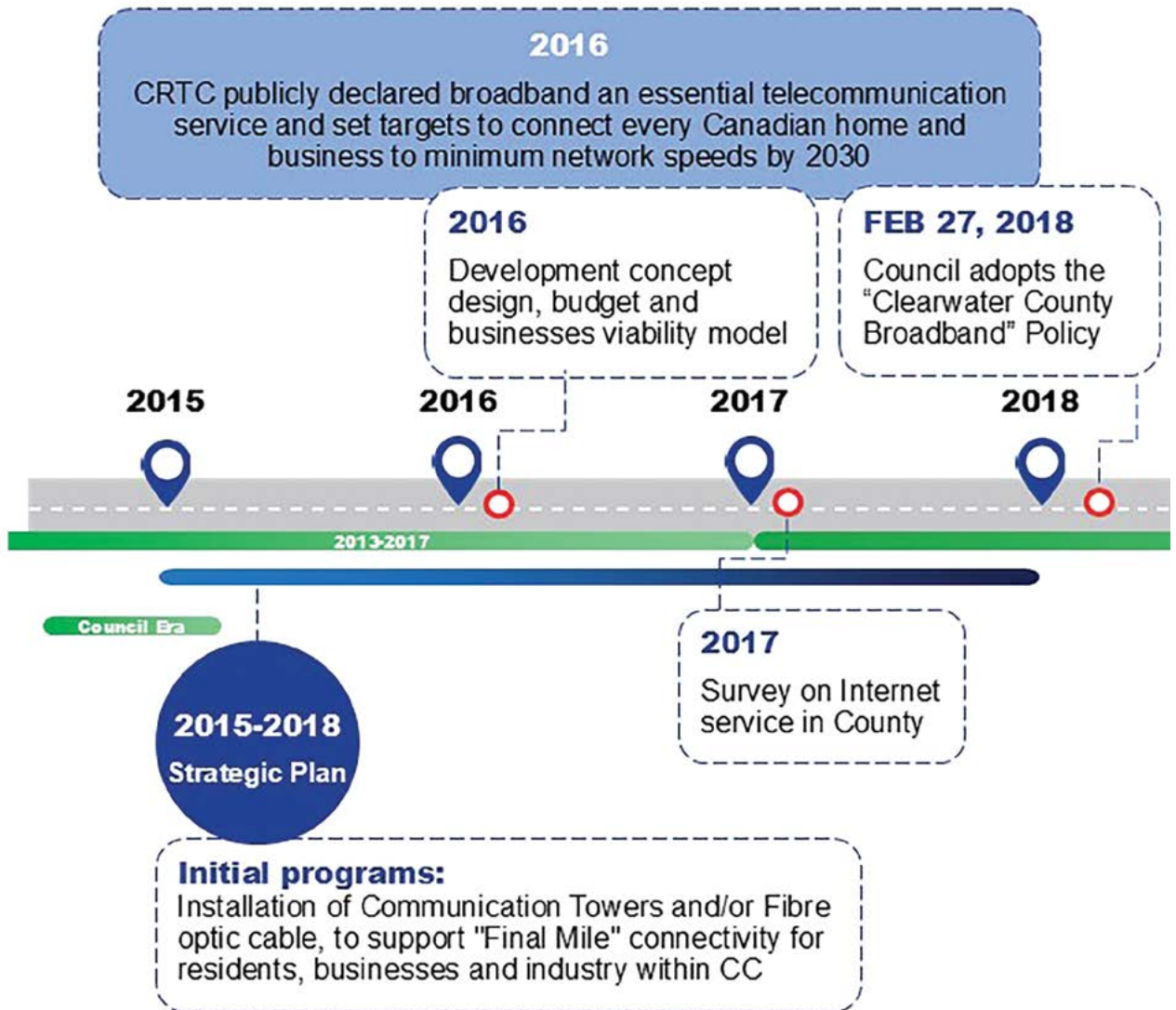
Internet service providers

Internet service providers (ISPs) lease the County-owned fibre network to offer their own internet services to residents and businesses at the rates and packages they determine.

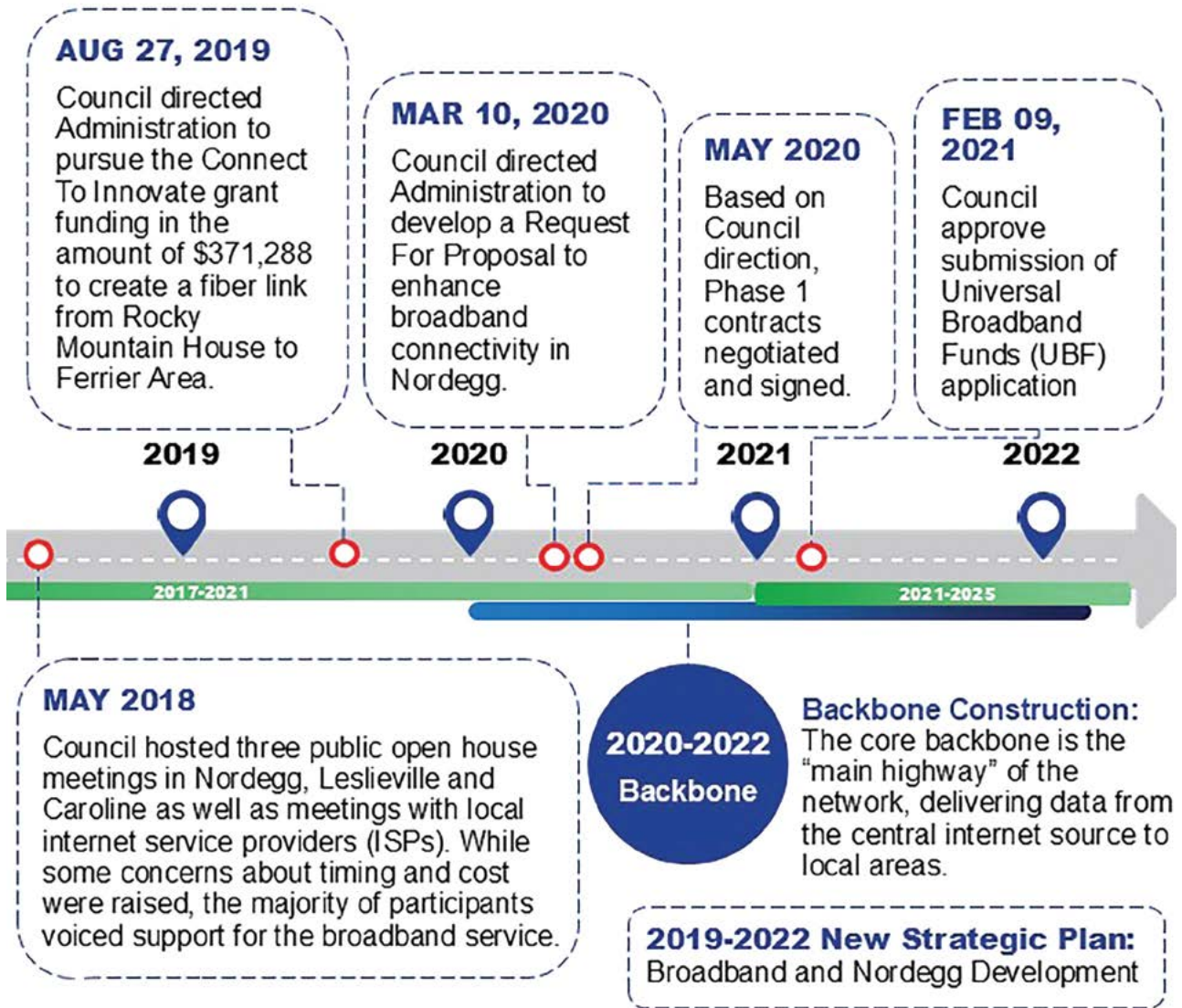
- Clearwater County does not sell internet services directly to residents
- Residents and businesses choose if and when they want to sign up, and which providers best meet their needs
- The County has received interest from at least 5 internet service providers and is currently in the process of signing service level agreements with each
- Additional providers may join over time, including those offering services beyond internet



Broadband History Continued



Broadband History Continued



Broadband History Continued

What is Fibre Connect?

Fibre Connect is an optional program that allows a property to be connected from the fibre line at the municipal access point on the road to their home or business.

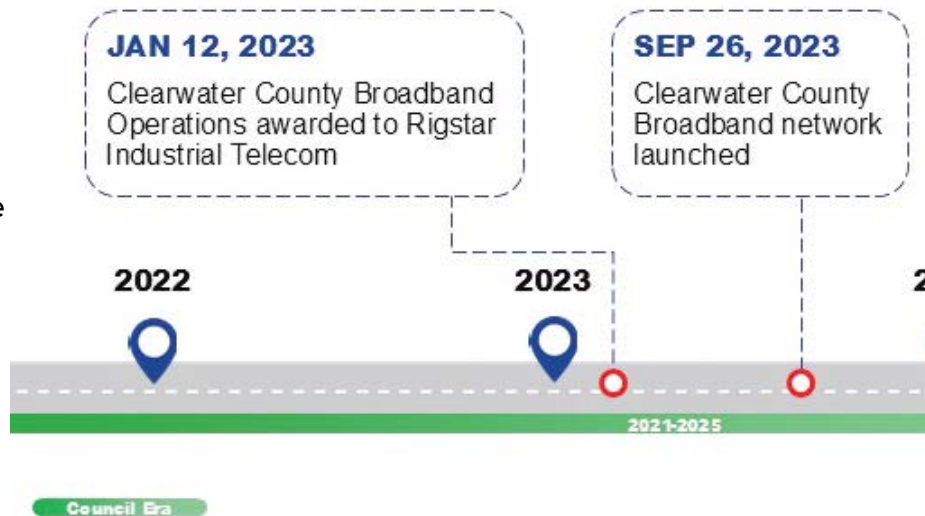
Important details:

- Fibre Connect prepares a property for future internet service
- Signing up does not require purchasing internet service
- There is no obligation to choose a provider immediately
- It is a one-time infrastructure connection, not a subscription

An early bird rate of \$399 for the first 100m, plus \$14/m beyond that, is currently available. Once the overall network construction is completed, the standard rate of \$1,500 for the first 100m will apply.

The County's contractor, AFL, is currently working in communities across the County, assisting with Fibre Connect signups.

Residents can check availability, review details, and sign up at market.cwccb.ca.



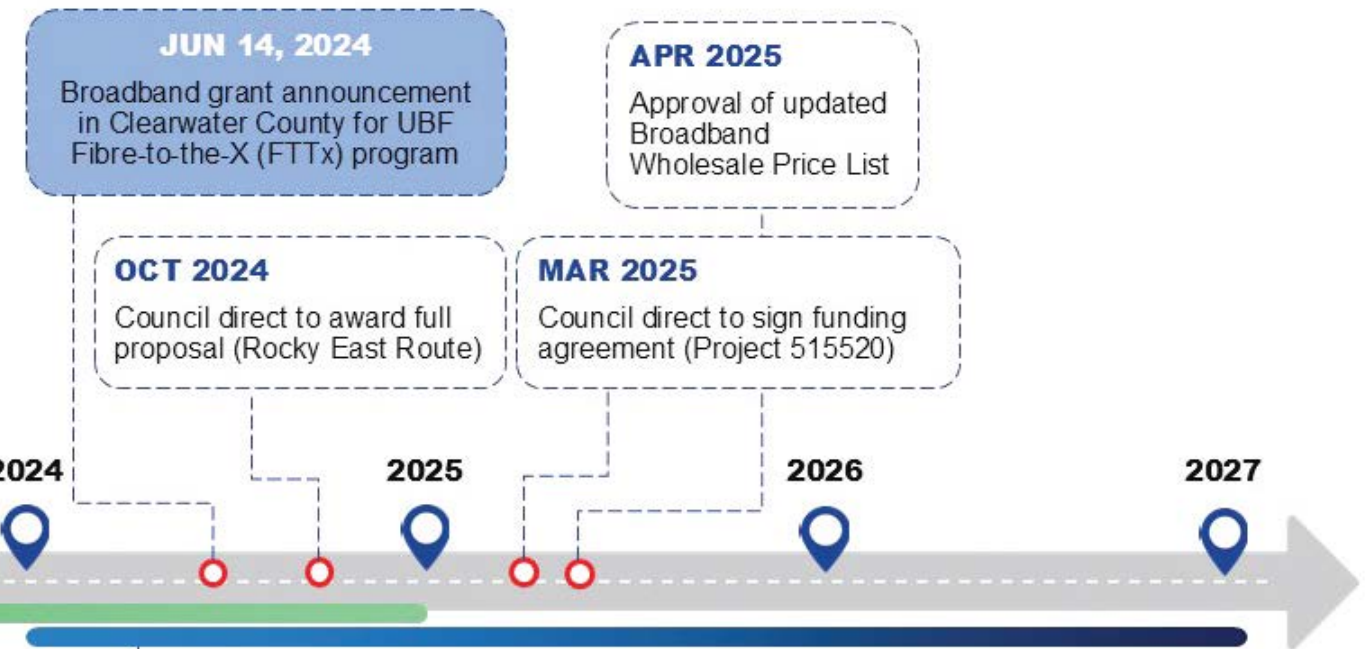
Why some areas are being built first

Construction is happening in phases across Clearwater County. Areas were selected based on:

- Eligibility requirements tied to provincial and federal funding programs.
- Areas with internet service below the minimum standard of 50 Mbps/10 Mbps were prioritized
- Engineering feasibility, existing infrastructure and construction logistics
- Population density and potential impact
- Cost considerations and overall project impact



Broadband History Continued



2024-2027
FTTx

Fibre-to-the-X (FTTx) Construction: The FTTx construction is about delivering ultra-fast internet directly to a home using fibre-optic technology.

Approximately 75% of construction costs in the initial build areas are funded through provincial and federal government grant programs. Clearwater County is currently reviewing options to extend the network to additional areas that were not eligible under those programs.

A map showing current and planned construction areas is available online and is updating continually as work progresses.

When available, residents and businesses will be able to compare providers, packages, and pricing all in one spot on market.cwcbb.ca.

In the meantime, you can check the status of your property on the market website, or call the County office at 403-845-4444 to learn more.



Caroline Area Structure Plan - Update



The February 2026 Caroline Area Structure Plan (ASP) Community Kick-Off Event brought residents and landowners together (both in person and virtually) to learn about the ASP project and share their perspectives on the community's past, present, and future.

Through presentations, surveys, and hands-on activities, participants highlighted Caroline's strong sense of community, valued amenities, recreation culture, and access to nature, while also identifying priorities such as infrastructure upgrades, beautification, seniors housing, business growth, and enhanced policing.

The event generated meaningful conversations and a wide range of insights that will help guide the ASP process, and Clearwater County thanks everyone who contributed their time, ideas, and local knowledge.

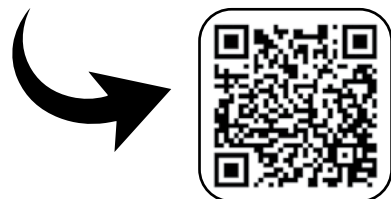
Administration has completed a **What We Heard Report** for Council's review.

The next step in the process is for Administration to begin drafting the ASP, incorporating policies from the current Caroline Municipal Development Plan, as well as new policies based by feedback gathered during the kick-off events.

The current vision, based on the Municipal Development Plan, is:

"A prosperous community at the West Country's doorstep."

If you missed this opportunity, you can find the virtual session presentation recording on Clearwater County's YouTube channel here:



Caroline Signage Replacement

Caroline Administration Office Building Sign

In the early part of 2026, the office will be getting a new sign representing Clearwater County branding.



Caroline Street Intersection Signs

All intersection signs within Caroline will be replaced with standard white on green municipal roadway signs to be consistent with the rest of the County.



Caroline Boundary Entrance Signs

Updated signage reflecting the new municipal status (effective Jan 1, 2025) will be installed on the **east and west** hamlet boundaries along Highway 54.

Standard green roadway signage will be installed at the **north and south** boundary limits.



Proposed MDP Update

The current Municipal Development Plan (MDP), adopted May 9, 2023, was developed through three years of public engagement built on numerous studies and strategies.

Upcoming Public Hearing

Council will hold a public hearing on April 14, 2026 to gather feedback on proposed amendments to the MDP, with a specific focus on **Section 10: Subdivision of Land**. Although the broader project to merge the Caroline and Clearwater County MDPs is still in progress, Council has identified several subdivision-related changes they believe should take a more immediate priority.

Bylaw 26/078, which received First Reading on February 24, 2026, proposes updates to subdivision policies, clearer direction for fragmented parcels, and revisions to several sections and figures to better reflect Council's long-term vision for land use in the new municipality.

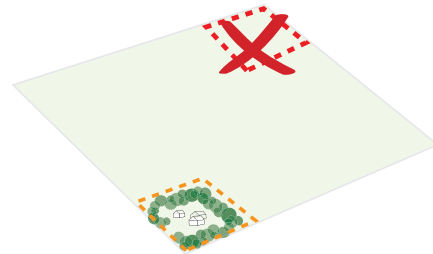
What's Changing

A major element of the proposed update is the removal of the option for landowners to create more than one residential parcel from agricultural quarter sections without an outline plan or Area Structure Plan (ASP).

In recent years, public input on the MDP has shown a mix of views:

- ▶ Some residents have asked for **more flexible subdivision rules**, including more parcels, varied parcel sizes, and different uses.
- ▶ Others have expressed concern about **increasing division** of agricultural land and the long-term impacts on rural character.

Following the most recent municipal election, Council believes the community priorities lean toward



preserving agricultural land and rural character and limiting further subdivision. The proposed amendments reflect this direction by tightening subdivision allowances and reinforcing the protection of agricultural areas.

What This Means for Residents

If adopted, the updated policies would:

- Limit subdivision opportunities in agricultural areas to maintain larger, intact parcels
- Reduce the number of new residential or non-agricultural lots that can be created from a quarter section
- Provide clearer, more consistent rules for evaluating subdivision applications
- Support Council's broader goal of supporting agricultural character into the future

Council invites residents to participate in the upcoming public hearing on April 14, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. to share their views on proposed updates. Comments can be provided in person, virtually, by mail, by email (MDP@clearwatercounty.ca), or through the online submission form.

Learn more:



Development Nodes: Round 2 Engagement



The intent is to confirm whether the adopted policy direction still aligns with community expectations.

Why This Matters

Revisiting an approved statutory plan can raise questions about policy stability, governance continuity, and the finality of past decisions. Some residents may feel the matter was already settled in 2025, while others may welcome the opportunity to provide additional input. To address these concerns, the engagement will clearly explain why Council is revisiting the ASPs, outline the decision options, and transparently communicate how public feedback will be used.

How to Participate

The engagement will include several opportunities for residents and stakeholders to learn more and share their views:

- ▶ A project information package with plain-language explanations of the ASPs and potential decision outcomes
- ▶ A 30-day online feedback period, including a survey and comment submission form
- ▶ Targeted outreach to key stakeholder groups
- ▶ Up to four in-person information sessions in Caroline, Condor, Nordegg, and Rocky Mountain House
- ▶ One virtual information session, recorded and posted online

Engagement dates will be scheduled in early April. Learn more:



The Saunders–Alexo and Whitegoat Lakes Area Structure Plans (ASPs) were adopted by Council in 2025 following a public engagement process and the passage of Bylaw 25/045 and Bylaw 25/046. These plans provide long-term land-use direction for two provincially owned Development Nodes along Highway 11 and outline how future recreation and tourism development could occur while protecting environmental values. ***The ASPs do not approve any specific projects; any future proposals would still require separate County and provincial approvals.***

What the Engagement Will Explore

The upcoming engagement will focus on improving public understanding of the ASPs and gathering feedback on their future, like:

- Clarifying the long-term planning intent of the ASPs versus future site-specific approvals
- Identifying concerns related to environmental protection, development direction, and potential taxpayer impacts
- Gathering input on whether the ASPs should be retained, amended, or repealed
- Documenting clear, transparent public feedback to support Council’s decision-making



Community & Recreation

COMMUNITY HALLS

Clearwater County is home to a number of community halls that serve as gathering places for residents across our region. From family celebrations and local markets to fitness classes, fundraisers, meetings, and seasonal events, these halls play an important role in bringing neighbours together and supporting the vibrant rural lifestyle our communities enjoy.

Clearwater County Council supports local halls by providing insurance coverage, as well as bi-annually budgeting funds toward a Capital Grant that halls may apply for to assist with maintenance, upgrades, and improvements.

We're excited to begin showcasing Community Halls in our Quarterly Newsletter! Stay tuned to upcoming editions of the Quarterly Newsletter as we continue to showcase more of the halls that bring our communities together.



EVERDELL COMMUNITY HALL

The hall offers a variety of amenities for events including a large dance floor, stage with power, commercial kitchen, washrooms, bar area, and ample parking. Outdoor features include a new playground, horseshoe pits, and a fire pit with shelter.

587-436-0087
everdellhall@gmail.com
383013 RR 7-3
www.everdell.org

ALHAMBRA COMMUNITY CENTRE

The hall offers a welcoming space for community events and gatherings. Amenities include a main hall with a stage, kitchen facilities, washrooms, and plenty of parking. Outdoor features include green space for activities and room for community events.

403-877-7315
226 Alhambra Rd



Community & Recreation



EVERGREEN COMMUNITY HALL

The hall offers ample parking and camping a space. The hall features a kitchen, bar area, industrial cooler, and stage. Outdoor amenities include a skating rink, green space, camp kitchen, playground, and horseshoe pits.

403-512-5332
info@evergreenhall.ca
44046 TWP 38-0
www.evergreenhall.ca

To check out all of the community halls in Clearwater County, visit www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/community-halls.

GRANTS AND FUNDING

Secure funding for recreational projects and programs that will benefit the community!

DAVID THOMPSON RECREATION AREA GRANT

Available through the **David Thompson Recreation Board** — for groups contributing to recreation & culture. Email evan.whitecotton@wrsd.ca for more information.

CAROLINE RECREATION GRANT

Available through the **Caroline and District Athletic and Agricultural Society** — for groups operating in the Hamlet of Caroline.

Call 403-722-3022 or email adm.carolinehub@gmail.com to apply or for more information.

NORTH SASK & RAVEN RECREATION AREAS GRANT

Available through **Clearwater County** — for groups who provide recreational opportunities.

The second intake deadline is **June 1, 2026**.

Apply online at www.clearwatercounty.ca/county-grant-programs.



Community & Recreation

COUNTY RECREATION

Clearwater County is proud to support local recreation, community events, and shared spaces that bring people together. Whether you're planning a program or hosting an event, check out some of our facilities and resources today!

RYAN SMITH RECREATION AREA

New 8-acre recreation space designed to bring the community together through sports and outdoor fun!



Playground

Playground featuring Climbing Structures, Benches, Green Space & Paved Trails



Ball Diamonds

Open for the 2026 Season Available for Bookings & Community Use

For Ball Diamond Bookings, call 403-845-4444 or email communityservices@clearwatercounty.ca



Scan the QR Code to View the Booking Calendar



CAROLINE COMMUNITY HUB

Something for everyone, from sports and recreation to long-term fitness, child care services, and event rental opportunities.



Arena Ice/Dry Floor

Arena Set Up for Dirt Use Available for Rental (New This Summer)



Fitness Centre

Open 7 Days a Week 4:00 am - Midnight (With Membership)



SE Rec Grounds & Concession

Two Ball Diamonds, Beach Volleyball, Washrooms & Showers, AHS-Certified Kitchen

 CAROLINE AG SOCIETY

403-722-3022

adm.carolineaghub@gmail.com

For more information about the programs, supports, and activities offered through Community Services in Clearwater County, please visit www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/community-services.



Nordegg Discovery Centre



Brazeau Collieries Mine & NORDEGG DISCOVERY CENTRE

OPENING SOON

May Long Weekend to September Long Weekend

VISITOR
INFORMATION
DESK

OPEN

9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

7 days a week

INTERPRETIVE /
EXHIBIT CENTRE

OPEN

9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

7 days a week

BRAZEAU
COLLIERIES
MINE TOURS

Upper & lower mine
tour (2.5 hours)

10:00 AM & 2:00 PM

Wednesday - Monday
*Closed Tuesdays

Nordegg Discovery Centre: 403-721-COAL (2625)
Clearwater County Main Phone: 403-845-4444



OPEN

(year round, hours vary)

*The library is accessible through
the back entrance.



CONIFER TREE SEEDLING PROGRAM



white spruce



lodgepole pine



ROADSIDE CLEANUP
SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

Registration for route/section selections will take place **ONLINE** beginning **April 15, 2026**. Section selection will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Once routes/sections are assigned, the County will contact the “group contact” to advise of section allotment. Clearwater County will pay \$800.00 to each community group per section cleaned.

Safety vests, garbage bags and signs are provided by Clearwater County.

For further information, visit www.clearwatercounty.ca, contact communityservices@clearwatercounty.ca or phone 403-845-4444.



Upcoming Events

WEED WORKSHOPS

ATTENDEES ELIGIBLE FOR **10% OFF** RANGE & PASTURE HERBICIDES!

1 MAY 7, 2026
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
CAROLINE COMMUNITY HUB
SUPPER INCLUDED

2 MAY 13, 2026
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
CONDOR COMMUNITY HALL
SUPPER INCLUDED

Register today! Call 403-845-4444 or
email reception@clearwatercounty.ca



SMALL RUMINANT SEMINAR

Free workshop
Lunch included
Industry Professionals & Local Producers
Interactive Q&A Throughout the Day

April 1, 2026
10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Dovercourt Hall



Register through
Eventbrite



Agriculture Awards



Stewardship Awards

SUSTAINABLE GRAZING

Congratulations to Dylan & Sierra Berg of Triple Rafter Ranch

Through careful, high-intensity management of their sheep flock with electric mesh fencing and a strategic rotational grazing system, Dylan and Sierra Berg are making the most of every acre. Their responsible grazing approach maximizes forage utilization, mitigates weeds, and restores pasture vitality. Rather than simply grazing the land, they are actively improving it — building healthier soils and more resilient forage stands with each rotation.

Their leadership in grazing extends well beyond their own fences, they are always willing to help others on their grazing journey. Their dedication to innovation, stewardship, and regenerative practices is truly shaping the future of agriculture.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Congratulations to Doug and Deb Skeels of Cattlegrass Ranch

For Doug and Deb Skeels, stewardship begins with the understanding that healthy land sustains everything that depends on it. Soil health is at the heart of their philosophy — with consistent soil sampling, regenerative land management, the integration of cover crops, and direct seeding into established sod, they reduce erosion, improve water infiltration, and strengthen ecosystem resilience.

Beyond their own land, Doug and Deb demonstrate leadership and service through numerous agricultural organizations and boards. Their stewardship reflects commitment, innovation, and a deep respect for the land and community they serve.

Congratulations to the Lobley Family!

Clearwater County is pleased to recognize the Lobley family as the 2025 Farm Family of the Year.

Rick and Pat, along with their son Mark, daughter-in-law Vanessa, and grandsons Thomas and Jack, are a multi-generational farming family that have been residing in Clearwater County for over 40 years. Since branching off from Rick's century family farm near Sundre, Alberta, their farm has grown to manage over 1,400 acres – growing commodities such as oats, barley, and hay, and raising cattle, sheep, pigs, chickens, goats, and many other critters.

The Lobley's true distinction comes with their adoption of sustainable farming practices, their admirable work ethic reflected in each generation, and their passionate support of the community. Through perseverance, forward-thinking stewardship, and an unwavering commitment to their community, the Lobley Family truly represents the very best of what agriculture stands for.



Farm Feature

Clearwater County is home to a thriving agriculture community, with operations of all sizes. We are proud to recognize some local producers during this calving season! Check out our January & February features!



JANUARY

HARDER CATTLE CO.

Based in Caroline, Alberta, Harder Cattle Co. is a family-run operation dedicated to raising fullblood Simmental bulls and females. With calving season in full swing, kicking off with the first calf on December 22, 2025, Ryan and Dalton Harder focus on strong genetics, sound structure, and top-quality cattle, building a herd they're proud to call their own.

DO YOU WANT TO FEATURE YOUR FARM?

Email reception@clearwatercounty.ca

Please include farm name if applicable, owner/operator name(s) and a brief description of your farm including breeds, years established, and date or month calving started. Selected farms will receive special recognition on our website, social media, and Quarterly Highlights Newsletter!

Questions? Call 403-845-4444



FEBRUARY

COW BOSS SIMMENTALS

Based in Stauffer, Alberta, Cow Boss Simmentals is a local operation owned by Levi Marcinek, with the first Fleckvieh Simmental calf being registered in 2014. Levi is dedicated to raising registered Fleckvieh Simmentals as well as having a Simmental cross commercial herd alongside his parents. Calving season is starting to slow down now with just shy of 300 calves born in January.

Levi is very maternal focused. "The backbone of the beef industry is the momma cows, and we strive to produce the most sound, functional and productive females possible." This is his focus whether it be his registered or commercial herd. His goal is to make Fleckvieh Simmental bulls who will produce daughters that will improve his customers' herds and bottom line.



Solid Waste & Recycling - Summer Hours

TRANSFER STATION SUMMER HOURS

April 15 - October 15

LOCATIONS	HOURS OF OPERATION	
Caroline Transfer Station	Sunday	9 am - 1 pm
	Tuesday	1:30 pm - 5 pm
	Wednesday	1:30 pm - 5 pm
	Saturday	1:30 pm - 5 pm
Crammond Transfer Station	Sunday	1:30 pm - 5 pm
	Tuesday	9 am - 1 pm
	Wednesday	9 am - 1 pm
	Saturday	9 am - 1 pm
Crossroads Transfer Station	Thursday	9 am - 5 pm
	Saturday	1:30 pm - 5 pm
Leslieville Transfer Station	Tuesday	9 am - 5 pm
	Wednesday	9 am - 5 pm
	Saturday	9 am - 1 pm
Cow Lake Transfer Station	Sunday	1:30 pm - 5 pm
	Wednesday	9 am - 1 pm
Everdell Transfer Station	Sunday	9 am - 1 pm
	Wednesday	1:30 pm - 5 pm
Faraway Transfer Station	Tuesday	10 am - 2 pm
	Saturday	10 am - 2 pm
Nordegg Transfer Station	Sunday	11 am - 4 pm
	Monday	10 am - 2 pm
	Wednesday	11 am - 4 pm
"Temporary" Central Transfer Station	Tuesday	7:30 am - 6 pm
	Wednesday - Saturday	8 am - 4 pm
Regional Landfill	Monday - Friday	8 am - 4 pm
Cline Transfer Station	<i>*Seasonal Only - April 15th - October 15th</i>	



Scan the QR code for more information about solid waste and recycling!



Understanding How Potholes Form



Potholes are a common concern on our community's roads, especially during seasonal weather changes. A pothole is a hole or depression in the road that typically forms when the surface breaks apart. Potholes can vary in sizes and shapes, and drivers often notice them while travelling on the road. The potholes don't appear overnight. They develop slowly over time through a series of stages.

Here's a simple explanation of how potholes develop:

Potholes usually begin as small cracks in the pavement. Over time, the road surface weakens because of aging materials, traffic loads, and environmental factors such as sun exposure and temperature changes. Once cracks form, water seeps down through them and collects beneath the surface of the road. This trapped water softens and weakens the soil underneath the pavement. During colder weather, freeze-thaw cycles make things worse. When temperatures drop, the water freezes and expands, pushing the pavement upward and widening the cracks. When it warms up, the ice melts and leaves voids below the surface. As vehicles pass over these weakened spots and voids, the unsupported pavement eventually collapses and potholes are formed.

To fix the potholes, our road

maintenance staff first clean the potholes to remove any loose debris. Once the surface is clear, the crew heats the pothole with a propane torch to ensure proper adhesion and then applies a layer of tack oil. After preparing the area, the pothole is filled with cold mix asphalt. Finally, the material is compacted until it is level with the surrounding road surface, creating a smooth and durable repair.

We understand that potholes are frustrating and can cause inconvenience. Our road maintenance staff do their best to ensure the safest driving conditions possible given these circumstances. Residents can help by reporting potholes so we can address them as efficiently as possible.

Safe Driving Tips:

- Drive attentively and look well ahead for any irregularities in the road surface.
- Maintain a safe following distance to give yourself enough time to spot and safely respond to potholes.
- Use extra caution during bad weather or low visibility, as rain, snow, or standing water can hide potholes from view.

Questions? We are here to help!

Phone: 403-845-4444

E-mail: admin@clearwatercounty.ca



Local Economy

A **local economy** is the way people, businesses, and community organizations work together to create jobs, income, and opportunity. When these parts work well together, they build local wealth and long-term prosperity.

A strong local economy has three key characteristics: it is **exporting, circular, and diversified**.

Exporting means selling goods or services to customers outside the community. This brings new money into the area, which supports local jobs and businesses. Examples of export industries include producers, manufacturers, processors, and tourism operators. When outside dollars come in, they are spent locally on goods and services, helping the economy grow.

Circular means money, resources, and skills are reused within the community as much as possible. Instead of dollars quickly leaving the area, residents and businesses support local suppliers and services. This strengthens local businesses, increases independence, and builds resilience during economic changes.

Diversified means the community has a mix of industries and income sources rather than relying on just one sector. A diversified economy creates a wider range of jobs, reduces risk during downturns, and provides greater long-term stability and quality of life.

Economic Development supports this system by strengthening local businesses and expanding job opportunities. It does this in two main ways:

1. **Business Retention and Expansion (BRE)** – Helping

existing businesses grow, improve, and invest locally.

2. **Business Attraction** – Bringing new businesses and investors into the community.

Most new investment, about 80%, typically comes from businesses that are already operating in the community and choose to expand or start new ventures locally. For this reason, Business Retention and Expansion is often the primary focus.

When a community offers the right conditions, such as available land, a skilled workforce, access to markets, and supportive regulations, it creates an environment where local businesses can thrive. In turn, this makes the community more attractive to outside investors.

A strong local economy is built by bringing new money in, keeping money moving locally, and maintaining a mix of industries. By supporting existing businesses and creating the right conditions for growth, a community can build lasting prosperity and resilience for the future.

Community Futures Central Alberta

Are you considering starting a small business?

Community Futures Central Alberta provides courses on creating business plans, marketing for small businesses, and basics of human resources.

More information can be found at <https://central.albertacf.com/>





Call us if you need help & we can connect you to the services you need



Volunteer

TO CREATE CHANGE

Linsey - Program/Volunteer Coordinator
fcsscoordinator@trmh.ca
DeAnna - Seniors/Outreach Coordinator
fcssoutreach@trmh.ca

Contact Us
403-847-5270
Andrea - Manager
fcssmanager@trmh.ca

Open Monday - Friday
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

FCSS Office located in the Post House
5110 - 50 Avenue, Rocky Mountain House



Strengthening People and Supporting Our Community



Wildfire Season & Forest Protection Area

Wildfire season begins March 1 and ends October 31. For this period of time, the Provincial government is the authority in the Forest Protection Area (FPA) for fire bans and permits, even though the boundaries are within municipalities.

Approximately 85% of Clearwater County is in the Rocky Mountain House Forest Area, this is important to know if you live within the FPA boundary. During wildfire season fire permits are required for all burning activities (excluding campfires).

Fire permits in the FPA are free and can be obtained online or by contacting your local Alberta Agriculture and Forestry office. To obtain an online permit visit firepermits.alberta.ca or you can contact the provincial Rocky Mountain House Forest Area office at 403-845-8250.

Being a Clearwater County resident, it is important to keep in mind that burn notifications are also utilized (as per Clearwater County Fire Rescue Services and Fire Control Bylaw 1069/20) year round. These notifications are used to inform Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services (CRFRS) of a controlled burn, to prevent the unnecessary dispatching of resources. Burn notifications are free of charge and easy to complete.

How to complete a burn notification:

- Complete the form online at www.crfrs.ca
- Call the burn notification line at 403-845-7711
- If you would like more information about the burn notification system, please email CRFRS at fireadmin@clearwatercounty.ca
Or call CRFRS at 403-845-4444



I live in the Forest Protection Area (FPA) within Clearwater County; do I need to complete a burn notification?

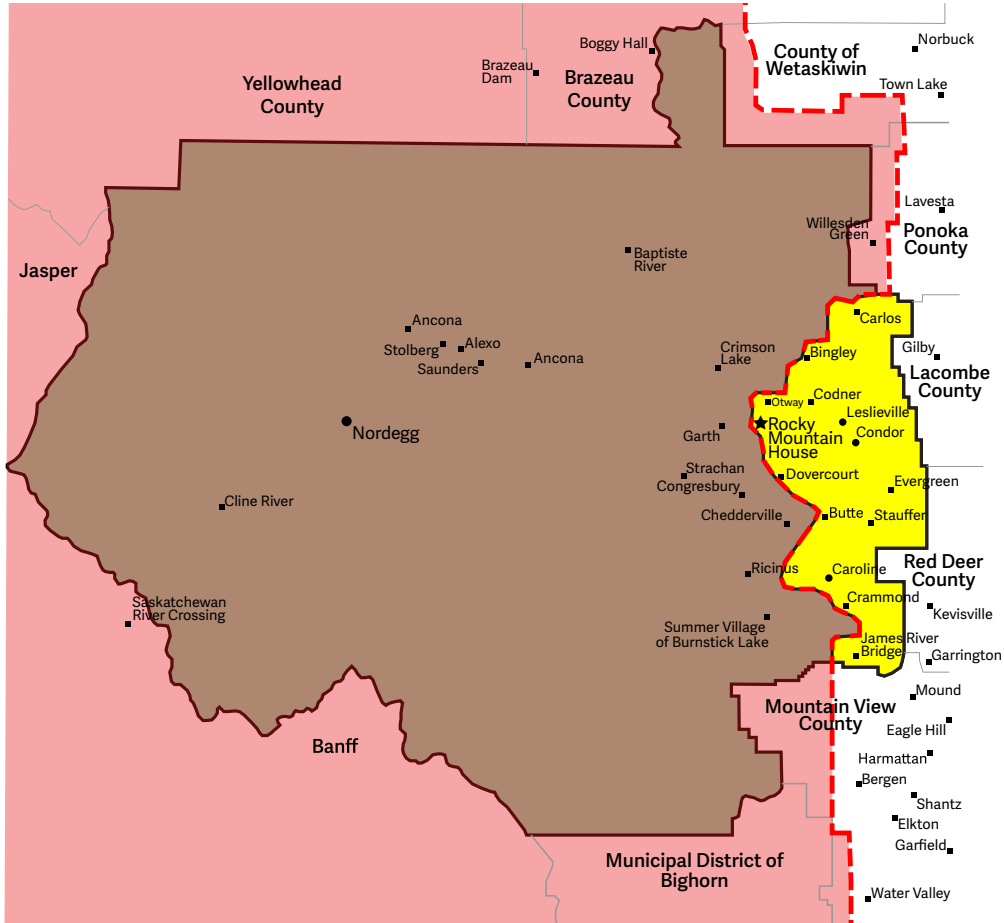
Yes, it is required you submit a burn notification and obtain a provincial permit. Visit www.clearwatercounty.ca/burnnotifications for more frequently asked questions about the burn notification system.



Burn Notifications Required Year-Round



Municipal Burn Notifications & Provincial Fire Permits



Rocky Mountain House Forest Protection Area (FPA)

BURN NOTIFICATION & PROVINCIAL FIRE PERMIT REQUIRED*

*(March 1 - October 31 only)



Clearwater County Non-Forest Protection Area (FPA)

BURN NOTIFICATION REQUIRED

Visit www.cfrfs.ca for a more detailed map.



Enhancing Community Safety

Clearwater County is introducing Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), a proactive, evidence-based approach to reducing crime and improving community safety. CPTED focuses on the thoughtful design and maintenance of physical spaces to deter criminal activity, enhance public confidence, and foster a sense of community pride.

What Is CPTED?

CPTED is a collaborative strategy involving residents, property owners, businesses, and law enforcement. By evaluating factors such as lighting, visibility, access points, landscaping, and property upkeep, small, practical changes can prevent crime before it occurs and encourage safe, positive use of spaces.

Objectives of CPTED in Clearwater County

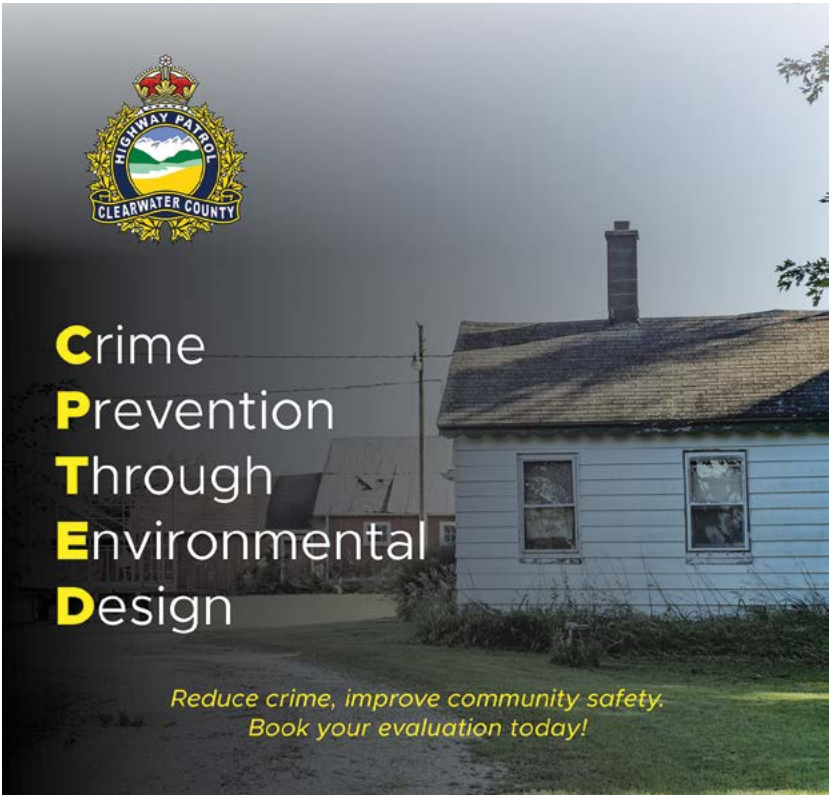
Through CPTED, the County aims to:

- Reduce crime and vandalism
- Lower the fear of crime in neighbourhoods, public spaces and rural properties
- Improve property appearance and functionality
- Support neighbourhood revitalization
- Strengthen community pride and connectedness
- Promote efficient use of municipal and enforcement resources

Free Property Evaluations

Clearwater County offers CPTED property evaluations for residents and businesses. Trained officers will visit properties, identify potential safety risks, provide practical recommendations, and deliver a written report tailored to each site.

For a CPTED evaluation, contact Officer Brandon Smailes or Officer Jackson Meier at 403 845-4444.



OHV Safety

Spring is just around the corner and for many, camping and off road recreating are at the top of the to-do list! Before heading out, check out the below tips:

- ✓ When operating any OHV on crown land registration and insurance are required.
→ This also applies to small 50 cc quads.
- ✓ Licence plates must be attached and visible, not in backpacks or under seats.
- ✓ If your route happens to take you on any local Clearwater County roads, on top of registration and insurance, a valid driver's licence is also required.
- ✓ Wearing a helmet is also required when operating any OHV.
→ The only time helmets are not required is when your OHV has manufacturer installed rollover protective structures and seat belts, which have not been modified and are being properly worn.
- ✓ In relation to other equipment requirements, quads and dirt bikes are required to have headlights and tail lamps.
- ✓ The same rules and penalties apply as if you were operating a regular motor vehicle down a highway.
- ✓ As we come into wildfire season, another important reminder to be aware of is that no person is allowed to drive an off-highway vehicle unless the off-highway vehicle is equipped with an exhaust muffler.

The exhaust muffler must cool and expel the exhaust gases from the engine without excessive noise and without producing flames or sparks.



OPERATING YOUR ATV ON ANY PROVINCIAL HIGHWAY IS PROHIBITED

Using off-highway vehicles (OHVs) for recreational purposes can be fun, but they do have the potential to start wildfires, cause injury (or worse) and cost you a fine if not following appropriate laws.

Clearwater County's Peace Officers are focused on educating users about municipal bylaws and provincial regulations relating to proper OHV operation and safety precautions to consider.



OHVs include the following:

- all-terrain vehicles
- quads
- side-by-sides
- dirt bikes
- jeeps
- other vehicles designed for travelling off public roads and on unpaved trails and rough terrain
- pickup trucks
- sport utility vehicles
- snowmobiles
- trikes

BE SAFE, HAVE FUN, AND REMEMBER:

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS DO NOT MIX WHEN OPERATING ANY TYPE OF VEHICLE



Be Prepared - Floods

Floods are a frequent hazard in Canada and have devastated many areas of Alberta. Flooding can occur at any time of year and can result from:

- 💧 heavy rainfall
- 💧 ice jams
- 💧 rapid melting of glaciers or snow packs
- 💧 natural or man-made dam failures

BEFORE A FLOOD

The potential for flood damage is high in low-lying areas along rivers or in ravines, called flood plains. If possible, avoid building or buying properties located there. Flooding is not limited to these areas and can happen anywhere. Individuals and families should be prepared to take care of themselves for at least 72 hours. Visit alberta.ca/BePrepared to learn more!

DURING A FLOOD

Never attempt to cross a flooded area. Water is powerful – 6 inches of moving water can knock over an adult and 12 inches can carry away a car. Two feet of moving water can easily move mid-sized vehicles.

AFTER A FLOOD

After flood waters are gone, there could be substantial damage to a community and hazards to be aware of when you return.

Alberta Emergency Alerts

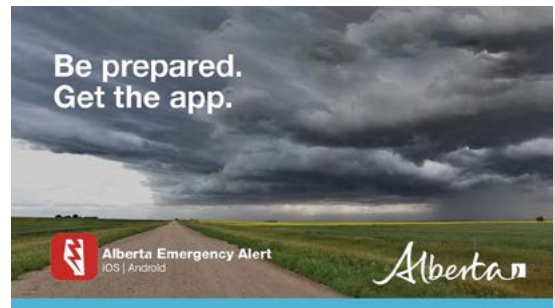


Twice per year, in November and May, the Alberta Emergency Alert (AEA) system issues a province wide test message. These are not just a test of the Alberta Emergency Alert system. It is an opportunity for all of us to test our own readiness to respond.

When you receive the alert, take a moment to reflect on how prepared you would have been if that alert were real. Download the app today: www.alberta.ca/alberta-emergency-alert.aspx

AEA legend for alerts:

Test Alert	Advisory	Critical Alert
System testing in progress	Prepare to take action	Take action now





Frequently Requested Numbers

24 Hour Burn Notification Line	403-845-7711
Alberta Environment and Protected Areas	403-845-8240
Alberta Forestry and Parks	403-845-8250
Alberta Highway Service - Volker Stevin	1-888-877-6237
Alberta Land Titles	780-427-2742
Alberta One Call	1-800-242-3447
ATCO Gas for Gas Emergencies	780-420-5585
Chamber of Commerce for Clearwater County and Town of Rocky Mountain House	403-845-5450
Clearwater County After Hours (For Emergencies Only)	403-844-8500
Clearwater Mutual Aid Co-op (CMACC) - Oil & Gas Emergency	1-866-950-CMAC (2622)
Emergency - Fire, Ambulance, Police, Hazardous Material Spills	911
Family and Community Support Services	403-845-3720
Fire Ban Information (Sign up for Emergency Alerts: www.emergencyalert.alberta.ca)	www.albertafirebans.ca
Fish and Wildlife	403-845-8230
Fortis Alberta for Electrical Emergencies	780-310-9473
Blue Mountain Power Co-op for Electrical Emergencies and Power Outages	1-833-310-7697
Health Unit	403-845-3030
Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Jason Nixon	403-871-0701
Summer Village of Burnstick Lake (www.burnsticklakesummervillage.ca)	
Town of Rocky Mountain House	403-845-2866
Clearwater County - Caroline Office	403-722-3781





**Clearwater County
Community Connect**
Clearwater County

**CREATE YOUR HOUSEHOLD LIFE
SAFETY PROFILE TODAY**

Together, Building a Safer Community Through Prevention,
Preparedness & Response

 Community Connect
www.communityconnect.io/info/ab-clearwatercounty

Coming Soon... Clearwater County Community Connect. A new online system for submitting Burn Notifications will be launching soon.

Residents and businesses will also be able to use the site to securely share important property information with the Fire Department to support emergency response.

USE YOUR PHONE CAMERA
to scan the QR CODE to our website



Publication Mail Agreement No. 40031689
Return undeliverable items to:
Clearwater County, 4340 - 47 Avenue,
Box 550, Rocky Mountain House, AB T4T 1A4
admin@clearwatercounty.ca

Phone: 403-845-4444
Fax: 403-845-7330
Regular Office Hours: Weekdays, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Stay up to date, follow us on social media!
@ClearwaterCnty

