

2013 Clubroot survey says: no new infections found

When seven Clubroot locations were detected in Athabasca County back in 2012 nobody knew the extent of its foothold.

Considered by Alberta Agriculture as a serious soil-borne disease of canola, mustard and cole crops, Clubroot has been declared a pest under the Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta RSA 2000.

Clubroot was first found in a Canola field near Edmonton in 2003. Since then it has been spreading to many Counties in Alberta.

Athabasca County continues to be vigilant in determining how much Clubroot is in the region. During the summer of 2013 field surveys were conducted by the Agricultural Services Department and the results are encouraging.

"After checking 228 fields not one sample of Clubroot was found," explained Trent Keller, farm production specialist, to members of the Agricultural Services Board at their August meeting. "Even though this was the outcome of the surveys, I want to caution there can still be Clubroot out there."

Keller says once Clubroot spores exist in soil it takes considerable time to eradicate them, as long as 20 years. For grain farming operations, the spores are usually transferred by infected



Clubroot affects the yield and health of canola crops. It was detected in Athabasca County in 2012 but inspections of over 200 fields in 2013 haven't turned up any new infestations.

soil that is tagged on equipment and moved to a non-infected field.

Two information sessions were planned, one in Grassland (fall 2012) and another in Athabasca (spring 2013), which invited grain producers to find out more about Clubroot. Organized by the Agricultural Services Board, they armed those who attended with effective management practices and information to help combat the disease.

The County's Weed Inspectors, through the *Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta*, can conduct random field inspections of canola crops. Priority is placed on those canola crops that appear to be in distress. The inspections

follow a standardized procedure set out by Agricultural Services administration on proper sampling techniques and protocol for entering fields.

When land is verified positive for Clubroot, the landowner is notified in writing with a legal notice under Athabasca County's Clubroot Management Policy. As recommended by the Canola Council of Alberta, the policy says farmers should not grow canola more frequently than once every four years. This helps avert a severe infestation and is similar to policies set in Europe where Clubroot is more established.

Planting Clubroot-resistant varieties on fields without the disease can be useful when the soil disease is present nearby. This greatly reduces the chance of disease development and establishment in case a producer inadvertently transfers Clubroot spores.

"The industry continues to look for other options for grain producers such as finding a greater number of Canola varieties that are Clubroot-resistant," explains Keller. "We will continue surveying for Clubroot in the region to see what the extent of it is next year and have appreciated the cooperation of area producers."

Staff contact: [Trent Keller, farm production specialist](mailto:Trent.Keller@athabascacounty.com)
tkeller@athabascacounty.com

2013 Municipal Election - polling station locations

Division 1 - Rochester/Perryvale

Candidates: Allen Balay
Larry Speers

Polling Stations

- Rochester Community Hall
- Perryvale Community Hall

Division 2 - Colinton

Candidates: Denis Willcott
Frank Ponto

Polling Stations

- Athabasca & District Senior Citizens (4810 - 48 St., Athabasca, AB)
- Colinton Community Hall
- New Pine Creek Community Hall

Division 3 - Boyle

Candidates: Doris Splane
Wes Kowalchuk

Polling Stations

- Boyle Community Centre (5002 - 3rd St., Boyle, AB)
- Caslan Community Hall
- Ellscott Community Hall

Voting will take place
Monday, October 21, 2013
between the hours of
10 am and 8 pm

Division 4 - Southwest Athabasca

Candidates: Christine Bilsky
Brian Bahry

Polling Stations

- Forfar Community Hall
- Athabasca & District Senior Citizens (4810 - 48 St., Athabasca, AB)

Division 7 - Grassland

Candidates: David Yurdiga
Howard Hrynyk

Polling Stations

- Grassland Community Hall

Four candidates acclaimed

At the close of Nomination Day on September 23, 2013 four 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 5 - Kevin Haines
Division 6 - Jack Dowhaluk

Division 8 - Larry Armfelt
Division 9 - Warren Griffin

Your County.
Your Vote.

Monday | Municipal
Oct. 21 | Election Day



Preparations continue for the 2013 Municipal Election and there is information available for voters about election day.

KEY DATES

Advance Vote: Oct. 19, 2013

- Grassland Community Hall, and
 - Athabasca County Administration Office (located in Athabasca)
- Time: 12 noon to 8 pm

Election Day: Oct. 21, 2013

Polling stations throughout County
Time: 10 am to 8 pm.

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

A person is eligible to vote in the 2013 Municipal election if they:

- are at least 18 years of age;
- are a Canadian citizen;
- have resided in Alberta for the six (6) consecutive months immediately preceding election day;
- have a place of residence that is located in the voting division of Athabasca County on election day;
- provided the required proof of eligibility as required by Section 53 of the *Local Authorities Election Act* or by local bylaw.

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.

New ID process in place for 2013 election

Voters must produce identification at polling stations

The 2013 Municipal Election is just around the corner and voters need to be aware of some changes made to the election process.

The first change has 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 ID 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,



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).

(OR)

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 has 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. This has been increased from the existing three year term.

Accepted forms of I.D. at polling stations

The *Local Authorities Election Act*, Section 53, states that can provide one piece of identification issued by a Canadian Government (federal, provincial, local or an agency), that establishes the name and address of the elector.

Examples of these include:

- operator/driver's License;
- government photo I.D. card (for non drivers);
- bank/credit card statement, personal cheque;
- correspondence issued by a school, college or university;
- government cheque or cheque stub;
- insurance policy or coverage card;
- letter from a public curator, public guardian or public trustee;
- pension plan statement of benefits, contributions or participation;
- prescription bottle insert;

- residential lease or mortgage statement;
- statement of government benefits (employment insurance, old-age security, social assistance, disability support or child tax benefit);
- utility bill (telephone, public utilities commission, television, power, gas or water);
- vehicle ownership or insurance certificate.

One of the following will also be accepted, issued by the responsible authority of a shelter or soup kitchen:

- attestation of residence;
- admission form;
- letter of stay;
- statement of benefits.



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 or sending an email to connection@athabascacounty.com

Join us on
social media



Need more
2013 election
information?

See the back page for information on:

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

www.athabascacounty.com

election2013@athabascacounty.com

780-675-2273 / 8-5 weekdays

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 2014 camping season are now available on our website or by visiting the County Administration Office in Athabasca.

Bridge upgrades taking place across County

Seven County bridges will see a variety of work beginning in November.

The County's bridge contractor will be removing and repairing superstructures, installing new timber caps and bridge rails, working on pilings and a variety of other work.

The bridges to see this work are currently posted with weight restrictions due to the repairs needed. The upgrades will return them back to their legal weight limits.

Some traffic delays can be expected while this work takes place. Drivers should watch for the direction of flag people or workers at these sites.

The work is slated to be completed early in the new year pending good construction weather.

Stat holiday closure

All Athabasca County offices, including Family and Community Support Services, and Public Works, will be closed on Monday, October 14, 2013 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Somoto people empowered to 'recycle'

It is the determination and work ethic of the people of Somoto that keep the spirit of the Municipal Partners for Economic Development going.

Athabasca County is proud of its involvement with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) project. Not only does it continue to help Nicaraguans in Somoto recycle, and earn a living doing it, but the idea of recycling has grown to involve schools and the community.

Athabasca County Reeve David Yurdiga and County Manager Gary Buchanan took part in a recent mission to Somoto which among other activities included the opening of a recycling center, the judging an eco-mural contest and conducting a workshop on school based recycling, both at a local school.

"These three events showed that recycling, and thinking about the environment, are increasingly becoming part of the culture," says David Yurdiga, Reeve of Athabasca County.

Somoto, like many communities in Nicaragua, has challenges with increased rural to urban migration. Resources are strained to provide basic services and the local government has other priorities from funding economic development activities.

This is where the Municipal Partners for Economic Development (MPED) mission has made a great difference.

On its first visit to Somoto, MPED members found out many Nicaraguans used firewood to cook with. It raised concerns over deforestation



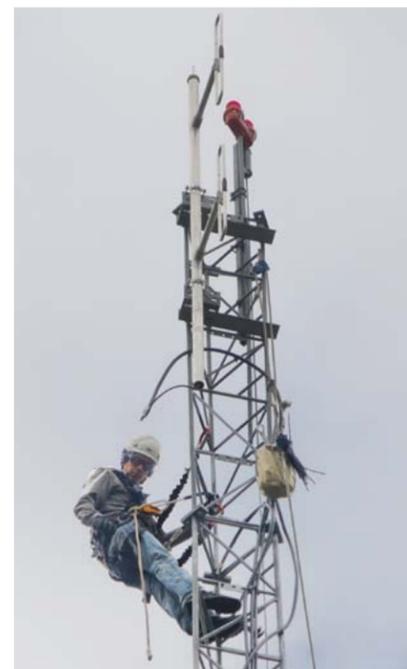
Athabasca County Reeve David Yurdiga helps cut the ribbon to the a new recycling centre in Somoto, Nicaragua.

in the region. Very little in terms of recycling was being done

Today recycled paper briquettes, developed as a result of the mission, are an economical and environmental way of helping the people of Somoto not only prepare their meals but increase recycling.

The recent mission also included leading a workshop on creating and operating a local chamber of commerce and another workshop introducing two types of youth employment programs to the community.

A visit of local businesses, a tour of Somoto's new ecological interpretive centre and participation in the 2nd Annual Rosquillas Festival rounded out the mission.



High-flying repairs made to County tower

Athabasca County has some spectacular vistas to take in but a recent upgrade to a communications tower next to the Administration Building took that sentiment to a new level.

Tavis Young, a technician with Glentel, saw that view first hand when he was replacing a cable connected to an antenna at the very top of the tower.

Over time, due to weather and changing temperatures, the shielding within the cable loses its integrity and allows stray frequencies to enter it causing interference.

The County's radio tower is integral to keeping communications and safety at a high standard for the County's Fire Department who is the primary user of the radios.

Left - Tavis Young is tethered off just below the very top of a 150 ft radio tower located next to Athabasca County's Administration Office. He was working to replace an antenna cable which helps carry signal to radios in County equipment.

Colinton Open House discusses community's vision

A draft concept of what Colinton could look like in the future was the basis for discussion at an Area Structure Plan meeting hosted by the County at the Colinton Community Centre.

The draft concept followed an Open Space Design Concept which preserves open space, keeps agricultural land in production and retains existing stands of trees.

The concept was put together using the input from surveys returned to the County's Planning and Development Department by residents of the community.

Walking trails were high on the list of items the majority of respondents wanted for Colinton.

Concerns about those who use trails in an irresponsible fashion were brought forward. The proposed trail location also wasn't ideal for some residents who attended.

They were asked to share their ideas for a more suitable route through the community. During the second part of the meeting, maps and pens were provided for participants to draw their preferred route for the trail.

By the end of the meeting both groups felt any trail would have to be a multi-use trail to accommodate those riding horses, bicycles, ATVs, snowmobiles and others walking their dogs or going for a stroll.

With future growth, Colinton will require a wastewater lagoon expansion. Currently, the lagoon can accommodate the current



Director of Community Services Rob Hershey, County Councilor Doris Splane, Gina Payzant and Travis Olsen take part in a group discussion at the recent Colinton Area Structure Plan Open House that gathered ideas from residents about how they want to see their community grow.

population and an additional 93 people.

The meeting and open portion of the meeting also prompted a discussion about the possibility of adding sidewalks in the community and traffic flow.

All of the concepts will require the approval of Athabasca County Council and will have to meet all provincial development and environmental guidelines.

"This is about coming up with a plan that includes the input of residents of Colinton," says Neil Chadda, planning intern.

"Although not everyone agreed with the draft concept, it succeeded in getting everyone talking about what they really wanted to see happen in Colinton. That was our real goal."

Staff contact: [Neil Chadda, planner](mailto:Neil.Chadda@athabascacounty.com)
nchadda@athabascacounty.com



Norman De Wet, Health Safety and Facilities Coordinator, goes over a progress checklist of the new FCSS building with Debbie Wood, Manager of FCSS. They stand in what will be the foyer of the new facility.

New FCSS building: on track

Construction of the new Family & Community Support Services (FCSS) building next to the County Administration Office in Athabasca is on track.

Construction began June 1, 2013, and both inside and out, there are signs of the project coming closer to completion.

Outside, the building has had its roof shingled, windows and doors installed, its stucco finish started and all underground services connected to it. Landscaping and other finishing touches are scheduled to take place in the spring.

Inside, all electrical and communication cables, drywall, doors and hardware are now in place. Flooring, painting will soon be underway and furniture and lighting fixtures will find their new home.

"It is very exciting to work on this project and see the potential it holds for the programs we run," says Deb Wood, Manager of FCSS.

"This is a place that will give us increased opportunity to help children, families and the community reach their goals for many years."

Programs that will call the new FCSS building home are: the Parent Link Centre, Early Childhood Development, Meals on Wheels, Seniors Advocate, Family School Liaison, Early Intervention, Family Matters Diversion Program along with additional community programming and mentorship coordination.

There will be a total of 12 FCSS staff working in the new facility.

Staff contact: [Deb Wood, Manager FCSS](mailto:Deb.Wood@athabascacounty.com)
debbie@fcssathabasca.com