



Council **Highlights**



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING - November 13, 2018

Long & Narrow Lakes

- A delegation from Alberta Environment & Parks took Council through the reasoning for the proposed designation of Long and Narrow Lakes as a provincial park.
- North East Regional Director Luc Nowicki and Community Relations Planner Jennifer Okrainec explained the decision process behind the shift in the original proposed designation as a Natural Area.
- They said a provincial park designation will help meet the original protections desired for the lakes brought forward by the Long and Narrow Lake Stewardship Society.
- The information will be presented as part of a public consultation process led by Environment and Parks. The date for the consultation has not been announced.
- County Council remains in favour of measures to protect the integrity of Long and Narrow Lake region, and its various uses, for the enjoyment of future generations.

RCMP Update

- The Athabasca and Boyle RCMP detachments presented their quarterly report to Council.
- Of note was the positive impact the RCMP's Crime Reduction Unit is having arresting some of those responsible for thefts in the region. The unit has a specific focus of catching prolific offenders and works with all detachments to track them down in Northeastern Alberta.
- Also noted was the positive impact increased Integrated Traffic Unit presence on Hwy 63 is making. To date in 2018 4,600 tickets were issued for speeding. The increased presence has resulted in reducing the average speed from 130 km/h to 120 km/h.
- The RCMP presentation reported that although there has been an increase in speeds since the highway was twinned fatal collision numbers have dropped significantly.

Heavy Haul Network

- Athabasca County has joined a province-wide system that helps oversize and heavy haul trucking companies attain necessary haul permits.
- The system is operated by a private company called Roadata which has been in operation since 2008. Haulers can contact the company to attain all necessary permits along their route of travel, including Athabasca County.
- Council set a fee of \$20 to attain the permit effective January 1, 2019. The fee will help cover the costs of the new system and will provide a one-stop place for heavy and oversize haul permits.

Safe Workplace Achievement

- Athabasca County has received an overall mark of 98% following its 3-year external safety audit. The audit was completed by another municipality that reviewed the actions, knowledge of OH&S legislation, and record keeping of the County.
- Council commended County Staff for the achievement and their commitment to safety in their work. It was noted a high safety rating reduces costs and improves service delivery.

Coalition 4 Success Awarded

- A summer respite program designed to support families and guardians with children who present challenging behaviours will be awarded for its work at the Family & Community Support Services Association of Alberta annual conference on November 29.
- The Coalition 4 Success is a program that helps children be part of a larger community and learn social skills among their peers.
- With a total of 17 local agencies and organizations participating, including Athabasca FCSS, the outcomes have been recognized and other communities are now prototyping the program.