

Volume 6, Issue 1
Spring, 2023



Saddle Hills County

LIVING

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Cover photo by April Thomi
Interior photo by Brittany Dolen



REAL ESTATE MARKET REPORT
RESIDENTIAL, ACREAGE, FARM, LAND, AND COMMERCIAL
January 14, 2023

CENTURY 21.
Grande Prairie Realty Inc.

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY MARKET REPORT



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LEAH MILLAR

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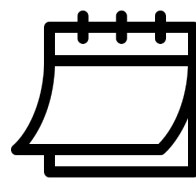
Active Listings

22



Last 365 Days

31



Ave. Days on Market

153



Highest Sale Price

\$750,000



RURAL POTABLE WATER *Fact Sheet*



150 HOMES AND BUSINESSES
ARE HOOKED-UP TO THE NETWORK



320KM OF PIPELINE INSTALLED



100 RESIDENCES RECEIVING WATER
93 IN BONANZA, 7 IN KSITUAN



FREE CONNECTIONS
TO THE NETWORK



FOR MORE INFORMATION
& TO SIGN UP FOR OUR
RURAL POTABLE WATER PROGRAM
[SADDLEHILLS.AB.CA](https://saddlehills.ab.ca)
DARREN LUBECK (780) 864-3760

DID
YOU
KNOW?

Saddle Hills
COUNTY

FINANCIAL BARRIERS & POTABLE, RAW WATER PROJECTS



Adapted from an article written by Michael Archer, (Communications Coordinator, retired March 2023) for Municipal World and published in March, 2023.

Rural municipalities across Canada are grappling with the challenges of economic growth and development in the face of declining population and lack of infrastructure. In Saddle Hills County, a potable water delivery system, which is hoped to hold the key to economic and population growth, is being built.

The current allocations of water licenses in Alberta are coming under stress, and continued future economic growth will depend on substantial and reliable sources of water. The County has decided to do something about that by constructing a new raw water supply intake from the Peace River.

Saddle Hills is a rural municipality consisting of 381 farms, a diverse agricultural community producing crops, including pulses (most notably peas), cereals, canola, and legumes. It also features livestock such as bison, elk, goats, and sheep. The municipality also includes large and diverse oil and gas and forestry industries.

Being such a large, rural municipality comes with its own unique challenges, such as ensuring reliable sources of water, internet, and transportation.

The County's strategic location provides easy access to two major airports in neighbouring Grande Prairie and Fort St. John. Both airports offer commercial passenger services to centres such as

Prince George, Edmonton, Calgary, and Vancouver. BC Rail service is available nearby in the Village of Rycroft, Hamlet of Woking, and City of Dawson Creek.

Saddle Hills is part of the G5 group of municipalities, which includes Birch Hills County, MD of Spirit River #133, Town of Spirit River, and Village of Rycroft.

With all these economic advantages, the County has been devoting substantial time and resources to adding reliable water to better the lives of its current residents. This will also provide serious opportunities for economic growth through those industries that rely on secure sources of water.

RURAL POTABLE WATER INITIATIVE

Making sure that everybody has access to clean and safe water is a top priority. While citizens in Woking have water and sewage services provided by the County, rural residents have (until recently) needed to rely on truck fill stations to supply themselves with potable water, as is the case in most rural areas. While this can be inconvenient in such a large area, the use of online water accounts allows residents to have access to potable water 24/7 and manage their accounts online.

In 2015, the County began building a series of strategically placed water treatment plants to provide truck fill opportunities for rural residents. Now they no longer need to drive to Dawson Creek or Spirit River for water. In the past five years, approximately 150 households and businesses have been provided with water, and 320 kilometres of pipeline has been installed.

The County now has four plants and has invested in the necessary infrastructure to provide potable water delivery directly to its residents. Initially, landowners were required to pay a \$10,000 connection fee, but in 2022, the County reverse this and is reimbursing all the customers who have paid this fee to date.

CENTRAL PEACE WATER PROJECT

In September 2020, Saddle Hills County announced a project it had been working on since 2015. The project aims to provide an unlimited and reliable source of water, drawn from the Peace River, to benefit the Central Peace Region as a whole.

This includes the construction of a new raw water supply intake from the Peace River, as well as approximately 36 kilometres of new raw water pipeline, with an anticipated two year construction schedule. In 2022, the County was awarded a \$2 million grant for the design of a Central Peace Regional Water Treatment Plant to aid in this process.

The project is made possible by the Province of Alberta, the Government of Canada, and Saddle Hills County. The \$40 million required includes \$16 million in funding from the federal government and \$20 million from the province, with Saddle Hills providing the balance. Phases 1 and 2 of the project are scheduled to take three to five years.

"We look forward to proceeding with this exciting project and its associated benefits to the long-term sustainability of the Central Peace Region. The project will provide a reliable source of water for residents, business, and industry."

- Reeve Alvin Hubert

SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE

The Peace River Basin is part of the largest water basin area in Alberta, spanning nearly one-third of the entire province. There is an annual output of 68.2 billion cubic metres, as well as:

- an average of 2,100 cubic metres per second;
- a minimum of 344 cubic metres per second;
- and a maximum of 9,790 cubic metres per second

Oil and gas operations are a prominent feature throughout Saddle Hills with the land south of Highway 49 predominantly used by oil and gas operations.

For the Central Peace Regional Water Project to be successful, and to aid in economic development initiatives, the County also has the following supporting infrastructure in place:

- **Waste** - There are Class 2 landfills available in the neighbouring County of Grande Prairie and the Municipal District of Greenview. There is also a well-developed internal waste management structure and a specialized Environmental Services Department with four transfer stations and seven collection sites. Regular participation in government initiatives, such as the 'Alberta Ag-Plastic. Recycle It!' Program, to ensure residents don't have to travel great distances to access important services.
- **Roads** - Highway 2 and Highway 49 run north to south, east to west through Saddle Hills County. These corridors are used regularly by heavy duty vehicles and are well maintained by the province. The extensive local road

network is maintained by a large fleet of municipal graders and gravel trucks and used by local farm traffic and industry on a daily basis.

- **Rail** - Saddle Hills County is on the Canadian National Railway rail line adjacent to Highway 2, connecting to Edmonton and the two major western ports of Vancouver and Prince Rupert.
- **Air Travel** - Regional airports can be easily reached in Spirit River, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, and Grande Prairie.
- **Emergency Services** - Saddle Hills County has five volunteer fire departments, manned by local firefighters and medical first responders. Modern, fully equipped fire halls are in strategic locations throughout the County to provide rapid and effective response for industry, forestry, business, and residents. Support is also provided to neighbouring communities, such as the Toms Lake Fire Department, to ensure the safety of the whole community.

A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

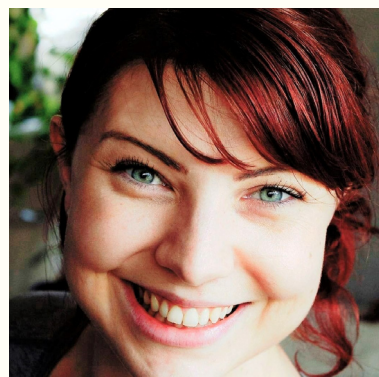
The Central Peace Regional Water Project would not be possible without the contributions of residents and neighbouring communities. It is important to give back to the community that sustains us.

Council regularly gives grants to local and area community organizations, individuals, and students and provides financial help throughout the Central Peace. If it benefits one community, it benefits us all.

The approach taken by Saddle Hills County to providing potable water and services to residents is unique in its breadth and scope. Being such a large, rural community, it can be challenging to find ways to provide all residents with equal access to essential amenities.

By taking an innovative approach, and absorbing the entirety of the installation costs, the County hopes to remove some of the financial barriers that would dissuade landowners choosing to stay in, or move to, Saddle Hills County.

If you would like a copy of Municipal World, with the original article, please contact the Communications Coordinator at (780) 864-3760.



OUR NEWEST GREENHOUSE

Peace River Petals

Owner & Operator: Shi Murphy

Location: Local Farmer's Markets throughout the Peace

Socials: @peacriverpetals

Peace River Petals is a budding nursery and flower farm new to Saddle Hills. The owner and operator, Shi Murphy, wants to bring colour and excitement into your gardens and homes. The nursery is in the initial stages of being established with hopes of being opened to the public in the near future. Until that time, Shi will make appearances at local farmer's markets where she will offer a wide range of perennials and annuals tailored to our northern climate. There is also a cut-flower garden in the works that will produce blooms for bouquets to be sold at market. Find her on Instagram or Facebook @peacriverpetals

"Imagine this; you have an area of your yard that you feel has tons of potential but have no idea where to start. You have to begin by observing. Sunny or shady? Waterlogged or prone to drought? Is it windy or sheltered? Do pets or children have access? Once you know these basics it is easier to identify your needs and I can offer flowers that will thrive in your space. A carefully thought out plan will have your perennials returning year after year, with little to no input from you. Even some annuals will readily self-seed and return the following year." - excerpt from Peace River Petals Business Feature



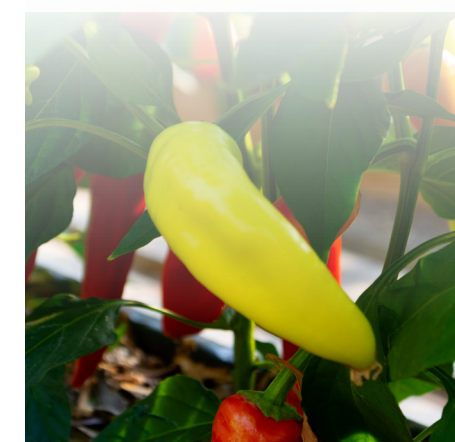
If you would like your organization, facility, business or any other place featured please get in touch!
communications@saddlehills.ab.ca | (780) 864.3760



Anne's Greenhouse

TWP 820 & RR 80, Fourth Creek, AB

Bedding Plants (flowers and vegetables), hanging baskets, perennials, fruit bushes, strawberry roots, and a few new items!



OUR HISTORY

Woking Memories

Photographs provided by Eileen Nagel, Resident



Woking, 1965

County resident, Eileen Nagel, was kind enough to share with us some images and stories of Woking, showing the hamlet from 1965-75.



As a Centennial Project Woking built a skating rink and a change building, the construction of which can be seen in the above images from 1967. To commemorate the event a monument was built, which can now be found at the south east corner of the Woking Hall.



The monument as it stands today, at the Woking Hall.



In the images above you can see the Woking Hotel in the process of being moved to Wanham, in 1972, and Woking's two grain elevators, as they stood in 1975, UGG and Alberta Wheat Pool.

SHARE YOUR STORY

If you have a story or photographs you would like to share please get in contact with our Communications Department at (780) 864-3760 or email communications@saddlehills.ab.ca

Photo Contest Judges 2023



SCAN TO ENTER



Videographer - Spirit River, AB.

"I am a full time videographer and love spending every moment I can outdoors (x-country skiing, hiking, snowboarding, quadding, sledding, etc.). Photography has always been a huge passion of mine, as there is so much incredible beauty around me, especially in the Peace Country. I look forward to seeing all the special moments captured by locals throughout the next couple of seasons! It is always a breath of fresh air to see all the different styles of photography, as everyone sees things slightly differently."

Past Photo Contest Winner - Woking, AB.

"I have been a resident of Saddle Hills County since 2018, but am no stranger to rural, northern living, having grown up in the Teepee Creek area. I manage a homestead near Woking with my husband, Cole, and daughter, Stella, that we built from scratch. We raise pigs, horses, poultry, a small herd of cattle, and livestock guardian dogs. On top of busy farm life, I have always been passionate about art in many forms. Photography, traditional art museums, digital art, graphic design, and leatherwork, to name a few. My favourite thing is capturing the little, authentic details and special moments, that happen in daily life."



Executive Director, Dawson Creek Art Gallery - Dawson Creek, B.C.

"I was born in Dawson Creek in '93, and have family ties to Spirit River and the surrounding area. I served a term on the Dawson Creek City Council from 2011 to 2014. After receiving a degree in economics/international studies from the University of Northern British Columbia, I ended up returning to the Peace and am now the Executive Director of the Dawson Creek Art Gallery, and the Dawson Creek & District Chamber of Commerce. I love current affairs, Lego, helping people succeed, and volunteering in the community, and I look forward to seeing all the wonderful photography submissions from Saddle Hills County!"

SUBMISSIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE 2023 PHOTO CONTEST
PRIZES WILL BE IN OFFERED IN JUDGES' & PUBLIC CHOICE CATEGORIES

YOUR ASB: MEET THE BOARD



ADAM FITZPATRICK, ASB CHAIR

Adam grew up on a small farm in Bonanza. After graduating from high school, he went to work in the oilfield operating oil and gas wells. With his wife, Terri, he slowly started buying land and building a farm in 2005. They now farm with Terri's family, calving 100 mixed beef cows in January and February and growing grains, oil seeds, and pulse crops. Adam still works full time in the oilfield, and he and Terri now have three children that they enjoy working with on the family farm.



JACE EARL, ASB VICE CHAIR

Jace grew up on his family farm on top of Blueberry Mountain raising cattle and oats. After completing his 4th Class Power Engineering at Grande Prairie Regional College, he spent the next 20 years supporting his farming habit with gas plant income. In the spring of 2020, he 'retired' from the oil patch and began farming full time.



DAN BOURASSA, MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Dan grew up on a small farm in Tangent, AB. At the age of 12 his family left the farm and moved to Falher, AB. Dan is currently the Director of Operations of the Rycroft Ag Business Center, for Richardson Pioneer. He has gained the knowledge and experience over his 30-year career, that he can pass on to local farmers in the area. In his spare time, Dan operates a small hobby farm in the Blueberry Mountain area. He has four children and encourages them to be involved on the farm as much as possible.



SERENA REBER, MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Serena, along with her fiancé Mark, run a seed stock polled Hereford operation in Northmark. She has been involved in the cattle industry for over 30 years and has been a part of numerous cattle organizations such as 4-H, GP Beef Co-op and Feeder Associations, Peace Country Beef Congress, and the Peace River Hereford Club. She enjoys working on the Agricultural Service Board and bringing a fresh perspective to benefit the County and the agriculture community as a whole.



SHANELLE RICHARD, MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Shanelle grew up in Altario, AB on a mixed farm, with cattle and grain farming. She was involved in the beef 4-H program throughout her school years. When she graduated high school she attended Olds College for two years, where she got her diploma in Agriculture Management and met her husband Josh. Shanelle now works for Schoorlemmer Seeds in Rycroft, selling canola and crop inputs as well as helping on her husband's family farm just outside of Spirit River.



BRUCE THOMI, MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Bruce grew up on a grain farm west of Woking in the Northmark area and has always shown interest in farming and the community. He attended Lakeland College in Vermillion and graduated with a Crop Technology Diploma, as well as an Agri-Business Diploma. After college, he returned to the family farm where he farms today with his wife, three children, and parents.



ED ARMAGOST, COUNCILLOR

Ed conducts a mixed farm and ranch operation on his family property. Ed's parents set up a homestead on the property back in 1964, and he has lived there ever since. Public service is an important part of community life to Ed. He has served as Chief of the Savanna Fire department, the President of the Savanna Ag Society, and as both a member and Chair of the County's Agricultural Service Board. Ed truly believes in the importance of giving back to our community.



KRISTEN SMITH, DEPUTY REEVE

Kristen was raised in Fourth Creek on her parents' cattle and grain operation. Kristen and her husband built their own farmstead in Silver Valley, where they are raising their four children. With her long history of volunteer service, Kristen has always enjoyed being active in her community. She is proud to use her experience and knowledge of municipal government to serve her ward and the County as a whole.

TREE RESOURCES

Winter Damage to Evergreen Trees

by Toso Bozic

Springtime needle discolouration on previously healthy evergreens is often the results of some form of winter injury.

There are many reasons why evergreen trees and shrubs turn brown and change colour or lose needles. Many environmental conditions, such as winter desiccation, salt, frost, drought, flood, soil deficiency, and many other factors are sometimes the cause of needle and leaf discolouration, and not necessarily insects or diseases.

Key to the correct diagnosis of evergreen browning is careful tree or shrub examination. You should start with the branches, as colour changes to the foliage may be the most obvious symptom.



Following branch examination the next thing to check is the roots and trunk, as they may give clues to the exact cause of the problem. If the tree is large you can use binoculars to perform a careful inspection of the tree crown to see if there is any physical damage caused by porcupines, birds, and hail. The next examination should be performed on the ground, to look for any root and trunk damage, but also possible soil compaction, salt, and chemical damages, which may indicate the possible reason for the discolouration.

Winter damage to coniferous trees and its severity can look different depending on the tree species. Cedar leaf scales fade from green to light tan or reddish-brown, while the needle tips of spruce and pine turn brown. Winter damage may occur on different parts of trees, affecting just a few branches at the treetop or on one side, or even the entire tree. For example, if you see winter burn on the north side of the plant you will know that wind was the major culprit. More often the most severe damage is on the south side, meaning the sun was the major culprit.

It is very important to keep in mind that many trees and shrubs, even after losing many needles, may still survive winter damage and recover, after a few growing seasons. You need to determine if just the needles are dead or if the buds are dead too.

- If it is just needles, the tree and shrub will survive and maybe look a little sparse for a year
- If the buds are green and alive, trees and shrubs will grow out of it
- Don't trim the dead branches off now as you may also be trimming live buds
- By early June, if the buds have not started to grow the branch is dead and can be pruned or, in extreme cases, the tree is dead

The best way to find out if a branch is dead or alive is to check the branches. If tree branches are still bending and green, they will flush out and new needles will grow back, if the tree branches are dead, no new growth will occur.

OUR TREE SPECIALIST

For more informative articles and to contact our Tree Specialist, head to our website or scan the QR code.



BUSINESS FEATURE

A LITTLE SLICE OF HEAVEN HUNTING LODGE



81035 Rge. Rd. 83,
Saddle Hills County, AB. T0H 3G0
(780) 285-4907
deniseallenbrand@gmail.com
www.alittlesliceofheaven.org
@crazyabout hunting

Q&A WITH DENISE ALLENBRAND, OWNER

What made you decide to open a hunting lodge?

I had friends who would come up to hunt every year and I would feed them and we would have so much fun and so many laughs. They suggested I do it for a living as there is nowhere decent to stay in the area.

What are the kinds of animal hunts I can expect in your area?

We have elk, bear, moose, whitetail, mule deer, and waterfowl.

What hunting services do you offer, if any?

I am not a hunting guide or outfitter. I offer lodging and meals.

How early before our trip do we need to book?

It is best to book as soon as possible to get the dates you want, but it is not necessary.

Do you offer transportation to and from local airports?

You are responsible for your own transportation.

You mention discounts for first responders and military personnel. Why is that important to you?

The reason I am offering discounted prices for first responders and military personnel is because without them, and the things they do every day, we could not do all the things we are able to do. It is my way of saying thank you for everything they do, or have done. It's not much, but that is what I can offer.

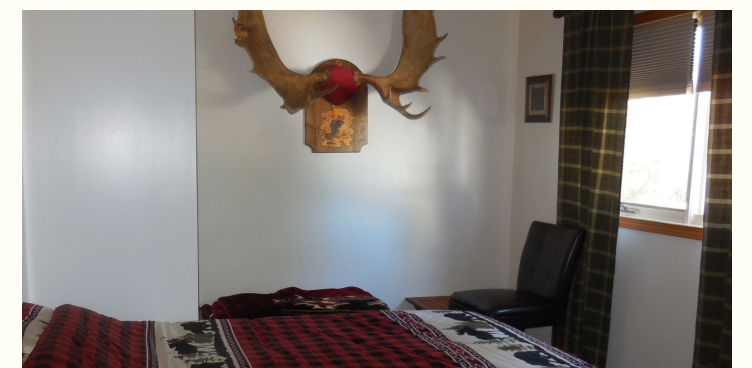
Can you please tell us the services you offer? What is the camp like and the sleep arrangements?

We offer six beds, three full meals a day, plus desserts and snacks, and a laundry service (if necessary).

We provide WiFi, satellite TV, two full bathrooms, and central air. All meals are homemade and fresh, including breads and buns, and sandwich meat.

When you're not managing the hunt, what do you do for fun?

I enjoy ATV riding, sitting in the bush, and taking pictures of wildlife and, of course, I enjoy hunting.

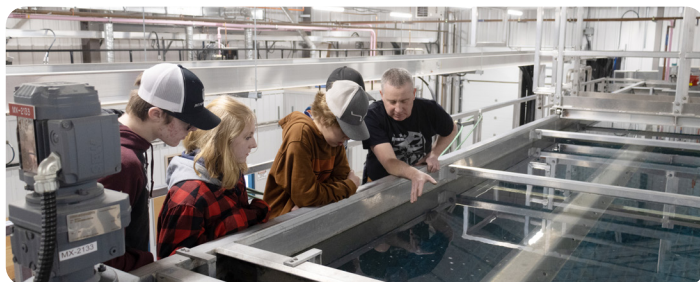


COUNTY NEWS

SAVANNA G9 STUDENTS VISIT SAVANNA WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Grade 9 students from the Savanna School took a field trip to the Savanna Water Treatment Plant on February 23, 2023 to get a close-up view of water quality in action, a topic they have been studying in class.

Students were given a tour by County staff, including Doug, Pat, and Tammy, and were able to see and learn more about all of the steps in the process and the monitoring required to ensure that Saddle Hills County residents have access to top quality water. Sharing knowledge within our community and with future generations is incredibly important, and we love being a part of the process.



VETERINARY STUDENT BURSARIES

In an effort to promote post-secondary education in veterinary medicine and encourage rural large animal veterinary practice, Council voted unanimously to implement a Veterinary Student Bursary in December 2022, at the recommendation of the Agricultural Service Board.

Priority will be given to eligible applicants specializing in large animal veterinary medicine and for years which require clinical rotations. Bursary applicants can be eligible to receive the bursary for multiple years and will be considered for each year they are enrolled in a recognized post-secondary program.

FIREFIIGHTERS RECOGNIZED

During 2022, a series of events were held to honour the many years that members of Saddle Hills County fire departments have dedicated to protecting the community, including the Volunteer Appreciation BBQ in the summer and a series of smaller events for the individual departments over the holiday season.

Everyone at the County is incredibly grateful for all of the important work our volunteer fire departments do in helping to keep us safe.



CRIME PREVENTION DISCUSSIONS

Saddle Hills County has participated in a series of discussions with residents, industry, and the RCMP, among others, in the first part of 2023, aimed at helping to provide the community with increased resources and information.

A crime prevention page is available on the County website with information about the Peace Officer's role and responsibilities, how to report a Bylaw infraction or crime, and RCMP and Rural Crime Watch apps available for download.

The County also hosted an RCMP information session at the Blueberry Mountain Hall to connect residents with Corporal Adam Stokes, Spirit River Detachment, and S/Gt Luke Halvorson, NCO in charge of Community Safety. A recording of the session is available on our website and social media pages for those unable to attend.

SAVANNA SCHOOL ROCK CLIMBING

In February, Council granted a \$50,000 grant to the Savanna School to fund the construction of a certified and safety-engineered rock climbing wall. The wall would be utilized by students during school hours but would also be made available to the public, free of charge, with minor conditions.

HILLTOP LAKE CAMPGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

Hilltop Lake Campground will be getting some upgrades with the addition of a new double-sided washroom, new toilets, and three new flagpoles, just in time for the summer season.

SECURITY AT COUNTY FIRE HALLS

All five of Saddle Hills County's Fire Halls have now been equipped with new security alarms and video surveillance systems to help protect the important equipment our volunteers use to keep us safe. These will provide immediate notification of any unlawful entry into the properties and record evidence should a break and enter occur.

SAVING MONEY ON YOUR UTILITIES

Did you know that you have the power to choose how to buy your energy? The current rising cost of utilities is putting a strain on individuals and businesses in Alberta. Resources, like UCA Helps (Utilities Consumer Advocate), can offer advice on ways to cut your current rates, including how to switch your energy retailer, whether to opt for regulated rates or competitive contracts, and how to lock in your utility rate, among others. Visit ucahelps.alberta.ca for more information and resources, or give them a call at (780) 310-4822 to discuss your utilities options. More information is also available on the Saddle Hills County website.

UPDATED STRATEGIC PLAN

The updated Strategic Plan for 2022-2025 is now available. It provides a roadmap developed by Council and senior administration of the top priorities for the upcoming years.

The plan is available on our website or you can pick up a physical copy at the County office. If you would like a copy mailed to you please contact our Communications Coordinator at (780) 864-3760 or email communications@saddlehills.ab.ca



HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

In partnership with the Rural Development Network, the County conducted a Housing Needs Survey to gather the community's thoughts on the current housing needs in Saddle Hills County. A short survey was available online and mailed to residents. The information collected will be compiled into a report and used to determine areas of need.

WANT MORE LOCAL NEWS?

Saddle Hills County landowners can sign up for a weekly copy of the Central Peace Signal, to be delivered directly to their mailbox, or home. Call the County office at (780) 864-3760 to request your copy.



FIND US ON YOUTUBE!

Have you checked out all of our awesome tourism and community videos? Follow us on Youtube to stay up to date [@saddlehillscounty](https://www.youtube.com/saddlehillscounty)

BUSINESS FEATURE

FOURTH CREEK ANGUS RANCH



Fourth Creek, AB.
(780) 864-7753 (Ryan)
(780) 517-3507 (Office)
info@fourthcreekangus.com
www.fourthcreekangus.com
@fourthcreekangusranch

Q&A WITH RYAN LACEY & LUCIE COCHE, OWNERS

When was Fourth Creek Angus Ranch established?

I was looking for some land, and so was my dad. One day I got a call from him, telling me, "Hey, I'm working up in Silver Valley, and there's a nice big chunk of land for sale." So, we – my dad, Wayne Lacey, and my grandpa, Albert Lacey, who partnered together, and I – bought these two sections of land in 2007. In 2016, I bought them out then moved into the land the following year. I also bought their Black Angus cows.

I believe the land was a dairy farm at one point, but when we acquired it, the previous landowner had been retired for a long time. All the fencing was 40 years old, so we invested in a new fencing, especially since we also have goats. We've been fencing for six years. We had goats when we first moved in. About a year later, when we had enough fence around the land, we bought the cows off dad. Then we bought cows from dispersal sales at some very good ranches in southern Alberta and southern Saskatchewan to try to get some good foundation cows to start. We found out the best animal you can have is the one you raised yourself.

What is the core idea behind Fourth Creek Angus Ranch?

We're trying to bring premium genetics to seed stock producers. We're trying to bring the maternal side back to the Black Angus. The catchphrase in the industry is, "Let's bring the maternal back to the maternal cows." I realize it's a loaded statement. We're doing both Artificial Insemination (AI) as well

as embryo transplant. The top half of our cows get the AI, and the bottom half get the embryo, which we source from ranches in the U.S. The benefit of that is you're getting one of their best females and one of their best sires.

Every animal on our ranch also gets angus GS (genomic selection), which is a DNA testing to help seed what we've got, what needs improvement and where we need to go, and to find which cows and bulls are the best. This is our passion. We've been learning, and we've been studying. We also want to keep growing our bull sale.

The cattle industry is currently talking about a shortage of veterinary professionals – particularly those with large-animal expertise – in rural Alberta. How is that affecting your operations, especially with administering the AI and embryo transfer?

Both our vet and embryologist are hours away from us, but they're very familiar with our program, which involves synchronizing the AI administration and the embryo transplant. They know our calendar. They also try to educate agricultural producers through courses they run at the community hall, knowing you'd be dealing with a problem before they get to you. The situation was made worse with COVID-19, when flights were cancelled, and we had to bring in a vet from Edmonton.

What do you do for relaxation?

My children come up in the summer for a week, and that makes our summers really enjoyable with the kids and the grandkids; it's family time. And my son, who lives in Grande Prairie, is an avid hunter, so he's up all the time. We've also started going to trade shows. We're not gonna be bringing animals, although Lucie has flirted with the idea. I'd like to go and watch. In the spring, Lucie likes making a big garden.

Adapted from an article originally published in the Central Peace Signal. The County has partnered with the newspaper to provide feature stories on some of the businesses in our community and the people who make them work.

MEET OUR STAFF

Get to know our friendly assessors, who are currently out conducting assessment inspections around the County. They look forward to re-connecting and getting to know our new residents now that they can begin conducting in-person inspections again.

If you see them out please say hi! Karolyn and Nicole will be driving branded County vehicles and carrying ID on all assessment visits conducted for the County.

If you are not home at the time of inspection they will make sure to leave you a door hanger, with their card, contact information, and a request for information (RFI) for you to complete.

If you need any help completing the RFI, or have questions or concerns, please give them a call, they are always more than happy to help.

assessment@saddlehills.ab.ca | (780) 864-3760



KAROLYN KELLY, CHIEF ASSESSOR

Karolyn began working for the County in 2005 first as a Weed Inspector, then as the Accounts Payable & Receivable Clerk. She started her career in the Assessment Department in 2012. She graduated from the UBC Sauder School of Business in 2016 and in 2017 received her accreditation from the Alberta Assessor Association required to become the Chief Assessor. Karolyn was born and raised in the Peace Country and loves to farm, feeling it is God's work cutting, bailing, and working the land. In her spare time she enjoys travelling, visiting friends and neighbours, campfires, gardening, and has recently joined the Dunvegan Toastmaster Club.



NICOLE OLTMANNS, ASSISTANT ASSESSOR

Nicole has worked for Saddle Hills County since 2014, moving to the Assessment Department in 2017. As part of her role, she is currently enrolled in a diploma program at UBC Sauder School of Business, working towards her designation as an accredited assessor.

Nicole lives in the Westmark area with her husband of 20 years, where they raised their three athletic boys. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking, watching her boys play football, camping, quadding, quilting, and spending time with family and friends.

Guided

SADDLE HILLS

DAISY HILL
HOME & GARDEN

OPENS: May 13, 2023
10 a.m. - 6 p.m. every day
13117 Twp. Rd. 790, Bay Tree, AB.

METAL ART BY RON
Metal craft artist in Woking, AB.
(780) 774-2017 | (780) 882-0785

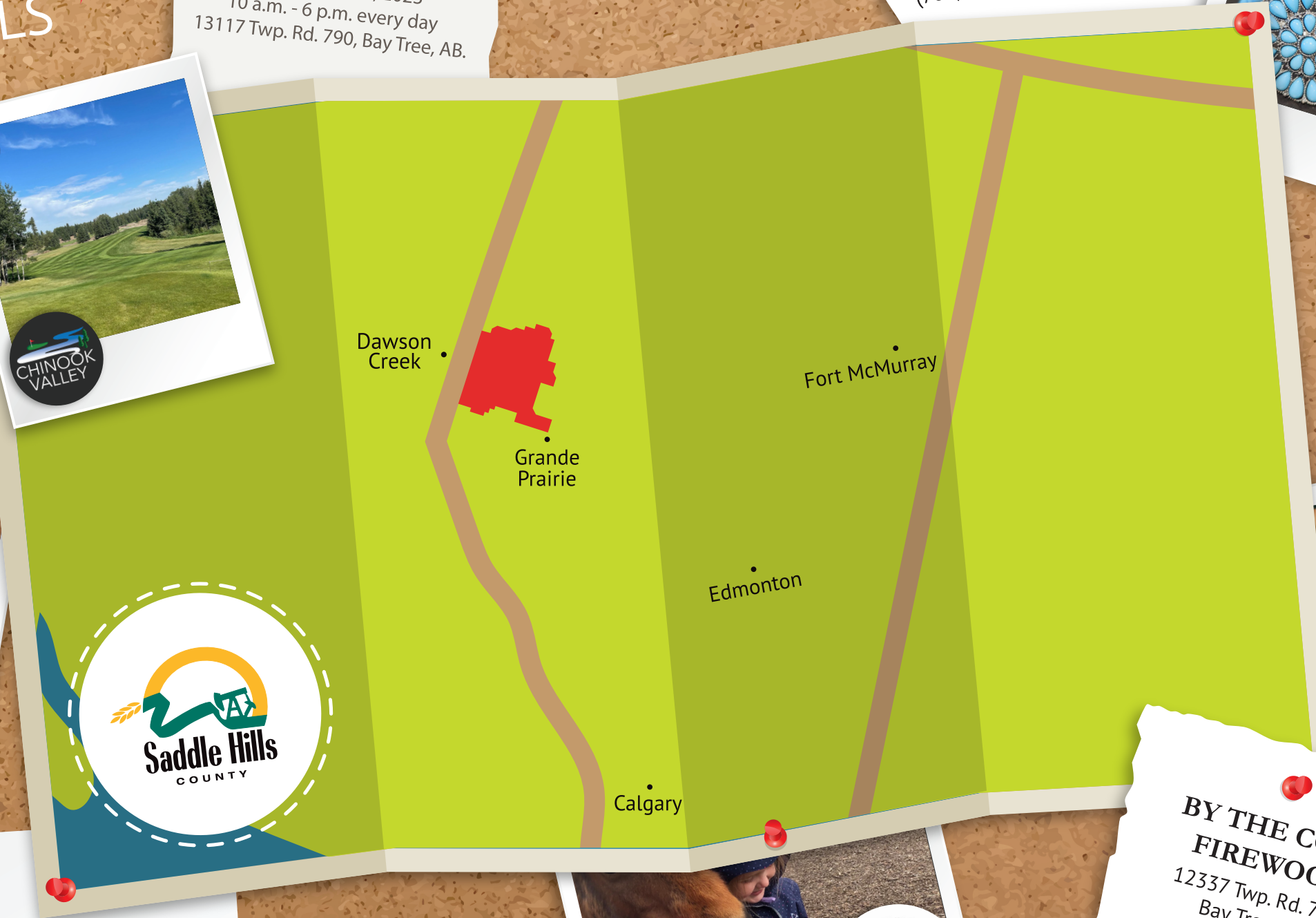
Baytree
SADDLE HILLS COUNTY



CHINOOK VALLEY



DIAMOND B BUILDERS



BLACK BEAR CREEK FARMS



BY THE CORD FIREWOOD
12337 Twp. Rd. 792,
Bay Tree, AB.
(780) 864-8741
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Welcome to our new series, Municipal Mythbusters, helping you to better understand municipal processes and answer some of the most frequently asked questions.

Have a myth you'd like us to bust? Get in touch!

DID YOU KNOW?

Saddle Hills County is at the heart of one of Canada's most important crop producing regions. Our Agricultural Services Department is responsible for administering weed and pest control within the County and our Weed Inspectors carry out regular inspections to help ensure the high quality of our crops and eliminate pests. There is a common misconception that Weed Inspectors are trying to 'police' the land and catch farmers. Instead, by identifying areas with weed or pest problems we are able to help farmers eradicate and control the issues for the benefit of their crops, and those of others within the County.

WEED INSPECTORS FACTS:

- 1.** Weed Inspectors inspect for noxious and prohibited weeds listed under the *Weed Control Act* and nuisance and pest species listed under the *Agricultural Pests Act*. The Agricultural Services Department can help landowners identify weeds and create a plan to control them.
- 2.** Under the *Weed Control Act*, an inspector may enter or inspect land during reasonable hours without notice. Inspectors will not enter any buildings on the land they inspect.
- 3.** County Weed Inspectors may park vehicles in field approaches but will never drive onto your land.
- 4.** Weed Inspectors inspect the entirety of the County, which includes both public and private lands.
- 5.** Weed Inspectors follow strict biosecurity protocols to prevent disease spread. Boot covers are worn while inspecting and any tools that may come into contact with soil are disinfected with a bleach solution, as per the guidelines within the *Alberta Clubroot Management Plan*.
- 6.** Agricultural Services divides the County into 'zones'. Each Weed Inspector is assigned a zone that they are responsible for inspecting within.
- 7.** Weed Inspectors don't just look for invasive plants. They also do inspections for grasshoppers, set up traps to collect bertha armyworm moths, and participate in provincial crop disease surveys.



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

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

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



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