

Council's Annual Pancake Breakfast - 2015



This year, Council once again held their Annual Pancake Breakfast. The funds raised this year went to the Dunstable Schools outdoor classroom! As well, Melissa Lotholz was there, raising funds for the Canadian Bobsleigh Team.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - 2015 IS THE YEAR OF COLLABORATION!

The Barrhead & District Chamber of Commerce wants to let the rural County businesses and farms in on a little secret... The Chamber is here for you too! Albertans benefit from high quality and affordable food because of the commitment of farm families and agricultural related businesses. The Chambers of Commerce in Alberta care about the challenges faced by the Agricultural Sectors. There are 8 agricultural policies they are currently advocating for with the Province, find out more about their initiatives at www.abchamber.ca.

Further, benefits you can access as a member farm or small business are as follows. Advocacy: the Chamber strives to advocate for all it's members needs, and bring in appropriate resources where able... It is not just for down-town businesses! Financial Resources; It has access to cost savings on benefit plans for employees, better fee rates for Visa and Mastercard transactions, and a variety of insurance incentives to name a few.

Alberta Chambers recognize and are hoping to collaborate with one of Barrheads major economic drivers - the Agricultural Industry, as well as the rural businesses that support them! Collaboration is the key to strong rural communities, as indicated in these excerpts from the Alberta Rural Economic Development Action Plan:

"A strong rural economy means a strong Alberta.

Rural Alberta leaves a \$77-billion economic footprint in this province and across Canada, benefitting every man, woman and child who calls Alberta their home. While our rural economy is strong, there is always room for improvement. As the province prepares to welcome another million new Albertans in the next decade, maintaining a thriving rural economy is vital."

1. **Empowering:** Sustained rural economic development has to be driven at the grassroots level. Our role together is to empower, connect and create a positive environment for rural businesses and communities to be successful.
2. **Regional:** Actions need to recognize the unique needs and characteristics of different regions of the province and should be coordinated at local and regional levels to exponentially increase results.
3. **Collaborative:** Actions must be based on cooperation and partnership among communities, regions, non-profit organizations and across all levels - to take advantage of existing experience and ensure effective delivery of services to clients.

The Chamber realizes that it can be difficult for rural business and agricultural producers to regularly attend meetings, and understand that all member businesses are in this situation and are flexible. Call your Chamber president, Dave Sawatsky at 780.674.2427 to find out in more and get acquainted through their Facebook Page at "Barrhead and District Chamber of Commerce". They are ready to collaborate will all businesses, and build up our community.

COUNTY OFFICE CONTACTS: Main Office: 780-674-3331 Public Works: 780-674-2619

5306- 49 Street, Barrhead, AB T7N 1N5 www.countybarrhead.ab.ca

County News & Views

Barrhead Golf & Recreation Area

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Amalgamation 2015 Message - from Mark Oberg, CAO

In September 2014, the Town of Barrhead Council provided notice to the County of Barrhead, and the Minister of Municipal Affairs, that the Town has initiated the process of amalgamating the Town and County to create a new municipality. That decision of the Town led to a number of actions being taken by both the Town and County. There were further letters to the Minister and there was a committee made up of both Councils established to discuss amalgamation and other collaboration options. Grants were applied for to access funds to pay for a study to assist our two municipalities.

Residents of the County should know that the Town and County have a long history of working together to provide services to their respective residents. This cooperative effort will continue, and hopefully be enhanced. One municipality initiating the process of amalgamation with another municipality is a topic that demands extensive study; both the pros and cons of amalgamation must be considered. One very important component the Province requires in a study for a proposed amalgamation is that the affected municipalities consult with the residents of each of the municipalities.

Alberta Municipal Affairs reports that in some cases, restructuring in the form of amalgamation may not be the best solution for local issues if other processes prove to be better options. The County Council is committed to do its due diligence in order to arrive at an outcome that will be a benefit to the citizens we serve in the County of Barrhead No. 11.

As I write this article, a number of steps have been taken in this initiative. ADR Education has been contracted to serve as facilitator/chair of the meetings involving the Council Members of the Town and County. At these meetings there will be discussions on: the infrastructure (buildings, roads, pipes, etc.) and services that are currently in place, the life expectancy of the infrastructure, and how these municipal assets and services could be improved in the future using different cooperative arrangements. As well, different methods of governance, which will include amalgamation of the two municipalities, will be explored and considered. GCS Consulting Inc. has been hired to conduct the study of these matters. We look forward to working with ADR Education and GCS Consulting; the meetings and the study will be very interesting. At a minimum, they will lead to a better understanding of our two municipalities and improvements in the services we deliver together. This outcome alone would make the efforts worthwhile.



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Check us out on



Upcoming Events & Notices

- **2015 ASSESSMENT AND TAX NOTICES WERE SENT OUT APRIL 30TH** - if you have not received yours yet, please call and advise the office.
 - **Highridge Rodeo** - July 11, 2015
 - **Henry Battenfelder Memorial Golf Tournament** - July 25, 2015
 - **Ag Service Board (County) Summer Tour** - July 28, 2015
 - **Lac La Nonne Boat Regala** - August 15, 2015
 - **Halloween Family Dance Bloomsbury** - October 31, 2015
 - **LEPA Fall Outreach Social and Silent Auction** - Sept 12, 2015
 - **Barrhead Golf Tournaments** - TBA! Ladies Open, Men's Open and Mixed.
- * **Check out our 2015 Events Listing** online at www.countybarrhead.ab.ca for details as they are updated.



Reeve's Message

Hi Everyone! 2015 is going to be another busy year for the County of Barrhead. Though a considerable amount of time will be spent on Amalgamation talks with the Town of Barrhead this next year, we strive to make sure our commitment to serve our residents remains a priority. Council often gets asked about our Economic Development efforts, so I thought I would summarize our activities in this area.

In 2010 we formed an Economic & Community Development Committee (ECDC) to promote economic development and build up our community. We feel it's important to enhance our current lifestyle with a type of economic development that harmonizes with our way of life. An example of that can be seen in the promotional video that was produced last year and can be viewed on our website at www.countybarrhead.ab.ca.

We have very diverse industry - and therefore businesses - within the County, with the most prevalent being agriculture or ag-related industries. We have 667 farms with average sales of \$250,000 and an average net worth of \$1.5 million.. Collectively, the farms in the County generate in excess of \$166 million a year. What an impact on our community!

Our ECDC also feels it important to serve the existing businesses we have, rather than just enticing outside businesses to come in. We started a business visitation program, and have already visited over 15 corporate businesses, and conducted interviews with their management team. These talks continue not just with local business, but with outside interests as well. By making

sure we are filling our local business needs should also ensure we have the right environment for others to come to our community.

Since it's inception, the ECDC has coordinated the following:

- A mission & vision statement that guides council in its decision making.
- Purchase a 1/4 section of land for future industrial development, with direct access to pavement, 3-phase power, gas, water and sewer.
- Promotional video created and launched in partnership with Town of Barrhead
- Community Investment Readiness (CIR) Action Plan and CIR Brochure created.
- Connections made with multiple stakeholders, including ADLC, Steeper Energy, Champion Pet Feeds, Integra Air, Alberta Community Cooperative Assoc., Chamber of Commerce, Realtors, Growth Alberta, and more.
- Annual Community Events Listing created.
- New Logo and Visual Identity for the County of Barrhead
- Airport Hangar Developments

We, the County of Barrhead Council, are very pleased to serve you and hope you are pleased with our service. Feel free to contact any of your council members to express your opinions and concerns, and your ideas for economic

~ Sincerely, Reeve William Lee

Public Works Department Update

Road Construction:

The following locations have been approved by the County of Barrhead for road reconstruction:

- Through 2-58-3-W5; Through SW 11-58-2-W5
- West of 16-60-2-W5; West of SW 21-60-2-W5
- West of 1 and 12-61-4-W5; South and West of 14-61-4-W5
- West of 23-61-4-W5



Work in County Right-of-Ways

Prior approval is required from the Public Works Department before any work can be done in County right-of-ways. This includes, but is not limited to ditching, approaches, tree removal, etc. It is an offence to remove gravel from County of Barrhead roadways for personal use. Please contact the Public Works Department to purchase gravel.

Road Construction Safety

We strongly encourage all motorists to watch carefully for traffic signs, warnings and to watch for crews working on or beside the road. Road construction accidents are high on the list of fatalities, so diligence is important.

Fire Department News - Agricultural Purpose Fire Permits

"Annual Agricultural Purpose Fire Permit" means a permit issued to remove an immediate obstacle or nuisance in an agricultural or farming practice by burning such obstacle or nuisance.

Permits are to be issued no longer than one period at a time. Any fire lit under the authority of an Annual Agricultural Purpose Fire Permit shall not burn longer than a continuous 24 hour period of time, and **the holder of the fire permit must report when they start and stop the burn to a Fire Guardian.**

Reminder: Fire Permits are required YEAR ROUND. Call the Fire Chief at 780.674.2087 or the County office at 780.674.3331 for a listing of Fire Guardians that can assist you in making sure your next burn is a safe one!

Agricultural Service Board News

PLANT UPDATE:

This plant is designated as **Prohibited Noxious** in Alberta, which means that under the Weed Control Act, it must be completely eradicated wherever it is found. Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) is an annual plant that reproduces only by seed.

DESCRIPTION:

This weed grows extremely tall and fast, reaching up to 3m in height by the end of the season. Stems are erect, purplish and easily broken, leaves are lance-shaped and 6-15cm long, borne oppositely or in whorls. Leaf size decreases with height on the stem. They have large (2.5-4 cm long) pink flowers. At maturity, the seed capsules explode, flinging seed as far as 5m from the parent plant. This can result in seeds flinging to driveways where cars can transport to other locations. One plant may produce up to 800 seeds that remain viable when fully submerged underwater for up to two years.

Himalayan balsam requires moisture to flourish, hence its preference for riparian areas and waterways. This invasive plant is devastating to sensitive riparian habitats, shading out native vegetation and leaving soils exposed and susceptible to erosion when it dies in the fall.

Never purchase or grow Himalayan balsam.! It may be sold under several common names, including:

- Poor Man's Orchid
- Policeman's Helmet
- Indian Balsam
- Ornamental Jewelweed



Hand-pulling is by far the most effective control method, as Himalayan balsam has a shallow root system and often grows in areas that cannot be cultivated or mown. Bag the plants and take them to the landfill for burial. Both glyphosate and 2,4-D have shown efficacy against this plant; however, regulations on spraying near water must be followed. Plants in flower can still produce viable seed after being sprayed. Call if you have questions or want help identifying, we appreciate your help in controlling these weeds!

RENTALS:

The following rentals are available from the Service Board, including the purchase of a new cattle scale/squeeze combo, coming soon! Must call ahead to book. As follows:

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD	Note: All fees include GST
Three Gallon Sprayer	\$5.00 per day
250 Gallon Sprayer	\$30.00.00 per day
Garden Tractor Sprayer	\$20.00 per day
Quad Mount Sprayer	\$20.00 per day
Meter Mizer	\$5.00 per day
Roadside Sprayer with One County Operator	\$100.00 per hour
Spray Crew of Two Pesticide Applicators, (1 truck, 2 people)	\$45.00 per hour
Cyclone Seeder - Han Held Belly Grinder	\$5.00 per day
Pull-Type Cyclone Seeder	\$25.00 per day
12-Volt Tractor Mount Cyclone Seeder	\$20.00 per day
Cattle Squeeze	\$30.00 per day
Magpie Traps	\$10.00 for three week period
Tractor and Various Attachments, with one County operator	\$60.00 per hour
Tree Planter	No Charge
Weigh Wagon (Hay and Grain Scale) with operator and travel	\$60.00 per hour
Bran Baiter - Quad Mount	\$25.00 per day
Bran Baiter - Truck Mount	\$25.00 per day
Tag Reader Units	\$50.00 Damage Deposit AND \$20.00/unit per use
RO-CON Gopher Machines	\$20.00 per unit per day plus cost of chemicals
Beaver Control	\$70.00 for control per parcel