



# athabasca county connection

A newsletter for residents and businesses of Athabasca County

July 2016

## Public Event set for July 16

**Athabasca County**  
6th Annual



**Fly-In Barbecue**  
July 16, 2016 - Athabasca Regional Airport

The 6th Annual Athabasca County Fly-In Barbecue offers a host of information and activities for the whole family.

Organized each year to help connect area residents with the aviation community and activities at the airport, the event had approximately 600 people attend last year.

Displays from STARS, the Civilian Air Search and Rescue Association of Alberta, and Athabasca Regional Fire Protective Services will add to the event.

If you like cars, the Athabasca Classic Cruisers will be at the event with a variety of vehicles to help bring back memories.

Joey the Clown and the Athabasca Teen Centre will offer activities and takeaways for the kids.

A free barbecued lunch remains an important part of the event. Hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks will be served to all those who attend.

For those who join us by air, gift bags will be given to all pilots who fly into the event and they can enter their name into a draw to win \$200 of Avgas.

For more information visit Athabasca County's website - [athabascacounty.com](http://athabascacounty.com)



**EXPERIENCING RURAL LIFE** - students gather around a safety display about the dangers of transporting and storing grains and oilseeds. The display was among several others demonstrating potential safety hazards on farms. It showed students how a person can quickly be engulfed by grain when it is being transported.

## Farm, Food and Safety Day held

### Area Aspen View Grade 4 students spend a day with agriculture

Hosted by the Agriculture Services Department at the Athabasca Hutterite Colony and the Athabasca Agri-plex, this year's Farm, Food and Safety Day was attended by 180 students.

Approximately 180 Grade 4 students from Boyle, Grassland, Landing Trail Intermediate and the Athabasca Colony schools took part in the event.

With a goal of raising safety and food

awareness among youth, it's the second year the students took part in the program.

They were shown a variety of animals and learned how they were raised in addition to taking in demonstrations about farm safety.

"We live in a rural area and even though not all of the students live on a farm, the likelihood of them visiting one is high," says Trent Keller, Crop Production Specialist.

"It's about reminding the students of possible hazards on farms and how to recognize them."

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## Seasonal Day Passes

- Enjoy access to:
- Boat Launches
- Day Use areas
- County Beaches

## GET YOURS TODAY!

Individual Pass (one vehicle) - \$30  
Family Pass (two vehicles) - \$40

NOW AVAILABLE at the Athabasca County Admin Office or from your County campground manager

# County Briefs

## Agricultural Equipment for rent or loan

Athabasca County's Agricultural Service Department offers a variety of agricultural equipment for rent or loan.

For the cattle producers there are tag readers, a barbed wire roller, a calf turn table, cattle chute, cattle squeeze, weigh scale, panels, and an electrostatic sprayer;

Grain producers might find the soil compaction probes, broadcast seeder, or 300 gallon pasture sprayer handy; there are also some general use items such as skunk traps, a post pounder, a tree planter or the truck mounted tree spade.

The rental fees are very reasonable and range from \$1 each per day for a cattle panel to \$30 per day for a post pounder. The truck mounted tree spade has a \$25 start-up fee and is rented at \$40 per hour.

To find out about the location of the equipment available, or to book it, just call the County office and ask to speak with the Agricultural Services Department.

Contact: Roxanne Senyk  
780-675-2273 | info@athabascacounty.com

## Safety around work crews this summer

Athabasca County's summer gravelling and grass cutting programs have begun.

Increased numbers of trucks and graders will be working on County roads and mowers will be working in ditches.

Help keep everyone safe by slowing down to a minimum of 60 km/h around work crews. Not only does slowing down protect our workers but it decreases the likelihood of incidents.

## Workers & Emergency Vehicles



# 'Positive Ticketing' program underway



CONNECTING WITH YOUTH - Athabasca County Peace Officer Jeremy Oakes will be using positive ticketing to reinforce positive behaviors among youth this summer. Each 'ticket' includes a coupon which can be used at participating business sponsors.

## Recognizing youth for doing things right

Athabasca County's Peace Officer hopes to be giving out a lot of tickets this summer as part of a new ticketing program.

Only, instead of citing people for things that might need correcting, a new ticketing campaign will help recognize youth for the things they are doing well in terms of citizenship, safety and cooperation.

The Athabasca and Area Health & Wellness Community Coalition brought forward a proposal to create a positive ticketing program involving County youth. It was brought forward to County Council for consideration and was approved.

How do youth receive this form of recognition? There are a number of ways.

Positive Ticketing is designed to reward young men and women who are found to be engaging in positive behaviors. Some examples of positive behavior include wearing helmets while biking, riding ATVs, snowmobiling, or crossing roads at designated crosswalks and respecting bylaws and rules of the road while enjoying their summer.

Youth found to be engaging in these positive behaviors and others, will be issued a "ticket" which can be redeemed for a reward at participating local businesses.

"Another important component of the program is to create positive first interactions between youth and County law enforcement that sets a tone of mutual respect for the future," says Oakes.

"We know there are many youth who do conduct themselves in a way worthy of recognition and we are hoping this program will help recognize their efforts."

The Community Coalition is a collaboration of agencies that support community prevention initiatives in an educated, culturally safe, and thoughtful manner and wishes to implement a positive ticketing program with our help.

The 'Positive Ticketing' program began in June and will run until the end of July. Once complete, the program will be evaluated for its effectiveness by the Athabasca and Area Health & Wellness Community Coalition.

Also participating in the positive ticketing program were students at Landing Trail Intermediate School and Edwin Parr Composite in Athabasca. There, it helped to enhance connection between staff and students while also supporting youth to be role models to their peers.

Athabasca County's Peace Officer will pass the tickets out while he is conducting patrols of Hamlets, rural areas and the Village of Boyle, which are all part of his patrol area.

Contact: Jeremy Oakes  
780-675-2273 | cpo@athabascacounty.com

# Road construction underway across municipality

## Investing in our road infrastructure

Athabasca County maintains over 2,400 kms of roads in addition to those existing in the municipality's hamlets. Each year an annual investment is made to keep moving forward on road upkeep and improvement.

Projects are chosen based on criteria surrounding safety for the traveling public, including school bus routes and traffic volumes in addition to the current condition of the roads.

Shoulder pulls are a way to re-contour and re-compact the driving surfaces of roads. This year 18 miles of shoulder pulls are being conducted.

A total of 6 miles of major road reconstruction is part of the summer work plan in 2016. In addition the Road Graveling Program will see designated County roads receive new gravel. The program is a plan to haul gravel onto County roads on a rotational basis every 4-6 years.

During the 2016 construction season three major projects have been identified and will be conducted this summer:

- The Hamlet of Grassland will see road



**ROAD UPGRADES** - a track hoe operator puts finishing touches on Township Road 650 near Meanook. The road was upgraded to reduce its grade and improve drainage.

structure repairs and a new layer of asphalt added to all existing paved streets within the hamlet;

- Blue Heron Estates will see paved road surface repairs and resurfacing;
- Golden Nodding Drive will see their paved

road surfaces repaired and resurfaced.

All totaled the County is investing a total of \$4.1 million into the above mentioned work this year.

**Contact: Infrastructure Services**  
780-675-2273|info@athabascacounty.com

# Farm, Food and Safety awareness among youth

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The day was also about showing the students where their food comes from and the care and attention it takes to produce enough food for us all.

It was a great day that wouldn't have been possible without the contributions of the Athabasca Hutterite Colony, Fortis, Athabasca Veterinary Services, and Athabasca Deerland who all contributed to the event by attending and interacting with the students and staff.

Athabasca County received a grant from the Agriculture for Life program

to host the event. The educational displays were courtesy of the Alberta Farm Safety Program.

The Farm, Food and Safety Day is seen as an extension of the Agriculture in the Classroom program which is also offered to area Grade 4 classrooms.

Athabasca County's Agriculture Services Department also offers a number of educational seminars during the winter months for producers to attend.

**Contact: Trent Keller**  
780-675-2273|tkeller@athabascacounty.com



**POWERLINE SAFETY** - Fortis Linesman Greg Topola shows students his work belt and harness used to climb power poles.

# Invasive Weed Alert: watch out for Woolly Burdock



Woolly Burdock was first found in Athabasca County about five years ago and producers are reminded to call the County's Agriculture Services Department if plants are found.

A biennial member of the Aster family, Woolly Burdock produces a mounding rosette of leaves in the first season of growth and a large, cylindrical taproot.

In the second year of growth it produces a flowering stalk, and then dies. It tends to

occupy sites with disturbed ground. Flowering occurs from July to October. Stems can grow to a length of 250 cm and are branched.

Woolly Burdock reproduces by seed only. The burred seed is easily dispersed by human and animal movement.

For more information about Woolly Burdock visit: [www.albertinvasives.ca](http://www.albertinvasives.ca) or contact the Athabasca County Agriculture Services Department.

# Seniors' Symposium raises awareness of elder abuse



The Athabasca Seniors' Symposium is an annual, one-day conference with a focus of connecting area seniors with information, contacts and services.

While it's not easy to discuss, elder abuse was also a topic at this year's conference.

Those attending were taken through a number of scenarios that would be considered forms of abuse by Irene Fitzsimmons, Elder Abuse Project Coordinator with the Community Action for Healthy Relationships Network.

"Financial abuse is the number one type of abuse among seniors," she explained, pointing out that 25 per cent of elder abuse cases involve immediate family members and in most cases is bolstered by isolation due to location or mobility.

Other forms of abuse include emotional,



**PROTECTING SENIORS** - Irene Fitzsimmons addressed the issue of elder abuse at the 8th Annual Athabasca Seniors' Symposium held at the Athabasca Seniors' Centre.

physical, neglect, sexual, medication as well as spiritual and rights violations (ageism).

While children can be removed from abusive situations, older adults are often the ones left behind in these less than ideal situations putting them at further risk. Fitzsimmons says it is now being recognized as a growing

problem and work is underway to provide help to seniors.

"The more we can start talking about this, the more we can work together to address elder abuse," she surmised.

Fitzsimmons is one of 19 coordinators stationed around the province to help communities

coordinate a response to elder abuse. She travels between Westlock, Barrhead and Athabasca conducting her work.

A local advisory group is being created to look at issues surrounding elder abuse.

Should you wish to get in contact with Irene she can be reached directly by calling 780-689-8560.

## OTHER SYMPOSIUM TOPICS

This year's conference also included presentations about heart health, fitness, finances and taxation.

"We are very thankful for all those who continue to support our event," says Kim Lewis, Seniors' Advocate, Athabasca FCSS.

"Our appreciation goes out to all those who sponsored, donated door prizes and shared information with our seniors this year."

Contact: Kim Lewis, Seniors Advocate  
780-675-2623|

# Mentorship program wraps-up busy 2016 season

The Athabasca Mentorship Program (AMP) held its official wrap-up luncheon at the Athabasca Seniors' Centre.

AMP celebrated another great year with 32 active mentors. The program will be celebrating its 15th year of operation this year.

Speaking to all those who attended, including sponsors, donors, mentors, mentees and parents, Mentorship Program Coordinator Karen Wintonyk thanked the mentors who dedicated their time to the program this year.

"You have helped make the program what it is today and you are making a difference in the lives of our mentees."

Adult volunteers (mentors) meet with students (mentees) at lunchtime once a week either at WHPS (Gr. 3) or LTIS (Gr. 4) from October to May. The time together is spent having lunch and doing whatever activities they enjoy such as sports, baking, playing games or talking.

If you are interested in getting involved in the 2016-17 Mentorship season contact the Athabasca FCSS office.

Contact: Karen Wintonyk  
Community Mentorship Program Coordinator  
780-675-2623 | kwintonyk@athabascacounty.com



**WRAP UP LUNCHEON** - Mentors and mentees gather for a photo at a wrap-up luncheon for the 2015-16 Mentorship season. Mentees were asked to read letters they wrote to their adult mentors expressing their thoughts about the program. "You made me feel special because you shared your time with me," said one of the youth. "Thank you for planning the best activities. You are very special to me," said another. Interested adults can find out more about the program by contact the Athabasca FCSS office.

**County Office**  
for general inquiries

780.675.2273 | 1.844.662.2273

**Public Works**  
road & maintenance issues

780.675.2404 | 1.844.675.2404

**After Hours Emergencies**  
safety issues evenings/weekends

780.689.9000



**Athabasca County**  
at the centre of it all

www.athabascacounty.com

The Athabasca County Connection newsletter is produced bi-monthly and is available to every resident by mail or electronically through email or on our website.

To receive or cancel your copy call the County Administration Office at 780-675-2273 | 1-844-662-2273 or via email: connection@athabascacounty.com

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