

NEWS & VIEWS



Preparing for Snow

Driving near heavy equipment

Graders and snowplows moving slowly ahead of you might be an inconvenience in that moment; however, they're doing their job to keep the roads clear of snow and ice. Please stay back from the graders and snowplows to give them room to do their jobs safely. The operators will do their best to let you pass when they can - but only pass when it is **safe to do so**.

Clearing snow on private property

Public Works is asking residents to be cautious when removing snow from driveways and yards. It is important that snow **NOT** be pushed across public roads, but rather kept on private property. Pushing snow across public roadways creates dangerous bumps that could result in vehicle and property damage or bodily injury.

Let Graders & Snow Plows do their jobs

Giving graders enough room to do their job safely, ensures everyone arrives at their destination.

Are you ready for winter?

Being prepared is key. Do you know about the County Snow Flag Program?

- Take advantage of the **County Snow Flag Program** in which a grader can plow your driveway after a snowfall. Snow flags can be purchased at the County office for \$30 each. Buying flags in advance ensures you have them ready for snow events. Please keep in mind that graders **cannot** enter and do work on your property without a snow flag.
- "The snow stopped, where is the grader?" - we ask that County residents understand that the graders are on their way, taking care of all 1,498 km of roads as quickly as they can. **Plan ahead** when a snowfall is forecasted. Extra time may be needed when travelling on local roads and highways; ensure that you drive to the road conditions.



Reeve's Message

It is my pleasure, once again, to bring greetings on behalf of the Council of the County of Barrhead.

2018 was, by all accounts, a very successful year for the County. One of Council's goals has been to add commercial assessment to our tax base and jobs to our community. To that end, the County has commenced development of the Kiel Industrial Park, and I am pleased to report the sale of one lot and expression of interest in others.

An exciting new service that we are able to offer the public, FREE of charge, is the Barrhead and Area Regional Crime Coalition (B.A.R.C.C.) alert system, BARCC Connect. Registrants will receive notifications about topics that matter to them from the Barrhead RCMP, as well as the Town and County of Barrhead in real-time, via the communication method they choose.

This year Council implemented a Public Participation Policy to facilitate public engagement. Council believes in being accountable and transparent, in building relationships with the public and being proactive in the decision-making process.

In developing the 2019 Budget, we hope to further engage the public in the process. Council has, at the time of this writing, passed an interim Budget; however, before adopting the final Budget and setting the mill rates, we want to ensure that what Council believes to be a priority aligns with that of the public. An open house would be the opportune time to make our case and listen to your feedback.

Council would like to thank our County Manager, Debbie Oyarzun, and her staff for their dedication and hard work in the past year. I would also like to say, on behalf of Council, that it has been a pleasure serving our community in 2018, and we look forward to an exciting 2019.

Reeve Douglas Drozd
Councilor, Division 1

Environmental Farm Plan A Plan for the Environment of your Farm

Not having completed an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP), might mean missing out on funding opportunities.

An EFP is a process of answering questions about your operation, with the goal of identifying the environmental risks in your farming or ranching business, and aid in the creation of a plan to address mitigating those risks. Addressing potential risks will:

- increase operational efficiency while reducing costs and increasing net profit
- protect environmentally sensitive areas, enhancing farm sustainability
- open up funding opportunities from the Canadian Agricultural Partnership

For more information, or to start the online process of completing your Plan, go to **www.albertaefp.com**. Once registered, Lisa Card, the EFP technician for this area will contact you to assist in creating your Plan and its implementation. Or, you can call Lisa at **780-674-8069** for assistance or more information on upcoming EFP workshops.

Questions?

Have questions or concerns? Give us a call at **780-674-3331**.

Finance

Patty Storseth-Wierenga

Public Works

780-674-2619

Planning & Development

Jenny Bruns

Jennifer Pederson

Bylaw

Pam Dodds



B.A.R.C.C

Taking a bite out of crime

An initial meeting at MP Arnold Viersen’s office, with representatives from the County & Town of Barrhead, Woodlands County, Barrhead & District Rural Crime Watch (RCW) and the RCMP, to discuss crime concerns in the region sparked the decision by attendees to meet again outside of the MP’s office. The result - formation of the **Barrhead & Area Regional Crime Coalition (BARCC)**.

Concerned with crime in the region, representatives of the various municipalities, RCW and the RCMP decided to approach the topic of crime from a collaborative perspective - one in which ideas to increase public awareness of crime prevention could be shared across a broader region.

The coalition developed its purpose which states, “through coordinated efforts in education and awareness of crime prevention and reporting suspicious activities, BARCC is taking an active roll in reducing crime.”



Signing up is quick and easy

ONLINE: Simply visit the **County of Barrhead web-site** and follow the prompts to register.

IN PERSON: Visit the County Office during regular office hours.

PHONE: Call **780-674-3331** during regular office hours.

Harden the Target

Keep it Out of Sight

Expensive items left out in the yard are an easy target for theft. Ensuring they’re kept indoors, keeps their existence unknown to would-be thieves.

It’s not just the outdoor items themselves, but the packaging that the items come in. Keep packaging for expensive items out-of-sight until it’s time to go to the landfill.

Do a Walk-Around

Open your curtains or blinds and take a stroll around the exterior of your house. Take a look at what’s visible. If you have a number of expensive items within plain sight near windows, think of a minor redesign to move them out of view.

Report It!

If you see something suspicious, report it. Reporting suspicious behaviour keeps the RCMP aware of possible criminal activity in your area.

B.A.R.C.C. Connect

Crime and municipal alerts in the palm of your hand.

Keeping residents connected to accurate information

BARCC Connect is a tool to quickly inform residents of criminal activity, road closures, service interruptions, and much more. This system can send alerts to registered residents by text message, voice call and/or email. There are currently over 1000 registrants receiving timely, relevant information. Registration is FREE and can be done quickly and easily, without the need to download an app. To learn more, visit:

www.countybarrhead.ab.ca

B.A.R.C.C.
Barrhead & Area Regional Crime Coalition

Receive the **ALERTS** you **NEED** via the device you **WANT**

Local alerts **YOU** choose

- Crime near you
- Fire bans
- Emergencies
- Road Construction
- Service Interruptions
- News & Events

Re-building From the bottom up

The County builds and maintains its own roads.



Range Road 35 South of Sec Hwy 654

In 2018, the County reconstructed RR 35 starting with a new clay base.



“Increased traffic, original road base, wet seasons, and heavier vehicles require roads to be rebuilt”

Roads don't last forever.

With increased traffic, varying weather conditions, as well as vehicles and farming equipment getting larger and heavier, it is expected that older roads can no longer be maintained but must be rebuilt. This being the case for Range Road 35 south of Secondary Highway 654, the County of Barrhead construction crew rebuilt the road from the base up.

How long does it take?

The time taken to complete road construction varies depending on the type of terrain, location of borrow pits, and weather conditions. However, it typically takes 3 weeks to build one mile of road.

What is the cost?

Multiple factors, such as the width of the road, contribute to the cost is per mile; however, the County budgets \$183,000 - \$211,000 per mile

for a standard local gravel road. Costs are kept down for ratepayers by using County-owned equipment. By maintaining and building our own roads, it saves County ratepayers money.

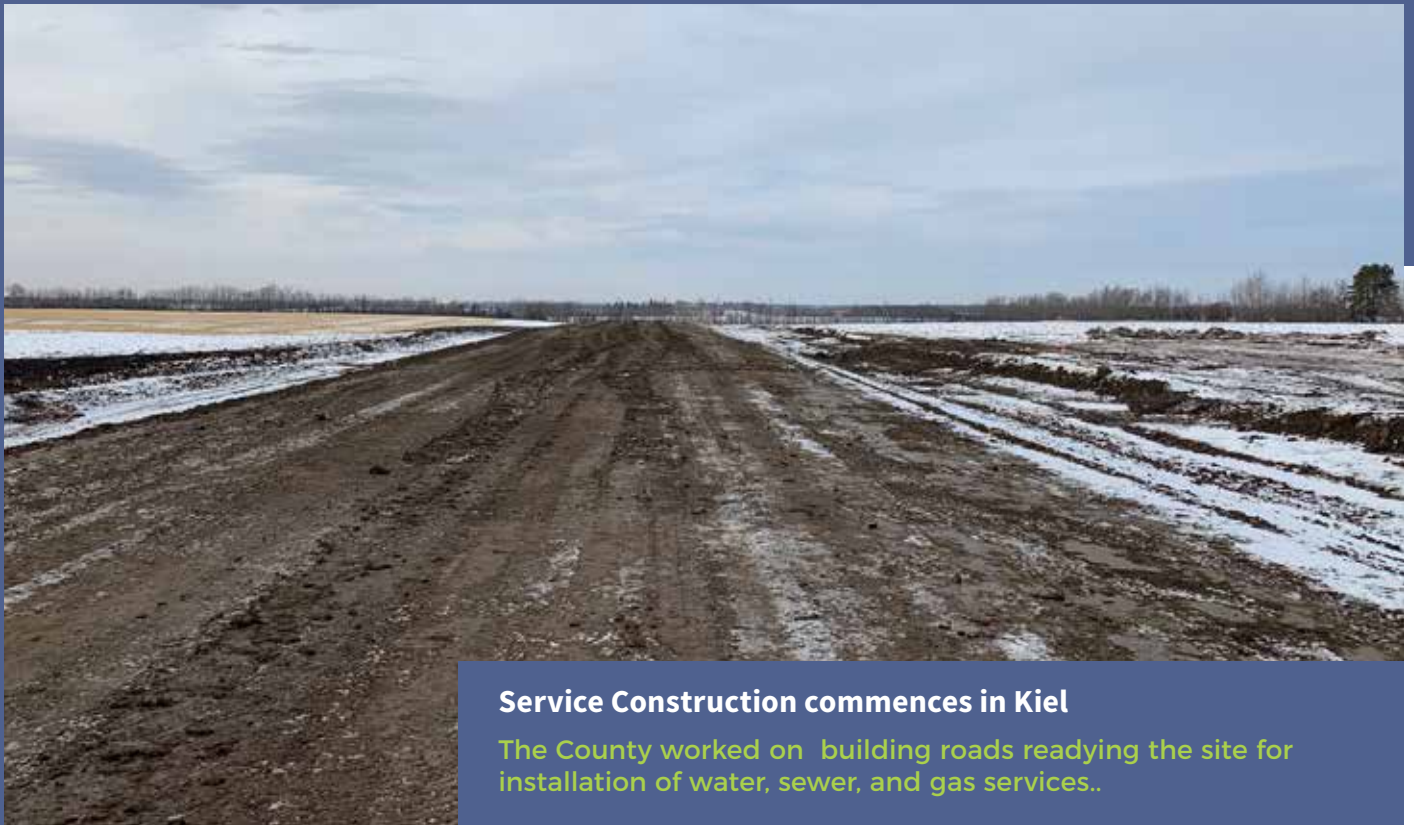
How are roads prioritized?

Construction projects are prioritized by the ability of a road to carry heavier loads, year of original construction, quality of road base, poor visibility distances, ditches having poor drainage, the type and volume of traffic, and if a road has had a history of snow drifting problems in the winter.



What can the public do to help ensure the longevity of our roads?

We appreciate residents coordinating the movement of heavy loads before the frost is out in the spring to avoid damaging roads during wet conditions. Respecting road bans minimizes damages to our roads.



Service Construction commences in Kiel

The County worked on building roads readying the site for installation of water, sewer, and gas services..

Kiel Timeline

2019

- Servicing of Phase 1 Complete
- Marketing continues

2017/2018

- Business & Market Assessment
- Zoning, Subdivision & Area Structure Plan
- Sale of 1st lot

2016

- Identify Best-Fit Industries Project

2015

- Stakeholder Consultations
- Install Fire Suppression System

2012

- 160 ac of Land Purchased
- Community Investment Readiness Study

Developing

Kiel Industrial Park

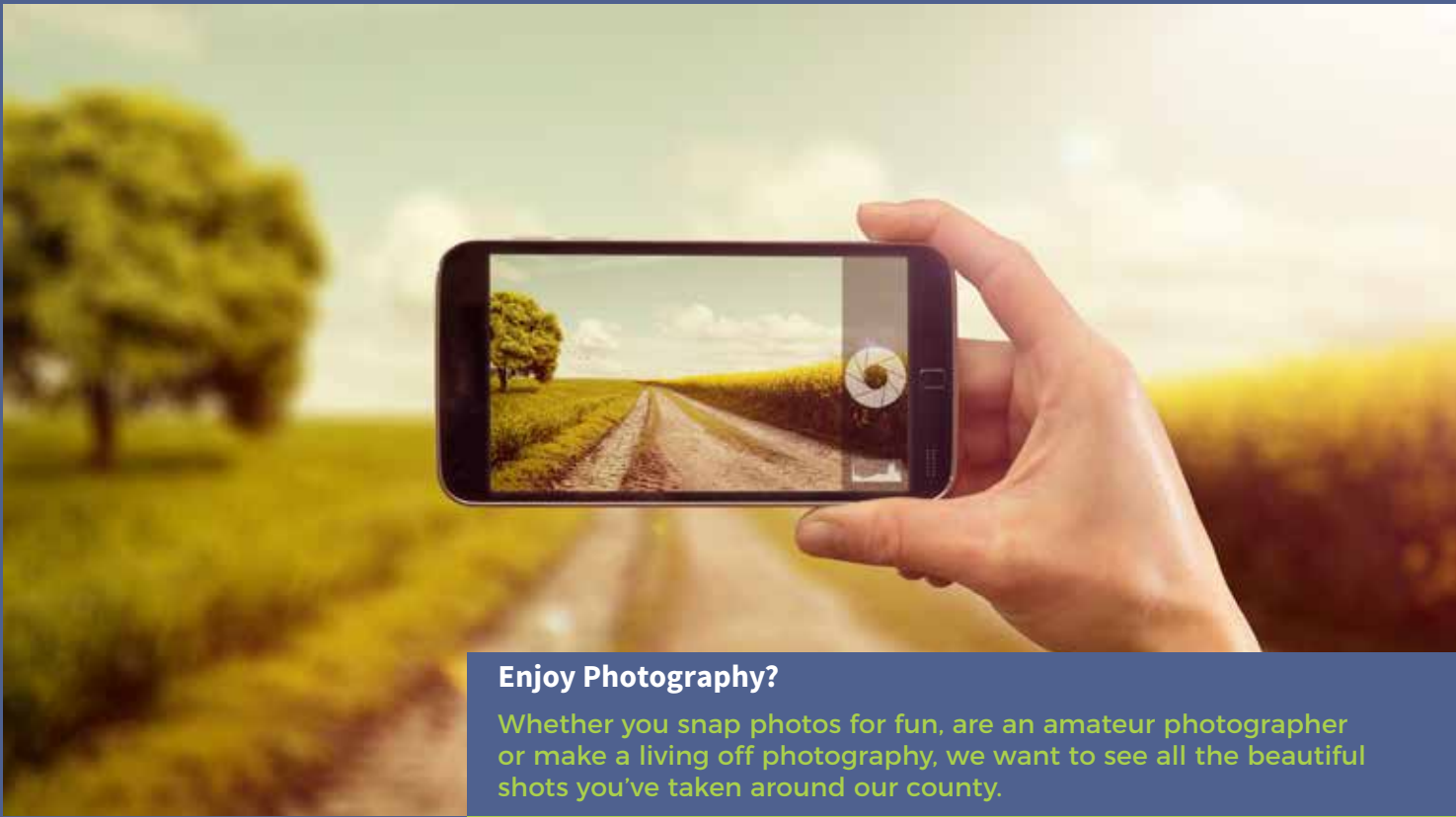
A lot of work has taken place since the County of Barrhead purchased the Kiel Industrial Park lands (160 ac) in 2012. The County leveraged Provincial Grant Funding for Economic Development to offset costs to complete stakeholder consultation, market assessment, engineering studies, and all the steps related to planning that allows for the development of the Kiel Industrial Park. The 160 ac will be developed in multiple phases with Phase 1 currently underway.

The engineering contract was awarded to MPE Engineering Ltd. with service construction awarded to PSA Construction. Servicing of 7 fully serviced lots in Phase 1 is anticipated to be completed early in 2019.

The 1st lot in the Kiel Industrial Park was sold to Royal Canadian Land Corporation in 2018. At a recent Business Support Network luncheon, Jake Burlet, CEO of Kiel's first tenant, Royal Canadian Cannabis (RCC), said the reasons they chose Barrhead for their new facility were for Barrhead's proximity to Edmonton, and our reputation of being an innovative agricultural community. He further added, "We see Barrhead as a location with a deep talent pool...the people we are going to require to staff and operate it (RCC), we fully expect will come from this community."

Kiel will be open for business very shortly and has been generating interest which is good news for the County and its residents. The County will continue to build partnerships, explore opportunities and market the Kiel Industrial Park and the Barrhead community as the place to do business.

For more information on the Kiel Industrial Park contact the County of Barrhead office at **780-674-3331**.



Enjoy Photography?

Whether you snap photos for fun, are an amateur photographer or make a living off photography, we want to see all the beautiful shots you've taken around our county.

Upcoming Dates

JAN 1: County office CLOSED.

JAN 10: ASB Rural Beautification Awards*

JAN 15: Regular Council Meeting

FEB 5: Regular Council Meeting

FEB 18: County office CLOSED

FEB 19: Regular Council Meeting

MARCH 2019: Annual OPEN HOUSE

MAR 5: Regular Council Meeting

SPRING 2019: Check the County website regularly for upcoming **ASB Workshops, shelterbelt tree orders**, and much more.

*Beautification Awards tickets are available for \$25. For tickets or more information, call 780-674-3331

County of Barrhead Photo Contest

What are we looking for?

The County of Barrhead is looking for amazing photos with the unique characteristics that capture the spirit of our county.

Prizes

Each month, the winning photograph will be displayed on the County website and will remain in place until the new winner is selected the following month. The winning photographer will also receive a prize valued up to \$50.

Where will the photographs be used?

The County of Barrhead is looking to build an inventory of images for use in online and print media. These photos could be featured at any time on the website, social media, and print, placed locally, nationally and internationally.

In order for the County to use the photos, each entrant will be required to submit a Photographer Consent and Release form as well as an Individual Consent and Release form for any individuals photographed in the submission.

Full details of the photography contest can be found online at www.countybarrhead.ab.ca in January 2019.