



2007

ANNUAL

REPORT

**Administration Office**

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Sedgewick AB T0B 4C0**

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# 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

**A**s Flagstaff County progresses into the 21st century, Council has taken the initiative to develop a Strategic Plan which will enable the County to focus on where it wants to go over the next 10 to 15 years and how it's going to get there.

So what is a strategic plan? It is a plan developed by an organization that defines a long-term vision of the organization and the specific objectives that will be undertaken to achieve the vision or purpose. Its purpose is to develop a roadmap for the entire organization that will effectively and efficiently focus business plans and initiatives for the next decade and beyond.

Flagstaff County has developed a Vision Statement and we are very enthusiastic about sharing it with you. This vision shows our future hopes and dreams involving progressive and co-operative change. It focuses on what we know can be achieved.

## Flagstaff County's Vision Statement

- A safe, caring, and vibrant rural "Community of communities" committed to working with our neighbors to ensure the quality of life for all citizens.
- As an innovative and progressive "Community" that balances economic prosperity and environmental stewardship, we deliver a responsible level of service that is both efficient and effective.

What is a "Community of Communities? One of our goals is to provide leadership to developing the future of our County in co-operation with our towns and villages. We consider one of the great strengths of Flagstaff County is that it is, to a large extent, made up of communities (towns/villages) within a larger Community (county) and by involving all of our "communities" in developing a comprehensive plan we can build a strong and sustaining vision for the whole area.

Our vision is to be viewed as an innovative, intellectual, exciting, and dynamic "Community of communities." We also want to retain our rural character that is such an important part of our County's culture and has served us so well in producing a safe and caring community.

However, to continue to be a prosperous County, we must jointly and co-operatively focus our efforts on being an innovative and progressive Community of communities. This means that at the County level we are going to exhibit leadership in working with our towns and villages to develop focused development initiatives that will continue to bring economic prosperity to our area.

We also see ourselves as stewards of the land and one of our strategic initiatives will be to balance economic development with environmental responsibility through community consultation and innovative business plans.

A key theme is a "Responsible Level of Service that is efficient and effective". This means a level of service that is accountable, trustworthy, dependable and sensible. Efficient and effective means we will balance the cost to provide the service against a practical level of service as part of our decision making process.

We are extremely excited to embark on this challenging journey that we firmly believe will benefit all of our municipalities and citizens of the County. We truly hope that all of our citizens and communities with the County will work with us in contributing to and enhancing the final product that will be produced in the near future.

## RECREATION

Flagstaff County continues to support recreation. In 2007, the operational funding contributions were increased to \$275,000 to be paid out to our Towns and Villages annually. 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 2007 recreation grants paid were:

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

In addition to the above, we continued with our program to fund capital projects. The County increased the funding for the capital program to \$49,500, with the maximum funding per project to be \$25,000. In 2007 we funded the following organizations which totaled \$64,517 as listed below:

• Heisler Baseball Club	\$7,214
• Hardisty Lake Camp	\$10,000
• Killam Recreation Board	\$4,963
• Lougheed Curling Club	\$7,361
• Alliance Recreation Board	\$3,779
• Sedgewick Lake Park	\$4,907
• Hardisty Arena Board	\$12,269
• Galahad Ag. Society	\$4,024
• Spring Lake Sports Grounds	\$3,000
• Valley Ski Hill	\$ 7,000

Flagstaff County contributed a total of \$339,517 towards recreation in our Towns & Villages in 2007.

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 2008.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**F**lagstaff County formed a new partnership with the Killam and District Business Development Association.

The County will provide administrative and financial assistance to the association to support existing and future initiatives within Flagstaff which will focus on agricultural and other business developments.

The Killam and District Business Development Association has worked extensively to establish key contacts for agri-business and economic development.

This partnership will enhance the ability of the association to fulfill their mandate and benefit all communities within our municipality.

Balanced economic prosperity is a key to maintaining quality of life. By pursuing economic initiatives, a partnership will help make our communities remain strong and viable.

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

## FLAGSTAFF COUNTY COUNCIL MEETINGS

**R**egular 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) – 3506  
Size of County – 4051.41 sq. km.

# STAFF DIRECTORY

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

<b>ASSESSMENT</b>
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Assessor	Pat Hanson	(780) 384-4102
Assistant Assessor	Kelly Larson	(780) 384-4122

<b>AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD DEVELOPMENT PLANNING</b>	<b>Inquiries</b>	<b>(780) 384-4118</b>
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Agricultural Fieldman/Development Officer	Brent Hoyland	(780) 384-4104
Assistant Agricultural Fieldman	Sean Sheedy	(780) 384-4108

<b>PROTECTIVE SERVICES</b>
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Protective Services Coordinator	Kevin Luntz	(780) 384-4105
Peace Officer	Mike Kuzio	(780) 384-4113
Peace Officer	Travis Lund	(780) 384-4111
Regional Emergency Services Coordinator	Kim Cannady	(780) 384-4127

<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>	<b>Inquiries</b>	<b>(780) 384-4110</b>
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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 ( <i>Maternity Leave replacement</i> )	Jill Snethun	(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.

[www.flagstaff.ab.ca](http://www.flagstaff.ab.ca)

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 as well as a community guide and staff and Council directory.

# DEVELOPMENT

## Building, Electrical, Plumbing, Gas and Permits

**T**he 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](http://www.munplan.ab.ca)



## FLAGSTAFF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
<u>Development Permits</u>			
Number of Permits Issued	31	31	57
Average Value of Permits Issued	\$142,741	\$134,500	\$276,443
<u>Subdivisions</u>			
Number of Subdivisions	24	24	27
Average Size of Subdivisions (acres)	19.71	15.17	19.03

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

## SALARY AND BENEFITS DISCLOSURE

	<u>2007</u>			<u>2006</u>
	Salary	Benefits & Allowances	Total	Total
Councillor Division 1	\$30,794	\$3,384	\$34,178	\$33,867
Councillor Division 2	\$27,790	\$3,035	\$30,825	\$29,012
Councillor Division 3	\$27,039	\$2,949	\$29,988	\$29,012
Councillor Division 4	\$27,039	\$2,949	\$29,988	\$29,012
Councillor Division 5	\$27,039	\$2,949	\$29,988	\$29,012
Councillor Division 6	\$27,039	\$2,949	\$28,988	\$29,012
Councillor Division 7	\$27,039	\$2,949	\$29,988	\$29,012

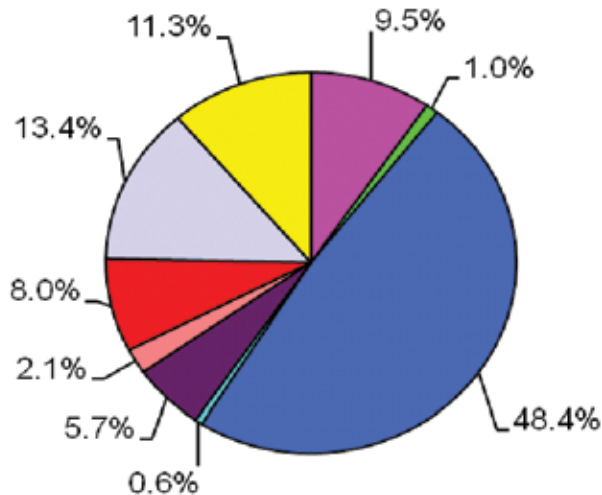
- a) Salary includes regular base pay and gross honoraria.
- b) Benefits and allowances figures for the Councillors include the employer's share of Canada Pension and the additional taxable benefit of group life insurance paid for by the employer as well as the RRSP Contribution County portion.

Flagstaff County has copies of the 2007 Financial Statement available for the public and can be obtained by contacting the County office at Box 358, Sedge-wick, AB, T0B 4C0 or calling (780) 384-4100. You may also go to the Flagstaff County website at [www.flagstaff.ab.ca](http://www.flagstaff.ab.ca) and download or view a PDF version of the 2007 Financial Statement.



# SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

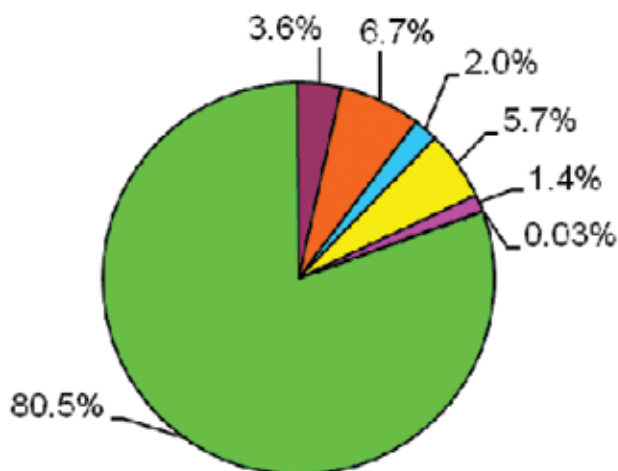
## Operating Expenditures 2007



**Total Expenditures - \$15,834,678**

- Protective Services  
\$1,510,738 \*\*9.5%
- Waste Management  
\$156,250 \*\*1.0%
- Public Works  
\$7,664,909 \*\*48.4%
- Parks, Library, Public Health & FCSS  
\$92,606 \*\*0.6%
- Agriculture  
\$904,402 \*\*5.7%
- Recreation Boards  
\$339,503 \*\*2.1%
- General Government  
\$1,259,435 \*\*8.0%
- Transfer to Reserves & Surplus  
\$2,125,001 \*\*13.4%
- Capital Expenditures  
\$1,781,834 \*\*11.3%

## Operating Revenues 2007



**Total Revenues - \$15,834,678**

- Taxes - Municipal Purposes  
\$12,741,285 \*\*80.5%
- Investment Income  
\$569,244 \*\*3.6%
- Government Grants  
\$1,065,503 \*\*6.7%
- Emergency Services requisition  
\$322,752 \*\*2.0%
- Sales and user charges  
\$910,401 \*\*5.7%
- Revenue own sources  
\$220,490 \*\*1.4%
- Transfer from Reserves  
\$5,003 \*\*.03%

# ASSESSMENT

**T**he 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 180 additional properties for contracted services to the Village of Galahad.

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 market values from the previous year (i.e. in 2007, the assessed values are based on 2006 market values).

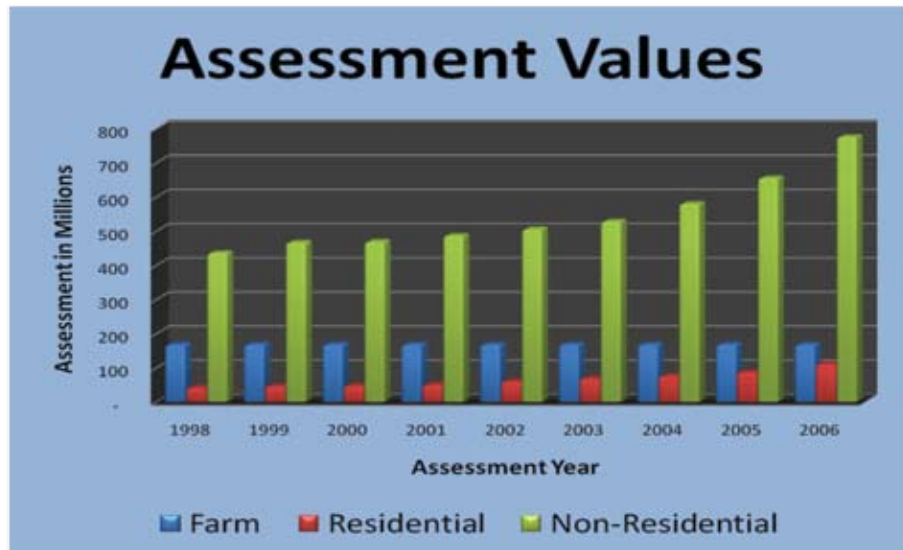
Many property types, such as Residential property (including farm residences) are assessed at market value. Market value is the probable price a property might reasonably be expected to sell for if sold by a knowledgeable, willing seller to a willing buyer after appropriate time and exposure in an open 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](http://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. 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.

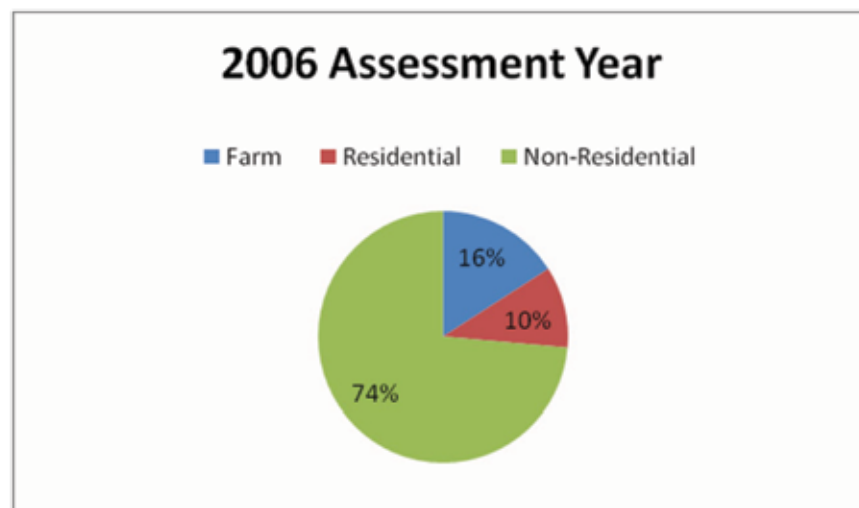
**Table 1**



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 \$142,000 and the average residential acreage assessment for the average/modern bungalow (including any assessable outbuildings) is \$195,000.

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 74% of the taxable assessment base, as seen in the pie chart below.

**Table 2**



We have begun a new inspection cycle and hope to make it a three year cycle. This would mean that the physical inspection of every residential property in the County would be completed every three years. In 2007 we inspected ranges 17, 16 and 15 and will continue in 2008 inspecting the properties within ranges 14, 13 and 12. The third and final inspection year (2009) should be the remaining ranges 11, 10 and 9. 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](http://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](mailto:phanson@flagstaff.ab.ca)

Kelly Larson  
Assistant Assessor  
780-384-4122 - direct line  
780-384-3635 - fax  
[klarson@flagstaff.ab.ca](mailto: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 Lougheed
- 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 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.
- All landowners permitted to hay municipal right of ways must have their haying completed by July 15<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 Landowners who plant a field shelterbelt 1/3 of a mile in length or longer. All trees must be ordered through PFRA. Applications are available at the County Office. Flagstaff County will plant the trees and provide an initial watering at no cost under this program.

Flagstaff County ASB is offering this service to landowners to help promote, establish and maintain healthy shelterbelts. Flagstaff County will continue to provide planting services for a minimal charge to landowners who are not eligible under this program. The tree planters are available to rent to the landowner; however it should be reserved for a designated time due to demand.





# CLUBROOT DISEASE OF CANOLA



Clubroot is a serious soil-borne disease of canola and crops in the cabbage family. This disease occurs worldwide and was first identified in Europe in the thirteenth century. It was detected in Alberta in 2003 around the Edmonton area. Since then, Clubroot has been found in 11 municipalities in Alberta, including Flagstaff County.

Clubroot overwinters in the soil as resting spores. In spring the roots of host plants stimulate the resting spores of clubroot to germinate and produce zoospores that swim in soil water until they contact the host roots. Infection occurs through root hairs or wounds. Once inside the plant, the pathogen produces secondary zoospores

that re-infect the roots of the initial host or nearby plants. The pathogen invades the interior of the host root, altering the normal hormonal balance and leading to the characteristic distorted shapes that give this disease the name “club” root. The infected canola roots will degenerate and will release the resting spores into the soil.

## Clubroot Symptoms

These resting spores have a half life of four years, but have the ability to survive for up to twenty years. The longevity of the resting spores is a key factor contributing to the seriousness of this disease.

**Early Stages:** Clubroot symptoms will vary depending on the growth stage that the canola crop is at when infection occurs. Early infection at the seedling stage can result in wilting, stunting and yellowing of canola plants in the late rosette to early podding stage.



**Later Stages:** Infection that occurs at the later crop stages may not show plant wilting, stunting or yellowing. However, infected plants will ripen prematurely, and seeds will shrivel. The patches of prematurely ripening canola due to clubroot infection could be confused with other diseases such as sclerotinia, blackleg and fusarium wilt.

## Prevention and Management

Resting clubroot spores are most likely to spread via contaminated soil carried from field to field by equipment. Tillage equipment represents the greatest risk of spreading the disease as soil is frequently carried on shovels, discs and other openers. Clubroot surveys in Alberta have found that almost all new infestations begin near the field access, which indicates that contaminated equipment is the predominant spread mechanism.



Growers, custom operators and all land users (including oil & gas, recreationalists etc.) need to be vigilant and diligent in removing potentially contaminated soil from equipment prior to leaving fields, to prevent the introduction of clubroot to clean fields.

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 or longer.
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, Ag Retail Suppliers, Custom Equipment Operators, Oil & Gas Companies, Researchers, 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

Flagstaff County and the County of Paintearth continued their partnership in the Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture (AESA) Program. 2007 marked the third year of the three year program. However, the Province has decided to extend the program for one more year. The program and partnership will continue in 2008 with similar goals and objectives.

The goal of the program is to increase awareness and adoption of beneficial management practices. The programs main priorities continue to be pasture and riparian area management, but also include nutrient and integrated crop management.



Several extension events and activities were conducted to meet the program's goals and objectives. Wayne Burleson, a well known pasture specialist came to Canada from Montana to do a pasture walk in Castor, on his tour with several stops throughout Alberta. He brought a wealth of information not only about tools to manage pastures more effectively, but also about goal setting and decision making. Wayne was very well received. Producers walked away with a few more tools in their back pocket to assist in achieving their goals.

Other activities held throughout the year were: the barley variety swath grazing trial, a crop pest and disease update, Women's Ranching Workshop, the Iron Creek Watershed Improvement Society Showcase tour, riparian tree plantings with students from Lougheed School, the Classroom Agriculture Program, Grazing Club meetings and several others. We also continued assisting with Environmental Farm Plan Workshops.

We had several valuable partnerships throughout 2007. Our partners included Battle River Research Group, the Iron Creek Watershed Improvement Society, Cows and Fish, the Prairie Roots Grazing Club, the Counties of Beaver and Lamont, local producers and many others. We look forward to continuing these partnerships in 2008.

## Iron Creek Watershed Improvement Society

The Iron Creek Watershed Improvement Society (ICWIS) had another year filled with many educational watershed activities. The year started off with the Annual Supper and Information Night held in February. Once spring arrived, some students from Lougheed School joined us to plant red osier dogwood seedlings along a bank of the Iron Creek. The students had a chance to check out the aquatic life that lives in Iron Creek and play the "Cows, Fish, Cattedogs and Kids!" game from Cows and Fish. In the fall, the Iron Creek Group held a "Showcase Tour" which was part of their PFRA Greencover Program grant. Several sites were visited along Iron Creek in which the riparian health score in 2006 was different from the score in 2001. We discussed the changes made to these sites and how it is influencing our watershed.





Glen Hvenegaard from the University of Alberta conducted another bird species inventory on the Riparian Area Grazing Demonstration Site. This information is establishing great benchmark data. It will provide an insight over the years to come to see how changes on the demonstration site influence our bird populations.

The ICWIS had many valuable partnerships as well. Flagstaff County, Cows and Fish, AESA, Battle River Research Group, PFRA Greencover Technical Assistance Program, and many others helped to make these activities possible.

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

Sean Sheedy, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman

Roseanne Hampshire, Agricultural Secretary





# PUBLIC WORKS

## 2007 ROAD PROGRAM

**W**ork on this season's Road Program was officially completed in November 2007. This year's work can be broken down in the following major areas:

### ROAD CONSTRUCTION

A total of approximately 8.5 miles of local road was upgraded during the 2007 construction season at an approximate total cost of \$1,790,615. 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 2007. These miles were completed at the following locations:

B – 2007	NNE 32-44-12 W4M	N 2.0 miles
C – 2007	NNE 32-42-15 W4M	N 1.0 mile
D – 2007	NNW 9-41-13 W4M	E 1.0 mile
E – 2007	NNW 32-44-10 W4M	1.0 mile
F – 2007	NNE 28-43-11 W4M	3.0 miles



### ROAD OILING



A total of 9.5 miles of road were re-oiled during the 2007 season at an approximate cost of \$941,403. Work was completed by in-house crews. This cost includes oil, gravel, equipment, and labor. The following roads were sub-grade prep with a 2 inch layer of base gravel, and a 2 inch layer of oil.

Lougheed South	3.0 miles	Project 12A
Bruce Road	2.5 miles	Project 2B
Sedgewick North	4.0 miles	Project 9B

The Daysland Golf Course Road and the Village of Lougheed were both oiled this year as cost share projects with the towns.

The oil road maintenance patching was done with a three-man patch crew, which operated as required during the season. We also completed 50.5 miles of ripping and relaying projects with 11.5 miles ripped and relayed twice.

Every year Flagstaff County does pot hole 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 \$52 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, will fund the County's portion.

## DUST CONTROL

A total of approximately 52 residential dust controls were completed in the 2007 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 1.**

## ROAD GRAVELING

Flagstaff County entered into a three year contract with Tri-B Enterprises of Daysland. During the 2007 season approximately 168,206 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 \$2,097,058. 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
Paved Roads	4.5 miles

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

## OTHER 2007 PROGRAMS

### GRAVEL PRODUCTION

There were two crushing projects completed in 2007. The projects were as follows:

CR-01-2007: This project was for the supplying, crushing and hauling of gravel to the Mazure Pit (NE 16-43-9 W4). A total of 155,012 tonnes of gravel was crushed at an approximate cost of \$540,990. This project was completed in May 2007 by McNabb Construction Ltd.

CR-02-2007: This project was for the crushing and stockpiling of gravel at the Norman Pit (NW 05-41-17 W4). A total of 72,542 tonnes of gravel was crushed at an approximate cost of \$835,222. This project was completed in October 2007 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 4.5 miles of road recovery was completed in 2007. The road recovery projects were completed at the following locations:

E 20-42-16 W4M	2 miles
NE 33-44-16 W4M	2.5 miles

### ROAD STABILIZATION

Calcium Chloride was applied to 17 miles of the “Coal Trail” (Township Road 410 – the section between Highway 36 and Secondary Highway 872) 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.

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 2007 Flagstaff County Agricultural Service Board mowed 2,962 miles of roadside ditch for a cost of \$80,000. This work was completed between the start of June until the middle of October. This program improves roads for snow removal, site problems and weed control.

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. This debris causes hazards in the right-of-way. 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 nine 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

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The dedicated and professional staff at each of the ambulance divisions continues to provide exceptional care to the community. The teamwork and dedication by the EMS staff is proven time and time again amongst themselves in addition to the co-operation with all other emergency service partners. The ambulance fleet consists of 4 active ambulances throughout the County and one to be used as a mechanical back-up and special event ambulance.



An exciting update of our equipment in 2008 will be the replacing of our Life Pak 300 Monitors which were purchased in the early 1990's.

### Call Volume

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Daysland	127	112	100	122	143	128	173	197	210	224	261
Killam	144	145	184	222	216	201	224	204	252	270	302
Hardisty	102	100	106	101	80	81	76	86	121	108	88
Forestburg	93	78	95	98	113	109	126	116	162	172	142
Total	466	435	485	543	552	519	599	603	745	774	793

### 2007 Ambulance Response Rates Flagstaff County EMS

	Non-Insured	Alberta Blue Cross Government Plans	Alberta Blue Cross Group and Individual Plans
Base Rate	\$198.83	\$146.00	\$226.00
Standby Rate	\$129.94	\$ 96.00	\$148.00
Response Rate (Without transport)	\$129.94	\$ 98.00	\$148.00
Kilometer Rate	\$2.67/km	\$2.29/km	\$3.03/km

## 911 SERVICE



The 911 service for Flagstaff County is provided by Camrose Police Service. When a 911 call is made the caller speaks to a professional dispatcher in Camrose who gathers all of the necessary information and immediately dispatches the appropriate emergency responders via alpha numeric pager. The call is then ended or if required the dispatcher will remain on the phone with the caller to provide such things as instructions for CPR and First Aid and reassurance until emergency services arrive. The 911 service has proven to be an advantage to the residents and travelers in the area.

In 2006 the Camrose Police Service started providing dispatch service for all emergency services in Flagstaff County. We are currently in a partnership with all of the Towns & Villages to provide enhanced communications with the Camrose 911 Center. The project has resulted in a direct radio link to the Camrose 911 Center, allowing emergency responders to communicate directly with dispatchers in Camrose via two way radio.



## 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.

In addition to patrolling the rural areas throughout the County, the Peace Officers also patrol the following urban municipalities who have contracts for the patrol service: Strome, Killam, Sedgewick, Hardisty, 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](http://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.

## 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.

## REGIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICES

A Regional Emergency Services Coordinator was hired in September 2007 to enhance fire protection within Flagstaff County and the ten towns and villages.

Kim Cannady began fire fighting in 1984, and currently assists the ten towns and villages, and Flagstaff County in developing training, equipment coordination, and fire prevention activities.



Kim Cannady  
Regional Emergency Services Coordinator



**Fire permits are required within Flagstaff County year round.**

Fire permits are free of charge and can be issued from the County office or a County Council member.

Fire Department Rural Responses for the last ten years

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Alliance	3	2	6	8	8	4	1	1	8	5
Daysland	7	4	2	4	2	3	4	4	4	10
Forestburg	10	2	5	13	3	7	5	7	5	7
Galahad	7	1	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	8
Hardisty	3	3	6	7	3	0	2	4	14	17
Heisler	2	2	0	7	1	3	3	3	1	0
Killam	8	4	3	7	2	5	1	8	7	9
Lougheed	7	0	3	10	2	3	2	6	5	4
Sedgewick	8	4	6	7	6	6	3	6	9	9
Strome	5	1	2	5	1	1	1	2	0	0
Total	60	23	36	71	31	34	24	43	55	69



# 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. Having one plan will allow better resource sharing and less duplication, and a better understanding of regional needs should the plan ever have to be activated.



## RESCUE SERVICE

The Flagstaff County Rescue Service continues to be provided by the volunteers of the Killam Fire Department. In addition the volunteers of the Hardisty Fire Department provide rescue services to the East area of Flagstaff County and the West area of the MD of Provost.

The rescue service is a vital part of the County’s emergency response system and continues to prove its effectiveness when the need arises.

Rescue Responses (Includes both Rescue and Medical Assistance)									
1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
9	14	17	27	10	23	23	39	42	27



Kevin Luntz  
Protective Services Coordinator  
780 384-4105

Kim Cannady  
Regional Emergency Services Coordinator  
780 384-4127