

2013

Wheatland County Annual Report

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In the paper on page 5 of the Strathmore Standard Newspaper

Driving the Wheatland County Administrative Office, Public Works & Ag Shops are located 5km's east of Strathmore on the north side of Highway 1, access via Range Road 243



2013

WHEATLAND COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT

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COUNTY PROFILE

Wheatland County is a proud agricultural community with a population of 8,285 and a land area of 4,540 square kilometers. The County is located 30km east of Calgary and is bordered by the Red Deer River and the Town of Drumheller to the north; Siksika Nation and the Bow River to the South. The County lies in the mixed prairie grassland, pothole region of Alberta. The iconic prairie landscape includes the wintering hills wind farm near Dalum, badland ravines and rolling agricultural fields. Our communities are supported by a diverse mixture of agriculture, industrial activity, energy production and community development. Our communities offer the convenience of close proximity to services of urban centers while enjoying the big skies, quality lifestyle and western culture.

Wheatland County enjoys sunshine for an average of 2396 hours every year, spread over 333 days. The mean annual precipitation is around 366 millimeters (mm), the mean annual temperature is 3.9° C, with the mean monthly temperature reaching a high of 17.4° C in July, and dropping to a low of -11.1° C in January. The calculated annual potential evapotranspiration is 524 millimetres. There are 115-125 frost free days per year and the County lies in the 3a plant hardiness zone. The soil type is mostly dark brown chernozems.

There are numerous campgrounds within and bordering Wheatland County. There are camping facilities in the Hamlet of Rosebud at the Akokiniskway golf course and at the High Eagle RV Park along the Rosebud River, at the Eagle Lake RV Park, Calderon near Carseland, Highway 1 Camping, and Beupre Park in Gleichen. There are also sites at the Villages of Standard, Rockyford and Hussar as well as at the Whyndham-Carseland Provincial

Park and in Drumheller and Strathmore.

The Bow River offers a world class trout fishery and provides other recreational activities such as canoeing and boating. There are multiple access points to the River which includes the Whyndham-Carseland Provincial Park, the Carseland Weir/Johnsons Island and Legacy island (maintained by Trout Unlimited). There are fishing lodges and numerous guides providing services to anglers in the Bow River. The Rosebud River (where Jackie Chan was filmed in the movie Shanghai Noon) and Red Deer River both offer the iconic badland landscape and paddling opportunities. The Severn Dam day-use area is a popular fishing hole for locals.

Our prairie pothole landscape provides habitat to many types of waterfowl, migratory and prairie bird species such as the tundra Swan, the Northern Pintail and the Common Goldeneye. Bird watching can be done around most of the County. Namaka Lake, a site managed by Ducks Unlimited Canada, and the Nature Conservancy of Canada provides access, signage and parking. The Serviceberry Creek, Rosebud River and Crowfoot creek also provide valuable riparian habitat for our native species.

There are many excellent golf courses in the County which include the Akokiniskway Golf Course located in the beautiful Rosebud River valley at Rosebud, Speargrass golf course along the banks of the Bow River near Carseland, the Oxbow Country Golf Course north of Strathmore, Muirfield lakes Golf Club at Lyalta and the Strathmore Golf Club.

Wheatland County has a long history of agricultural communities, railway and RCMP. The community of Gleichen was one of the first towns in the Western Territory that would

later become Alberta. Wheatland County (formerly known as the M.D. of Wheatland and County of Wheatland) was created in 1954 when parts of 2 Improvement Districts, the M.D. or Bow Valley, Serviceberry and Kneehill were incorporated. Historic sites within the County include: St. Andrews Church in Gleichen (built in 1885); and the recently restored Gleichen water tower (built in 1911) which is one the few remaining water towers in the province. The Dalum Church (built in 1937) is a unique example of Danish style architecture. The Scheer-Sproule Farm - Bed and Breakfast east of Strathmore is a registered Alberta Historic Farmsite. It sits on land first settled in 1909 and represents prairie homestead development from this period. On our border is the Atlas Coal Mine, East Coulee School Museum, the Last Chance Saloon and the Tyrell Museum in the Town of Drumheller and in Siksika Nation is the Blackfoot Crossing Museum which is well worth a visit and the Chief Crowfoot memorial site.

The small hamlet of Rosebud is the center of cultural activities in the County. The Rosebud Theater has regular shows and is closely linked to the Rosebud School of the Arts. The many country-style bed and breakfasts in the hamlet provide accommodation to attendees of the theater and meals are available at local cafes. The Mercantile has an in-house caterer, three different rooms accommodating up to 250 people, and a warm, country ambience. There are also art galleries, the Rosebud Museum and educational signage around town.

There are many fun summer events, examples include the Rockyford Rodeo, Standard Sports Day, Hussar days, Strathmore Rodeo, Carseland Aggie day, Gleichen fall fair and Rodeo. Other sites of interest include the Wintering Hills wind farm, and the numerous nurseries such as Eagle Lake Nurseries.



MISSION

Wheatland County is committed to provide services that recognize and encourage balanced, sustainable, long term growth and opportunities. We advocate prudent use of our resources and promote a quality of life for our citizens that reflect our agricultural heritage.

VISION

To Provide Responsible, Accountable and Effective Governance

8,285 Wheatland County Residents

4,540 Square kilometers in Area

1.8 Persons per square kilometer

2,659 Private Dwellings

39.7 Median age of Wheatland County resident

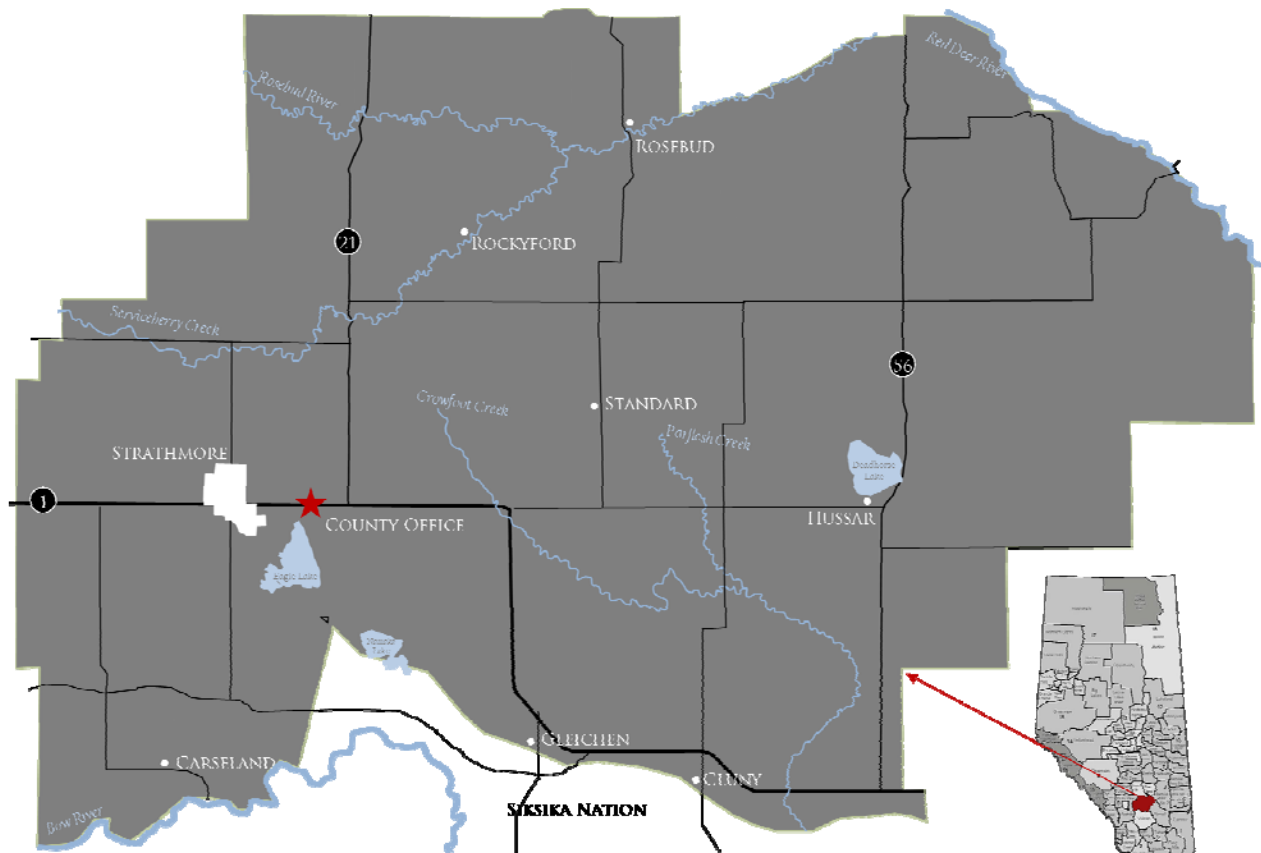
2,150 number of families

2,725 Km of maintained roads

782 Farm Units

46,822 Acres (18,948ha) under irrigation

162,218 total number of cattle/calves





YOUR COUNCIL

DIVISION 1 - Councillor Alice Booth

Phone: 403.644.2969

Cell: 403.333.7523

Email: Alice.Booth@wheatlandcounty.ca

DIVISION 2 - Councillor Rex Harwood

Agricultural Service Board Vice Chair

Phone: 587.777.6637

Email: Rex.Harwood@wheatlandcounty.ca

DIVISION 3 - Don VanderVelde

Agricultural Service Board Chair

Phone: 403.325.0730

Phone: 403.936.5778

Email: Don.Vandervelde@wheatlandcounty.ca

DIVISION 4 - Councillor Berniece Bland

Phone: 403.333.7515

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DIVISION 5 - Councillor Brenda Knight

Home: 403.934.4205

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DIVISION 6 - Councillor Glenn Koester

Reeve

Phone: 403.533.2228

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DIVISION 7 - Councillor Ben Armstrong

Deputy Reeve

Phone: 403.333.7514

Email: Ben.Armstrong@wheatlandcounty.ca

Wheatland County is committed to open, transparent and accountable governance. County Council welcomes the opportunity to discuss County operations and encourages interested persons or parties to contact our office and make an appointment to meet with them.

MESSAGE FROM THE REEVE

Dear Citizens,

During 2013 the paving of the Lyalta road was completed. This is now an all weather road between highways #1 and #564 as well as our road crew has all but finished re-building the hammer hill road. The fall of 2013 saw an early return of winter which required our grader operators to put in some long hours plowing snow in order to keep our roads open. There were numerous instances throughout the winter when a day's work of snow plowing would see the roads blocked again through the night having the operators to start all over again in the morning. Spring was a welcome sight.

Council has passed third reading on a new MDP (Municipal Develop Plan) and will be looking at updating Wheatland County's LUB (Land Use Bylaw). I would like to thank all of the residents of Wheatland County who came out to the open houses and shared their views and dreams of the future direction our county should take. Please watch for upcoming open houses as the LUB takes shape.

Wheatland County office has seen some minor renovations this past year. The council chambers have new desks and electronics. The new sound system is a vast improvement as well as the new projectors. It is hoped that these enhancements not only help council and staff be more productive but also allows Wheatland County to be more open and transparent in its dealings with our rate payers.

WADEMSA has signed a five year contract with two, two year extensions with AHS to provide ambulance service. This good news allows WADEMSA to continue to provide emergency services to the Wheatland County area for the next nine years. This service is recognized as being one of the best in the province. As this service continues to grow its core value of providing the best client care will be its highest priority. If you have any concerns or ideas to improve this service do not hesitate to contact council.

We are still waiting on the Provincial government to decide on the fate of regional water in Wheatland County however we are still optimistic that we will receive the needed help from our government.

If you have any concerns or comments for Wheatland County and the direction that its taking, please do not hesitate to contact your councillor and make your ideas known. Together we will continue to make Wheatland County the best in the province.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Council,

Glenn Koester
Reeve Wheatland County



CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

*Submitted by Alan Parkin, RET, CLGM,
Chief Administrative Officer*

On behalf of our team of dedicated employees I am pleased to present the 2013 Annual Report. The report provides highlights of the audited financial statement and focuses on each department's activities for 2013. The report also provides the current goals, activities and strategies for the coming year.

My objectives and leadership provides a Vision of Responsible, Accountable and Effective Governance. My role as County Manager (Chief Administrative Officer) is to ensure that Governance decisions approved by Council are implemented throughout the organization and reflected in the day to day activities of County operations.

During 2013 we faced a number of challenges and opportunities at Wheatland County. I was fortunate to join the organization in March and have enjoyed serving the citizens of the County over the past year. We were successful in moving some projects forward which have been in discussion over the past few years. In mid 2013 the unveiling of the elevating scraper in front of the office was well attended and provides a lasting legacy of the area's history. In June the Province, including an area of Wheatland County faced the effects of a devastating flood of which we will see effects for many years to come. Although Wheatland County experienced a concentrated area of damage the devastation was considerable. Wheatland County sustained damages to the raw water intake at Speargrass and effects of debris and potential evasive plants.

In the fall the election was conducted with two divisions contested. The results of the election was that one new Councillor joined Council with the retirement of Councillor Sauve.

In October a reorganization of staff was conducted, resulting in the reduction of the senior management team from five senior managers to three senior managers. I am pleased to advise that Dave Churchill has remained in his previous role in charge of Transportation and Infrastructure, Jim Laslo assumed a new role in charge of Agricultural Services, Community and Protective Services, which includes planning and development, and Pat Leitch was hired to lead the finance and administration operations of the county.

In December, the area sustained winter storms which have affected the area, and resulted in the closure of county operations and all roadways in the area. A discussion with all emergency personnel was conducted with the assistance of the Alberta Emergency Management Agency.

I am pleased to have you read our annual report, visit our website and enjoy our County. On behalf of the entire team here at the County, welcome to Wheatland County.

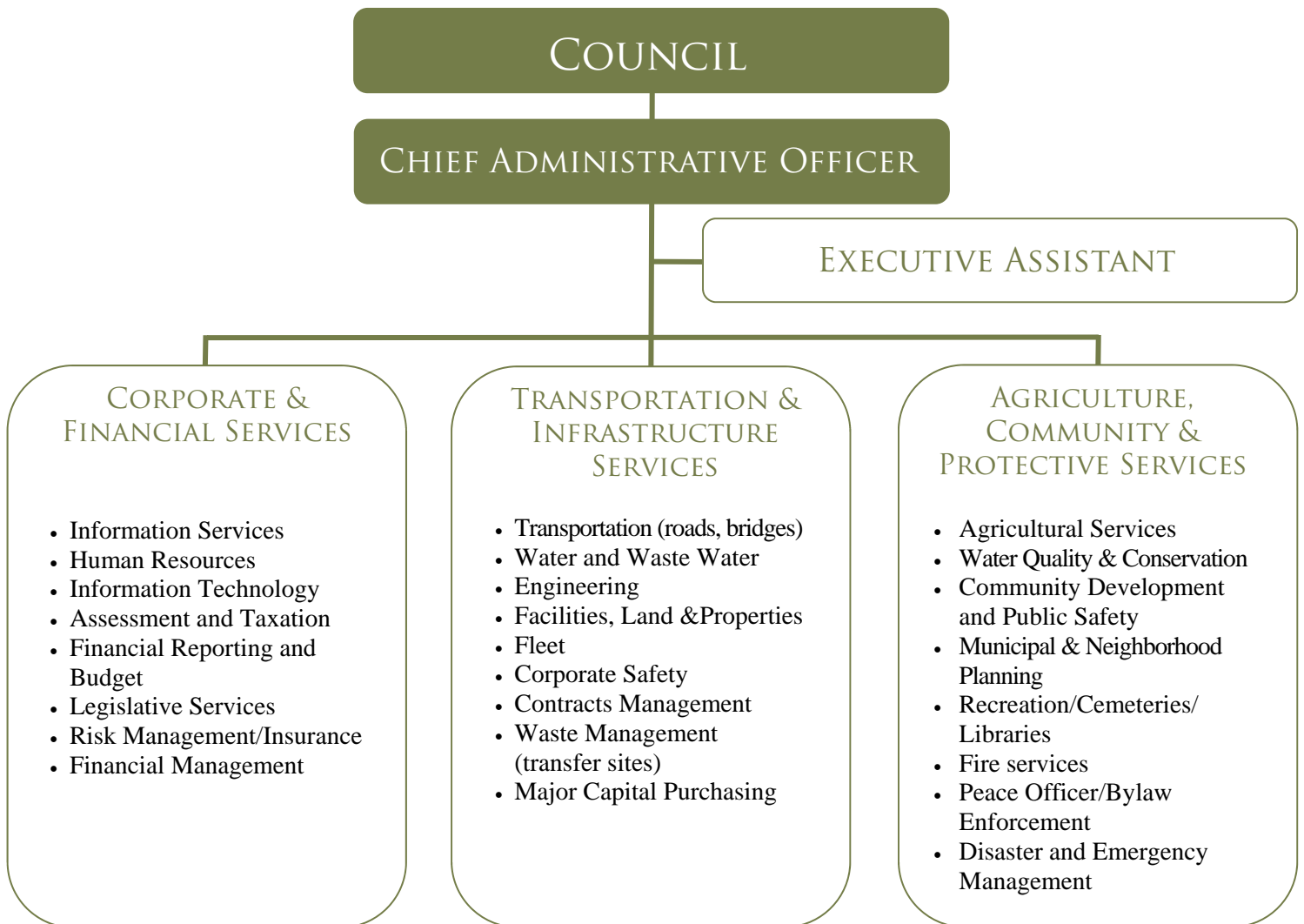
Alan Parkin, RET, CLGM

County Manager (Chief Administrative Officer)



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

In October 2013 the organizational structure of the county was simplified from 5 departments to 3.



STRATEGIC PLAN

PRIORITY: TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

WATER

Objective: *Ensure safe and reliable water supply*

Action: Design of new reservoir and treatment facilities in Gleichen

Results: Be prepared to proceed to construction in 2015/16.

Action: Encourage water conservation

Results: Tiered invoicing system to include 10 year capital plan for water and sewer with capital levy implemented. Work on initiative for low consumption fixtures to reduce water consumption.

WASTEWATER

Objective: *Ensure safe and viable wastewater management meets/exceeds standards*

Action: Design of improved Rosebud Treatment Facilities

Results: Rosebud waste water treatment system septic field requirements identified.

Action: Standards and innovations

Results: Exploration of systems to increase effectiveness of lagoons and treatment facilities. Work on feasibility study and development of water reclamation system to support agricultural diversification in Wheatland County.

Action: Conservation and Education

Results: 17 producers have participated in ASB Water Protection Initiative Program; investigating methods to recycle and reduce withdrawal from Bow River; staff participation in Bow River Phosphorus Reduction Committee.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

Objective: *Ensure adequate road and bridge planning, development & maintenance*

Action: Continue road development strategy

Results: 10 year construction, 10 year paving and bridge replacement/repair program continues; additional roving grader added for heavily travelled roads; 10th grader division to be added; continuation of shoulder lifting/gravel reclamation, gravelling program, seal coating, dust abatement, crack filling and patching.

Action: Construction cost comparison

Results: Computer software purchased for tracking and reporting costs to Council; staff reporting. Public tender for road works in fall of 2014.

Action: Land Reclamation program viability

Results: Initiated pre and post inspections by engineering consultants to assist with reclamation. ASB & PW reviewing scope of work to ensure reclamation is completed in conjunction with disturbance work to reduce exposure to liability.

PRIORITY: REGIONAL COOPERATION

Objective: *Explore and assess opportunities and foster a partnership development role on behalf of our regions*

Action: Support local regional partnerships

Results: Wheatland County Regional Partnership (WCRP) meetings occur with Villages of Standard, Rockyford, Hussar and the Town of Strathmore on a regular basis and this is planned to continue to foster cooperation in the region. Sign agreement for a regional cooperative with the villages.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Action: Explore joint funding opportunities

Results: Grant Coordinator hired and continued development of special projects is being undertaken.

Action: Continued support of Recreation in the region

Results: Community Enhancement Regional Board (CERB) funds dispersed out of tax collected.

Action: Rural to Rural Inter-municipal Development Plan with Vulcan County, Newell County and the Municipal District of Foothills and continue to encourage Kneehill County to participate in an Inter-municipal development plan as well.

Results: Rural Inter-municipal development plans with Vulcan, Newell and Foothills in the process of being developed.

PRIORITY: STRATEGIC BALANCE

AGRICULTURE

Objective: *Foster activities that strengthen, protect, and enhance agricultural viability*

Action: Review and follow ASB Strategic Plan

Results: ASB Manager to revise Business Plan

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Objective: *Explore economic development function for Wheatland County*

Action: Prepare an economic development strategy

Results: Grant application submitted to conduct a five year economic development strategy

Action: Review equity of shared services

Results: Meetings involving Marigold Library;

Councillors provide reports to Council.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Objective: *Maintain appropriate levels of Protective Services*

Action: Review service levels per need and budget

Results: Meetings attended to maintain service levels with Fire Chiefs, Fire Fighter Training, First Responders and Dispatch services

Action: Enhance communications with RCMP

Results: Council & staff met with Senior RCMP representatives at least annually

Action: Update municipal emergency plan (MEP) on milenet

Results: Municipal Emergency Plan updated for reference.

SUSTAINABILITY

Objective: *Provide mechanisms for ongoing, sustainable growth and development management*

Action: Review/update Area Structure Plans (ASP)

Results: West Highway 1 Area structure plan review ongoing with completion in 2014.

Action: Update the County Municipal Development Plan (MDP) .

Results: Municipal development plan approved in late 2013.



TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Submitted by Dave Churchill, R.E.T, Manager of Transportation and Infrastructure services.

The following information is an overview of the projects the Transportation and Infrastructure Departments have completed in 2013.

GRAVEL

In 2013 the County gravel crew spread over two hundred thousand tonnes of gravel on various county roads. This includes gravel used on construction projects as well as gravel on local roads. Our gravel crushing contractor also crushed 163,000 tonnes of gravel at various pits.

In 2014 we expect to spread 220,000 tonnes of gravel on various county roads and crush an additional 160,000 tonnes of gravel.



PAVEMENT

In 2013 Wheatland County contracted a base course and paving project with just over 5.5 miles (8.8 Km) of pavement added to our paved roads inventory.

South Rock

- Lyalta Road (RR 264) From Hwy. 1 to the Hamlet of Lyalta

In 2014 we plan to contract the paving of the Cluny East Access Road (RR 220) From Hwy 842 to Hwy 1.

SEAL COATING

- Duck Lake Road from Hwy. 564 to Twp. Rd. 251A

In 2014 we plan to seal coat the Carseland North Access Road (RR 260)



CONSTRUCTION

In 2013 County crews completed:

Construction (Re-grading)

Twp. Road 230	S-6-23-21-W4M	1 miles (1.6 km)
Hammer Hill Road (Twp. Rd. 232)	S 13-23-23 W4	5 Miles (8 km)
	S 14-23-23 W4	
	S 15-23-23 W4	
	S 16-23-23 W4	
	S 17-23-23 W4	

The County also entered into a cost sharing agreement with EnCana Corporation to re-construct 1 mile of County road

Twp. Road 233	W-3-24-23-W4M	1 miles (1.6 km)
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In 2014 we hope to complete the following re-grading projects:

Range Road 232	West of 15-23-23-W4	
Range Road 240	West of 18 and 19-24-23-W4	
Range Road 255	West of 29 & 32-24-25-W4	2 miles (3.2 km)
	West of 5, 8, 17 & 20-25-25-W4	4 miles (6.4 Km)

OILING/MAINTENANCE CREW

2013 Projects include:

- Repair of soft spots and washouts on various roads during the spring and early summer, due to over-land flooding in the spring of 2013
- Set-up and run pumps and hoses to pump out sloughs that were flooding roads from the spring runoff
- Crack fill on paved roads
- Haul pit run to build up road across several sloughs (due to high water level caused by spring flooding)
- Dust control with both calcium chloride and oil
- Re-work & repair a number of old oil dust control locations
- Bridge maintenance including repairing guard rails, hazard markers & bridge decks

2013 BRIDGE STRUCTURES (REPLACEMENT)

- Bridge File #07918 In NE 10-27-22-W4
- Bridge File #09386 South of SE 17-23-23-W4
- Bridge File #07109 West of SW 23-27-23-W4
Bridge approach guard rail

Due to the removal of provincial funding for bridge projects, we have limited the bridge replacement plans in 2014 to bridges located on current road construction plans. These include:

- Bridge File #06883 West of NW 15-22-25-W4M
- Bridge File #84569 West of NW 5-25-25-W4M
- Bridge File #00467 West of NW 20-25-25-W4M

ROAD RECLAMATION PROGRAM

The road shoulder reclamation crew completed 41 miles (66 km) of shoulder work in 2013.

This included major side slope and shoulder reconstruction on:

- Range Rd. 244 – From Hwy. 9 South to Twp. Rd. 273

The work performed on the other roads was basically pulling the grassed “curbs” from the shoulder of the road, mulching the material and using it to re-shape the crown of the roads.

WASTE TRANSFER SITES

In 2013 there were no special projects completed at the waste transfer sites. However, each year the sites get busier and are handling an increasing volume of materials.

2013 HAMLET CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS

In Carseland/Speargrass the County completed the expansion of the sewage lagoon holding cells, as well as increasing the size of the facultative (treatment) cell. These improvements will substantially increase the capacity the system is able to accept and allow for the future development of Carseland and Speargrass. Also in Carseland the County completed water and sewer main replacements on Main Street between Langdon Avenue and Railway Avenue and completed the looping of a water main along Indus Street. The looping of the main allows the water to cycle within the system avoiding stagnant conditions.

In Gleichen the County replaced the aging and undersized water main on 9th Avenue from Adam Street to Griesbach Street.

In Rosebud we completed the connection of a third water well to service the community. The County also installed two booster pumps and a fire flow pump to increase both the current pressure in town as well as ensure there is adequate pressure and flows in the case of a fire.

In 2013 we will be reconstructing a portion of Railway Avenue in Cheadle to allow a wider surface as well as a better structure to the road. We will be constructing a new sewage lift station in Carseland and a raw water pumphouse in Speargrass to replace the one lost in the 2013 flood. Rosebud will receive a sani-dump station for recreational vehicles and the waste water lagoon at Gleichen will receive a new fixed pumping system.



AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY & PROTECTIVE SERVICES

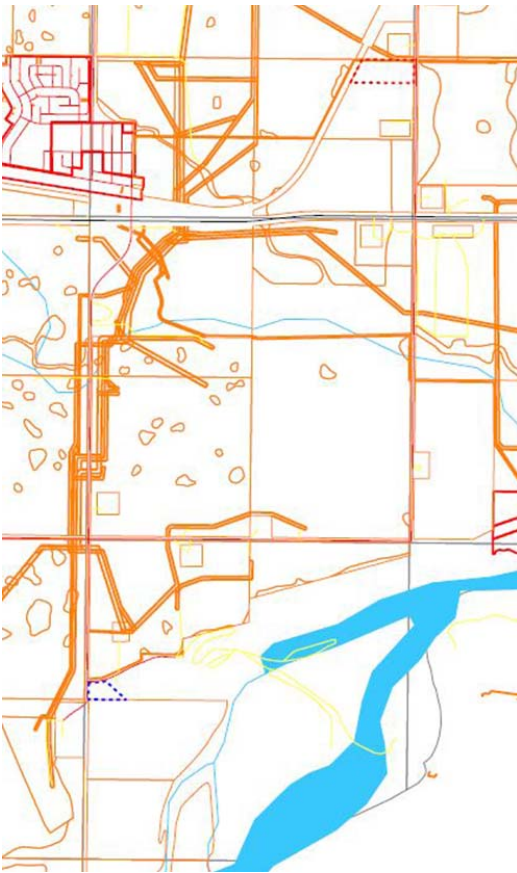
Submitted by Jim Laslo, CLGM, Manager of Administrative Services

The Wheatland County Agriculture, Community and Protective Services Department includes talented and dedicated staff members providing Agricultural Services, Municipal Planning, Development and Safety Codes Services and Protective Services (Policing, Fire and Emergency) under one umbrella.

Agriculture Services staff includes Manager Russ Muenchrath, Agriculture Foreman Jason Regehr, Agricultural Conservation and Communications Coordinator Sarah Schumacher, Weed Inspector Ron Bartholow, and Seasonal Equipment Operators Sheldon Roes, Dave Pinder, Marina Meister and Ashley Larsen. Our Agricultural Services Team provide services including Agricultural Service Board support, Weed and Pest Control, Vegetation Management, Agricultural Conservation, Agriculture Education and Extension, Land Reclamation, Roadside Grass Seeding, and Agricultural Equipment Rental.



Reorganization of the Wheatland County Management Team included a reduction in our Community Planning and Development staff to one Planner (Gareth Webster) with two Development Officers (Suzanne Hayes and Kim Sandbeck) and Safety Codes Technician Cindy Ramsay. Our Planning, Development and Safety Codes Team provide services including overseeing the Land Use Bylaw and Municipal Development Plan, subdivision and redesignation of land, Area Structure Plans, Area Concept Plans, Off-site Levy Bylaw preparation, Development Permits, Certificate of Compliance and Safety Code permits for Building, Gas, Plumbing and Private Sewage Disposal Systems.



Protective Services staff includes Senior Peace Officer Jeff Cyr and Community Peace Officers Kevin Taylor and Ben Mendoza. The Fire and Emergency Management Coordinator position was filled by Judy Unsworth providing services in Fire Prevention and Control Services and Disaster and Emergency Management. Wheatland County Peace Officers provide services including Traffic Control, Vehicle Overweight Applications, Animal Control, and Bylaw Enforcement.

Additional Community Services includes Cemeteries (Rosebud and Gleichen), Libraries, and Recreation.

Submitted by
Jim Laslo, CLGM General Manager

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD (ASB)

*Submitted by Russel Muenchrath,
Manager of Agricultural Services*

The 2013 Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) included the entire County Council and CAO, Alan Parkin. Ken Sauve served as Chairman until his retirement from Council in October with Don Vander Velde being elected as the Chair and Rex Harwood as the Vice Chair.

ASB Staff included Manager of Agricultural Services, Russ Muenchrath; Agricultural Foreman; Jason Regehr; Agricultural Conservation & Communications Coordinator; Sarah Schumacher; Equipment Operator's; David Pinder, Sheldon Roes and Marina Meister; Weed Inspector; Ron Bartholow and ASB Labourer; Ashley Larsen.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Vegetation Management

A total of 3561 km of roadside mowing completed. Spot spraying carried out during mowing resulted in 1077 acres of noxious weeds being sprayed. Spraying completed in 8 municipal hamlets, 7 waste transfer sites, 6 County yard sites, 3 gravel stockpiles, and one cemetery. One road-side haying permit was processed.

Weed inspections

Contracted services for the Villages of Standard, Rockyford and Hussar with Black Henbane, Leafy Spurge and Common Tansy being dealt with. The CN Rail line was inspected from Lyalta to Rockyford with contractor spraying for noxious weeds being completed from Lyalta to Ardenode. Received numerous calls for weed identification and management including one landowner complaint. Handpicking of Scentless Chamomile, Oxeye Daisy, Wild Caraway and Queen Ann's Lace occurred at various locations throughout the County as well as hand cutting of Black Henbane in numerous road ditches in the Rockyford, Rosebud & Dalum areas. Spot spraying was also carried out during weed inspection duties on Hoary Cress, Yellow Toadflax, Canada thistle, Leafy Spurge,

Black Henbane and Scentless Chamomile. Two dedicated inspections of all primary and secondary Highways in the County was completed and the weed inspector attended 4 AWRAC- Alberta Weed Regulatory Advisory committee meetings and 4 Calgary & Area Weed Committee meetings.

ROADSIDE SEEDING & RECLAMATION

Roadside Seeding

Seeding of 18 km's of new construction right of ways and 90 acres of private land borrow areas. Approximately 12 acres of straw shredding completed for erosion control as well as seeding 23 acres of tillage radish on borrow areas to evaluate its effectiveness at reducing compaction.

PEST CONTROL

Pest Control

Sold 63 cases of 2% liquid strychnine to producers for the control of Richardson's ground squirrel. Investigated 2 reported rat sightings with no sign or rats being found. Used 22 bait stations containing Ramik Green for gopher control in hamlets & Waster Transfer sites. Also completed a side by side trial of Ramik Green vs. Zinc phosphide for gopher control with Ramik Green being the preferred bait. Received various calls on animal control including muskrats, beavers, racoons, bees, badgers & skunks. Assistance was given to 2 producers with coyote predation problems.

Insect & Disease Surveys

52 locations inspected for the grasshopper survey, 80 Canola fields inspected for Clubroot, 40 wheat and barley fields for Fusarium Graminearum and 2 trap locations set up for monitoring Bertha Armyworms. Grasshoppers and Armyworms were at low levels and all sites inspected for clubroot were negative with 2 low level infestations of Fusarium Graminearum confirmed.

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD

SHELTERBELT TREE PROGRAM

Shelterbelt Program – 42,800 trees distributed with the assistance of the Wheatland 4-H District which was double the numbers of trees handed out as in 2012 due to this being the last year of the Agriculture Canada Shelterbelt tree distribution program.

SEED CLEANING PLANTS

Inspection and licensing of 3 stationary seed cleaning plants located at Strathmore (99.2%), Hussar (98.2%) and Rosebud (99.2%) with a minimum of 60 seed samples inspected through the year.

SEVERN DAM

Severn Dam Park Maintenance included 100 replacement shelterbelt trees planted along with watering and weeding of established trees throughout the summer. New privy installation completed.

PESTICIDE CONTAINER SITES

Pesticide Container Sites – Inspected and cleaned on 4 occasions.

EQUIPMENT RENTAL PROGRAM

Weed Wiper, Pasture Sprayer & Tree sprayer	8 renters
Skunk and Magpie traps	12 users
Plastic grain bag roller	23 users rolling over 100 bags.
Tree planter	3 renters
RFID tag reader	1 user
Feed Probe	2 users
Livestock scale	2 producers and 2 4-H clubs
4-H Mats	2, 4-H Clubs

EXTENSION PROGRAMS

- County Connector Newsletter - two issues produced in 2013 and sent to all County Ratepayers. ASB articles included information on legislation, strychnine, roadside hay permits, mowing & spraying schedule, ASB Bursary program, farm safety, seed cleaning plants, Knapweed, Leafy Spurge, Dandelion, Crop Surveys, Blackleg of Canola, Fusarium, beef cattle code of Practice, Growing Forward 2, Environmental Farm Plans, Green Acreages Guide, Crowfoot Creek Riparian Health Assessment, Bow River Phosphorus Management Plan, Wheatland Water Protection Initiative Program, value of our wetlands, Blue Green Algae, Rural Waste water management and numerous meetings and events.
- Weed Consensus committee meetings attended April 29th & Nov 13th.
- Nomination of Olav and Rita Pallesan and family (Dalbey Farms) of Dalum for the Bank of Montreal Farm Family Awards held at the Calgary Stampede.
- One \$2000 ASB bursary awarded to Christian Heckle of Strathmore.
- Financial support given to the Alberta Farm Safety Centre, Bow River Basin Council, Red Deer Watershed Alliance, Alberta Invasive Plants Council and the Foothills Forage Association.

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD

ENVIRONMENTAL STREAM PROGRAM

Extension Activities

Growing Forward Stewardship Plans/ Applications (reopened April 2013)	
1. On-Farm Stewardship	6
4. On-Farm Water Management	3
Environmental Farm Plans	6
Wheatland Water Protection Initiative - Surface Water	3
Wheatland Water Protection Initiative - Groundwater	6
Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils	2
- Red Deer River Watershed Alliance – attended meetings and forums	
Alberta Invasive Weed ID Guide – updates	Continued to 2014
Bow River Phosphorus Management Plan (1 meeting/month)	10
- Steering Committee - <i>alternate</i>	
- Rural Non-Point Task Team	
County Connector Newsletter (Strathmore Standard)	2
Thurn Riparian Demonstration Site	3 year lease
Green Acreages Guide	15
Red Deer River Watershed Alliance General Meeting: Rosebud River Presentation	28
Western Irrigation District: Extension Programs Presentation	5
ASB ENVI Grant Application – 3 year program (2014-2016)	Approved

Workshops and Conferences

Ranching Opportunities Conference (Red-Bow Agricultural Partnership)	170
Ladies Livestock Lessons (Red-Bow Agricultural Partnership)	21
Small Scale Energy Workshop (partnered with Rocky View County)	85
Acme Grazing School (Partnered with Foothills Forage Grazing Association and Kneehill County)	25
Got Grass? Horse Workshop	13
Working Well Workshop	37

VISION

The Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board is committed to strengthening; promoting and supporting agriculture and the environment within our municipality with a view to continually improve how we operate in future years.

MISSION

The ASB develops and implements programs and policies that focus on the areas of weeds, pests, soil and water conservation and environmental issues for the benefit of all rural residents. We will stay educated and current on new developments in agriculture. We work in partnership through good communication with other government agencies, the agriculture industry and rural residents on agricultural programs and issues.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The Planning and Development Department continues to work at a fast pace processing Subdivision and Development applications, providing related services, and assisting in the development and review of various planning documents.

The tools of the department used to provide Council and ratepayers with sound planning information and recommendations are the statutory documents that have been adopted by Council over the years. They include:

- the Regional Growth Management Strategy
- the Municipal Development Plan
- the Land Use Bylaw, and
- various Area Structure Plans.

All of these documents can be found on the Wheatland County website at www.wheatlandcounty.ca. To assist in the process of applying for Subdivision and Land Use Redesignation, a guide has been prepared and can also be found on our website along with all the forms required to get started.

In October of 2013 Council adopted the new **Municipal Development Plan** which provides a broad and general overview of the policies governing land use and development in the County. The new MDP seeks a balanced approach to sustainable, well planned development which enhances and protects our agricultural and natural areas and resources over the long-term.

During the development of this plan, open house and workshop sessions were held in various locations in the county which provided the opportunity for public participation and community input.

A review and update of the **West Highway 1 Area Structure Plan (WH1ASP)** began in the fall of 2013 and should be completed in the fall of 2014. The ASP will provide long range decision-making guidance to Council and staff for subdivision and development applications in the designated area.

Staff were involved in researching and providing input for various amendments to the **Land Use Bylaw (LUB)** such as the addition of a new Direct Control District within the Hamlet of Rosebud. The Land Use Bylaw is scheduled for a comprehensive review and rewrite beginning in 2014.

In 2013 a major subdivision application was conditionally approved for the **Golden Hills School Division's** regional school site. The completion of the redesignation and the development permit approval are still pending.

Staff attended Stakeholder Sessions and Open Houses to provide input and comments on the latest draft of the province's South Saskatchewan Regional Plan.

SAFETY CODES SERVICES

Safety Codes Technician became a full time position, enabling Wheatland County to accurately issue permits and monitor any outstanding permits that have not had a final inspection. The Safety Codes Technician works closely with Superior Safety Codes, administration, and Safety Codes Officers.

Implementation of E-Site Permit Tracking System allows Wheatland County and Superior Safety Codes to easily issue and track outstanding permits. This also allows the Assessment Department to easily monitor new developments within Wheatland County.

YEARLY STATISTICS

Subdivision & Land Use Re-Designation Applications

	2013	2012
Subdivisions Land Use Re-designations	46	80
Subdivision appeals	0	3
Area Structure Plans	1	6
Area Concept Plan	1	1

Development

Development Permits	168	161
Development Appeals	1	4
Certificate of Compliance	73	57

Safety Code Permits Processed

Building	107	126
Electrical	158	160
Gas	111	104
Plumbing	51	56
Private Sewage Disposal System	23	25

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Submitted by Jeff Cyr, Senior Community Peace Officer

2013 was a busy and challenging year for the Wheatland County Protective Services Department. The Community Peace Officer division of this department, which includes (3) full-time positions, consisted of a Senior Peace Officer level 1 -Sgt. Jeff CYR, a second Peace Officer level 1 –Officer Kevin TAYLOR, and a Peace Officer level 2 – Officer Ben MENDOZA. All Officers assisted in Joint Enforcement Agency Operations including but not limited to RCMP, Fish & Wildlife, Federal Fish & Game, Department of Transportation, S.P.C.A., Alberta Sheriffs' Department, and neighboring Community Peace Officers and Bylaw Services.

2013 STATISTICS

- 3,575 commercial haul permits were processed utilizing the assistance of Roadata Services.
- 339 formal Case Reports were created and completed as a result of calls for service.
- (105/339 files regarded animal control related files. 66 of these calls required an Officers attendance)
- (16/339 files regarded Nuisance & Unsightly Premises bylaw infractions. All but 1 file has been investigated and concluded due to seasonal restrictions)
- 561 Violation Tickets were issued by Peace Officers. Stats include traffic, bylaw, and over-weights.
- 44 TVN (traffic violation written warnings) issued to registered owners and/or operators of vehicles.
- 23 Overweight Exemption Applications were issued for over-weight/dimensions travel on County roads.
- 208.5 hours of Paid and 172 hours of Time-In-Lieu Over-Time was issued to County Peace Officers due to additional shift scheduling, joint operations and emergent circumstances.

With increased traffic volumes as well as continual development throughout the County in both commercial and private realms, our department will continue to be vigilant in our education and enforcement strategies to improve public safety, County infrastructure, securement of people and properties within our jurisdiction of operations.

CURRENT PEACE OFFICER PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENTS LIST

- The Dangerous Dogs Act
- The Stray Animals Act
- The Environmental Protection & Enhancement Act
- The Animal Protection Act
- The Highway Development and Protection Act
- The Gaming and Liquor Act
- The Provincial Offences Procedures Act
- The Petty Trespass Act
- The Prevention of Youth Tobacco Use Act
- The Traffic Safety Act
- The Tobacco Reduction Act
- The Trespass to Premises Act

TRAINING / RE-CERTIFICATION

CPO II B. Mendoza

RADAR/LIDAR Speed Detection Operator's course, - A.A.C.P.O. (Alberta Association of Community Peace Officers) conference attendance. - Portions of the A.M.E.A. (Alberta Municipal Enforcement Association) conference. - ACE Knife Defence & Tactical Ground Fighting, -Standard level C First Aid/AED/CPR, - Emergency Operations Course, -AMHSA Health & Safety Auditing, -AMHSA Health & Safety Management Systems, Verbal Trauma Control Course.

CPO I K. Taylor

P.P.C.T. (Pressure Point Control Tactics), -LIDAR, - Portions of the A.M.E.A. (Alberta Municipal Enforcement Association) conference, - Standard level C First Aid/AED/CPR.

Senior CPO I J. Cyr

P.P.C.T. & O.C.(Oleoresin Capsicum [Pepper Spray]), - ACE Knife Defence & Tactical Ground Fighting Certification, - Standard level C First Aid/AED/CPR Certification, -RADAR/LIDAR Speed Detection Operator's course, -Shotgun Re-Certification, - A.A.C.P.O. (Alberta Association of Community Peace Officers) conference attendance, Emergency Operations Course, -AMHSA Leadership for Safety Excellence, -ICS (Incident Command System) 100, - Western Canada Emergency Services Leadership Seminar, -Verbal Trauma Control Course.

FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

FIRE YEAR IN REVIEW

*Submitted by Judy Unsworth,
Fire and Emergency Management Coordinator*

There was a marked increase in Motor Vehicle Collisions (MVC's) in 2013 with the big blizzards of December resulting in an even split between Fire and MVC calls for the Departments.

Several of the Fire Departments in Wheatland County took part in fire fighting courses including: S200, S300, S400, S600, S1000, S1100, Basic Fire Safety Codes (BFSCO) and Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) all to the betterment of the community, enabling them to provide up to date fire and medical service delivery.

The Fire Departments are typically the center of the community and are involved in many community activities. Wheatland County Departments are no exception, involved in everything from parades, to 1st aid for provincial tournaments. This year they also assisted neighbouring Departments as they struggled with the effects of the June floods.

Call totals this year increased by 4.97% over 2012 which falls within normal Department increase levels.

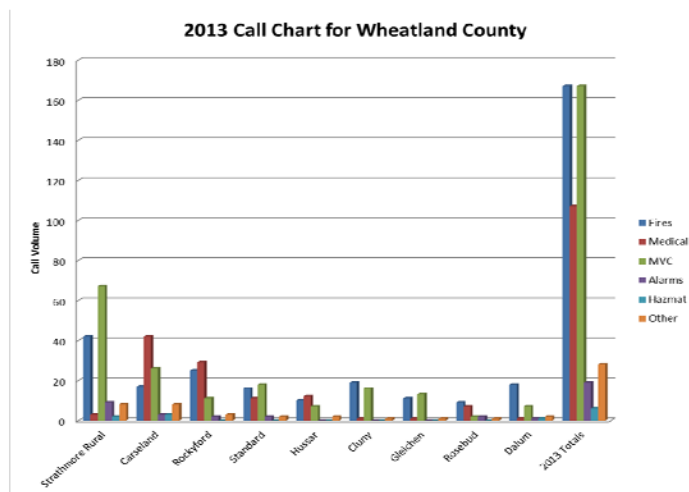
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

December Blizzards impacted a lot of our Communities. Gleichen, Carseland and Rosebud felt the effect of people being stranded on highways and like any good rural neighbor they opened their doors to stranded motorists. As a result, Wheatland County will be investing in emergency preparedness including items such as: Cots, Pillows, and Blankets to be dispersed amongst the community.

In December the County had an opportunity to take part in some hands on training for an Emergency Operation Centre and will be following up with a live exercise in 2015.

2013 HIGHLIGHTS

- **2013** Fire Service Review Completed
- **2013** Draft Implementation Plan in Review with Partners
- **2013** New Rescue truck for Dalum Fire Department purchased
- **2013** EOC exercise undertaken
- **2013** Updating Emergency Response Plan (ERP) started



2014 GOALS

- **2014** Emergency Preparedness Courses will be offered to Wheatland Communities
- **2014** New Fire & Emergency Management Coordinator hired
- **2014** Records Management System purchase scheduled
- **2014** Dalum Fire Hall to be completed
- **2014** Purchase of new Bush Buggy and Light Rescue for Hussar Fire
- **2014** Purchase of new Tanker for Standard Fire
- **2014 1st Annual Volunteer Fire**
- **2015** EOC Live Exercise

New Municipal Development Plan Approved

Council adopted the new Municipal Development Plan as a Bylaw on October 15, 2013. This Bylaw applies to all planning applications including subdivisions, rezoning and development permits.

Wheatland County Reorganization

Wheatland County has approved an Organizational Chart to outline and provide understanding on how the municipal administration is organized and who is responsible for what. The full list can be found on our website.

2013 Municipal Election Results

Wheatland County voters elected Councillor Ken Harwood, Re-elected Ken Sauer as the Division 2 Councillor and also the Agricultural Service Board Vice Chair.

For information on notices and services provided by Wheatland County please visit www.wheatlandcounty.ca or view our weekly ad on pg. 5 of the Strathmore Standard.

Ph: 403.934.3321 Fax: 403.934.4889 - Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 am to 5:30 pm

CORPORATE & FINANCIAL SERVICES

Submitted by Pat Leitch, Manager of Corporate and Financial Services

Corporate and Financial Services saw a lot of changes in 2013 with several new staff joining the administration team. Other initiatives were also undertaken to improve processes, improve accuracy and efficiency. In addition, the County prepared a Request for Proposals for banking services and awarded the new contract to the Chinook Credit Union. Much work went into moving the banking services to the new financial institution as well as setting up our new Electronic Data Interchange for our incoming payments. The County is now able to import the payments directly into the accounting software, saving time and improving accuracy.

CORPORATE & FINANCIAL SERVICES STAFF CHANGES

In May 2013, Michael Svrcek joined the team to fill the vacant position of Tangible Capital Assets/Accounting Clerk. Michael has a Bachelor of Commerce degree and is currently working on his Certified Management Accountant designation. Michael records all the transactions for our tangible capital assets, prepares accounting entries and assists the Manager of Finance with other accounting duties.

Brenda Cain moved into the temporary Utility/Assessment Clerk position to cover for a maternity leave in June 2013. She will be filling this position until July 2014. Brenda has provided clerical support to the Senior Assessor and has processed all the Utility transactions, including billings, receipts and collections.

Blaine Peterson joined the team in August 2013 in the new position of Grant Writer/Coordinator. Through her efforts, the County has been able to access additional grant funding. Blaine will also be providing assistance to the Villages in the County and to community organizations that need assistance with grant funding. She is also providing administrative support to the Community Enhancement Review Board and for the Cemetery Rejuvenation project.

In October 2013, Maggie Ravesloot joined our team to fill the vacant Receptionist position. She is the cheerful voice on the phone and the main cashier for the County. Maggie helps direct all calls to appropriate departments and also processes the billing and collection of the general accounts receivable. The Receptionist also provides backup clerical support to finance and administration.

When the County reorganized the corporate structure, Pat Leitch, CGA was promoted from the Chief Financial Officer to the General Manager of Corporate and Financial Services. She assumed the new role in November 2013 and continued to cover the duties of the Chief Financial Officer until a replacement could be hired. Under the new structure, a Manager of Finance position was posted and this was filled by Kent Levang, CMA in May 2014.

In December 2013, Melvina Many Heads joined our department as the Records Management Clerk. Melvina is helping get our paper records in order and improve our records management processes. Her experience is primarily in a legal environment, but she was also instrumental in managing their records. She is currently enrolled in the Records Management program at SAIT. Mel also looks after all the purchasing for the administration office and assists with safety meetings.

We are excited to have everyone join our administration team and are looking forward to working with them on our future projects.

PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2013

- Request for Proposal and change of banking services to Chinook Credit Union.
- Implementation of Electronic Data Interchange for payments received through online banking and at financial institutions.
- Change to new point of sale provider.
- Implementation of new Webview Bellamy financial software.
- Move to offsite hosting of Bellamy database (saving the cost of maintaining and replacing outdated servers).
- Replacement of outdated DOS gas pump system with new Windows based system;
- Established many new Restricted Reserve accounts and allocated surplus to the new accounts.
- Prepared policies for Restricted Reserve accounts for Council approval.
- Management of all County records.
- Development and renewal of agreements, contracts, leases.
- Insurance services including support for 21 Additional Named Insured's.
- Staff training including the Supervisors Training program from SAIT, professional development programs and conferences.
- Hosted annual property tax clerk seminar.
- Continued capital levy contributions from hamlet utility systems to set aside reserve funds for future utility capital replacements for each hamlet.
- Obtained debenture funding for the Carseland and Speargrass waste water treatment plant improvements.
- Continued to increase utility rates to bring the County closer to a fair and equitable system with full user cost recovery for these services.
- Set equipment charge-out rates at actual costs from costing software.
- Prepared a five year budget for the County for both Operating and Capital revenue and expenditures (2014 – 2018).
- Obtained additional grant funding through new

Grant Writer/Coordinator initiatives.

- Modernization of central office with ergonomic work stations and security partition wall.
- Freedom of Information Protection of Privacy Act and Regulations administration.
- Special projects as directed by the CAO and Council.

PROJECTS PLANNED FOR 2014

- Hire and train a Payroll Clerk. (Darlene Stewart hired March 2014.)
- Hire and train a new Manager of Finance. (Kent Levang, CMA hired May 2014.)
- Hire and train an Assistant Assessor. (Tom Hulisz hired June 2014)
- Hire and train a Utility/Accounts Receivable Clerk in July 2014.
- Implement policy to provide a mid-month advance to staff. (Completed)
- Provide new orientation packages for all new employees.
- Implementation of purchasing card program for purchases that will provide a cash rebate based on funds spent.
- Pursue potential grant opportunities to obtain additional funding.
- Work closely with community groups to provide assistance with Community Enhancement Review Board applications, grant applications and research.
- Work closely with Villages to provide assistance with grant applications.
- Integrate Geographic Information System with fixed asset software.
- Validate rural addressing with Emergency Response Centre, E911 Service address and database.
- Assign new rural addresses as required.
- Acquire new Aerial Ortho photography in spring/summer, available for use in fall.
- Purchase and implement records management software.
- Scan paper records to move towards electronic document management.
- Move files to secure offsite storage facilities to provide more efficient use of office space.
- Purchase and begin implementation of asset management software.
- Prepare updated 10 year utility capital plan. Update capital levy as required.
- Continue move to full cost recovery of Utility costs to ensure equitable distribution of costs.
- Implement dye pack and rebate program to promote water conservation.
- County office expansion to accommodate a new Emergency Operations/Training Centre and new offices.
- Continue professional development of all staff.

ASSESSMENT

Submitted by Dennis Klem, A.M.A.A., Senior Assessor, IT/GIS Coordinator

Due to some non-residential development, the 2013 Assessment year experienced an overall change of \$+79.083 million (M) in the assessment roll or approximately + 1.96% compared to 2012 Assessment roll which generates a 2013 total taxable assessment of \$4,110.73 (B). Below is a chart that shows the change by assessment class and net change separated into Growth or Inflation.

Municipal Tax Rate Class	2012 Taxable Assessment as of February 28th, 2014 for 2013 Tax Year	2013 Taxable Assessment as of February 28th, 2014 for 2014 Tax Year	2013 Assessment (% of Total)	% Change	Total Change in Assessment	Change Re: Growth (new)	% Change Re: New Growth	Change Inflation (Market or Regulated)
Farm (F)	200,400,850	200,363,850	4.87%	- 0.02%	- 37,000	- 37,000	100.00%	0
Residential (R)	914,907,910	939,327,010	22.85%	2.67%	24,419,100	17,611,350	72.12%	6,807,750
Non-Residential (N)	2,916,381,310	2,971,082,870	72.28%	1.88%	54,701,560	9,021,890	16.49%	45,679,670
Total:	4,031,690,070	4,110,773,730	100.00%	1.96%	79,083,660	26,596,240	33.63%	52,487,420

Assessment is the evaluation of all assessable properties on an annual basis with adherence to the Alberta Statute, Municipal Government Act (M.G.A.) and associated regulations. The purpose of assessment is to fairly and equitably establish values allowing for the fair distribution of the property tax burden.

Assessed values are based on establishing either a Market or Regulated Value.

- Market Value is defined by the M.G.A. Section 1 (n) as "means the amount that a property, as defined in section 284(1)(r), might be expected to realize if it is sold on the open market by a willing seller to a willing buyer." The market value date is established as of July 1st, the year proceeding the tax year (i.e., July 1, 2013 Assessment (valuation Date) for 2014 Tax Year).
- Regulated Value is based on rates established annually by Alberta Municipal Affairs, Assessment Services Branch, and published in the Alberta Farmland Assessment Manual, the Alberta Machinery and Equipment Assessment Manual and the Alberta Linear Property Assessment Manual.

FOUR CLASSES OF ASSESSMENT

Farmland

Land used in the production of an agricultural product: (i.e. crop, hay, pasture, trees, sod, horticulture (shrubs), aviculture (birds), apiculture (bees), aquaculture (fish) is assessed at a Regulated Value. The current base rate for the agricultural use value of farmland is set at \$350 / Acre for Dry Arable or Pasture Land and is adjusted downwards for any factors that hinder productivity (i.e., type of soil, amount of topsoil,

texture of the soil's surface and subsurface, topography, stones, any other productivity impediment).

Non-Residential

An industry or commerce or another use takes place, or is permitted to take place, on the property including land, buildings and structures (i.e., stores, mechanical repairs, golf courses, gravel pits, land and structures situated at industrial plants excluding Machinery & Equipment) is assessed at Market Value. Linear property, a subclass of non-residential, includes cable distribution, electric transmission lines, telecommunication equipment, pipelines, oil and gas wells, and is assessed at a Regulated Value.

Machinery and Equipment

Any installation used in the processing or manufacturing of a product (i.e., separators or dehydrators or compressors at gas and oilfield installations, certain components at the large grain elevators) is assessed at a Regulated Value.

Residential

Typically a residence or use of property that has not been classed as any of the above. The assessment for residential parcels less than or equal to 3 acres represents the average market value for land and improvements (any buildings or structures). For parcels greater than 3 acres, the assessment includes a minimum of 3 acres and the residential improvements assessed at market value and any remaining land is assessed at Market Value unless deemed farmland.

The assessment department consists of 2.5 FTE personnel: Dennis Klem A.M.A.A. Senior Assessor, 1.0 FTE contracted personnel and 0.5 FTE, Assessment Clerk.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)

*Submitted by Dennis Klem, A.M.A.A., Senior Assessor,
IT/GIS Coordinator*

BACKGROUND

In 2004, Wheatland County established a Geographic Information System (G.I.S.) Department. The main purpose of the G.I.S. department is to digitize the County map and link all other digital County related data to the map, thereby allowing quick and easy retrieval of the County's digital information. Some examples of the digital information that is available through the County's GIS include:

- Property features such as: parcel boundaries and dimensions, legal description, location of residence
- Single Line Road Network
- 2012 color ortho aerial photography flown in the spring with a detail resolution of 0.3m pixel for the entire County
- 2010 color ortho aerial photography flown in the spring with a detail resolution of 0.3m pixel for the portion of County south of Township 27
- 2009 color ortho aerial photography flown in the fall with a detail resolution of 0.3m pixel for Township 27 & 28 (Balance of County was flown in 2010)
- 2007 color ortho aerial photography flown during the summer and fall with a detail resolution of 0.3m pixel for the entire County except for all of Township 21 and TWP22 Range 25
- 2006 September black & white aerial photography for Highway No.1 area structure plan
- 2005 color ortho aerial photography and 2000 ortho black & white aerial photography
- Ownership and contact information
- Assessment data including pictures of all residences and other assessable buildings
- Municipal data showing areas of: Electoral district, Fire Response, Rescue & Ambulance, As-built drawings for the County's underground assets such as water and sewer lines
- Oil & Gas installations including well and pipeline locations
- Rural Address Data Base

2013 GIS INITIATIVES

Some of the 2013 major initiatives have been:

- Started validation of County rural address database with the TELUS 911 phone number database. Rural addresses were matched to the corresponding TELUS number and the correlated database will be supplied (anticipated completion May, 2014) to

TELUS allowing 911 dispatchers to route emergency personnel to the correct addresses much more efficiently than the current system which utilizes legal land location.

- Setup free digital online GIS via www.wheatlandcounty.ca Click on the "County Maps" section and look for the "Digital Online GIS Maps" sub-section. Enter the mapping application by clicking on the "Open digital online GIS maps" then click the GO! link. Easy to follow instructions on using the site can be accessed by clicking on the "View GIS Map User Guide" link.
- County maps and map books were updated annually and made available for public purchase digitally and in hardcopy

PLANNED FUTURE GIS INITIATIVES

Future projects include the following:

- New color resolution of 0.3m orthorectified aerial photographs to be flown in spring 2014 for the entire County and integrated into the GIS. The project is conducted in partnership with Rocky View County resulting in cost savings for both parties. It is also funded through the Regional Collaboration Program Grant
- Commence Hamlet civic street sign review and review of civic addressing project.
- The rural address database will be updated on an ongoing basis and new signs will be installed and unnecessary signs removed as required.
- Ownership maps and map books will be updated semi-annually (May & October) and available for purchase digitally and in hard copy.

GIS PRODUCTS FOR SALE

The following products are for sale in either paper copy or digital copy, please contact Wheatland County for Current prices:

- Ownership wall map 30"X42" (Please note that all County maps are updated on a semi-annual basis)
- Color aerial photography (2000, 2005, and 2007, 2009, 2010, 2012) can be printed on letter, legal or tabloid (11"X17") size paper.
- Map Book (approx 90 pages) that has the County map and hamlet map in one booklet form containing 1 page per township or hamlet

CONTACTS

Please contact Dennis Klem, Senior Assessor / G.I.S. Coordinator or Reid Konschuh, IT/GIS/GPS Technician at the County office 403-934-3321 with any questions pertaining to the G.I.S. Department.

2013 WHEATLAND COUNTY SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Reeve and Members of Council and citizens of Wheatland County:

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at December 31, 2013, the summary statement of operations, summary statement of change in net financial assets and summary statement of cash flow for the year then ended, and related schedules, are derived from the audited financial statements of Wheatland County for the year ended December 31, 2013. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated May 20, 2014.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian public sector accounting standards. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of Wheatland County.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary of the audited financial statements in accordance with the criteria as disclosed in note 1.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements."

Opinion

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of Wheatland County for the year ended December 31, 2013 are a fair summary of those financial statements, in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

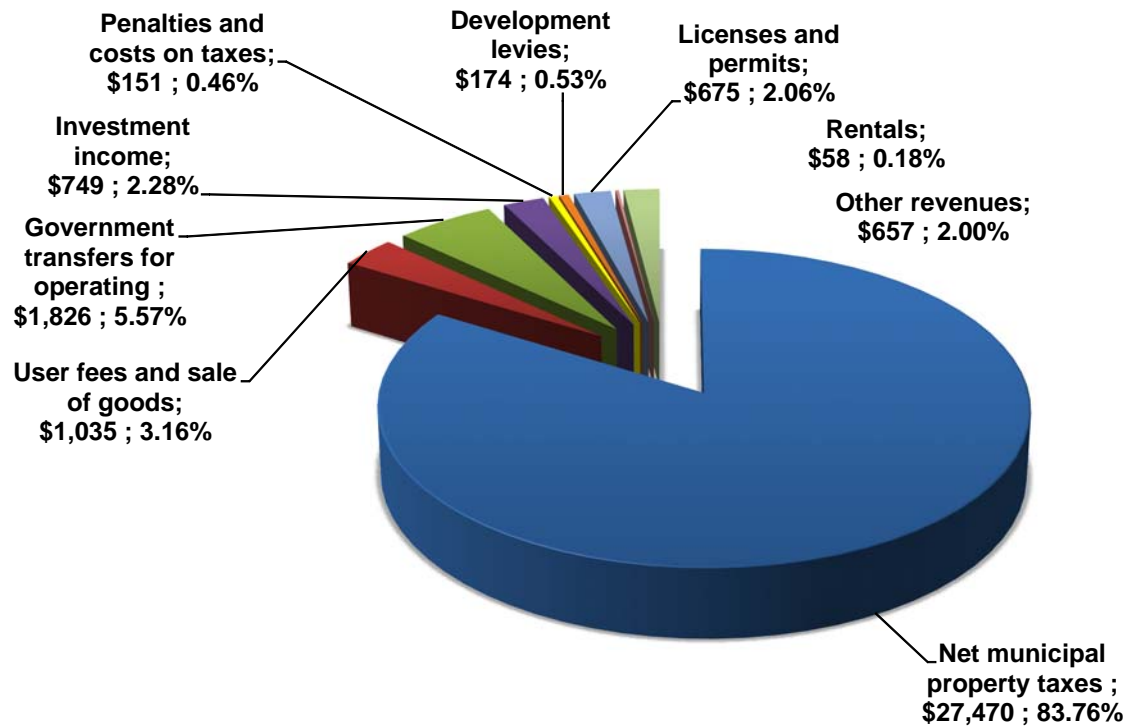
Our auditors' report on the audited financial statements contains an "emphasis of matter" paragraph explaining the adjustment made to the 2012 figures to decrease accounts receivable by \$148,791, increase deferred revenue by \$149,717 and decrease accumulated surplus by \$298,508. Our opinion is not qualified in respect of this matter.

Lethbridge, Alberta
May 20, 2014

Young Parkyn McNab LLP
Chartered Accountants

* Detailed financial statements can also be downloaded from our website www.wheatlandcounty.ca or picked up at the County office.

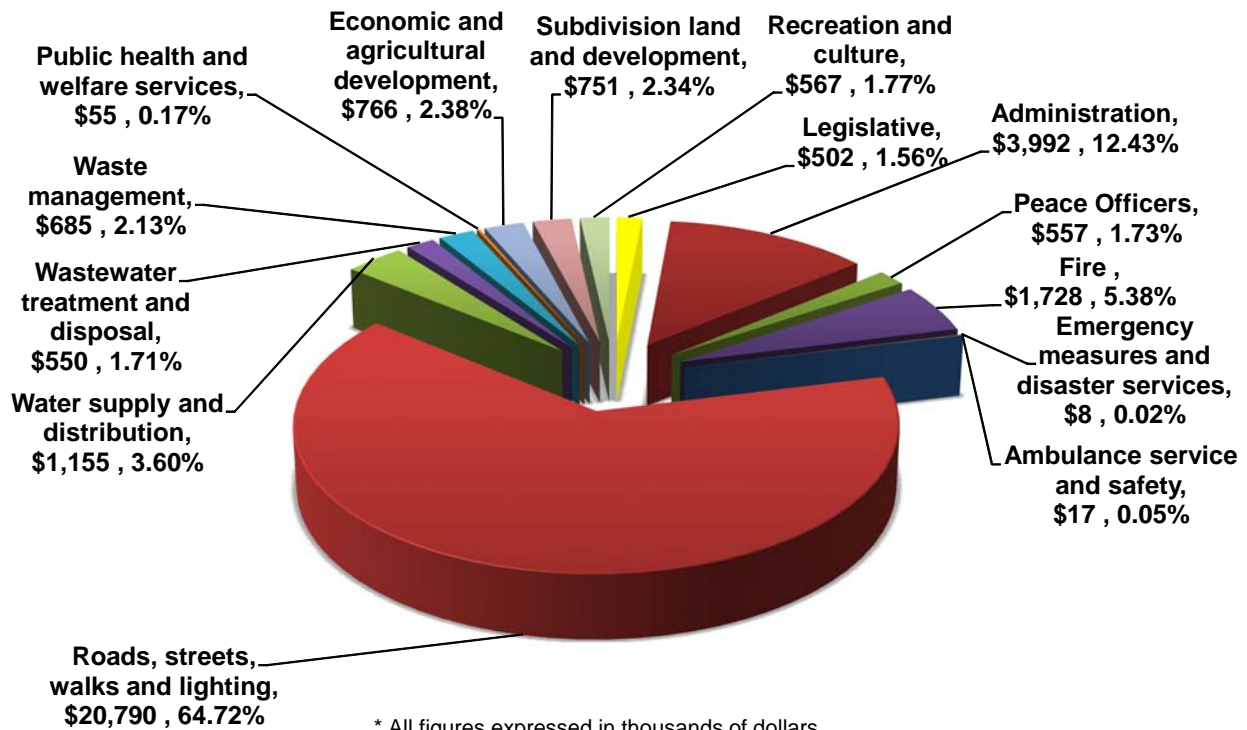
Wheatland County - 2013 Operating Revenue*



* All figures expressed in thousands of dollars

Total municipal operating revenue in thousands \$32,795

Wheatland County - 2013 Operating Expenses *



* All figures expressed in thousands of dollars

Total Municipal Operating Expenses in thousands \$32,123

Wheatland County
Summary Statement of Operations
For the year ended December 31, 2013

	Budget (Unaudited)	2013	2012 (restated)
Revenues			
Net municipal property taxes	\$ 28,021,638	\$ 27,470,133	\$ 26,710,994
User fees and sale of goods	1,202,742	1,035,482	813,955
Government transfers for operating	2,056,003	1,825,699	916,133
Investment income	895,584	749,044	478,963
Penalties and costs on taxes	105,000	150,925	98,810
Development levies	30,000	173,992	64,267
Licenses and permits	465,500	674,419	514,435
Rentals	60,500	57,813	37,296
Other revenues	475,735	657,465	846,062
	33,312,702	32,794,972	30,480,915
Expenses			
Legislative	456,100	501,980	506,613
Administration	3,306,576	3,991,551	2,618,543
Police	598,401	557,200	463,748
Fire	1,741,347	1,727,689	1,812,275
Emergency measures and disaster services	20,451	7,508	15,322
Ambulance service and first aid	6,000	17,403	14,682
Bylaw enforcement	-	-	-
Roads, streets, walks and lighting	21,436,247	20,789,554	17,648,282
Water supply and distribution	1,207,509	1,155,054	1,386,895
Wastewater treatment and disposal	608,891	550,180	491,606
Waste management	605,215	685,298	658,552
Public health and welfare services	47,283	55,140	47,186
Economic and agricultural development	861,795	766,338	661,703
Subdivision land and development	1,112,472	750,513	570,997
Recreation and culture	588,712	567,086	891,012
	32,596,999	32,122,494	27,787,416
Excess of revenue over expenses before other	715,703	672,478	2,693,499
Other			
Government transfers for capital	7,858,882	7,007,925	4,306,965
Contributed assets	818,000	909,565	142,954
	8,676,882	7,917,490	4,449,919
Excess of revenue over expenses	9,392,585	8,589,968	7,143,418
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year			
As previously stated	266,102,654	266,102,654	258,721,731
Prior period adjustment	-	(298,508)	(61,003)
As restated	266,102,654	265,804,146	258,660,728
Accumulated surplus, end of year	\$ 275,495,239	\$ 274,394,114	\$ 265,804,146

Wheatland County
Summary Statement of Financial Position
As at December 31, 2013

	2013	2012 (restated)
<hr/>		
Financial Assets		
Cash and temporary investments	\$ 63,307,738	\$ 60,778,138
Taxes and grants in place of taxes receivable	941,429	703,278
Trade and other receivables	4,799,894	3,813,705
Land held for resale	244,568	245,283
Loan receivable	185,509	154,900
Debt charges recoverable	2,372,029	2,000,000
	<hr/> 71,851,167	<hr/> 67,695,304
<hr/>		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	6,061,546	4,831,774
Employee benefit obligations	1,057,043	946,157
Provision for reclamation	1,060,419	837,715
Deferred revenue	8,598,189	11,541,261
Long-term debt	2,945,832	2,934,920
	<hr/> 19,723,029	<hr/> 21,091,827
<hr/>		
Net financial assets	52,128,138	46,603,477
<hr/>		
Non-financial assets		
Cultural and historical assets	509,641	395,311
Prepaid expenses	145,073	250,449
Inventory for consumption	10,486,900	10,094,078
Tangible capital assets	211,124,362	208,460,831
	<hr/> 222,265,976	<hr/> 219,200,669
<hr/>		
Accumulated surplus	\$ 274,394,114	\$ 265,804,146
<hr/>		

Wheatland County
Schedules to the Summarized Financial Statements
For the year ended December 31, 2013

Schedule of changes in accumulated surplus

	Unrestricted	Internally Restricted (Reserves)	Equity in tangible capital assets	2013	2012
Balance, beginning of year					
As previously stated	\$ 29,089,249	\$ 28,987,494	\$ 208,025,911	\$ 266,102,654	\$ 258,721,731
Prior period adjustment	(298,508)	-	-	(298,508)	(61,003)
As restated	28,790,741	28,987,494	208,025,911	265,804,146	258,660,728
Excess of revenue over expenses	8,589,968	-	-	8,589,968	7,143,418
Unrestricted funds designated for future use	(31,608,081)	31,608,081	-	-	-
Restricted funds used for operations	8,610,796	(8,610,796)	-	-	-
Current year funds used for tangible capital assets	(15,022,698)	-	15,022,698	-	-
Contributed tangible capital assets	(909,565)	-	909,565	-	-
Disposal of tangible capital assets	869,899	-	(869,899)	-	-
Annual amortization expense	12,398,833	-	(12,398,833)	-	-
Long term debt repaid	(59,429)	-	59,429	-	-
Proceeds of long term debt	208,300	-	(208,300)	-	-
Change in accumulated surplus	(16,921,977)	22,997,285	2,514,660	8,589,968	7,143,418
Balance, end of year	\$ 11,868,764	\$ 51,984,779	\$ 210,540,571	\$ 274,394,114	\$ 265,804,146

Wheatland County
Summary Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets
For the year ended December 31, 2013

	Budget (Unaudited)	2013	2012 (restated)
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 9,392,585	\$ 8,589,968	\$ 7,143,418
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(25,920,251)	(15,022,697)	(14,656,224)
Amortization of tangible capital assets	12,194,500	12,398,833	12,194,500
Contributed assets	(818,000)	(909,565)	(142,954)
(Gain) Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	(541,769)	(121,300)	(26,340)
Proceeds on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	991,198	358,526
	(15,085,520)	(2,663,531)	(2,272,492)
Net change in inventory for consumption	-	(392,822)	(208,288)
Net change in prepaid expense	-	105,376	255,788
Acquisition of cultural and historical assets	-	(114,330)	(134,912)
	-	(401,776)	(87,412)
Increase in net financial assets	(5,692,935)	5,524,661	4,783,514
Net financial assets, beginning of year	46,603,477	46,603,477	41,819,963
Net financial assets, end of year	\$40,910,542	\$52,128,138	\$46,603,477

Wheatland County
Schedules to the Summarized Financial Statements
For the year ended December 31, 2013

Schedule of changes in accumulated surplus

	Unrestricted	Internally Restricted (Reserves)	Equity in tangible capital assets	2013	2012
Balance, beginning of year					
As previously stated	\$ 29,089,249	\$ 28,987,494	\$ 208,025,911	\$ 266,102,654	\$ 258,721,731
Prior period adjustment	(298,508)	-	-	(298,508)	(61,003)
As restated	28,790,741	28,987,494	208,025,911	265,804,146	258,660,728
Excess of revenue over expenses	8,589,968	-	-	8,589,968	7,143,418
Unrestricted funds designated for future use	(31,608,081)	31,608,081	-	-	-
Restricted funds used for operations	8,610,796	(8,610,796)	-	-	-
Current year funds used for tangible capital assets	(15,022,698)	-	15,022,698	-	-
Contributed tangible capital assets	(909,565)	-	909,565	-	-
Disposal of tangible capital assets	869,899	-	(869,899)	-	-
Annual amortization expense	12,398,833	-	(12,398,833)	-	-
Long term debt repaid	(59,429)	-	59,429	-	-
Proceeds of long term debt	208,300	-	(208,300)	-	-
Change in accumulated surplus	(16,921,977)	22,997,285	2,514,660	8,589,968	7,143,418
Balance, end of year	\$ 11,868,764	\$ 51,984,779	\$ 210,540,571	\$ 274,394,114	\$ 265,804,146

Wheatland County
Summary Statement of Cash Flow
For the year ended December 31, 2013

	2013	2012 (restated)
Operating transactions		
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 8,589,968	\$ 7,143,418
Adjustments for items which do not affect cash		
(Gain) Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	(121,300)	(26,340)
Amortization of tangible capital assets	12,398,833	12,194,500
Contributed assets	(909,565)	(142,954)
	19,957,936	19,168,624
Net change in non-cash working capital items		
Taxes and grants in place of taxes receivable	(238,151)	(49,640)
Trade and other receivables	(986,189)	(924,615)
Land held for resale	715	-
Loan receivable	(30,609)	(2,257)
Debt charges recoverable	(372,029)	(2,000,000)
Inventory for consumption	(392,822)	(208,288)
Prepaid expenses	105,376	255,788
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,229,772	1,593,972
Employee benefit obligations	110,886	88,143
Deferred revenue	(2,943,072)	707,671
Provision for reclamation	222,704	(16,272)
Cash provided by operating transactions	16,664,517	18,613,126
Capital transactions		
Proceeds on disposal of tangible capital assets	991,198	358,526
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(15,022,697)	(14,656,224)
Acquisition of cultural and historical assets	(114,330)	(134,912)
Cash applied to capital transactions	(14,145,829)	(14,432,610)
Financing transactions		
Proceeds of long-term debt	208,300	2,500,000
Repayment of long-term debt	(197,388)	(206,449)
Cash provided by (applied to) financing transactions	10,912	2,293,551
Increase in cash and temporary investments	2,529,600	6,474,067
Cash and temporary investments, beginning of year	60,778,138	54,304,071
Cash and temporary investments, end of year	\$63,307,738	\$60,778,138

Wheatland County
Salary and Benefits Disclosure
For the year ending December 31st, 2013

Councillor	Salary	Benefits & Allowance	Total 2013	Total 2012	Variance
Armstrong	\$ 28,808	\$ 39,354	\$ 68,162	\$ 65,436	\$ 2,726
Bland	27,436	25,009	52,445	53,398	- 953
Booth	27,436	33,655	61,091	61,930	- 839
Harwood	2,288	2,324	4,612	-	4,612
Knight	27,436	28,345	55,781	54,498	1,283
Koester	31,387	29,233	60,620	60,479	141
Sauve	25,149	26,351	51,500	56,704	- 5,204
Vander Velde	27,436	25,453	52,889	51,969	920
Total Council	197,376	209,724	407,100	404,414	2,686
County Manager					-
A. Parkin	126,845	25,977	152,822	-	152,822
J. Deak	148,893	16,877	165,770	191,111	- 25,341
Total	\$ 473,114	\$ 252,578	\$ 725,692	\$ 595,525	\$ 130,167

Wheatland County
Schedules to the Summarized Financial Statements
For the year ended December 31, 2013

Schedule of segmented disclosure

	General government	Protective services	Transportation services	Environmental services	Public health services	Planning and development	Recreation and culture	Total
Revenue								
Net property taxes	\$ 27,470,133	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,470,133
User fees and sales of goods	60,650	4,884	280,369	575,760	130	113,689	-	1,035,482
Government transfers for operating	46,501	91,140	1,120,275	258,245	-	306,838	2,700	1,825,699
Investment income	497,549	78,496	-	62,091	-	110,908	-	749,044
Penalties and costs of taxes	150,925	-	-	-	-	-	-	150,925
Development levies	-	-	-	-	-	173,992	-	173,992
Licences and permits	345,707	4,300	-	-	-	324,412	-	674,419
Rental	56,663	-	-	-	-	1,150	-	57,813
Other	86,356	473,864	-	39,135	-	50	58,060	657,465
	28,714,484	652,684	1,400,644	935,231	130	1,031,039	60,760	32,794,972
Expenses								
Salaries, wages and benefits	1,930,963	586,858	4,511,171	772,399	8,582	958,389	11,169	8,779,531
Contracted and general services	1,153,808	333,905	2,878,816	572,526	-	412,578	67,394	5,419,027
Materials, goods, supplies and utilities	299,281	50,954	2,003,381	234,047	275	125,768	10,427	2,724,133
Bank charges and short term interest	11,913	-	68	-	-	-	-	11,981
Interest on long term debt	64,606	-	-	30,729	-	-	-	95,335
Transfers to organizations and others	924,589	1,333,714	-	28,324	46,283	10,862	465,901	2,809,673
Provisions for allowances	-	-	-	5,280	-	-	-	5,280
Amortization of tangible capital assets	191,971	4,368	11,504,482	676,561	-	9,255	12,196	12,398,833
Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	(83,601)	-	(108,364)	70,666	-	-	-	(121,299)
	4,493,530	2,309,799	20,789,554	2,390,532	55,140	1,516,852	567,087	32,122,494
Excess of revenue over expenses before other	24,220,954	(1,657,115)	(19,388,910)	(1,455,301)	(55,010)	(485,813)	(506,327)	672,478
Other								
Government transfers for capital	-	-	3,569,127	3,421,970	-	-	16,828	7,007,925
Contributed assets	-	-	909,565	-	-	-	-	909,565
	-	-	4,478,692	3,421,970	-	-	16,828	7,917,490
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 24,220,954	\$ (1,657,115)	\$ (14,910,218)	\$ 1,966,669	\$ (55,010)	\$ (485,813)	\$ (489,499)	\$ 8,589,968

Wheatland County
Schedules to the Summarized Financial Statements
For the year ended December 31, 2013

Schedule of debt limits and long-term debt

Debt limit

Section 276(2) of the Municipal Government Act requires that debt and debt limits as defined by Alberta Regulation 255/00 for the County be disclosed as follows:

	2013	2012
Total debt limit	\$ 49,192,457	\$ 45,818,692
Total debt	2,945,832	2,934,920
	\$ 46,246,625	\$ 42,883,772
Debt servicing limit	\$ 8,198,743	\$ 7,636,449
Debt servicing	268,170	258,476
	\$ 7,930,573	\$ 7,377,973

The debt limit is calculated as 1.5 times revenue of the municipality (as defined in Alberta Regulation 255/00) and the debt service limit is calculated as 0.25 times such revenue. Incurring debt beyond these limitations requires approval by the Minister of Municipal Affairs. These thresholds are guidelines used by Alberta Municipal Affairs to identify municipalities which could be at financial risk if further debt is acquired. The calculation taken alone does not represent the financial stability of the municipality. Rather, the financial statements must be interpreted as a whole.

Long-term debt

	2013	2012
Special levy and utility supported debentures	\$ 583,791	\$ 434,920
Self supported debentures - operating	2,362,041	2,500,000
	2,945,832	2,934,920
Current portion	\$ 178,986	\$ 168,778

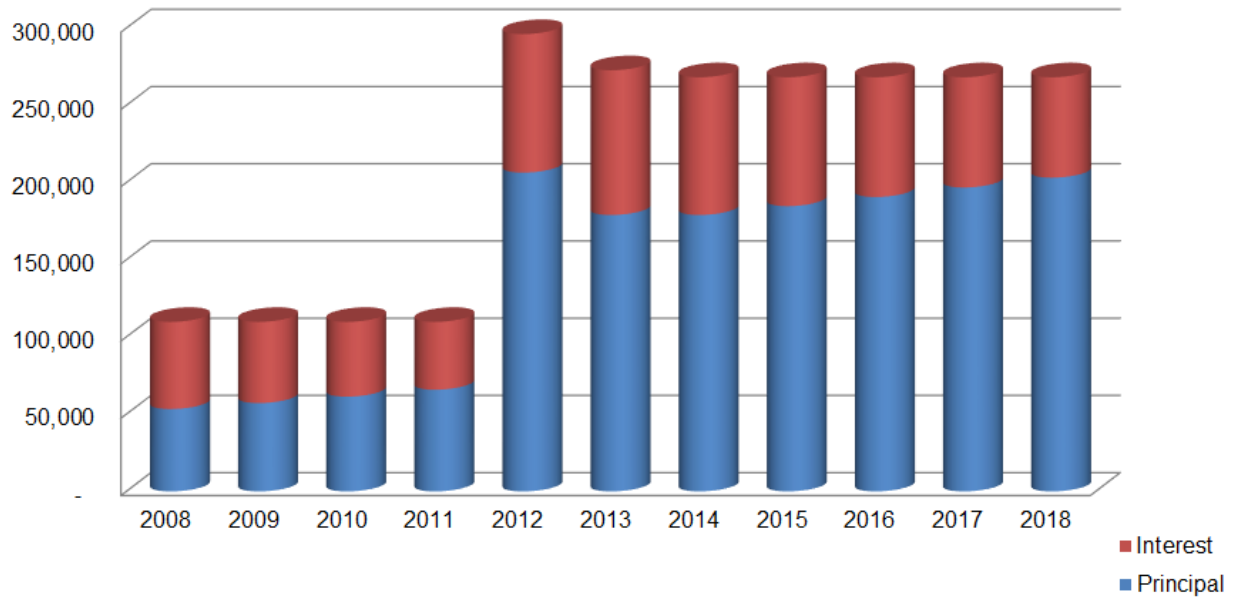
Principle and interest repayments are due as follows:

	Principal	Interest	Total
2014	\$ 178,986	\$ 89,184	\$ 268,170
2015	184,709	83,462	268,171
2016	190,640	77,531	268,171
2017	196,788	71,382	268,170
2018	203,164	65,006	268,170
Thereafter	1,991,545	290,020	2,281,565
	\$ 2,945,832	\$ 676,585	\$ 3,622,417

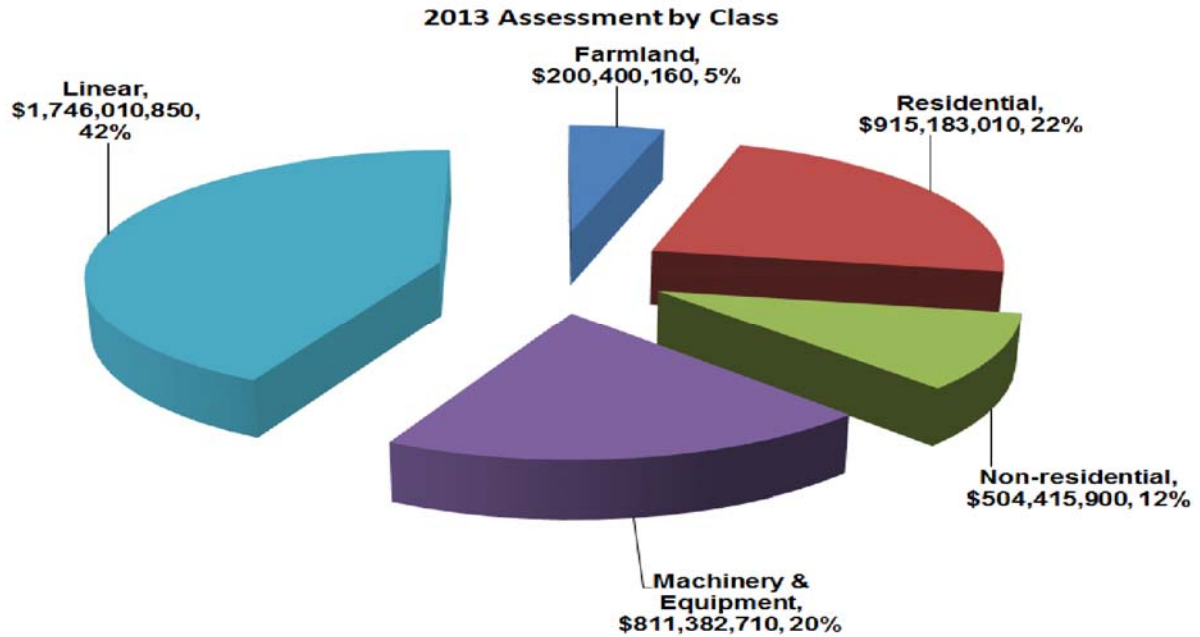
Debenture debt is repayable to Alberta Capital Finance Authority and bears interest at rates ranging from 2.63% to 6.63% per annum and matures in periods 2020 to 2027. Debenture debt is issued on the credit and security of the County at large.

Interest on long-term debt amounted to \$95,335 (\$2012 - \$61,455). The County's total cash payments for interest in 2013 were \$91,258 (2012 - \$65,569).

**Wheatland County -
Long-term debt principal and interest payments - 2008 to 2018 ***



* Only includes principal and interest payments on borrowings approved by Council as of May 20th, 2014.

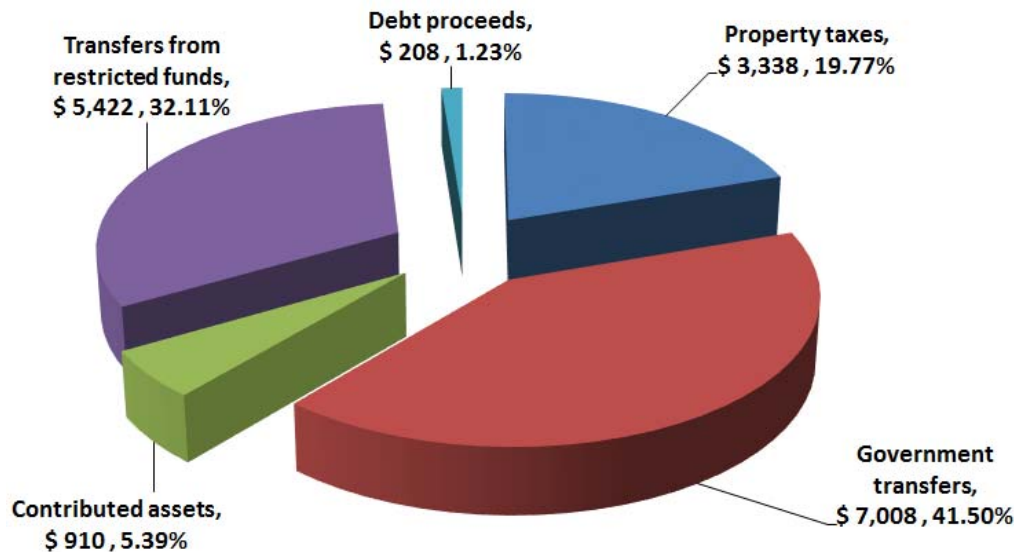


Schedule of Tangible Capital Assets

	Land	Land Improvements	Buildings	Engineered Structures	Machinery and Equipment	Vehicles	Construction in Progress	2013	2012 (restated)
Cost:									
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 12,980,526	\$ 1,494,523	\$ 8,557,400	\$ 466,396,370	\$ 19,517,932	\$ 6,514,485	\$ 4,234,350	\$ 519,695,587	\$ 505,961,595
Acquisitions	91,395	204,264	6,128	10,997,858	2,457,987	1,386,319	788,312	15,932,263	14,799,177
Construction-in-progress	-	-	-	954,558	-	-	(954,558)	-	-
Disposals	(69,762)	-	-	(592,636)	(1,450,949)	(940,247)	-	(3,053,594)	(1,065,185)
Balance, end of year	13,002,159	1,698,787	8,563,528	477,756,150	20,524,970	6,960,557	4,068,104	532,574,256	519,695,587
Accumulated Amortization:									
Balance, beginning of year	-	807,098	2,070,294	296,157,198	8,343,572	3,856,594	-	311,234,756	299,773,256
Annual amortization	-	79,003	185,275	10,195,620	1,474,037	464,898	-	12,398,833	12,194,500
Disposals	-	-	-	(475,896)	(912,681)	(795,118)	-	(2,183,695)	(733,000)
Balance, end of year	-	886,101	2,255,569	305,876,922	8,904,928	3,526,374	-	321,449,894	311,234,756
Net book value	13,002,159	812,686	6,307,959	171,879,228	11,620,042	3,434,183	4,068,104	211,124,362	208,460,831
2012 Net book value (restated)	\$ 12,980,526	\$ 687,425	\$ 6,487,107	\$ 170,239,173	\$ 11,174,360	\$ 2,657,890	\$ 4,234,350	\$ 208,460,831	

Wheatland County - 2013 Capital Funds Acquired *

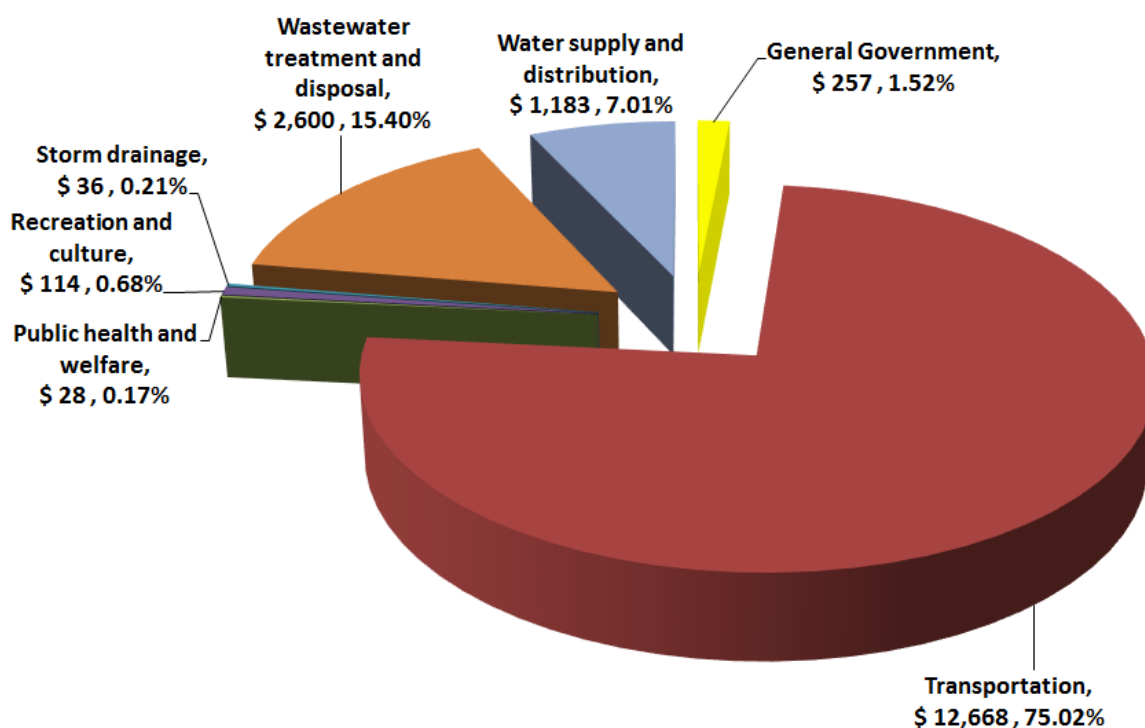
Total capital funding \$16,886



* All figures expressed in thousands of dollars

Wheatland County - 2013 Capital Spending *

Total capital spending \$16,886



* All figures expressed in thousands of dollars

Management prepared these summary financial statements using the following criteria:

The summary financial statements include a statement for each statement included in the audited financial statements;

Information in the summary financial statements agrees with the related information in the completed set of audited financial statements;

Major subtotals, totals and comparative information from the audited financial statements are included; and

The summary financial statements contain the information from the audited financial statements dealing with matters having a pervasive or otherwise significant effect on the summary financial statements.

The summary financial statements are derived from the audited financial statements, prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, as at December 31, 2013, and December 31, 2012, and for the years then ended.

The audited financial statements of the County are available on request by contacting the municipal office at 403-934-3321. Financial statements can also be downloaded directly from the Wheatland County website at www.wheatlandcounty.ca.

CONTACT US

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Hours are from 8:00am to 4:30pm

Email us at admin@wheatlandcounty.ca

Find us online at wheatlandcounty.ca

In the paper on page 5 of the Strathmore Standard Newspaper

Driving the Wheatland County Administrative Office, Public Works & Ag Shops are located 5km's east of Strathmore on the north side of Highway 1, access via Range Road 243





VALERIE SPEER

Rosebud, Wheatland County

Valerie Speer is a local Wheatland County artist from the Hamlet of Rosebud. Much of her work focuses on iconic Canadian landscapes. Her work can be found throughout the 2013 Annual Report.

Valerie is a self-described “immersionist” as she desires to absorb herself in the environment before expressing it in a painting. “The landscape we live in is alive and constantly speaking to us, bringing hope, reflecting the power, creativity and personality of God. In our experience with our environment we can discover life changing moments and intimacy with our creator.” Valerie paints prairie and wilderness landscapes in a simplistic yet powerful style, similar to that of Canadian Group of Seven Technique - acrylic paint on canvas.

Valerie’s formal training was at Okanagan College in the Fine Arts program, later she pursued Audiovisual Communications in Edmonton, training in photography and video production. After moving to the prairies she took up her brush again having found the need to reflect the landscape around her.

Valerie had previously lived in Jasper where she discovered Lauren Harris’ rendition of Maligne Lake. He captured an essence that photography could not. As Valerie began to paint the prairies, she took note of the simplicity of line and use of light and was pleased with how it evoked feelings of the places she was reflecting on. The big skies, interesting coulees and rawness of the weather systems have challenged and inspired her. Spending time in the mountains evokes feelings of vulnerability while being overwhelmed by the stunning grandeur that is hard to fully drink in. Valerie strives to capture those moments when we are stopped in our tracks by the beauty around us, food for our soul, that we feed on long after the experience has passed.

Currently Valerie displays originals and prints at the Rosebud Centre, in the Hamlet of Rosebud and on www.valeriespeer.com.