



2008

ANNUAL

REPORT

Administration Office

**4902 - 50th Street
Box 358
Sedgewick AB T0B 4C0**

**Phone 780.384.4100
Toll Free 1.877.387.4100
Fax 780.384.3635
www.flagstaff.ab.ca**

FLAGSTAFF COUNTY COUNCIL



Division 2
Reeve
GERALD KUEFLER



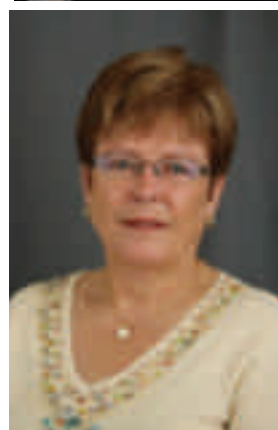
Division 1
Councillor
BILL REISTER



Division 3
Councillor
HENRY HAYS



Division 4
Councillor
GUNNAR
ALBRECHT



Division 5
Councillor
CHARLOTTE
CURTIS



Division 6
Councillor
RICK BERGSETH



Division 7
Councillor
BOB
MATTHIESSEN



MESSAGE FROM REEVE GERALD KUEFLER

Flagstaff County Council recognized the need for a vision to facilitate long term planning for our Community. Council developed a vision and a strategic plan, which was presented to the public last year, to guide us on our journey towards the “Community of Communities”. Council is committed to working with our neighboring towns and villages to develop our Community. One major initiative is the review of the County Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw. The MDP and LUB will be reviewed with the goal of being compatible with goals and aspirations of our towns and villages, so that development in the region will have a unified plan. Moving ahead with some initiatives will be controversial; however Council believes we cannot continue doing the same thing as in the past and move ahead. Council will be looking at all programs and services within our “Community of Communities” and moving ahead with a responsible level of service that is efficient and effective. Efficient and effective means council will balance the cost to provide the service against a practical level of service as part of our decision making process.

With the Strategic Plan initiatives guiding council towards the vision, the community will be moving toward an exciting and prosperous future.

County Council would like to express their gratitude to the staff for their dedication. We would also like to express our appreciation to our citizen’s for their support and we look forward to serving you in 2009.

RECREATION

Flagstaff County contributed a total of \$324,500 towards recreation in our Towns & Villages in 2008.

Flagstaff County feels that recreation is an important service to provide and continues to support recreation facilities by providing grants to the ten Towns and Villages.

Operating Grants

In 2008, the operational funding contributions were \$275,000 paid out to our Towns and Villages. The distribution is based on the facilities in each area. The Towns and Villages must commit to match the funding on a per capita basis in order to receive this funding.

The 2008 recreational operating grants totaling \$275,000 were paid to the Towns and Villages as follows:

• Alliance	\$ 9,830
• Daysland	\$ 34,279
• Forestburg	\$ 47,385
• Galahad	\$ 10,334
• Hardisty	\$ 40,832
• Heisler	\$ 10,334
• Killam	\$ 45,873
• Loughheed	\$ 21,928
• Sedgewick	\$ 42,596
• Strome	\$ 11,594

Capital Grants

In addition to the above, Flagstaff County continued with the program to fund capital recreation projects. The funding for the capital program was \$49,500, with the maximum funding per project to be \$25,000. In 2008 Flagstaff County funded the following organizations which totaled \$49,500 as listed below:

• Alliance Recreation Board	\$ 3,775
• Sedgewick Lake Park	\$ 4,719
• Sedgewick Golf Club	\$ 1,132
• Killam Recreation Board	\$ 1,179
• Hardisty Lakeview Golf	\$ 4,719
• Hardisty Arena Board	\$ 11,797
• Forestburg Arena Building	\$ 11,797
• Forestburg Recreation Board	\$ 10,382

Visit our web site for information on council meeting minutes, agricultural service board, development and planning, emergency services, employment opportunities, law enforcement, tender and quote information, a business directory for all the towns, villages and county businesses, as well as a community guide and staff and council directory.

www.flagstaff.ab.ca

STAFF DIRECTORY

ADMINISTRATION	Inquiries	(780) 384-4100
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Chief Administrative Officer	Shelly Armstrong	(780) 384-4101
Senior Financial Officer	Deb Brodie	(780) 384-4109

ASSESSMENT

Assessor	Pat Hanson	(780) 384-4102
Assistant Assessor	Kelly Larson	(780) 384-4122

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD DEVELOPMENT PLANNING	Inquiries	(780) 384-4118
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Agricultural Fieldman/Development Officer	Brent Hoyland	(780) 384-4104
Assistant Agricultural Fieldman	Laurie Hillaby	(780) 384-4131
Agricultural Technician	Lindsey Barton	(780) 384-4129

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development Executive Assistant	Jennifer Hauser	(780) 384-4121
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PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Peace Officer	Mike Kuzio	(780) 384-4100
Peace Officer	Tabitha Wurtz	(780) 384-4100

PUBLIC WORKS	Inquiries	(780) 384-4110
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Public Works Superintendent	Darrell Szott	(780) 384-4107
Field Coordinators:		
Construction, Bridges & Culverts	John Sarasin	(780) 384-4119
Gravel & Road Maintenance (<i>Disability Leave replacement</i>)	Randy Brodie	(780) 384-4125
Oiling	Gary Longhe	(780) 384-4126
Public Works Industry Liaison	Trina Lassu	(780) 384-4103
Shop Supervisor	Murray Moulder	(780) 384-4106

OFFICE HOURS

The County Office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday except statutory holidays.
The Office is closed daily from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

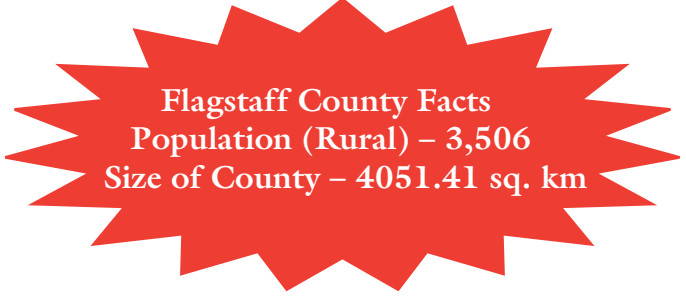
FLAGSTAFF COUNTY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Regular County Council meetings run every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month beginning at 9:00 a.m. Notice of Special Council meetings (not held on a regularly scheduled date) will be posted on the bulletin board in the County Office, on the web page or, if time permits, will be published in the Community Press. Notice of Council Committee meetings will be posted on the bulletin board in the County Office 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

Copies of the adopted Council meeting minutes are available to the public for a nominal fee. A copy of the most recently adopted Council meeting minutes will be posted on the bulletin board in the County Office. This copy will be available for the public until the minutes of the next meeting are adopted and posted. Minutes of the past year can also be viewed on our web site.

Under Section 198 of the Municipal Government Act, the public has a right to be present at Council and Committee meetings that are conducted in public.

Please be advised that given the public nature of Council and Committee meetings, an individual writing to a Councillor or administration of a municipality could have this correspondence including their name and address disclosed at these meetings.



Flagstaff County Facts
Population (Rural) – 3,506
Size of County – 4051.41 sq. km

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Flagstaff is committed to enhancing rural living through economic development opportunities. The focus is to retain and support growth with existing businesses and to attract and assist in the establishment of new business.

The Economic Development Department has had a very busy and fulfilling year. In 2008 Flagstaff County completed two large projects. The first project was our business directory, which is located on our website, at www.flagstaff.ab.ca. The business directory has businesses from all ten towns and villages and the county. This is a great opportunity to help market local business. If you are a business located within Flagstaff County including home based businesses and would like to get more information or be included on the directory, please contact the office. The second big project for the year was our new county brochure which highlights the entire Flagstaff region. The twenty-eight page booklet is full of color photos and features everything we have to offer!

Flagstaff County hosted the 3rd annual Small Business Awards evening with 31 winners for the three categories. The ten towns and villages and county councils nominated the award recipients. The award categories are Small Business of the Year, Rising Star (new business) and Outstanding Contribution to the Community.

2008's award recipients were:

Small Business of the Year

Bob's Corner Services-Alliance
Evil Iron Industries-Galahad
LAWND Calibration Services-Lougheed
Moe's RV Service-Daysland
Subway-Killam
Double Z Farms-Flagstaff County

Envirochem Industries-Forestburg
WMK Corral Cleaning-Heisler
Triple E Concrete-Strome
Dream Creations-Hardisty
The Community Press-Sedgewick

Rising Star (New Business)

Render Trends Hair Studio-Alliance
Heisler Mechanical-Heisler
Cut Above Hair Design-Strome
Great Northern Grain Terminals-Killam
O'Brien Auto body-Flagstaff County

Forestburg Laundromat-Forestburg
Elegant Event Rentals- Lougheed
MW Scrapbooking-Hardisty
Glamour Salon-Sedgewick

Outstanding Contribution to the Community

C.E. Franklin-Alliance
Galahad Hotel-Galahad
Losness Drilling-Lougheed
Kapler's Home Hardware-Daysland
Town and Country Guardian Drugs-Killam
Crowfoot Agri Supplies- Flagstaff County

Forestburg Transit Mix-Forestburg
Robertson's Oilfield Service Ltd- Heisler
Sunridge Signs and Graphics-Strome
Greg's Contracting Services-Hardisty
Dr.A.Meer Professional Corp-Sedgewick

The County is also a member of the Battle River Alliance for Economic Development, Economic Developers of Alberta, Trail of the Buffalo Tourism Association, Alberta Community Economic Development Network and Economic Developers of Alberta. All of these different groups have helped to mentor and further promote our Economic Department and the County.

**For more Economic Development Information please contact
Jennifer Hauser, Economic Development Executive Assistant
Phone (780) 384-4121 or Email: jhauser@flagstaff.ab.ca**

DEVELOPMENT

Building, Electrical, Plumbing and Gas Permits

The Safety Codes Act requires that permits must be obtained for the construction or renovation of all residences, including mobile homes. Building permits are also required for any building to be used for non-farm purposes (industrial, commercial). These permits are required to ensure construction meets the Building Code.

The County has contracted an accredited agency, Albert Permit Pro to issue permits and perform inspections.

Applications for Building, Electrical, Plumbing & Gas Permits may be obtained at the County Office or from Alberta Permit Pro at 1-800-282-6145.

Development Permits

The County Land Use By-law states that no development shall be undertaken within the municipality unless an application for it has been approved and a development permit has been issued. The Development Permit is required to ensure that:

1. Setback regulations are adhered to.
2. The land is properly zoned for the building use (residential, industrial, and commercial).
3. All buildings, improvements and dugouts must be set back a minimum of 50 meters (164 feet) from the center of a County road.
4. Shelterbelts shall be set back from the municipal right of way a minimum of 15 meters.

Applications for Development Permits may be obtained at the County Office.

Subdivisions

Flagstaff County's Subdivision Process:

1. Submission of a completed application with the required fee.
2. Referral to municipal staff, utility companies, and government departments, among other agencies for comment.
3. Notification of subdivision application to adjacent landowners and receipt of input.
4. Decision (tentative approval, tentative approval with conditions, or refusal), normally within 60 days. This occurs when Municipal Planning Services (Alberta) Ltd. prepares a recommendation and submits it to the County Council for approval.
5. Submission of a descriptive plan, Plan of Survey, or other instrument to Municipal Planning Services, together with the required fee for endorsement (final approval).
6. Registration of the Plan or document at the Alberta Land Titles Office.

Applications for Subdivisions may be obtained at the County Office or online at www.munplan.ab.ca

FLAGSTAFF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

	Residential	Non- Residential	Commercial/ Industrial
<u>Development Permits</u>			
Number of Permits Issued	27	14	6
Value of Permits Issued	\$5,867.00	\$1,216.00	\$126,630.00
Average Value of Permits Issued	\$217,296	\$86,857	\$21,105,000

Subdivisions

Number of Subdivisions	16
Average Size of Subdivisions (acres)	18.93

If further information is required contact
Brent Hoyland, Development Officer at 780 384-4100

SALARY AND BENEFITS DISCLOSURE

Disclosure of salaries and benefits for elected municipal officials as required by provincial regulation is as follows:

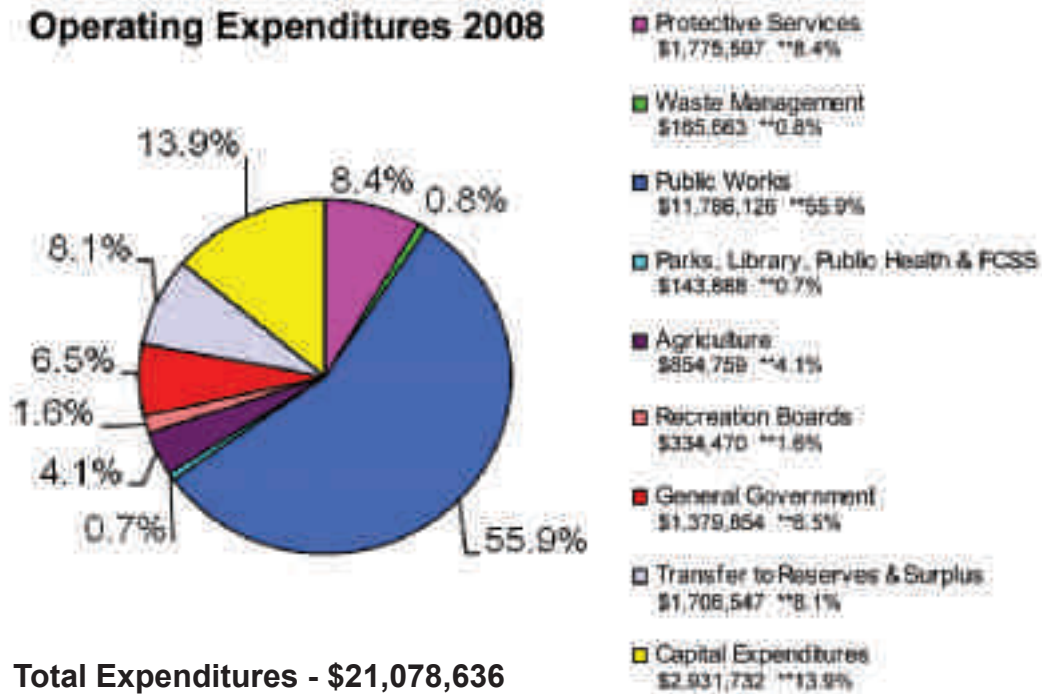
	2008			2007
	Salary	Benefits & Allowances	Total	Total
Councillor Division 1	\$28,391	\$3,139	\$31,530	\$34,178
Councillor Division 2	\$33,126	\$3,679	\$36,805	\$30,825
Councillor Division 3	\$28,391	\$3,139	\$31,530	\$29,988
Councillor Division 4	\$28,391	\$3,139	\$31,530	\$29,988
Councillor Division 5	\$28,391	\$3,139	\$31,530	\$29,988
Councillor Division 6	\$28,391	\$3,052	\$31,442	\$29,988
Councillor Division 7	\$28,391	\$3,139	\$31,530	\$29,988

- a) Salary includes regular base pay and gross honoraria.
- b) Benefits and allowances figures for the Councillors include the employer's share of Canada Pension and the additional taxable benefit of group life insurance paid for by the employer as well as the RRSP Contribution County portion.

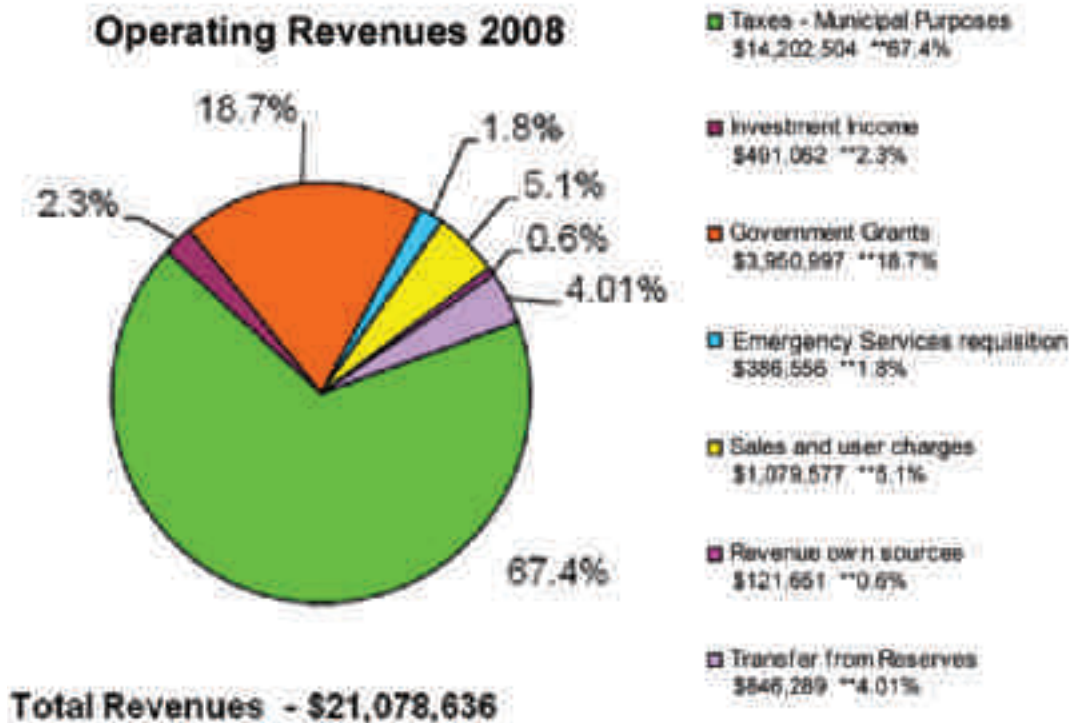
Flagstaff County has copies of the 2008 Financial Statement available for the public and can be obtained by contacting the County office at Box 358, Sedgewick, AB, T0B 4C0 or calling (780) 384-4100. You may also go to the Flagstaff County website at www.flagstaff.ab.ca and download or view a PDF version of the 2008 Financial Statement.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

Operating Expenditures 2008



Operating Revenues 2008



ASSESSMENT

The Assessment Department establishes and maintains property valuations (assessments) for all property within Flagstaff County for the purposes of distributing annual property taxes. We provide annual valuations for approximately 7,900 County properties and 656 additional properties for contracted services to the Villages of Galahad, Heisler and Strome.

Municipal Assessment continues to evolve with increased computer automation and more monitoring by Alberta Municipal Affairs auditors. Provincial statutes and regulations dictate how properties in Alberta are to be valued for property tax purposes (i.e. assessed). Assessed values are changed each year. Property assessments are based on values from the previous year (i.e. in 2008, the assessments are based on 2007 values).

Many property types, such as Residential property (including farm residences) are assessed at market value. Market value is the probable price a property might reasonably be expected to sell for if sold by a knowledgeable, willing seller to a willing buyer after appropriate time and exposure in an open market. The two common methods of determining market value are: 1) sales comparison approach, and 2) cost approach. In determining market values it is important that the assessor have up to date accurate information on sales transactions. If you have recently purchased a property within Flagstaff County, please take the time to fill out a Sales Verification form (available at the County office or the County website at www.flagstaff.ab.ca) and fax or mail it to the Flagstaff County - Assessment Department (see address at the end of this segment).

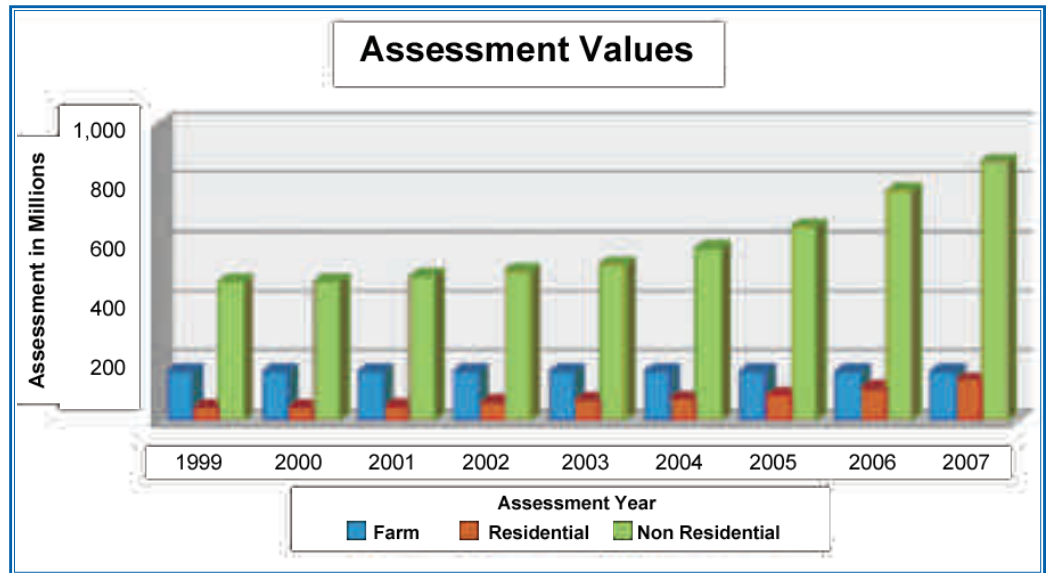
Other property types are assessed using rates and methods as regulated by the Alberta Legislature. These are referred to as “regulated properties” and are comprised of the following four property types:

- ***Farmland:*** Agricultural land used for farming operations is valued based on potential productivity. The best farmland in Alberta can be assessed at no more than \$350 per acre.
- ***Machinery and Equipment:*** Examples include Oil and Gas processing equipment such as compressors, separators, dehydrators, etc., as found in refineries, gas plants, battery sites and chemical plants. Machinery and equipment are valued using regulated rates or actual cost.
- ***Linear Property:*** These are properties such as pipelines, power lines and telephone systems that are assessed using regulated rates by the Assessment Services Branch of Municipal Affairs.
- ***Railway Property:*** Consists of railway track (trackage) and right of way. These are valued at a regulated fixed dollar amount per kilometer based on annual tonnage transported on the right of way.

As mentioned above, farmland assessments are based on a provincially regulated rate that is not tied to the market value and this regulated value has not changed for many years. Although farmland market values continue to increase, this does not affect the assessed value of farmland, therefore as indicated in Table 1, farmland assessments in the County have maintained a relatively consistent assessment base which represents a smaller and smaller percentage of total assessment.

Table 1

Residential property market values have continued to increase due to actual physical growth (i.e. development) and increased inflation (market value, costs of construction materials, labour and servicing). The average residential acreage assessment for all types of residential homes (including any assessable outbuildings) is \$158,000 and the average residential acreage assessment for the average / modern bungalow (including any assessable outbuildings) is \$236,000.



Industrial development, primarily by the oil and gas industry, continues to increase at a healthy rate. This adds substantially to the taxable assessment base. Linear and Industrial assessments make up approximately 76% of the taxable assessment base, as seen in the pie chart on the following page.

Table 2

We began a new inspection cycle in 2007 commencing in the west end in range 17 and continued in 2008 and have completed inspections up to and including range 15. Progressing into 2009 we should be inspecting in ranges 14, 13 and 12; with the remaining ranges 11, 10 and 9 being done in 2010. These residential inspections are usually carried out during the spring and summer months. The assessor will be updating the property



information and may require information from property owners. In some cases a door hanger (call back card) will be left on the door of the residence or improvement in question. Please contact the assessor at the indicated phone number so as to avoid an assessment estimate based on an exterior inspection.

Assessment Complaint and Appeal System

To ensure that property owners have a voice in the property assessment system, the Municipal Government Act has set out a complaints and appeals system for property owners who have concerns about their assessment. The process involves two levels of formal appeal. The first is at the municipal level with an assessment review board (ARB), and the second is at the provincial level, with the Municipal Government Board (MGB).

The first step an assessed person should take if he or she believes his or her property assessment is unfair or inaccurate is to contact the assessor. The assessor can be reached by calling the County office at the number listed on your tax notice. The assessor may request to inspect the property to determine if an error was made. If the assessor agrees that the original notice is not accurate, a corrected notice may be issued. If the assessor and the property owner cannot come to an agreement, the property owner may begin the formal complaint process by filing a complaint with the local assessment review board.

The deadline for filing a complaint with the assessment review board is noted on the tax notice. The fee schedule per property type is also noted on the tax notice. Please note that the assessment review board cannot hear complaints about the amount of property taxes or tax rates. Assessment review boards cannot change the tax rates or the services provided by the County.

When filing a complaint, follow the instructions on your tax notice, and fill out a complaint in writing. You can also print off the Assessment Complaint form from the County website. Fill it out and then either deliver it in person, fax it or mail it to the Flagstaff County office, Chief Administrative Officer, Shelly Armstrong at the following:

- In Person: 4902 50th Street - Sedgewick, AB
- Mail: Flagstaff County, Assessment Department, Box 358, Sedgewick, AB T0B 4C0
- Fax: (780) 384-3635

“Preparing for your Assessment Complaint or Appeal Hearing” is a publication that can be provided to you at the County office or online at www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca.

**** Note that if any changes occur to your property (i.e. building removal, renovations, taxable status, etc.) please notify the County.**

If you have any questions regarding assessment please contact the County Assessment Department:

Pat Hanson, AMAA
Assessor
780-384-4102 - direct line
780-384-3635 - fax
phanson@flagstaff.ab.ca

Kelly Larson
Assistant Assessor
780-384-4122 - direct line
780-384-3635 - fax
klarson@flagstaff.ab.ca

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD

The Agricultural Service Board continues to focus on core issues of weed control, soil and water resource consideration and pest management. The service board also continues to work cooperatively with provincial and various private agricultural and environmental organizations to deliver programs beneficial to our residents.

If you have concerns relating to local, provincial or national agricultural issues, please contact a member of our Agricultural Service Board.

FLAGSTAFF COUNTY OFFERS THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

Equipment Rentals

Shelterbelt Disc w/Gandy Applicator	\$25.00/day
Tree Planter	\$25.00/day
Solar Watering System for livestock	n/c (2 week demo only)
Skid Mounted Handgun Sprayer	\$25.00/day
Eco-Bran Applicator	\$25.00/day
Skunk Trap	\$75.00 refundable deposit
Magpie Trap	\$75.00 refundable deposit

Pest Control Products for Sale

Rolled oats (Warfarin) Mouse Bait	\$ 2.00 + GST
Gopher traps.....	\$18.00 + GST

Custom Spraying

Flagstaff County ASB offers custom spraying service on private land for the control of small patches of persistent perennial weeds such as Toadflax, Scentless Chamomile, Common Tansy, White Cockle and Leafy Spurge.

Beaver Dam Removal

The county will blast unwanted beaver dams on private land for a one time fee of \$100.00 for 12 months.



Tank Loading Facilities

Flagstaff County ASB, through the National Water Supply Expansion Program, has established five tank loading facilities within the municipality. These facilities were established to ensure that rural residents have a reliable and adequate supply of water to utilize for agricultural purposes. The water at these facilities is not treated and is therefore non-potable.



The facilities are situated at:

- NE 11-44-11 W4 – Near Loughheed
- SE 27-41-16 W4 – Near Forestburg
- SW 10-45-16 W4 – Near Daysland

Flagstaff County also has two additional tank loaders which are operated on a seasonal basis from April 15th to September 30th. These wells contain levels of Arsenic over the guidelines for livestock watering, however the water is suitable for crop spraying and irrigation purposes.

These facilities are located at:

- NE 08-41-12 W4 – North East of Alliance
- SW 27-41-10 W4 – South of Hardisty

The loaders operate on a coin system with \$1.00 yielding 150 gallons of water.

Feed and Water Testing

Flagstaff County ASB will send samples of feed, soil and water for analysis on behalf of the agricultural producers at a cost recoverable charge.

Roadside Haying Along Flagstaff County Right-of-Ways

Flagstaff County has implemented a permit system for all landowners within Flagstaff County wanting to hay municipal right of ways.

- Landowners must apply for a roadside haying permit from Flagstaff County prior to May 15th of each year.
- All landowners permitted to hay municipal right of ways must have their haying completed by July 15th of each year.

Flagstaff County intends to mow all municipal right of ways twice commencing June 1, 2008.

The purpose of this permit system is to minimize conflict between the municipality and landowners who intend to cut and bale hay along municipal right of ways.

Application forms are available at Flagstaff County or online at www.flagstaff.ab.ca.

Century Farm and Ranch Awards

The Alberta Century Farm and Ranch Award recognize those families that have continuously owned and operated the same land for 100 or more years. The criteria set to be eligible for this provincial recognition include:

- Land must be continuously and actively farmed by your family for 100 years or more.
- You can provide evidence clearly demonstrating the kinship ties between you and the founder of the farm.
- You can provide the legal land location.
- You can provide the date of homestead establishment.
- You can provide the current ownership land title.
- The current size of the original homestead or land base must be 160 acres of land.

Flagstaff County recognizes all recipients of this provincial award. To date there has been 39 families that have received the Century Farm and Ranch Award within our municipality.

If you are eligible or require further information please contact our ASB Department.

Shelterbelt Establishment Program

The Agricultural Service Board continues to offer a Shelterbelt Establishment Program to all rural landowners. This program is offered to help promote, establish, and maintain healthy shelterbelts. Field shelterbelts conserve soil, protect crops, trap snow, provide wildlife habitat, and beautify the landscape.

All trees must be ordered through PFRA. Applications are available at the County Office and should be submitted by March 31st of every year. A landowner who plants a field shelterbelt at least 1/3 of a mile with trees from this program will have the opportunity to have the planting and initial watering done at no cost. It is recommended to book a time for these services ahead of time due to high demand. It is recommended all seedlings be planted as soon as possible after pickup to ensure maximum survival.



Flagstaff County will continue to provide planting services for a minimal charge to landowners who are not eligible under this program. A tree planter and mulch applicator are both available for rent as well.

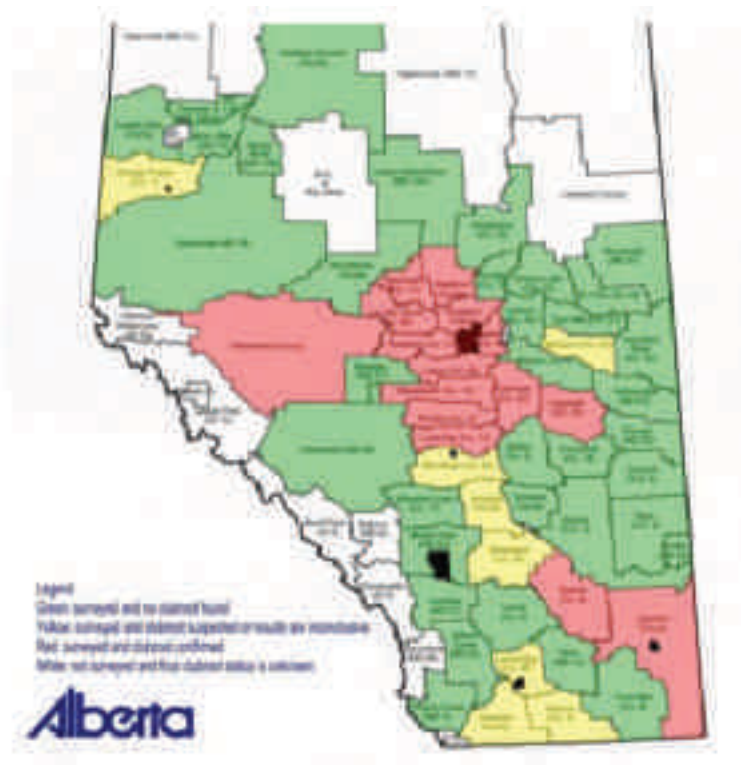
CLUBROOT DISEASE OF CANOLA



Clubroot is once again a concern for Flagstaff County residents. It is a serious soil-borne disease of canola and is declared a pest under Alberta's Agricultural Pests Act. It has been found in a number of counties in Alberta, Flagstaff County being one of them. It is continually spreading and is significant concern for producers. In 2008, one more confirmed field was identified in our County, bringing our total to 3 confirmed clubroot fields in our municipality.

Flagstaff County Agricultural Service Board encourages all landowners to implement a management plan that will prevent the spread of Clubroot.

1. Remove soil from equipment prior to moving out of the field.
 - Knock off large clumps of soil
 - Sweep off loose soil
2. Use long rotations between canola crops, 3-4 years minimum.
3. Use direct seeding or minimum tillage.
4. Scout canola fields regularly.
5. Avoid use of straw, hay, greenfeed, silage, and manure from infested fields.



Prevention is everyone's responsibility.

We all need to take action to prevent the spread of clubroot – producers, agrologists, agriculture retail suppliers, custom equipment operators, oil and gas companies, researchers, and provincial and municipal governments.

For Flagstaff County's Clubroot Policy and a list of best management practices please visit [www. Flagstaff.ab.ca](http://www.Flagstaff.ab.ca) or call (780) 384-4100.

WEEDS OF CONCERN WITHIN FLAGSTAFF COUNTY:

SCENTLESS CHAMOMILE

Characteristics

- Winter annual
- Short lived perennial
- Similar weeds are Ox Eye Daisy, Pineapple Weed and Stinking Mayweed
- Mature plant is capable of producing 300,000 to 3 million seeds
- Seeds can remain viable in the soil for many years
- Seeds survive for longer periods in undisturbed soil than in cultivated land



How It Grows

- During the year of germination mainly vegetative growth is produced
- Only a small percentage of these plants will flower
- If allowed to overwinter, the plant will become large and bushy with a high seed potential



Habitat

Predominantly found in:

- Headlands
- Right-of-Ways
- Industrial Areas - Waste Areas
- Slough Edges - Water Courses
- Forage - Non Croplands
- ** Peas & Canola

Prevention

- Regularly inspect all fields
- Treat small areas before they become large
- Avoid seeding legume forage & peas on land that has been infested with Mayweed
- Request a weed seed analysis certificate with all purchased grass seed
- When purchasing Feed (Hay & Straw) know the source



WHITE COCKLE

Characteristics

- Biennial
- Short lived perennial
- Separate male and female plants
- White flowers open in full sun and close in evening.
- Hairy stems
- Similar to bladder Campion and Night Flowering Catch Fly.
- Female plants capable of producing 24,000 seeds



How it grows

- Emerges early in the spring
- First forms a taproot followed with spreading lateral roots
- New plants can start from root pieces



Habitat

- Reduced tillage
- Forage crops
- Roadsides
- Waste areas
- Sunny fertile areas

Prevention

- Regular monitoring of non crop areas
- Request a weed seed analysis certificate when purchasing forage seed
- Prevent seed set in White Cockle
- When purchasing hay and straw know the source.

For information on control options
please contact the
Agricultural Service Board.



Brush Spraying

Roadside Brush Spraying that is done in areas designated by Flagstaff County or by a landowner will be sprayed up to 500 feet before a farm site and continue 500 feet past the farm site. Brush spraying will not occur if the brush is over 2 meters in height, unless otherwise directed by the Ag Fieldman.

Flagstaff County ASB recognizes the fact that certain landowners/tenants are not in favour of having municipally owned roadsides adjacent to their property treated with herbicide for weed and brush control. These landowners/tenants are asked to sign a No Brush Spray Agreement prior to June 1st of each year. “Do Not Spray,” signs will be available to the landowner/tenant and should be posted along roadsides that are not to be treated for brush or weed control. The landowner/tenant then assumes the responsibility of maintaining weed and brush along these designated areas to municipal standards.

Pesticide Container Collection Sites

The locations of the pesticide collection bins will be at the following manned waste transfer sites in the County. Summer hours effective April 1 – September 30:

Alliance Waste Transfer Site	SE 16-40-13-W4M Wed. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Sat. 1:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Daysland Waste Transfer Site	SE 16-45-16-W4M Tues. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Fri. 9:00 a.m. – 6:30 a.m.
Forestburg Waste Transfer Site	NE 34-41-15-W4M Mon. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Thurs. 9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Lougheed Waste Transfer Site	SE 33-43-11-W4M Mon. 1:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Fri. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Flagstaff Waste Management (Sedgewick)	SW 11-45-12-W4M Mon. 1:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Thurs. 9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Science Hill Waste Transfer Site	NW 31-40-10 W4M Wed. 9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Strome Waste Transfer Site	SW 19-44-14-W4M Tues. 1:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Sat. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

AESA Program

The Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture (AESA) Program began its fourth year in 2008. The goal of the 2008 program was to increase awareness and adoption of beneficial management practices in regards to pasture and riparian areas, nutrient management, and integrated crop management.

Various extension events were held in partnership with the Iron Creek Watershed Improvement Society, Cows and Fish, Counties of Beaver & Lamont, County of Paintearth, M.D of Wainwright, and Battle River Research Group (BRRG)



in order to meet the program's goals and objectives. Two Cattlemen's Days were held with keynote speakers detailing the concepts of extended grazing. The Classroom Agriculture Program continued on this year with local grade four students learning the importance of agriculture and the preservation of local watersheds. A Crop Pest and Disease Update occurred to provide information on the pest outlook for 2008 and supply pesticide applicator credits. A Crop Pest Scouting Evening was also held to address the issues projected by wheat midge for 2008, producers were on hand to learn the proper pest scouting techniques. In the summer of 2008 the annual Grazing School for Women took place at Circle Square Ranch. This two day women's only event had topics ranging from pasture management to how to market local products.



The Environmental Farm Plan program was put on hold for 2008 with hopes for continuation into 2009.

The AESA program was extended for another year for 2009 with a few changes in the goals of the program. The upcoming AESA year brings events related to promoting Environmental Farm Plans and improving water quality. Keep a look out for our upcoming events and activities.

Iron Creek Watershed Improvement Society

The Iron Creek Watershed Improvement Society (ICWIS) continued into 2008 with their goal of raising awareness about the importance, health, and function of the Iron Creek Watershed which aids in promoting sustainable management techniques. Though 2008 was a quiet year for the group, 2009 promises the development of some new projects and events with the help of their many valuable partnerships with Flagstaff County, Cows and Fish, AESA, Battle River Research Group, Battle River Watershed Alliance, and many others.



The Agricultural Service Board includes all Councillors and the following appointed members:

Rod Strauss

Tom Zwack

Wyatt Hinkey

Derek Price

Parks

Flagstaff County maintains two parks within our municipal boundary. This includes the Diplomat Trout Pond Park which is a day use area and Fish Lake Park which is an overnight campground.

Diplomat Trout Pond

Located along Secondary Highway 855, 8 km South of Highway 53

Fish Lake Park

Located 2 Km West of Hardisty.

**There is a charge of \$15.00 per night for camping
at Fish Lake on a first come first serve basis.**

For further information please contact the Agricultural Service Board office.

Agricultural Service Board Staff Members:

Brent Hoyland, Agricultural Fieldman

Laurie Hilluby, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman

Lindsey Barton Agricultural Technician

Justina Sparkes, Agricultural Secretary



PUBLIC WORKS

2008 ROAD PROGRAM

Work on this season's Road Program was officially completed in November 2008. This year's work can be broken down in the following major areas:

ROAD CONSTRUCTION

A total of approximately 8 miles of local road was upgraded during the 2008 construction season at an approximate total cost of \$2,019,739. We received a provincial grant of \$640,781 to help support this work. This cost includes equipment, labor, gravel, culverts, fencing, damages, engineering, survey, rock picking, and utilities. This work was completed under the road construction program.

Flagstaff County contracted Hauser Construction of Rosalind, Alberta to construct all construction projects in 2008. These miles were completed at the following locations:

- A – 2008 NNE 35-46-15 W4M S 4.0 miles
- B – 2008 NNW 31-45-16 W4M S 2.0 miles
- C – 2008 ENE 09-43-15 W4M S 2.0 miles



ROAD OILING

A total of 12 miles of road were re-oiled during the 2008 season at an approximate cost of \$1,931,988. Work was completed by in-house crews. This cost includes oil, gravel, equipment, and labor. The following roads were sub-grade prep with a 3 inch layer of base gravel, and a 2 inch layer of oil.



Daysland East	4.0 miles	Project 01A
Heisler East	6.03 miles	Project 04A
Sedgewick North	2.0 miles	Project 09B

The oil road maintenance patching was done with a three-person patch crew, which operated as required during the season. We also completed 12.5 miles of ripping and relaying projects.

Every year Flagstaff County does pothole patching on oiled roads. This patching extends the life of an oiled road. The intent is to keep moisture from penetrating the sub grade, while providing a smooth driving surface. The County mixes approximately 800 – 1000 cubic yards of cold mix annually at an approximate cost of \$58 per yard. Cold mix is available for purchasing.

ALBERTA INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION GRANTS

In 2006, Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation and the County committed to enter into a cost sharing agreement to pave Secondary Highway 856 (from Highway 13 to Highway 53), with a 25% contribution from the County to a maximum of \$2,500,000. The Alberta Municipal Infrastructure Program, introduced in 2005, funded the County’s portion. This project was completed in 2008.



DUST CONTROL

A total of approximately 46 residential dust controls were completed in the 2008 season. The County offers to do dust controls on a cost share basis as per County policy. Please note dust controls will be maintained at the discretion of Flagstaff County. All requests must be received by May 1st.

ROAD GRAVELING

Flagstaff County entered into a three year contract with Tri-B Enterprises of Daysland. During the 2008 season approximately 175,813 tonnes of gravel was used for the gravel program (re-gravel, spot patching and emergency gravel, miscellaneous, oiling, construction, road recovery and sales), at an approximate cost of \$2,611,270 This cost includes hauling and loading for the contractor and County trucks as well as material costs.

Flagstaff County Maintained Roads

Gravel Roads	1326 miles
Oiled Roads	152 miles
Bladed Dirt Roads	289 miles

There are 151 miles of Secondary roads in the County maintained by Carillion – Killam

OTHER 2008 PROGRAMS

GRAVEL PRODUCTION

There was one crushing project completed in 2008. The project is as follows:

CR-01-2008: This project was for the crushing and stockpiling of gravel at the Skori Pit (NE 08-46-11 W4). A total of 131,581 tonnes of gravel was crushed at an approximate cost of \$762,142. This project was completed in December 2008 by McNabb Construction Ltd.

ROAD RECOVERY

This is a program that rehabilitates a “road grade” to its original form, when initially constructed. The work may include pre-spraying the side slopes and ditches with glyphosate to eliminate vegetation fiber, pulling up the sideslopes, improving drainage, reworking the sub-grade to improve compaction and restoring the crown to improve drainage. These roads are then replenished with gravel. A total of 10 miles of road recovery was completed in 2008. The road recovery projects were completed at the following locations:

Range Road 122 from Township Road 442 – 6 miles North to Township Road 452
Range Road 160 from Township Road 450 – 2 miles North to Township Road 452
Range Road 162 on Township Road 442 – 2 miles East to Range Road 160

ROAD STABILIZATION

Calcium Chloride was applied to 24 miles of the “Coal Trail” (Township Road 410 – from Highway 36 east to the Battle River) to stabilize the gravel surface and provide additional benefits of a dust suppressant. Calcium Chloride will be applied to this road annually as this method has proven to reduce road maintenance and re-gravel costs.

The County also applies calcium chloride to strategic locations throughout the county at intersections to help control the wash boarding effect that is typical of locations where increased traffic escalates this occurrence.

Calcium Chloride was applied to 4 miles of the Viking Energy Road (Range Road 123, South of Secondary Highway 608). This is on a cost shared basis.

ROADSIDE MAINTENANCE

In the springtime, County crews pump water when culverts have frozen. The County will either unclog or unthaw the culvert. If this is not an option, the County will pump water to ensure the road does not flood.

ROADSIDE CLEANUP

Landowners are not to dump rocks and debris in the County right-of-way as this debris causes hazards. The landowner will be responsible for the clean up of any new rock piles found.

SUMMER/WINTER MAINTENANCE

During the winter season residents are not to push snow out onto the road. This causes problems and is very hazardous to traffic traveling on the road. Snow piles must be 12 feet off the shoulder of the road.

If you are aware of any roads which require summer maintenance, winter plowing or sanding, please notify the Public Works Office in Sedgewick at (780) 384-4100. This number is a 24-hour service. Please leave a detailed message with your name and number.



This summer ten maintenance area graders will once again maintain the gravel roads. Each grader is responsible for blading approximately 162 miles of road.



During the winter the gravel road system is maintained by ten regular maintenance graders. Oiled roads are maintained by two snowplow trucks, which are equipped with sanders.

NOTICE

This year the County once again offers to plow lanes and driveways. Any persons who would like their laneway or driveway plowed in the winter must pick up an agreement at the County Office. You are required to purchase flags from the County office, which are to be placed at the end of your laneway or driveway when plowing is required. If you have any questions concerning this please call the Public Works office at (780) 384-4100. Flagstaff County also provides this service free of charge for seniors residing at rural residences. Any seniors interested in this program please contact the County office in Sedgewick. The work is done at the discretion of the grader operator (road maintenance has priority). The Hold Harmless Agreements are to be signed by October 31st for the upcoming winter season.

BRUSHING

There shall be NO BRUSHING on road allowances without authorization from the County.

Flagstaff County policy states that there shall be no unauthorized brushing, cultivation or cropping operations of existing undeveloped road allowances. Permission to agriculturally develop County road allowance shall be granted by resolution of Council only.

If a landowner requires any type of access or brushing/back-sloping on County road allowance, please contact the Public Works Department for further information.

FENCING

Flagstaff County would like to remind all ratepayers that the legal placement of fences is as follows:

FENCES MUST BE: Installed on private land not on the County right of way (road allowance).

- Typically this will be 10 metres back from the centre of the road.
- A few exceptions may exist if the right of way is wider than 20 metres.
- If you require clarification on the width please contact the Public Works Department.
- This applies only to local roads (not Secondary or Primary Highways which may have different requirements).

This must be strictly adhered to in order to ensure trespass has not occurred on County right of way.

We recognize that many fences may be on our right of way. In order to protect the County from any liability risk we must ensure the fences are not on our property.

We have begun a program to identify fences that have been improperly placed. If they impede access, passage of traffic or impose a liability risk, we will notify the landowner and they will be required to relocate or remove the fence.

We look forward to your co-operation with this issue to make our County a safer place to travel!

Other Setbacks

Trees: Shelterbelts shall be set back from the municipal right of way a minimum of 15 meters. (Permit not required)

Buildings and dugouts: must be set back a minimum of 50 meters (164 feet) from the center of a County road. (Permit required)

If you have any questions regarding these setbacks, please contact Brent Hoyland, Development Officer at (780) 384-4100.

The Public Works Department would like to take this opportunity to thank the many landowners, renters, utility companies, contractors and any others who helped our staff perform their duties this past year. Your cooperation and assistance is greatly appreciated.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

PEACE OFFICER SERVICES

In 2007 Flagstaff County Special Constables Services was overhauled to conform to the Peace Officer Act. As you may have noticed, the Special Constables underwent a name change; they are now titled Peace Officers. In addition to the change in title, uniforms have changed from the dark navy pants with red stripe and dark navy shirt to dark navy pants with a grey stripe and a grey shirt. Vehicle markings have been changed to comply with the new standards for all Alberta Peace Officers.

Flagstaff County Peace Officers patrol the rural areas throughout the County; in addition, they also patrol the following urban municipalities who have contracts for the patrol service: Killam, Sedgewick, Forestburg and Loughheed.

If you observe a suspicious act that may be illegal or dangerous in nature, please contact a Peace Officer. If immediate assistance is necessary please call the RCMP.

Speed Limit – The speed limit on all rural gravel and oiled roads is 80 km/h, unless otherwise posted.

Traffic Signs – Traffic signs are in place throughout the County to maintain safety on our roads. If a traffic sign has been removed or displaced, or a specific area is in need of a traffic sign, please contact the Protective Services Department.

Road Bans – Throughout the year, various roads within Flagstaff County will be banned to some extent but may also vary from year to year and/or road to road. When a particular road has a ban in place, a sign will be posted stating the percentage of axle weight that is permitted to travel on the road. Road bans are placed on roads to protect them from damage that may be caused by heavier vehicles.

Road ban information for any road in our County can be found by calling Road Data at 1-888-830-7623 or by viewing our website at www.flagstaff.ab.ca.

Overload Permits – Permits to exceed permitted axle weights on any roads within Flagstaff County can be obtained from Road Data Services at 1-888-830-7623.



REGIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICES

Fire Protection

Fire protection in the rural areas of Flagstaff County is provided by the 10 urban fire departments. Each fire department has a fire agreement with Flagstaff County to provide fire service in an area specified near that department.

The Regional Emergency Services Coordinator was hired in September 2007 to enhance fire protection within Flagstaff County and the ten towns and villages. The Regional Emergency Services Coordinator assists the ten Towns and villages, and Flagstaff County in developing training, equipment coordination, and fire prevention activities.



Fire Department Rural Responses for the last ten years

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Alliance	2	6	8	8	4	1	1	8	5	11
Daysland	4	2	4	2	3	4	4	4	10	11
Forestburg	2	5	13	3	7	5	4	5	7	11
Galahad	1	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	8	2
Hardisty	3	6	7	3	0	2	4	14	17	17
Heisler	2	0	7	1	3	3	3	1	0	11
Killam	4	3	7	2	5	1	8	7	9	19
Lougheed	0	3	10	2	3	2	6	5	4	8
Sedgewick	4	6	7	6	6	3	6	9	9	15
Strome	1	2	5	1	1	1	1	0	0	3
Total	23	36	71	31	34	24	43	55	69	108

RESCUE SERVICE

The Flagstaff County Rescue Service continues to be provided by the volunteers of the Killam Fire Department. The rescue truck, a 1996 Freightliner FL80, continues to be a very valuable asset to the emergency services department. Equipped with heavy rescue tools such as Jaws, and a cascade air system so it is invaluable in both collisions, and fires. The rescue service itself has become a vital part the County's emergency response system and continues to prove its effectiveness when the need arises.

Rescue Responses (Includes both Rescue and Medical Assistance)									
1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
14	17	27	10	23	23	39	42	27	38

DISASTER SERVICES

The County's Municipal Emergency Response Plan (MEP) is being updated to a Regional Emergency Response Plan, which will encompass Flagstaff County and the ten towns and villages. One plan will have better resource sharing and less duplication, with a better understanding of regional needs should the plan ever have to be activated.



