



WHAT'S NEW

In Mountain View

May 22, 2008

www.mountainviewcounty.com

Mountain View
COUNTY

It's Not Paranoia (If it really is out to get you)

Make sure that fire is "dead out"

By Rob Ridley, Community Peace Officer, Mountain View County Patrol

This time, we're talking about fire - and while it is an integral part of country living, it can also be devastating. One Mountain View County resident found this out recently, when a brush pile he burned three months ago rekindled itself during the fire ban, causing damage to woodlots, and fencing- but thankfully not to buildings, people or livestock. Sundre Fire Department advises that it is not uncommon for a brush pile to appear completely out, for long periods of time, while a bed of coals banks up underneath just waiting for dry, windy conditions. Firefighters recommend that after burning a brush pile you pull apart the remains of the pile to make sure it is "dead out" (As my friend Smokey used to say).

I've had several people ask about fines related to negligence, fire bans or fire permit offences. They are significant, but I'd rather talk about prevention than consequences. Call fire dispatch (1-888-999-3822) before you light the fire. If you don't make this call out of fear of having to pay for manned fire trucks, then at least make the call out of respect to the men and women who put their lives on hold for us. They shouldn't have to leave their jobs, families or private times to respond to a bogus fire call.

Be sure to call Mountain View County at 335-3311 to see if you are in a fire permit area - and please have your permit with you at the burn site so we can verify it if we are called in.

Always make sure your fire is attended or monitored until it is completely out - and take the extra step of pulling the remains apart to be sure.

There are many reasons to prevent wildfire- the potential of property damage, climate change, injury to people and livestock, and expense and compassion for those affected are among them. Please help us set an example for others. We appreciate your help.

What is an Environmentally Significant Area To you?

Summit Environmental Consultants Ltd. (Summit) will be hosting a public information meeting on behalf of Mountain View County (MVC), to get public input on what they consider to be an Environmentally Significant Area (ESA); and associated levels of significance.

This information will be used refine Summit's ESA criteria and significance ratings, to be applied to the entire County. After the ESA criteria and significance is determined, all of MVC will be mapped and relevant management guidelines will be determined for the different ESA's.

An ESA survey is available online at www.mountainviewcounty.com; or can be mailed to a recipient by contacting Lesley Lovell at 335-3311.

Date: May 26, 2008
Time: 7pm
Location: Council Chambers, Mountain View County Office



Road Watch *(subject to weather conditions)*

ATTENTION: Watch for Road Ban signs throughout the County.

Week of May 19 to May 23

ACTIVITY	LOCATION
Pot Hole Patching	Throughout County (Weather Permitting)
Blading of gravel roads	Throughout County (Weather Permitting)
Road side grass control	Throughout County (Weather Permitting)
Brush removal - herbicide	Throughout County (Weather Permitting)

Week of May 26 to May 30

ACTIVITY	LOCATION
Pot Hole Patching	Throughout County (Weather Permitting)
Blading of gravel roads	Throughout County (Weather Permitting)
Road side grass control	Throughout County (Weather Permitting)
Brush removal - herbicide	Throughout County (Weather Permitting)

Assessment News

County experiences residential assessment increase of 42%

Assessment Highlights

The County assessment department has completed compiling all of the property assessment information which will be used for collecting taxes in 2008. Property values have increased in virtually all classes (farmland being the only exception) resulting in a taxable assessment increase of \$700 million or 21%.

Quick Primer on Assessment

In Alberta, residential (and most commercial property) is assessed on the basis of Market Value - which is the most probable value you might expect to get if you sold your property based current and comparable market conditions (willing buyers, willing sellers, reasonable market activity etc.)

Residential Snapshot

- The residential assessment increased by \$486 million representing a total increase of 42% over 2007
- Most residential properties will see an assessment increase (99%)
- There were 216 new residences built in the County in 2007.

Commercial and Industrial Snapshot

- The total commercial and industrial assessment increased by \$40 million representing a total increase of 29% over 2007

Farmland Snapshot

- Farmland assessments have not changed in 2008. These values are not assessed at market value, but are assessed using Provincially regulated rates.
- 1667 acres of farmland were removed from use in 2007.

Machinery and Equipment Snapshot

- The Machinery and Equipment assessment increased by \$80 million representing a total increase of 25% over 2007

Linear Snapshot

- These properties include: oil and gas wells and pipelines; electric power systems (generating, transmission and distribution); telecommunication systems (including cellular telephone systems); and cable television systems.
- The linear assessment increased by \$92 million representing a total increase of 9% over 2007

County Council is expected to finalize the 2008 tax rates in April. Individual assessment and tax notices will then be sent out shortly after. As usual the tax due date will be September 15th.

For more information on understanding the assessment process, linking assessment to property taxes, and detailed information on the assessment summary report, please see www.mountainviewcounty.com or call the Assessment Department at the County Office.

An Important Notice for County Residents

The annual roadside vegetation management program will commence May 15th as weather conditions permit. This program includes the application of registered herbicides according to label directions. County ratepayers have the option of requesting that no herbicide application be carried out on road allowances adjacent to their property. A "No Spray Agreement" must be signed by the adjacent landowner agreeing to take full responsibility for weed control in the portion of the road allowance that borders their property. County policy is to respect a no spray buffer of 30 Meters around shelterbelts, gardens and dwellings. Ratepayers who farm County ditches, either for grain or hay, must also sign an agreement with the County to prevent damage to their crop.

For more information please contact:
Jeff Holmes, Manager of Agriculture and Parks Services
(403) 335-3311 ext 179