



athabasca county connection

A newsletter for residents and businesses of Athabasca County

October 2017

Your County. Your Vote.

Monday | Municipal
Oct. 16 | Election Day



KEY DATES

Advance Vote: Friday, October 13

- Community Centre - Breynat
- Athabasca County Administration Office (located in Athabasca)
- Time: 12 noon to 8 pm

Election Day: Monday, October 16

Polling stations throughout County
Time: 10 am to 8 pm

* See a list of all County polling stations on the back page.

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

A person is eligible to vote in the 2017 Municipal election if they:

- Have not voted before in this election;
- Are 18 years of age or older;
- Are a Canadian Citizen;
- Have resided in Alberta for six (6) consecutive months immediately preceding Election Day;
- Are a resident in the Voting Subdivision/Ward in which you are voting, on Election Day; and,
- Produce appropriate Identification.

An elector is eligible to vote once at the polling station for the voting district in which their place of residence is located on election day.

Understanding election I.D. requirements

Voters must produce identification at polling stations

In September 2013 some changes were made to the election process in Alberta and they remain in place for the 2017 municipal election.

The first change had to do with a new requirement for voters to confirm their eligibility to vote by producing identification (ID).

Electors will be asked to show one piece of Photo I.D. issued by a Canadian government, whether federal, provincial or local, or an agency of that government, that contains a photo of the elector and his/her name and current address, **(OR)**



Your Alberta Driver's license is just one form of identification being accepted on election day prior to voting at a polling station. There are many other forms of ID being accepted (see full list below).

One piece of ID authorized by the Chief Electoral Officer under the Election Act for the purposes of section 95(1)(a)(ii) of that Act that establishes the elector's name and current address (see full list below). The second change had to do with councilor length of service. When candidates are sworn in, they will be signing on to serve a four-year term as a Councilor for Athabasca County.

All Voters MUST provide one piece of identification issued by a Canadian Government whether federal, provincial, local or an agency of that government, that contains a photograph of the elector and his/her name and current address.

Examples of these include:

- operator/driver's License; or,
- government photo I.D. card (non-drivers).

Other Forms of Acceptable ID may include:

- Bank/credit card statement, personal cheque;
- School, college or university correspondence;
- Government cheque or cheque stub;
- Income/property tax assessment notice;
- Insurance policy or coverage card;
- Letter from a public curator, public guardian or public trustee;
- Pension Plan statement of benefits, contributions or participation;
- Residential lease or mortgage statement;
- Utility bill: e.g. Telephone, public utilities commission, television, electricity, gas or water;

- Vehicle ownership, registration or insurance certificate;
- Statement of government benefits: e.g. Employment insurance, old-age security, social assistance, disability support, or child tax benefit;
- A letter or form (attestation) confirming that the person lives at the stated address. The letter can be signed by any of the following authorized representatives of:
 - a commercial property management company, correctional institution;
 - a First Nations band, or reserve;
 - a post-secondary institution;
 - a facility that provides services to the homeless; (or)
 - authorized representative of a supportive living facility or treatment centre.

Need more
2017 election
information?

Turn to the back page for:

- Candidates acclaimed in three divisions
- Where to vote/ polling station locations

Phone or Email
780-675-2273 / 8-5 weekdays
www.athabascacounty.com

County Briefs

Residential Driveway Snowplowing Program

We remind those wishing to have their driveways cleared from snow this winter that snowplow flags are available for purchase at the County Administration Office for a cost of \$50 each.

Each flag is good for one driveway plowing.

A Residential Driveway Hold Harmless Agreement must be signed by the land owner before snowplow flags can be purchased.

Seasonal Campsite applications available

Each year the County makes seasonal campsites available at both Forfar Recreation Park and Hope Lake Campground.

Applications for the 2018 camping season are now available on our website or by visiting the County Administration Office in Athabasca.

Farm Woman of the Year Call for Nominations



Do you know of a deserving Farm Woman who makes exceptional contributions to a farm operation and her community?

Nominate her today to receive a Pioneer Farm Woman or Modern Farm Woman of the Year Award.

Nomination forms are available by visiting the Athabasca County Administration Office, downloading them from athabascacounty.com or contacting Roxanne Senyk by telephone at 780-675-2273.

The nomination deadline is January 11, 2018. Plan to attend the 2018 Farm Women's Conference and Awards on Thursday, February 8 at the Rochester Community Hall.



BREAKFAST ADDRESS - Deputy Reeve Warren Griffin speaks at the 2017 Athabasca District Chamber of Commerce Mayor's and Reeve's Breakfast. His address recapped work done by the County and Council over the last four years and highlighted some work on the horizon for the municipality in the coming months and years. The breakfast is an annual event hosted by the Chamber to connect business people with their elected representatives.

How to properly cancel false alarms: silencing the panel is not enough

False alarms are not only a drain on resources and personnel but they can take personnel away from the real emergency.

Security and Fire alarm systems are becoming a more popular item for homeowners to protect their homes, businesses and belongings. When used correctly these systems are a valuable tool for protecting your property.

With this increase in alarm systems also comes an increase in false alarms and the need for first responders to attend them. False alarms are not only a drain on resources and personnel but they also may take personnel away from real emergencies.

Remember that Police, Fire and EMS must treat all alarm calls as a genuine emergency until proven otherwise.

Should your alarm system go off when there is no emergency, remember that turning off or silencing the system at the control panel only stops the alarm from going off at your property. A chain of events has already been set in motion.

Police, fire or ambulance have been notified and may already be on their way to your location. Any time an Emergency Response Vehicle is travelling with lights and sirens there is an element of risk to both the responders and the public.



Understanding how alarm systems and personal alarms can be cancelled is important to reducing the number of false alarms and keeping our emergency response system working well.

In most cases, after silencing the alarm panel, you must call your alarm company to advise them that you have had a false alarm. The alarm company will then normally contact first responders through appropriate channels to advise them of the false alarm.

By doing your part to reduce false alarm calls you are helping reduce the burden on our local first responders.

Rochester Fire Hall beneficiary of FCC AgriSpirit Fund

A new fire hall being constructed in the hamlet of Rochester will receive a portion of its funding from a grant to help support rural capital projects.

Athabasca County applied to receive a Farm Credit Canada (FCC) AgriSpirit Fund grant and is one of 78 projects across the country to be selected to receive funds as part of the 2017 application period.

The FCC AgriSpirit Fund awards between \$5,000 and \$25,000 for community improvement projects such as hospitals and medical centres, fire and rescue equipment, playgrounds, food banks, libraries, arenas, swimming pools, recreation areas and community centres.

Athabasca County received a cheque for \$20,000 to use towards the project at a cheque presentation that took place in Rochester on Tuesday, October 3, 2017 at the site of the new facility.

The remainder of the project costs will be paid by Athabasca County as part of its ongoing investment into facilities and equipment for the provision of emergency services.

"The FCC AgriSpirit Fund is an investment in rural Canada," said Sophie Perreault, FCC executive vice-president and chief operating officer.

"It's about partnering with individuals and groups who are committing their time and energy for the purpose of bettering their communities."



FUNDING PRESENTATION - Sam Kluthe, Relationship Manager - FCC Westlock, Ron Jackson, Director of Emergency Services - Athabasca County, Megan Balascak, Relationship Manager - FCC Westlock, Larry Speers, Athabasca County Councillor - Division 1, and Darren Siemens - Rochester Fire Chief, met for a cheque presentation in front of the new Rochester Fire Hall on Tuesday, October 3.

The new fire hall will expand the ability of volunteer fire fighters in Rochester to quickly access trucks and fire fighting equipment. The 4,000 square foot facility will have the ability to store all equipment under one roof, will have four bays that house a pumper, a water tender, a rescue unit and a wildland unit.

There will also be a meeting/training room for members of the local department to use.

"The funds received as part of the FCC AgriSpirit Fund are helping to bring construction of the fire

hall to a timely completion," says Ron Jackson, Director of Emergency Services.

"Investments in our fire halls, training for staff, and equipment are important to the ability of our volunteer fire fighters to respond to a variety of different emergencies, protect property and in some cases, save lives."

The Rochester Fire Hall will be completed in the spring of 2018.

Staff contact: [Ron Jackson, Director of Emergency Services](mailto:Ron.Jackson@athabascacounty.com)
rjackson@athabascacounty.com

Aviation maintenance business to open at airport

Business to relocate from St. Paul region to the Athabasca Regional Airport

The main hangar at the Athabasca Regional Airport (CYWM) will soon be home to an aircraft maintenance engineering business.

A lease agreement has been signed with North Country Air Maintenance Ltd. and the business will be moving operations from St. Paul to Athabasca. North Country provides aircraft maintenance services to customers from all over Alberta and will occupy about half of the hangar, in addition to an office located in the building.

"The establishment of an aviation-related business at the Athabasca Regional Airport is important to the facility's continued growth," says Norm De Wet, airport administrator.

"The Airport Committee is happy to welcome this business to our region."

Not only will the addition of aviation maintenance services provide important services to the aviation community but it will help introduce CYWM to new users, bolster fuel sales, and potentially attract more users to the facility.

"It was a big decision to relocate my business to Athabasca, but when I looked at the proximity to family and clients, and the opportunity that presents, the decision was made easier," says Derrick Woytovicz, owner of North Country Air Maintenance.

"I liked the overall direction of the airport and certainly felt the hangar was a good match for my business and those who utilize our services."

Athabasca County took ownership of the hangar from Alberta Central Airways in February,

2014 with a goal of eventually attracting another aviation business back to the facility.

Since that time it has provided a central location to store airport maintenance equipment, and temporary storage for Athabasca County owned equipment. A portion of the hangar will still be utilized for this purpose.

The lease agreement for the hangar was signed in the middle of September. North Country Air Maintenance plans to open for business in January 2018.

North Country Air Maintenance is the only aircraft maintenance engineering business in the region and will have customers flying into Athabasca from all around the province.

Staff contact: [Norm De Wet, Airport Administrator](mailto:Norm.DeWet@athabascacounty.com)
info@athabascacounty.com

Election 2017: The role of your municipal leaders

Being elected as a County Councilor is an important personal decision to make for those deciding to put their name forward for election.

On average, a County Councilor can expect to commit approximately 120 days per year (10 days per month) to meetings, conferences, and municipal functions.

Acclaimed Councilors

At the close of Nomination Day on September 18, 2017 three divisions in the County had their candidates acclaimed.

The following divisions will be represented for a four-year term by the candidates listed below:

Division 2 - Dennis Willcott

Division 3 - Doris Splane

Division 7 - Travais Johnson

Meetings are currently scheduled on weekdays, commencing at 9:30 a.m. Some committees and affiliated boards may meet in the evening.

The role of a municipal councilor is guided by the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)* which is set out by the Government of Alberta.

According to the MGA, councilors must base any decision on what is best for the entire municipality. Council's effectiveness depends on councilors providing input on their areas while thinking and voting for the whole municipality.

Councilors are responsible for understanding these guidelines, and others, as they pertain to their role within the municipality.

The Role of Reeve and Deputy Reeve

The Reeve and Deputy Reeve are chosen by fellow Councilors at an organizational meeting held each October.

Being appointed to either of these positions carries additional duties such as appearing at public functions to speak and represent the municipality, and chairing Regular Council Meetings that occur twice monthly. The Reeve is also the designated liaison with other levels of government.

In 2013, election cycles changed in Alberta and now all those elected to municipal office will serve a four-year term. This means municipal and school division elections can be expected in the third week in October every four years.

VOTING will be held for the election of the following offices:

Office(s)	Number of Vacancies	Electoral Division Number
Councilor	1	1
Councilor	1	4
Councilor	1	5
Councilor	1	6
Councilor	1	8
Councilor	1	9

2017 Municipal Election - polling station locations

Division 1 - Rochester/Perryvale

Candidates: Allen D. Balay
Dwayne Rawson

Polling Stations

- Rochester Community Hall
- Perryvale Community Hall

Division 5 - East Athabasca

Candidates: Mike Cottrell
Kevin Haines

Polling Stations

- Amber Valley Community Hall
- Athabasca & District Senior Citizens

Division 8 - Baptiste/Island Lake

Candidates: Larry P. Armfelt
Gloria Bury

Polling Stations

- Grosmont Community Hall
- Athabasca & District Senior Citizens

Division 4 - Southwest Athabasca

Candidates: Christine Bilsky
Douglas Slatnik

Polling Stations

- Forfar Community Hall
- Athabasca & District Senior Citizens

Division 6 - Wandering River

Candidates: Jack Dowhaluk
Penny Stewart

Polling Stations

- Wandering River Seniors' Drop-In Centre
- Amber Valley Community Hall

Division 9 - North Athabasca River

Candidates: Warren Griffin
Harold P. Krawec

Polling Stations

- Richmond Park Community Hall
- Athabasca & District Senior Citizens

Date and Time to Vote

Voting will take place Monday, October 16, 2017
between the hours of 10 am and 8 pm
DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR ID WITH YOU!



Athabasca County
at the centre of it all

www.athabascacounty.com

The Athabasca County Connection newsletter is produced quarterly 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 or send an email to communications@athabascacounty.com

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