

MountainViews

Issue 3 – May 2011



Mountain View
COUNTY

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Reeve Paddy Munro

Message From The Reeve

One of the most enjoyable aspects of living and working in a rural setting such as Mountain View County is the sense of renewal we get each spring.

Much of that renewal is thanks in large part to a local emphasis on agricultural production. Many of our ratepayers make their living off the land and as such it's gratifying to see those signs beginning to show themselves during this important season.

From the first signs of crops beginning to sprout to the maturation of the various herds of livestock, it's all part of that annual growth and hope that keeps many producers working the land despite variable markets and unpredictable weather.

As a Council we're dedicated to promoting and supporting the various types of agricultural production on display in Mountain View County. Being that 2011 is the 50th Anniversary of the County, we think it's fitting that we take the time to recognize you the farmers, ranchers and other producers that built this County to where it is today.

Obviously in a County like ours with its changing landscapes – no matter which direction you move – it's important for Council and County staff to take into account those differences to develop and support sound agricultural policies through our Agriculture Service Board.

As one of 69 Agriculture Service Boards in Alberta, the Mountain View County ASB serves to:

- Act as an advisory board to assist Council and the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development in matters of mutual concern

- Advise on and help to organize direct weed and pest control and soil and water conservation programs
- Assist in the control of livestock disease under the Livestock Diseases Act
- Promote, enhance and protect viable and sustainable agriculture with a view to improving the economic viability of the agricultural producer
- Promote and develop agricultural policies to meet the needs of the County

Our County's board consists of three County Councillors and four public members who work hand-in-hand with our Agriculture Services Department to develop our many programs and initiatives available for the producers of Mountain View County to access. What we offer to producers is available on our website or by simply calling the County Office at 403-335-3311.

A small sampling of the programs and initiatives available through our Agriculture Services Department are detailed in the 'Agriculture in Action' section of this publication.

As always, your comments and questions are welcomed. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service.

Paddy Munro, Reeve
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MINDING YOUR BUSINESS

By Doug Erdman, Economic Development Officer

This column assumes that on the basis of previous columns you have decided that you possess the characteristics and commitment to become a business entrepreneur.

Therefore, the next stage of business development will involve the preparation of a pre-feasibility study and feasibility study.

THE PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDY

This study is primarily a research exercise. A starting point for information regarding specific industries can be found at the following sources:

- Industry / trade associations.
- Statistics Canada.
- Federal and provincial government industry/business development departments and organizations.

There are also business research organizations that will develop the information you require on a fee-for-service basis.

The goals of the study are to determine:

1. Long Term Economic Viability of the Industry

It is important to determine the life stage of the industry that you are considering entering.

If it is newly emerging with many areas of actual and potential growth, there will be many potentially profitable market segments. However, the potential risk of failure will also be at a high level.

A mature industry will feature established business competitors. Gaining access to opportunities in this business environment may be easiest through exploiting small niche markets, joint ventures with existing firms, or purchase of firms already established in the industry.

A declining industry usually offers few opportunities for long term wealth generation.

2. Market Segments with Profit Potential

Every potential business or existing business possesses a unique set of strengths and capabilities. The pre-feasibility study should identify industry market segments that allow your unique strengths and capabilities to be used to develop a competitive advantage over existing businesses. Profitable segments will potentially yield enterprise - specific target markets.

It is important to remember that a target market is not necessarily limited to the final consumer. Every stage of production and distribution of a product or service from raw material to final user adds value to output. Many industries feature business opportunities at each link in this chain.

THE FEASIBILITY STUDY

Completion of the pre-feasibility study will identify several industry market segments that appear to have long term economic development potential. The feasibility study is a detailed examination regarding the potential of target opportunities within the segments, the goal being to choose one or more for business development. From this perspective, the feasibility study bridges the gap between the initial examination of a business concept (pre-feasibility study) and the business plan.

If the feasibility study is performed to high standards of analysis, many of the findings can be transferred directly to the business plan.

The feasibility study will determine business viability in the following areas:

1. Wealth Generating Feasibility

Sensitivity Analyses will illustrate profit / risk scenarios under pessimistic, optimistic and expected operating conditions. This means projecting income statements

and cash budgets with various combinations of expected sales, expenses, accounts receivable schedules and the like.

2. Material Feasibility

This component will determine the extent to which raw materials, production equipment, buildings, land, transportation infrastructure, utilities and the like are available.

3. Human Resource Feasibility

A human resource study will determine if labour and management resources are available in the region in quantities necessary to support the enterprise. It will also determine the amount and type of training required as well as wage scales.

4. Financial Feasibility

This component will determine the source, amount and proportion of debt, equity and grant funding (if any) that will be necessary to bring the enterprise into operation.

5. Environmental Feasibility

Invariably, the establishment of new business infrastructure causes changes to the physical environment. This sector of the study will determine these changes and required remediation, if any.

If the above studies indicate a positive outcome regarding the establishment of the business enterprise, the next stage to be undertaken is the development of a formal business plan.

Comments or suggestions?

Contact me at 403-335-3311 ext. 161, by email at doug.erdman@mountainviewcounty.com, or drop by for a visit at the County office.

2011 Mountain View County Tax Rates

Half of the taxpayers in Mountain View County will see their residential tax bills decrease in 2011 after the recent passing of the County's Tax Rate Bylaw.

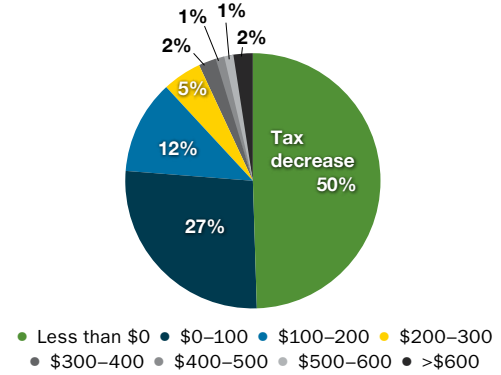
It's part of an overall direction by County Council to hold the line on taxes for an average zero percent tax increase across the board for all categories, according to Reeve Paddy Munro.

In setting the Tax Rates for this year, Council was faced with a higher than expected requisition from the Alberta School Foundation Fund (ASFF), which the municipality is required to collect on behalf of the provincial government.

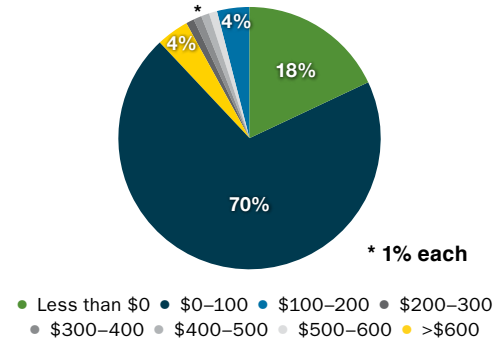
To respond to the change, Council adjusted the non-residential tax rate, which will leave the average non-residential ratepayer with a zero per cent increase on their tax bill, instead of the planned slight decrease on average, summarized Reeve Munro.

Agricultural ratepayers will also see a zero per cent increase in taxes for 2011 after Council dropped the municipal tax rate on farmland to offset the increase in the ASFF rate on those same properties.

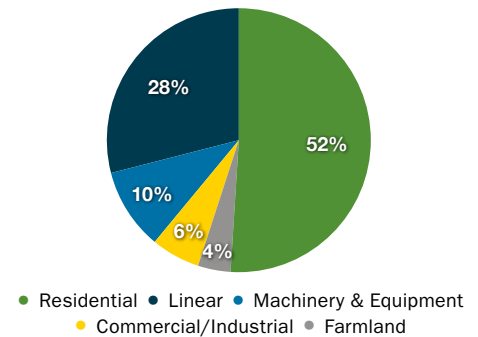
RESIDENTIAL TAX IMPACTS



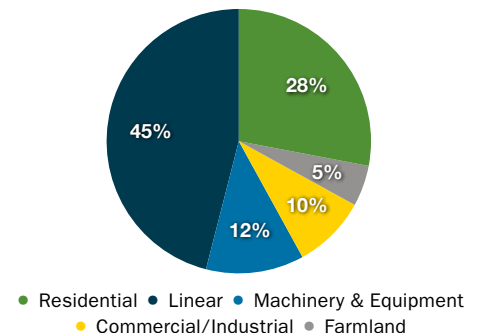
NON-RESIDENTIAL TAX IMPACTS



ASSESSMENT BREAKDOWN BY CATEGORY



TAX REVENUE BY ASSESSMENT CATEGORY



Total Tax Rates:	2008	2009	2010	2011	% Change 10 vs 11
Residential					
Municipal	2.68	2.32	2.35	2.18	(7.2)
A.S.F.F.	2.45	2.07	2.14	2.26	5.6
Mountain View Seniors' Housing	0.10	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.0
Mountain View Waste Management	0.06	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.0
EMS Services	0.09	0.04			
Total Residential	5.38	4.55	4.61	4.56	(1.1)
Farmland					
Municipal	7.03	7.50	7.47	7.35	(1.6)
A.S.F.F.	2.45	2.07	2.14	2.26	5.6
Mountain View Seniors' Housing	0.10	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.0
Mountain View Waste Management	0.06	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.0
EMS Services	0.09	0.04			
Total Farmland	9.73	9.73	9.73	9.73	0.0
Commercial/Industrial					
Municipal	9.00	9.66	9.71	9.85	1.4
A.S.F.F.	4.25	3.68	3.67	3.70	0.8
Mountain View Seniors' Housing	0.10	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.0
Mountain View Waste Management	0.06	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.0
EMS Services	0.09	0.04			
Total Commercial/ Industrial	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.67	1.3
Machinery & Equipment					
Municipal	9.00	9.66	9.71	9.85	1.4
Mountain View Seniors' Housing	0.10	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.0
Mountain View Waste Management	0.06	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.0
EMS Services	0.09	0.04			
Total Machinery & Equipment	9.25	9.82	9.83	9.97	1.4
Linear					
	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.67	1.3

Alberta Certified Weed Free Hay relaunch adds to program appeal

The Certified Weed Free Hay program has been reviewed with changes to the program and more momentum to encourage the program's growth into new markets.

Mountain View County has participated in the Alberta's Weed Free Hay certification program since the launch in 1998. Originally, the program was intended to supply our National and Provincial Parks with hay free of invasive weeds, or their propagative parts. As the threat of invasive weeds grows, along with the awareness of the impact they can have in nature or on the farm, the appeal of Weed Free Hay grows.

In the past, the program classified hay as "Weed Free" through the North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA). Now under the re-launched Certified Weed Free Hay Program, hay can be certified under Alberta Standards, as per the Weed Control Act, and NAWMA standards under their Designated Noxious Weed and Undesirable Plant Species List. As well, Crested Wheat grass is now considered an acceptable species within a Hay mix.

Hay must be inspected a maximum of ten days before the hay is cut. Each hay field must be visually inspected by certified personnel following the standard inspection procedures. A 12-foot perimeter buffer zone must be cut and harvested separately. The 12-foot buffer should be cut prior to inspector's arrival. The County offers Weed Free Hay inspections free of charge. If you are new to the program please contact the Agriculture Services Department well in advance. Once hay is certified a specified coloured twine can be supplied at cost and used to identify a weed free bale along with the certificate issued by the inspector.

Once your hay is certified, it can be listed on Alberta Agriculture's Ropin' the Web hay sales under the Weed Free Hay for Sale banner to encourage greater distribution.

For more information on the program or to participate please contact the Agriculture Services Department at 403-335-3311 ext 184 or visit mountainviewcounty.com/hay

PASTURE SPRAYERS AVAILABLE

- Four pasture sprayers; free of charge
- Capable of spraying a 30-foot span
- Equipped with an approximate 400 gallon tank, boomless nozzles and hand wand
- A slide-in, skid-mounted sprayer also available free of charge
- A 20% rebate is offered to landowners off the cost of labeled herbicides at recognized rates for the control of Tall Buttercup and Wild Caraway
- The reverse roadside spraying incentive program supplies landowners with a pasture sprayer and enough chemical to spray the headlands and a portion of the adjacent road allowance to a width of 16 feet
- The ASB offers a \$50 reward to anyone finding Spotted Knapweed and Orange Hawkweed within MVC boundaries. The reward is only available once per site and the weed must be left undisturbed until inspection.
- Small area weed control and spot spraying assistance available as well

For more information on weed identification, control and incentive programs please call MVC Agriculture Services at 403-335-3311 or visit mountainviewcounty.com/weeds

LADIES LIVESTOCK LESSONS: FIVE YEARS AND GROWING

This year the Red Bow Regional Watershed Alliance will be hosting the 5th annual Ladies Livestock Lessons (LLL). The Red Bow Regional Watershed Alliance consists of partners from Mountain View County, Red Deer County, Wheatland County, Rocky View County, Kneehill County, Clearwater County, M.D. of Bighorn, Foothills Forage & Grazing Association, and Cows & Fish. These municipalities and non-profit organizations have come together to facilitate Ladies Livestock Lessons and the Ranching Opportunities Conference.

Ladies Livestock Lessons is a two day event consisting of classroom and field sessions for women ranchers in Central Alberta. It was first hosted in 2007 at the Red Lodge Guest Ranch. Since then LLL has continued to grow. The event was hosted in the Water Valley area in 2008 and 2009 and in 2010 we moved to Pine Lake. For our 5th year LLL is back in Water Valley at Camp Kindle.

For the 5th annual LLL on June 15th & 16th there are two great days planned. Each day consists of both indoor seminars and outdoor hands-on learning. The classroom sessions will include Livestock Genetics, Edible Plants, Weed ID and Control, Ranching with Oil & Gas, and What's New and Strange in Grazing Management.

Outdoor sessions will be on Low Stress Livestock Handling, Tame and Native Pasture Health, Creek Riparian Health, Fencing Demonstration, and Winter Water Systems. On the evening of the 15th there will be wine and cheese with entertainment from the band Genuine Cowgirls. For more information or to register contact Amber Hines, Sustainable Agricultural Specialist at 403-335-3311 ext 163, amber.hines@mountainviewcounty.com or visit mountainviewcounty.com

Patrol Notes

The first quarter of any year is typically a time of reduced activity for Mountain View County Patrol. It's the time we schedule for training, certificate renewal, planning and networking. All those have been going on this year, but there have been unexpected volumes of enforcement as well, including one speeder caught on radar at 198 km/hr in the posted 90 km/hr zone.

That little tidbit of information provides a nice segue to remind you that it may have been some years since you took a defensive driving course. The above incident is a grave reminder that 'it isn't paranoia if some fool really is out to kill you,' and skills such as pre-trip mental inventory, vehicle condition and avoidance formulas just might make the difference between you being the teller of the story – or the subject of the story. Most drivers likely don't need this part, but the courses also reduce your demerit points by three.

I've had a couple requests to clarify legislation lately. The first is relating to load securement on private vehicles and arose from someone taking junk to the dump. Legislation states the load can't be capable of 'shifting, swaying, blowing off, falling off, leaking or otherwise escaping.' This can refer to tarping, netting or tying down a load, but it can also relate to RV grey water, tools left on a flatbed, and cans or paper flying around in the open box. The fine for this offence is \$345, but we hope the threat to other's safety as well as clean roadways would be your main motivation.

On a related note, we've all seen the old pickup with firewood stacked in the box so high that the tires are nearly flat. The bumper, throwing sparks off the pavement, acting like a wheelie wheel, just barely keeping the front tires on the road. Don't do it! There are consequences much more severe than the ticket.

The other common question relates to off highway vehicle (OHV) use. The short answer to this question in Mountain View County is that OHVs can't be on the road – or even in the ditch – fenceline to fenceline. The only places you can use OHVs in this county are some crown land and private property to which you have right of access.

While it is unlikely that County Patrol would object to legitimate, safe and necessary agricultural use, it would still be illegal and we can't give permission to break the law or to speak for the policies of RCMP, Sheriffs, or Fish and Wildlife.

Rob Ridley
Community Peace Officer
Mountain View County Patrol



Thinking about building or renovating?

Are you thinking about building this spring? Maybe it's time for a new deck or an accessory building such as a garage, shop or shed? Or maybe it is time to add that new addition this summer? Or maybe, it is as simple as replacing those small windows and installing larger ones?

All these types of projects require a building permit. Almost all buildings, renovations and additions require building permits.

Why Do I Need A Permit?

The Safety Codes Act requires that all contractors and homeowners in Alberta obtain a permit prior to commencing work.

A permit is required to ensure that any work – such as building, electrical, gas, plumbing and private sewage – fits within the Alberta

Building Code Regulations, the Safety Codes Act and Mountain View County's Land Use Bylaw

The benefits of obtaining a permit is so that you know that the installation conforms with the Safety standards of the Safety Codes Act and it will also be inspected by a certified Safety Codes Officer.

Your project may also require a development permit.

If you have questions, or require more information regarding permits, we are here to help you. Please contact Planning and Development at the County office 403.335.3311 or visit us online at mountainviewcounty.com/applications.

Be Wild Smart

At this time of the year, bears are coming out of their den and due to the harsh winter and spring; cougars are also on the prowl for easy food. In order to reduce the risk of having one of these animals frequent your property, follow these simple tips:

1. Remove grease and food residue from barbecue grills after each use. Don't forget the grease cup underneath!
2. If you plan to do a little landscaping this year, avoid landscaping with trees, shrubs or plants that produce food known to attract bears (e.g., berry bushes, crab apple trees).
3. Store garbage inside a shed or garage or in bear-resistant containers that have tight fitting lids. If you live in town where you receive garbage pick up, put garbage out on the morning of garbage day, not the night before.
4. Empty all bird feeders and put them away for the time being. Fill bird feeders only during the winter months. Bird seed is full of all the things bears love to eat.
5. Feed pets indoors, do not leave pet food outdoors. Once Rover has finished his evening meal, bring the food bowl inside and don't put it out until it's time for Rover to eat again.
6. Place your garden in the open, away from cover and game trails.
7. When walking or hiking, keep an eye for signs of bears (tracks, droppings), travel with others and make noise as you move through wooded areas to alert bears to your presence. Put any food you are carrying in sealed containers in your back pack.
8. When walking your dog, keep it close by and under control. Uncontrolled or off-leash dogs may lead a bear to you.
9. Develop a network with your neighbours to help keep each other informed about bears in your area. Work within your neighbourhood and community to encourage others to manage their garbage, dog food, birdseed – anything that might attract a bear or cougar.
10. On agricultural lands, be aware that livestock carcasses, green feed crops, and grain storage can attract bears.
11. Be aware of your surroundings especially at dawn and dusk and near the edges of bushy and forested areas.
12. Be aware that feeding or otherwise attracting deer into your yard, could draw in cougars.
13. Cougars may perceive small children and pets as prey. Keep an eye on your children and educate them as to what to do if they see a bear or cougar while they are outside playing.

Have a wonderful and safe spring!

IF YOU SPOT A BEAR OR COUGAR

If the presence of a bear, cougar or other wildlife is a public safety concern, please call your local Alberta Sustainable Resource and Development, Fish and Wildlife office.

To reach the Sundre Office, call 403-638-3805; to reach the Olds Office, call 403-556-4256. If you live outside of these areas, call 310-0000 and ask the operator for the nearest office. If the public safety concern is occurring after office hours, please call the Report-A-Poacher line at 1-800-642-3800.

Once you have completed the above or if the sighting is not a public safety concern, call all your neighbors and advise them of the sighting. Help look out for one another.

Then, report it to Mountain View BearSmart by sending an e-mail to sightings@mountainviewbearsmart.com with the subject heading of "Bear Sighting" or "Cougar Sighting". Please including in your e-mail the following:

1. Date, place and time of the sighting. Include a rural address, legal land location, nearest intersection, facility or landmark.
2. Species – i.e. Grizzly bear, Black bear or cougar, etc.
3. What the animal was doing at the time – i.e. eating, passing through, in the garbage, etc.
4. Your name and contact information (all personal information will remain confidential)

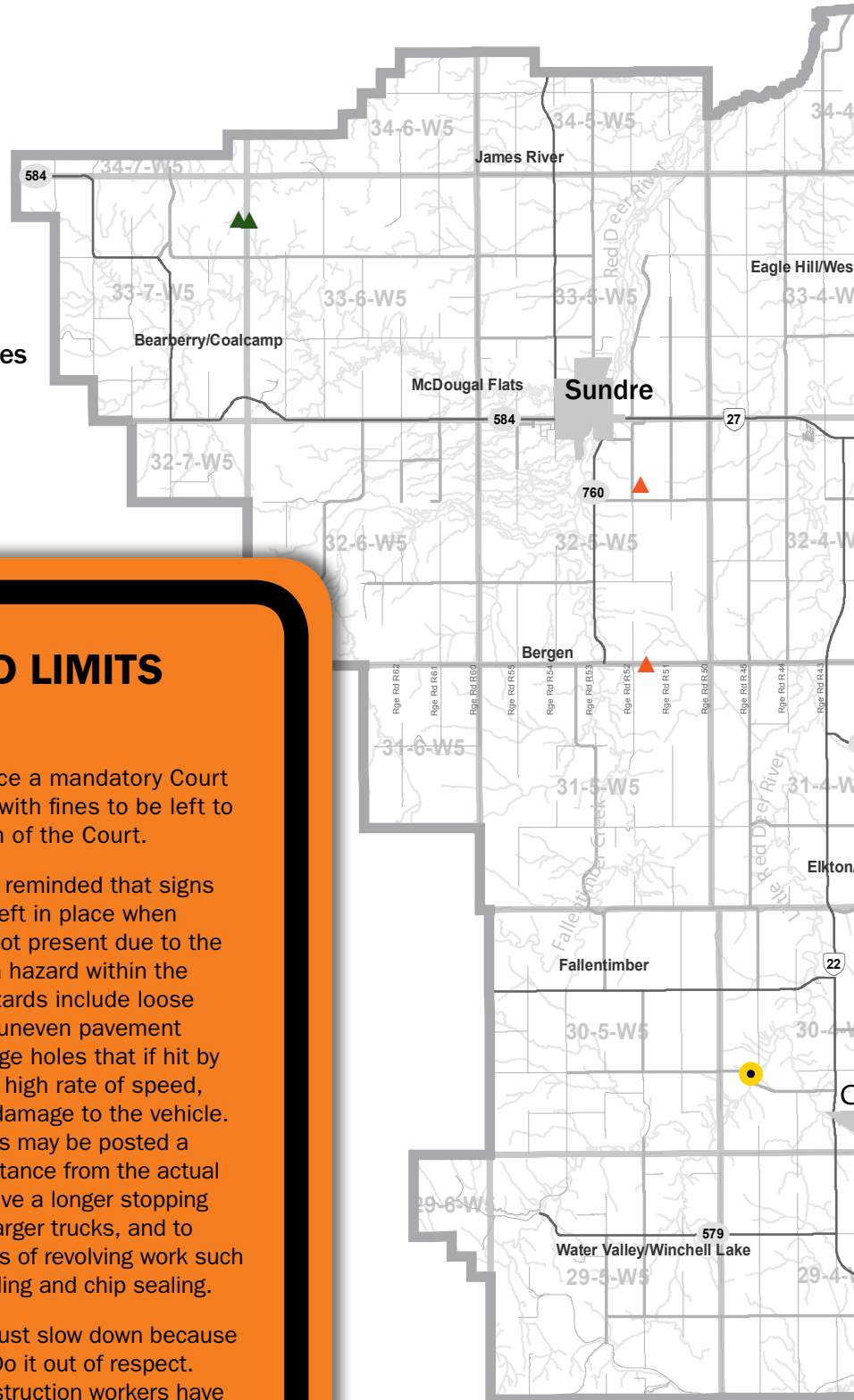
From spring to fall, while the bears are most active, Mountain View BearSmart provides weekly reports on any sightings that have been reported. If you would like to receive an e-mailed copy of this list, please go to mountainviewbearsmart.com and enter your e-mail in the box that says "Get The Report". It is located on the right side of the page.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Mountain View BearSmart Society volunteers are also now ready to deliver presentations to the public on the BearSmart program, bear biology, and human/bear safety. They can customize a presentation to any grade level for your school, to your employees in the office or the field, or to your community group. If you'd like to arrange for a presentation, contact them at info@mountainviewbearsmart.com.

LEGEND

-  Airport Project
-  Bridge Construction
-  Partial Gravel Reclamation
-  Gravel Pit Plans
-  Gravel Pit Reclamation Certificates
-  Drainage Project
-  Construction Projects



CONSTRUCTION ZONE SPEED LIMITS ARE THERE FOR A REASON

Recently, County Patrol has received numerous calls from construction workers regarding the amount of vehicles speeding through construction zones in Mountain View County. These workers may often be hidden from view behind equipment or work materials, leaving them vulnerable to serious injury or death if they are struck by unsuspecting motorists. According to statistics from the Alberta Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association, from 2000 to 2004 alone, collisions in road construction and maintenance zones on provincial highways resulted in 648 injuries and 12 fatalities.

Statistics such as these prompted the implementation of the new Traffic Safety Act in October 2005, leading to speed fines within posted Construction Zones becoming double.

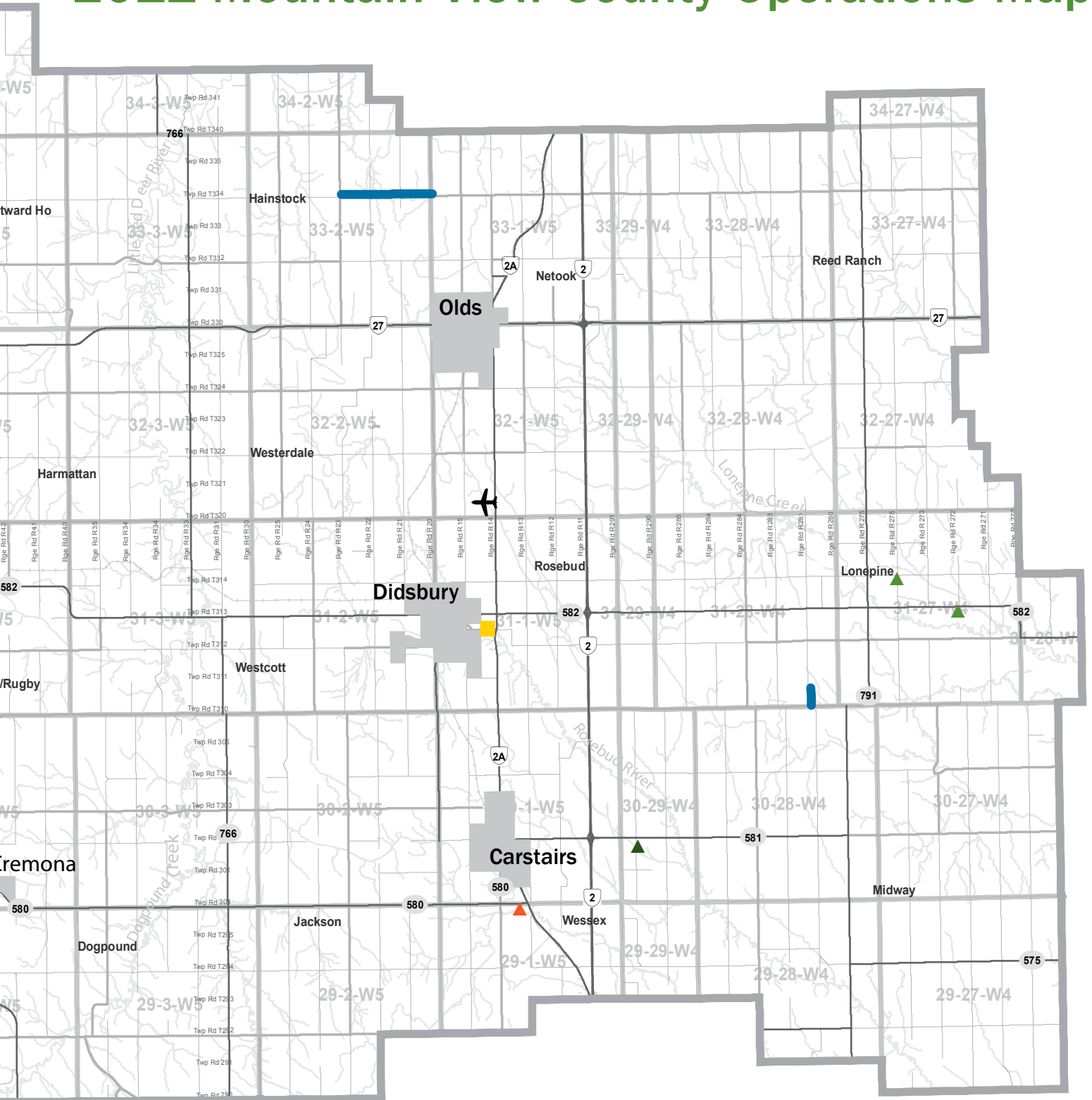
If a motorist is caught speeding through a Construction Zone while workers are present, fines in the range of \$114 to \$702 can be applied. Drivers traveling at 50 km or more over the posted speed

limit could face a mandatory Court appearance, with fines to be left to the discretion of the Court.

Motorists are reminded that signs may also be left in place when workers are not present due to the presence of a hazard within the zone. The hazards include loose gravel chips, uneven pavement surface or large holes that if hit by a vehicle at a high rate of speed, could cause damage to the vehicle. At times, signs may be posted a significant distance from the actual work site to give a longer stopping distance for larger trucks, and to warn motorists of revolving work such as pot hole filling and chip sealing.

Finally, don't just slow down because it's the law - Do it out of respect. All of our construction workers have families at home. The person working on the side of the road could be your friend, relative or neighbor. Let's work together to make this a safe, incident free construction season! If you would like more information, please contact Mountain View County Patrol at 403-335-3311.

2011 Mountain View County Operations Map



Fire permits required as of April 1

As of April 1, 2011, anyone who resides in the Fire Protection Area now requires a permit to light a fire. If you reside south of Highway 27 and west of Highway 22 or North of Highway 27/Secondary Highway 584 and west of Secondary Highway 766, you are in the Fire Protection Area and it is mandatory that you obtain a permit before starting any sort of burn.

Fire permits can be obtained free of charge, are valid for a period of six days and can be obtained from any one of the Fire Guardians in Mountain View County. There is no limit on the number of permits a person can obtain per year. If you require a fire permit, please contact one of the Fire Guardians listed below:

Juergen Sadlowski	Bergen Area	403-638-3571
Lorne Patmore	Water Valley Area	403-637-2209
Leanne Patmore	Water Valley Area	403-637-2209
Harvey Reid	Cremona Area	403-637-2461
Bob Towns	Eagle Hill Area	403-556-2113
Ron Campbell	Mountain View County Staff	403-335-3311
Jane Fulton	Mountain View County Staff	403-335-3311

Call Before You Burn

Even if you do not reside in the Fire Protection Area, it is recommended that you call Fire Dispatch toll free at 1-877-507-7011. You will be asked to provide the following:

1. Your Name
2. Location of the fire (rural address and/or legal land location)
3. Contact phone number of a person at the fire site
4. A prominent landmark near the burn location

Everyone wants to help each other out and often when people see a large amount of smoke in the County, they call the fire department immediately. If you call in before you burn, fire dispatch can check to see if you are conducting a controlled burn and save sending out the Fire Department. This saves the Fire Department time and money and also saves you the embarrassment of having the Fire Department show up on your land when they are not needed.

Items Illegal to Burn

Burning may be an easy and cheap way to clean up your yard, however, there are some items that the Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act states are illegal to burn. These items include the following:

1. Animal Manure
2. Pathological Waste (health care waste such as needles or IV tubing)
3. Wood or wood products with preservatives (i.e. treated wood)
4. Plastic including baler twine
5. Containers that held pesticides or any other chemical
6. Rubber including tires
7. Oil
8. Waste material from construction sites
9. Plastic or rubber coated materials including copper wire
10. Any waste causing dense smoke, offensive odours or releases toxic substances

If you have any further questions regarding these matters or any other enforcement related matter, please contact Mountain View County Patrol at 403-335-3311.



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