

## **COUNTY CONTACTS**

#### **Starland County Office**

217 Railway Ave North PO Box 249 Morrin, AB Canada TOJ 2B0 PH: (403) 772-3793 info@starlandcounty.com

#### **Division 1**

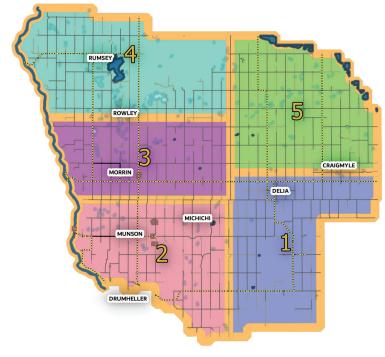
Mark Landry
Division 1 Councillor
C: (403) 821-0168
mlandry@starlandcounty.com

#### **Division 2**

Steve Wannstrom –Reeve Division 2 Councillor PH: (403) 823-7361 swannstrom@starlandcounty.com

#### **Division 3**

Bob Sargent - Deputy Reeve Division 3 Councillor C: (403) 820-1509 bsargent@starlandcounty.com



#### **Division 4**

Jackie Watts
Division 4 Councillor
C: (403) 820-5451
jwatts@starlandcounty.com

#### **Division 5**

John Rew Division 5 Councillor C: (403) 820-0320 jrew@starlandcounty. com

#### **Starland County Council**



Left to Right

Division 3
Bob Sargent

Division 5

Division 4

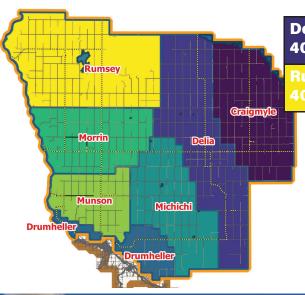
Jackie Watts

Division 1 Mark Landry

Division 2 Steve Wannstrom

## COUNTY CONTACTS

#### FIRE SERVICE REGION MAP



**Delia** 403-820-4074

**Rumsey** 403-334-4640 Morrin 403-820-0204

**Craigmyle 403-854-6508** 

Munson 403-820-2355

Michichi 403-820-4174

#### **Emergency Contacts**

In the case of a major emergency or disaster event this page will contain important contact information. For Starland County's 24/7 Emergency line please call 1-403-772-3793. If calling outside business hours please wait for the answering service.



#### Fire & Emergency Services

Starland Regional Fire Services includes 6 departments manned by 106 volunteer firefighters serving our communities.

#### **Electronic Burn Permit Application**

Fire permits can be obtained free of charge by applying online or at the County office. Electronic Burn Permits are now live at <a href="https://starlandcounty.ca/status/burn">https://starlandcounty.ca/status/burn</a>. This will assist fire chiefs and neighbours and hopefully reduce the number of false alarms. If a fire ban or another restriction is added, all active burn permit holders will immediately be emailed to let them know of the change of status reducing considerable administrative overhead. A fire permit is valid only for the period for which it is issued. Fire permits are issued for a maximum of seven days. You can

re-apply if required. By obtaining a fire permit you have simply indicated that you wish to burn. You must follow the conditions set out on the fire permit. Fires must be lit when weather conditions are favourable. Do not start to burn under windy and gusty conditions. Fires must be monitored and kept from spreading to adjacent properties. Adequate fire guards shall be in place prior to any burn. Burns shall be done in compliance with the guidelines set forth under Bylaw #1173 and the guidelines set by the Forest & Prairie Protection Act.

"With fire season upon us, I would like to thank our volunteer fire department members for all their work and time they donate to their respective communities. As a reminder to the public, during active incidents, please vacate the affected area to provide members access to work. Increased traffic on scene creates additional hazards with potential for tragic outcomes." - Matthew K, Community Services Director

## REEVE'S MESSAGE

#### Welcome to the Spring edition of the Starland County Line!

Now that we're into spring, it's great to see some moisture to start the season.

At the annual RMA (Rural Municipalities of Alberta) conference in March, Council was able to secure one-on-one meetings with several Ministers at the Legislature.



Firstly, we met with Minister of Municipal Affairs Rick McIver. We once again shared our concerns about the possibility of the County having to assume responsibility for the Village of Delia if residents chose that path. This would carry serious financial implications, particularly regarding infrastructure and operational impacts. We're pleased that Delia has recently decided to remain whole and continue

working on improvements.

We also discussed the forthcoming changes to the mature asset strategy for the oil and gas industry. These changes will lower the assessed value of infrastructure — even though many of these are still good-producing wells — which will, in turn, reduce our tax revenue. This is a significant concern as oil and gas represent a large portion of our tax base.



Reeve Steve

Conversations were also held on several grant programs we are currently unable to access due

"These are vital to maintaining traffic flow and supporting local industry."

to our low population, even though we face the same infrastructure challenges as larger municipalities — such as water, wastewater systems, roads, bridges (110 in total). These are critical to our area for moving products to market and keeping residents in the region.

We then met with Minister of Transportation & Economic Corridors Devin Dreeshen

highlight the poor condition of many

numbered provincial roads in Starland County, an issue we have been advocating on for several years. We also asked the province to recognize the east-west highway through Starland as an economic corridor, which would help support development of the business park and may position the area for

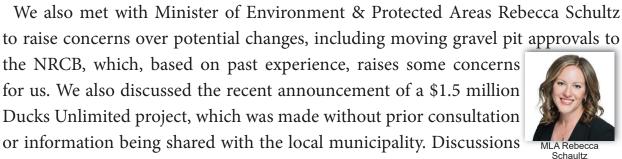


## REEVE'S MESSAGE

recognition as a provincial rest stop, potentially unlocking further infrastructure funding. We also raised concerns about water and wastewater infrastructure grants, which are often structured

for towns and cities and fail to reflect the needs of rural Alberta, where we, too, are working hard to improve and grow.

We continue to apply annually for bridge funding to upgrade Starland's approximately 110 bridge files. These are vital to maintaining traffic flow and supporting local industry. While we have secured some funding over the years, many programs are based on traffic counts, where our numbers are understandably lower. Despite this, the County has steadily worked to upgrade aging bridges, which typically cost between \$250,000 and over \$1 million each.



were had about the ground water studies that will be happening throughout the province this coming year. Some brief discussion were had in regards to possible opportunities that would come from Red Deer river storage on and off stream.

We value these opportunities to meet directly with Ministers, as many other counties are also competing for their time. These meetings are an important opportunity to ensure they hear the concerns of small rural communities like ours and to remind them that we, too, play an important role in Alberta's success and future prosperity.

That's just a brief update on some of Council's recent advocacy efforts. I wish everyone a safe and successful year ahead!

Steve Wannstrom
Reeve

Wannstrom

## **COUNTY NEWS**

# Important 2025 Dates for Starland County Ratepayers:

Tax and Assessment Notice Mailing Date: June 26, 2025

Assessment Date: July 4, 2025

Assessment Appeal Date: September 2, 2025

Tax Due Date: September 29, 2025

Penalty Date: September 30, 2025 - 8% penalty on outstanding current taxes

Penalty Date: March 1, 2026 - 10% penalty on all outstanding taxes

#### Taxes can be paid as follows:

In person at the Starland County Office, 217 Railway Avenue North, Morrin, AB between the hours of 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. Payments can be accepted by cash, cheque, credit card, or Interac debit card. The Starland County office is closed on all statutory holidays.

Cheques can be left in the drop box after hours, located at the main entrance of our office. Credit card payments can be made online on our website, www.starlandcounty.com. Payments can be made through telebanking or online banking with all major banks and credit unions with the exception of the RBC.

E-transfer payments can be sent to info@starlandcounty.com.

When making payments that are not in-person, please ensure that you include the roll number(s) to which the payments pertain.



### Did you know?

Eligible Starland County taxpayers can pay their current year taxes over twelve equal pre-authorized monthly installments, penalty free, from January to December of each current tax year.

See our website for details or call 403-772-3792

## **COUNTY NEWS**



Introducing our new Inventory
Coordinator Robyne
George. Born & raised in
Drumheller, Robyne has spent
the last 15 years juggling parts,
accounting, and the occasional
coffee spill - all while raising
two awesome kids. She's got a
knack for keeping things running

smoothly, whether it's a ledger or a lunchbox. When she's not crunching numbers, you'll probably find her laughing at her own jokes, chasing after her kids, or wondering where she left her coffee (again).

Introducing Brandon Day, our new Facilities and Grounds Maintenance Lead. Using his extensive forestry background, Mr. Day will play a vital role in the upcoming tree replacement program. Brandon also has previous experience operating equipment and leading young crews; he will be a great asset to the County.

Please welcome our new Utilities Operator, Adam Halla.

Adam has 20+ years of experience in municipal water systems, including time spent with EPCOR and the Town of High River. He



holds a Level II Alberta Environment certification in Water Distribution and has been involved in various aspects of water system management, from water main repairs and hydrant maintenance to preventive planning and emergency response. Adam is grateful for the opportunity to be part of

Adam is grateful for the opportunity to be part of the Starland County team. He looks forward to learning more about rural water operations while supporting the utility team in any way he can. Outside of work, he enjoys hiking, skiing, mountain biking, working out, and spending time with his family and friends. He's looking forward to meeting everyone and settling into his new role.

A special thank you to Raymond McDonald of Drumheller for the spectacular cover photo taken in our own Starland County at Horsethief Canyon. You can find more of Ray's work on his Instagram Page at:



Intorducing our new Community Peace Officer, Seth Williams.

Originally from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Seth began his career with the Canadian Armed Forces and later served with the Second Royal Canadian Regiment in Gagetown,



New Brunswick. He moved to Northern Alberta, rising to the rank of Sergeant as a Peace Officer with Alberta Health Services, and later served as a Peace Officer at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, handling arrests and warrants. A certified *Use of Force* instructor, Seth brings extensive knowledge of Canadian law and threat recognition. He looks forward to building strong community ties in Starland County. Please join us in welcoming him!

# SHAPE YOUR COMMUNITY'S FUTURE!

Visit the RMA's Running for Municipal Office webpage for details on running for municipal office.

https://rmalberta.com/advocacy/ municipal-election-awareness/



#### **Considering running for municipal office?**

- Pre-register now for webinars running throughout the Spring and Summer.
- Experience of being an elected official.
- Steps to run for municipal office.
- Access relevant information about running for office.



Aerial Photos  Landowners	<u>Fee</u>
Landowners	
	No Fee
Others: 11" x 17" (per property)	1.00 each
Others: 22" x 34" on the plotter (per property) \$1	0.00 each
Assessment Appeal Fees	
Assessment Appeal Fee for Farmland and Residential \$50.00 p	per tax roll
(Refundable if Successful or Withdrawn Prior to Hearing)	GST Exempt
Assessment Appeal Fee for Non-Residential \$650.00 p	oer tax roll
(Refundable if Successful or Withdrawn Prior to Hearing)	GST Exempt
Assessment Roll Report	
Assessment Roll Report of Individual's Assessment Free to L	andowner
Complete Assessment Roll Report	\$100.00
Assessment Sheets	
Assessment Summary or Detail Sheets Free to La	andowner
Assessment Summary or Detail Sheets for Others i.e., ADC, \$15.00	per parcel
Farm Credit, Banks, Mortgage Companies, Real Estate Firms	
Caveat & Caveat Discharge Fees	
Caveat & Caveat Discharge Fees As per Land	Titles Fee
Fax Charges	
Local (per page)	Free
Long Distance (per page) \$3.00	) per page
NSF Returned Cheque Fee	
NSF Returned Cheque \$35.00 pe	er cheque
Photocopies	
Letter or legal sized (per copy) \$0.25 e	each page
Oversized (per copy) \$0.30 e	each page
Community Groups within Starland County	Free
Plotter (Scanned or Printed Copies)	
36" wide x per inch in length \$0.5	0 per inch
Starland County Maps	
Large Wall Map \$2	0.00 each
Map Book \$1	6.00 each
Digital Landownership Map	Free
Mailing Fee (Envelope Mailed)	\$10.00
Mailing Fee (Rolled and Mailed)	\$30.00
Starland County Mementos & Swag	
Hats, shirts, blankets, water/coffee cups, etc.	ost + 20%
Tax Certificates	

Tax Certificate	\$20.00 per roll number
Tax Certificate	
Toy Lovy History Donort	*GST Exempt
Tax Levy History Report	Free to Landowner
Tax Levy History Report for Others (Lewyers, etc.)	
Tax Levy History Report for Others (Lawyers, etc.)  Tax Notification Fees	\$25.00 per parcel
Tax Notification Registration (Plus Land Titles Fees)	\$100.00 per percel +
Tax Notification Registration (Plus Land Titles Fees)	\$100.00 per parcel + Land Title Fees
	*GST Exempt
Tax Recovery Initiation Process (Including notifications, required letters to be sent, etc.)	\$100.00 per parcel
Tax Recovery Additional Fees (Appraisals on the property, etc.)	As per cost incurred
OPERATIONS	
Description	<u>Fee</u>
Approaches	
Residential/Farm	No Fee
Dust Suppression/Control	
As per Policy 320-15 (Updated Annually)	
Pipeline Crossing Application	
Industrial / Commercial	\$200.00
PARKS & RECREATION	
<u>Description</u>	<u>Fee</u>
McLaren Dam Recreation Area	
Unserviced Sites	\$25.00/night/unit
Serviced Sites (On-line booking only)	\$35.00/night/unit
Michichi Dam Recreation Area	
Unserviced Sites	\$25.00/night/unit
Serviced Sites (On-line booking only)	\$35.00/night/unit
Seasonal Sites	\$2,200.00 per season
Starland Recreation Area	
Unserviced Sites	\$25.00/night/unit
Tolman Bridge Campground (East & West Sides) (aka Dry Island Buffalo Jun	np)
Unserviced Sites	\$25.00/night/site
Group Site (East Campground) (On-line booking only)	\$165.00/night/Max.5 Units
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT	
<u>Description</u>	<u>Fee</u>
1. Development Permit Applications:	
1. Development Permit Applications:	
Home Occupation Permit	\$75.00

	Duplex/Semi-Detached Dwelling	\$150.00
	Additions to Dwellings	\$75.00
	Ancillary Buildings	\$100.00
	All Other Developments	\$50 for the first \$1,000 of cost + \$10 for each additional \$1,000 of
		cost (Maximum Fee \$2,500)
	Commercial or Industrial Application < \$500,000	\$500.00
	Commercial or Industrial Application \$500,000 - \$2 M	\$1,000.00
	Commercial or Industrial Application \$2 M - \$5 M	\$2,000.00
	Commercial or Industrial Application > \$5 M	\$4,000.00
2.	Redesignation/Rezoning Land Use Bylaw	
	Redesignation/Rezoning Land Use Bylaw Application	\$500.00
3.	Development Agreement	
	Single Parcel	\$200.00
	Multiple Parcel (minimum) (or actual legal fees paid by the County)	\$5000.00
4.	Application Penalty	·
	If the applicant commences construction of a development prior to obtaining the necessary permit, a 100% penalty will be applied to the above noted fees.	100% Penalty
5.	Certificate of Compliance Fees	
	Compliance Certificate	\$200.00 each
	Rush Service - Within 2 days	\$400.00 each
6.	Land Use Bylaw (*Free On-Line)	
	Printed copy of the Land Use Bylaw	\$25.00
7.	Municipal Development Plan (*Free On-Line)	
	Printed copy of the Municipal Development Plan	\$15.00
8.	Subdivision & Development Appeal Fees:	
	Appeals submitted by adjacent landowner on development up to \$1M (Refundable if Successful or Withdrawn Prior to Hearing)	\$300.00 each
	Appeals submitted by adjacent landowner on development over \$1M (Refundable if Successful or Withdrawn Prior to Hearing)	\$600.00 each
	Development appeal submitted by applicant/developer (Refundable if Successful or Withdrawn Prior to Hearing)	\$300.00 each
	Remuneration for SDAB Board Members & Secretary - Meeting Rates, Travelling Expenses, Living expenses	*As per Annual Organizational Meeting Rates Set for Committee Members
	Meeting Room Fees: County Office Council Chambers Rental of Community Hall	No Charge Fee as Set by Community Group
9.	Rural Address Sign	
	Initial Sign for Residence	No Charge

	Sign for Other or Replacement Sign	TBD
10.	Road Closure Request Application	\$1000.00 each
PROTE	CTIVE SERVICES	
	Description	Fee
Animal (	Control (Within the Hamlets of Craigmyle, Michichi, Rowley & Rumse	
	r further fees and violation fines)	
	Dog License for each neutered dog	\$20.00 each
	Dog License for each unaltered dog	\$30.00 each
	Replacement License Tag Fee	\$10.00 each
Burn		
Permit	Burn Permit Required From March 1st to October 31st	No Fee
Fire	Built Ferriit Required From March 14 to October 314	No ree
Service		
Fees		
	Fire Calls for Out-of-Area Residents	\$300.00/hr. for 1st
		hour for each unit
		responding \$100.00/hr. each additional hour
CEM	I IETERIES	caon additional nodi
02.11	Description	Fee
Purchase	of Cemetery Plots in All County Cemeteries	
	urchase of Plot	\$100.00 per plot +GST
Purchase	e of Columbarium Niche	
Р	urchase of Niche and Plaque	\$1,300.00 per niche
Demokrati	af Managria I Mall Dlance	+GST
	e of Memorial Wall Plaque	\$200.00 per plague
P	urchase of Plaque for Memorial Wall	\$300.00 per plaque +GST
Grave Si	te Preparation	
F	ull Service (Grave site prep and backfilling)	\$650.00 +GST
During r	egular weekdays and work hours	
	Vinter Full Service (Grave site prep and backfilling)	\$850.00 +GST
		·
	weekdays and work hours + Frozen ground conditions ull Service – After-hours	\$900.00 +GST
		ψθυυ.υυ 1931
	ny portion of weekends, holidays, or after regular weekday hours	#4.400.00 · OOT
V	/inter Full Service – After-hours (Grave site prep and backfilling)	\$1,100.00 +GST
During a condition	ny portion of weekends, holidays, or after-hours + Frozen ground	

(	Cremation Service (Preparation for c	remation burial)	\$100.00 +GST
During	regular weekdays + work hours		
	Winter Cremation Service (Preparation	on for cremation burial)	\$175.00 +GST
Durina	regular weekdays and work hours	+ Frozen ground conditions	
	Cremation Service – After-hours	Trozon grouna conameno	\$150.00 +GST
During	any portion of weekends, holidays,	or after regular weekday hours	·
	Cremation Service – After-hours (Grave		\$225.00 +GST
	y portion of weekends, holidays, or after-hours		,
_	ULTURAL SERVICE BOARD		
	<u>Description</u>		<u>Fee</u>
2022 E	quipment Rental Rates:		
1.	2011 Brillion Grass Seeder (10		\$10.00/acre
	ft.)	\$^	150.00 Minimum Charge
2.	12 foot 1206NT Land Pride No-		\$15.00/acre
	till Drill	\$2	250.00 Minimum Charge
3.	Livestock Water Transfer Sys-	\$395.00/dugout	
	tem	\$250.00 lf	set up by the landowner
4.	Kirchner Grain Bag Roller	\$50.00/day	
5.	Rawhide Portable Corral Sys-	\$250.00 Charge for ASB Staff Assistance (Optional) \$200.00/day	
	tem	+ \$100.00 Deposit Required	
6.	Portable Loading Chute	τ φ ι	\$50.00/day
0.	Totalio Loading Onato		
7.	Magpie Traps	No charge but must pay a \$100.	100.00 Deposit Required
/ .	Wagpie Traps	No charge but must pay a \$100.	ed when returned
8.	Back Pack Sprayer	No charge but must pay a \$100.	.00 deposit to be refund-
			ed when returned
9.	Measuring Wheel	No charge but must pay a \$100.	-
10.	Skunk Traps	No charge but must pay a \$100.	ed when returned
10.	Okulik Haps	No charge but must pay a \$100.	ed when returned
11.	Transit	No charge but must pay a \$100.	
			ed when returned
12.	Forage Probe	No charge but must pay a \$100.	-00 deposit to be refund. ed when returned
13.	Grasshopper Bait Spreader	No charge but must pay a \$100.	
10.	Crassiopper ball optoader	110 ondigo but must pay a \$100.	ed when returned

14.	Dannville No-Drift Chemical Applicator	No charge but must pay a \$100.00 deposit to be refunded when returned
15.	Grass Seed Belly Grinder	No charge but must pay a \$100.00 deposit to be refunded when returned
16.	Solar-Powered Water Pumping System	No charge but must pay a \$250.00 deposit to be refunded when returned
Ag Ser	vices:	
1.	Shelterbelt Spraying Program (Insecticide) (150-gallon tank)	\$125.00/hour + ChemicalsMinimum charge of 1 hour
2.	Weed Spraying Program	\$50.00/hour + Chemicals
	(150-gallon tank)	(Less 60% on Toadflax and Scentless Chamomile Incentive Program)
3.	ATV Quad Sprayer – Spot	\$50.00/hour + Chemicals
Spraying Pro	Spraying Program	(Less 60% on Toadflax and Scentless Chamomile Incentive Program)
4.	RTV Spot Spraying Program	\$100.00/hour + Chemicals
		(Less 60% on Toadflax and Scentless Chamomile Incentive Program)
5.	Shelterbelt Fabric Roller	\$20.00/hour + Fabric Costs
		Minimum Charge \$50.00
Ag Sub	osidized Services:	
1.	Water Well Decommissioning	\$200.00/well
		Must be performed by an approved technician, contact for details and prior approval
2.	Back Sloping Program (Fence line topsoil work)	40% Off Construction Rates
		Incentive Program for qualifying projects
3.	Tree Planter	No Charge
		Contact for program requirements
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#### STARLAND COUNTY NOTIFICATION SERVICE

- >> BE INFORMED
- >> EMERGENCY ALERTS
- >> COMMUNITY NOTIFICATIONS
- >> ANONYMOUS REGISTRATION
- >> FREE TO USE





Find VoyentAlert on Google Play or in the App Store on iOS.

## STARLAND CAMPING



Starland County's public campgrounds wi there has been a change to the campgrounds. Now let's get out there and enjoy

#### **McLaren Dam Campground**

For those who like camping and fishing McLaren Dam Recreation Area is a perfect spot. Located approximately 24 km north of Delia, McLaren Dam is a large informal campground. It is equipped with fire pits, picnic tables and a camp kitchen facility. There are 18 electricity hookups available. Group camping sites are available. In 2011, the Dam was stocked with 12,000 rainbow trout averaging 14 cm in length. Motorized craft are allowed on the Dam.

Current Rates: \$25/night per unit unserviced, \$35/night per unit serviced. Click here to register your site at this campground

Directions: Go North on Highway 851 to Township Road 33-4, turn left and go two miles to Range Road 18-2 then turn south 1 mile. (There should be a sign on Highway 851 at Township Road 33-4)

## Michichi Dam Recreation Area

Immediately South of Michichi on Highway 849 (0.33km).

Michichi Dam Recreation Area is located 25 kms north of Drumheller. It is an excellent spot to camp and is close to popular sites like the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology and Barney's Adventure Park.

- 14 seasonal campsites,
- 16 bookable campsites (11 sites with power/water, 5 sites with power only).
- Overflow camping (first come, first served)
- Overflow sites (first-come, first-served)
- kitchen facilities
- Free showers
- CSA approved playground equipment
- Potable water onsite

You can also enjoy the newly built Michichi Creek Boardwalk which has its trail head inside the campground. This 1 km trail borders the edge of the picturesque reservoir, and makes its way to a beautiful gazebo. 11 interpretive signs highlight information about the area, including flora, fauna, geology, history and more.

Michichi Dam Recreation Area is stocked with fish on a annual basis, and is home a popular annual fishing derby, which is held in August of each year.

Current Rates: \$25/night per unit unserviced, \$35/night per unit serviced.

## **STARLAND CAMPING**

ll be open from Thursday May 15th to October 13th 2025, and and reservations site. The new site is letscamp.ca.



## the outdoors!

#### **Starland Recreation Area**

"A perfect place to get away from it all".

- 20 designated sites, group camping sites, first come, first served
- Overflow & group camping sites
- Ball diamonds, playground equipment
- Gazebo, camp kitchen
- Developed river access
- Short hiking trail, scenic camping along the Red Deer River, boat launch at the bridge before

entering the camping area. Camping fees

\$25/night per unit

Available on a first-come, first-served basis

## Tolman East & West Campgrounds

#### **EAST Campground**

• 40 non-serviced, nicely sheltered, suitable for tents and RVs.

Amenities: playground, pit toilets and a boat launch area.

Group camping area available that must be reserved through https://letscamp.ca

#### **WEST Campground**

• 25 non serviced sites, large open sites well suited to RVs.

Amenities: Large camp kitchen, pit toilets and a boat launch area.

Camping fees

\$25/night per unit for both East and West

Campgrounds on a first-come, first-served basis



## UTILITIES NEWS

#### Going on Vacation? Don't forget to take care of your water.

Going on vacation is exciting, but it's important to ensure your home is prepared, especially when it comes to water systems. Here are some steps to take before you leave and when you return:

Before You Leave

Turn Off the Main Water Supply: This is the most effective way to prevent leaks and water damage while you're away. Locate the main shut-off valve and turn it off.

Drain Pipes and Appliances: After shutting off the main water supply, open all faucets and flush toilets to drain any remaining water. This helps prevent pipes from freezing and bursting in cold weather. Check for Leaks: Inspect all visible pipes, faucets, and appliances for leaks. Fix any issues to avoid potential water damage.

Water Heater: Turn off the water heater or set it to vacation mode. This prevents unnecessary energy consumption and reduces the risk of leaks.

Outdoor Water Systems: Disconnect hoses and turn off outdoor faucets. If you have an irrigation system, set it to a vacation mode or turn it off. When You Return Turn On the Main Water Supply: Slowly turn the main water valve back on. This helps prevent pressure surges that could damage pipes.

Check for Leaks: Inspect all faucets, pipes, and appliances for any signs of leaks or damage. Address any issues immediately.

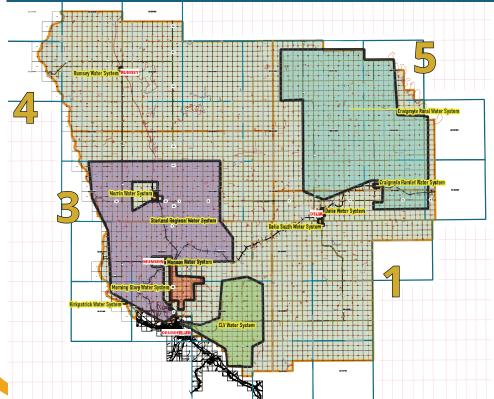
Flush the System: Run cold water through all faucets for a few minutes to clear out any stagnant water and ensure the system is functioning properly.

Water Heater: Turn the water heater back to its normal setting. If you turned it off, wait for it to refill and heat up before using hot water.

Outdoor Water Systems: Reconnect hoses and turn on outdoor faucets. If you have an irrigation system, reset it to its normal schedule.

By following these steps, you can ensure your home's water system remains in good condition while you're away and is ready for use when you return. Enjoy your vacation with peace of mind!

#### **Starland County Public Water Systems Map**



In addition to private wells, Starland County's fresh drinking water consists of 11 completely seperate systems! Our Utilities Crew are responsible for testing and maintaing over 350 kms of pipe, 7 truckfills, 2 booster stations, and 3 wastewater collections systems.



## **PUBLIC WORKS NEWS**

#### **Public Works Summer Projects 2025**

#### 1. BF#70206

RR 16-0 South of TWP RD. 32-4

We will be replacing the existing structure with a new bridge size culvert. This structure has 5 meters of fill on top and has struts inside the barrel that we will have to remove, before replacing.

#### 2. Munson Road West

We will be pulverizing the 4 miles drying out the old oil, packing and reshaping the road. This road used to be an oiled road we will be returning it back to original state.

#### 3. Gravel Program

We will be hauling out 37,000 yards of road crush onto Starland County roads.

#### 4. Dust Control

We will be running our dust control program again. Deadline to get your order in is April 30<sup>th</sup> 2025. We will hopefully be spraying first couple weeks of June.

#### 5. Helping with ground work for Rumsey's new firehall

We be cleaning up the lot and prep the ground for the new foundation.

#### 6. Various culverts around the county

General repairs and maintenance.

#### 7. Mowing 2025

All mowers will run a grid-style operation like the graders; a second cut will be performed when necessary. The tractor-mower and grader-mower will start July 28th, 2025, in Division 4 north of Hwy 585, working their way south and east into Division 3. The grader will focus on the Dumore Ditches in the Rumsey area before working in the more northern regions of Divisions 4 and 5. Tractor Mower #2 will start July 28th, 2025, in Division 5 north of Craigmyle.

All units will work towards the middle of Divisions 4, 3, and 5, North of HWY 9. Once completed, both tractor-mowers will move south into Divisions 1 and 2. Cutting grass along our county roads provides many benefits to the county and its ratepayers. It stores snow in ditches, reduces drifting across the road surface, and helps dry the road out in the springtime. At the same time, it improves visibility for wildlife while helping control brush and noxious weed growth. In our county, we cut approximately 1400 miles of ditch.

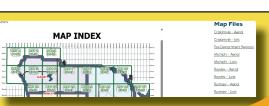


Did you know our County Map Book is available for digital download at

https://starlandcounty.com/county-maps?

Check us out!





## Stay in the know



Want to keep up to date with everything ASB? Follow our Facebook page and be the first to know about workshops, funding opportunities, and all things Ag in Starland County.

#### **Upcoming Events**

Southern Alberta Grazing School For Women- July 16 & 17 2025 Twin Butte

## SOUTHERN ALBERTA GRAZING SCHOOL FOR WOMEN

July 16 & 17, 2025-Twin Butte, AB

GRIT, GRACE AND GROWTH

**Topics Included:** 

Grazing Principles and Practices, Soil Health, Hands On Plant ID, Range & Riparian Health, Species at Risk, Herd Health Impacts, Large Carnivore Mitigation and Coexistence, Ranching Women Talks, And MORE!



#### Palliser Grazing Club Events



Livestock Water Sytems Tour- June 18th Succession Planning Workshop- July (final date tbd) Palliser Grazing Club and Foothills Forage & Grazing Association Grazing School- July 29th & 30th

#### Save the date!



The Starland County ASB invites you to join us on Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, for a summer tour and long-table dinner.

Tour highlights include: Pioneer trial plots, Crooked Lakes Livestock, Cloverleaf Colony Gardens, the Starland Seed Cleaning Plant, and BioAgtive Emissions Farming.

After the tour, we will visit Barney's Adventure Park for a long table dinner prepared with local food and produce. Tickets will go on sale in June. Watch on Facebook for more updates. We look forward to seeing you there!

#### **OFCAF**

#### **On-Farm Climate Action Fund is Open for 2025**

The On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) opened for another intake period on April 9th, 2025. OFCAF provides financial support to producers to accelerate their adoption and implementation of on-farm Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) to lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, support production efficiency, sustainability, and resiliency on their farm



**Applications Now Being Accepted!** 



www.rdar.ca





1-877-503-5955



operations.

To assist producers with their adoption of new BMPs, the program will offer resources to support BMP implementation and provide BMP design recommendations.

Results Driven Agriculture (RDAR) is a delivery partner for OFCAF and will administer OFCAF in Alberta. This organization was selected by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to distribute funds associated with this program. RDAR is delivering OFCAF in three activity categories. These practices also provide other environmental benefits such as improved biodiversity and soil health. Other activities to support the adoption of BMPs, such as outreach, education, and training, are also supported.

The three BMPs include:

#### Improving Nitrogen Management

For example, agronomic services to develop farmspecific nutrient management plans, equipment rental or custom rates for fertilizer application in fields, and soil sampling and analysis.

#### **Increasing Adoption of Cover Cropping**

For example, payment-per-acre to cover adoption or related costs such as seed and custom seeding. Cover crops protect and enhance the soil while reducing erosion risks associated with annual cropping systems.

#### **Expanding the Adoption of Rotational Grazing**

For example, agronomic services to develop grazing management plans, install interior cross fencing or water system infrastructure, and plant legumes and forages. Rotational grazing is the practice of containing and moving livestock through pasture to allow forage plants to recover, deepen their root systems, and improve soil health.

For more information, visit <a href="https://rdar.ca/funding-opportunities/ofcaf">https://rdar.ca/funding-opportunities/ofcaf</a>.

#### Tackling the Kochia Problem in Starland County and Alberta

#### **Understanding Kochia**

Kochia (Kochia scoparia) is a rapidly growing, droughtresistant weed that has become a major issue in Starland County and across Alberta. This weed thrives in disturbed and saline areas, making it particularly



problematic during periods of low rainfall. Its ability to flourish in dry and saline conditions allows it to establish itself in various environments, including roadsides, fields, and waste places.

#### **Challenges for Crop Producers**

Kochia presents several challenges for crop producers. Its aggressive growth and prolific seed production enable it to compete with crops, leading to reduced yields. Additionally, kochia remains green even after crops have matured, complicating harvest operations. The weed has developed resistance to multiple herbicide groups, including Group 2, Group 4, and Group 9 herbicides. This resistance makes control efforts more difficult and increases the cost of weed management.

#### **Spread Across Alberta**

Originally confined to southern regions of Alberta, kochia has now spread throughout the province, partly due to the dry conditions that favor its growth. Surveys conducted in 2021 found glyphosate-

resistant kochia in 78% of the sites sampled, with some populations also showing resistance to Group 4 herbicides. Several of these resistant populations were identified within Starland County. The spread of kochia is facilitated by its ability to disperse seeds as a tumbleweed and its rapid adaptation to herbicide applications.

#### **Control Strategies for Producers**

To manage kochia effectively, crop producers should adopt an integrated approach that includes the following strategies:

**Crop Rotation and Seeding Rates**: Rotate competitive crops and increase seeding rates to suppress kochia growth.

**Herbicide Rotation**: Use herbicides with different modes of action, including pre-emergent herbicides, to manage existing resistance and discourage further resistance.

**Mechanical Control**: Mow, till, or hay kochia patches before they set seed to prevent further spread.

**Monitoring and Early Detection**: Regularly scout fields to identify and address small patches of kochia early.

If kochia is identified after crop flowering, chemical control options become limited. To address this, Starland County has obtained a weed wipe that allows producers to control kochia in-crop without damaging the entire crop.

By combining these strategies, producers can better manage kochia and mitigate its impact on their fields. For more information and control options, please contact Agricultural Services at Starland County.

#### **Starland County Weed Wipe**

Starland County ASB has purchased a weed wipe for rent for producers in Starland County.

Controlling weeds such as Kochia, Absinthe Wormwood, and Canada Thistle can be difficult, and past crop flowering no chemical options exist for broadcast application. A weed wick (also called a weed wipe) is a towable herbicide applicator that applies herbicide to taller weeds while leaving the crop below untouched. It uses a "rope" that remains saturated with herbicide that is then drug across the plant. Less herbicide is used as it is only applied to the target weeds instead of a full broadcast application. This product allows growers to control tall weeds in short crops and pastures



past the traditional herbicide application window, and eliminates the issue of over spray or wind drift. This weed wipe will be available to rent in June of 2025.

#### Weed of the Month Black Henbane

Black Henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*) is an annual or biennial plant found throughout Starland County. A member of the Nightshade family, it was originally brought from Europe for its medicinal properties. However, it is best known for its toxic nature, posing hazards to both humans and animals. Contact with bare skin can cause irritation, and ingestion can lead to severe symptoms such as impaired vision, convulsions, coma, and even death due to heart or respiratory failure. When handling this plant, always wear protective clothing and gloves.

This plant reproduces solely through seeds and thrives in



a variety of soil types, particularly in disturbed areas. It prefers sunny locations and does not tolerate shade. Black henbane can grow up to 1 meter tall, with thick, greasy-haired stems. Its bell-shaped flowers are yellowish with deep purple veins, and its seeds are contained in

hairy capsules that can remain viable for up to five years. The plant's leaves are large, lobed, sticky, covered in fine hairs, and emit a foul odor, making identification possible even without flowers.

Preventing the spread of black henbane is achievable since it is not a strong competitor and can be outcompeted by native, fast-growing vegetation. Grazing is not an option due to its toxicity, which persists even in dried plant matter.

Mechanical control methods are effective for managing black henbane. First-year growth can be controlled through cultivation, mowing, or hand-pulling (with gloves). Cutting the plant at the base of the stem before it flowers can prevent seed set. Currently, no selective herbicides are registered for use on black henbane.

Black henbane is classified as a noxious weed under the Alberta Weed Control Act, meaning that landowners are required to control this weed on their property. If you see Black Henbane, please report it to Ag Services at 403-772-3793.

#### **Rat on Rats**

#### You've heard of Squeal on Pigs, now get ready to Rat on Rats!

In March 2025, the Alberta Invasive Species Council, along with the Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation Rat Control Program, launched their newest public awareness campaign—Rat on Rats. This campaign was launched to help Albertans remain vigilant when it comes to rats and to help make new residents of Alberta aware that rats are not a common sight.

Norway Rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) and Roof Rats (*Rattus rattus*) are both designated pests in Alberta under the Agricultural Pests Act. This means landowners must destroy these pests when they are on their land. The Norway Rat is one of the most destructive pests on the



planet and is likely the rat you will see elsewhere in the country. Common rodents mistaken for rats include mice, muskrats, and pocket gophers. Alberta has been able to maintain its rat-free status because there are no permanent populations of rats in the province. Rats have not been able to get established thanks largely to the Rat Control Zone. Seven

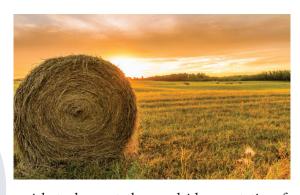
municipalities make up the Rat Control Zone, spanning 600 km north from the Montana border, and it is 29 km wide from the Saskatchewan border. The designated pest inspectors work diligently to inspect and monitor for rats to avoid establishment in these areas.

#### How can you help?

Early intervention and mitigation when a rat is found are crucial to prevent establishment. Signs of rats may be easier to spot than an actual rat. Rat runways, burrows, droppings, and evidence of gnawing and nesting may be signs that there is a rat on your property. After you have traveled, be sure to inspect your vehicle or trailers for unwanted hitchhikers. If you think you have seen a rat, report it to your Agricultural Fieldman, email <a href="mailto:rats@gov.ab.ca">rats@gov.ab.ca</a>, or call 310-FARM.

#### **Haying in Ditches**

Cutting Hay in Starland County Ditches Starland County roadside grass mowing for local roads will begin on July 15.



If you wish to harvest the roadside vegetation for hay along Starland County right-of-ways, please contact the Agricultural Services department as soon as possible. This will allow our road crew to plan their work accordingly and avoid areas intended for hay.

Alberta Transportation is responsible for roadside grass control on primary and secondary highways.

Information required by the agricultural services department will include:

- · Location of the road ditch (including north/south/east/west)
- · Your contact information

For more information, please contact the agricultural services department at 403-772-3793.



#### **ROADSIDE WEED & BRUSH CONTROL SPRAYING**

The Starland Agricultural Service Board will be SPOT SPRAYING along municipal right-of-ways beginning June 1st until completion for the control of noxious weeds and brush. All spraying is carried out by certified pesticide applicators following the Industrial Vegetation Management of Alberta (IVMAA) standards and practices. Roadsides adjacent to farmsteads, gardens, canola, legumes, alfalfa and other sensitive vegetation will be omitted unless undesirable weed populations warrant spraying.

NOTE: Pesticide use will be determined by weather conditions, targeted weeds, and surrounding vegetation.

For more information on herbicide selection and application, or for information on no-spray forms, please contact the Starland County Agricultural Services department at 403-772-3793.

Persons who do not wish to have their roadsides sprayed must complete the form below, sign and re-turn it to the County office by June 1st. These forms are to be renewed each year.

NOTE: Pesticide use will be determined by weather conditions, targeted weeds, and surrounding vegetation. Any one of the following products or a combination of registered tank mixes may be used.

Tordon 22K - Esplanade - Aspect - Roundup
 Milestone - Clearview - Garlon - Occtain XL - Navius

#### Information Lines:

1. Pesticide Toxicology	1-800-267-6315
2. AB Environment Hotline	1-800-222-6514
3. Poison Center	1-800-332-1414
4. County Office Morrin	1-403-772-3793
5. Drumheller Hospital	1-403-823-6500
6. Emergency	911

#### **NO SPRAY REQUEST FORM**

TO: Agricultural Service Board Starland County Box 249, Morrin, AB TOJ 2BO

(Landowner/Renter of the above-mentioned land)

I do not wish the Agricultural Service Board to Spray the road allowance along my property, and per By-Law 939 I accept the responsibilities of weed control on the road allowances I do not want sprayed in 2025.

NAME:	PHONE:	
ADDRESS: (QUARTER SECTION TOWNSHIP RANGE W.MERIDIAN)		
SIGNATURE:	DATE:	

## Ladies Calving Clinic Goes Back to Basics after 10 Years

On February 27, 2025 the Rumsey Community Hall welcomed 147 female cattle producers to the **Tri-County Ladies Calving Clinic** hosted by Starland County, Stettler County and Special Area No. 2 Agricultural Services Departments. This unique, female-led learning opportunity is not new to the ranchers of east-central Alberta as this is the 5<sup>th</sup> official rendition between the three municipalities since 2015.

The goal of this event has always been to build a community of educated and connected farm women, with the courage and capabilities to build their operations effectively. The Ag Field(wo)men that organize the event have attributed its popularity over the years to its stress-free learning environment, the valuable networking between supportive cattlewomen and the always fun "ladies night out" atmosphere. In the past there have been branding recipe exchanges, coffee bars, shopping, and this year Drum Distillery offered a western themed mocktail bar for the women to enjoy. The word must be out on how much fun is had, because women from 16 Alberta municipalities (and Saskatchewan!) arrived at Rumsey this year to share in the learning.

For the 2025 Clinic organizers went "Back to Basics" with their agenda, welcoming back the University of Calgary Veterinary Medicine program that helped make the very first event in 2015 a success. Along with the seven UCVM staff/students, they generously brought two calving simulators, calf dummies, and a myriad of demonstration specimens from hide layers for vaccinating, to hoof, head, and rumen cross sections! Each of the participants got to try their hand at identifying a malpresentation within the cow simulator and demonstrate how to effectively apply calving chains

for difficult births.

Local veterinarian Dr. Molly Rainforth of Maverick Vet Services gave an engaging presentation on the challenges she sees within our area, including misdiagnosis of foot rot. Dr. Tamara Quaschnick, now with Zoetis, also joined the ladies to discuss the importance of proper vaccine storage and handling. Dr. Quaschnick was one of the original veterinarians that helped bring the first Ladies Calving Clinic to Hanna in 2015 with Dr. Claire Windeyer of the UCVM, so it was very special to have these inspiring professionals "bring us back to the basics" 10 years later!

New to the event this year was an opportunity for young women interested in rural large animal veterinary careers to participate in a Youth-Vet Mentorship hour prior to the event. The Agricultural Fieldmen have been observing a large disconnect between our rural youth returning to the area and the increasing need for rural veterinarians, which spurred the organizers to collaborate with their local 4-H clubs and school divisions to sponsor 5 girls from each municipality to attend. There was great understanding gained into the day-to-day life of rural vets, the varying career opportunities and tips & tricks from current UCVM students. Dr. Rob McCorkell, Associate Dean, Admissions and

Outreach at UCVM shared valuable insight with the young ladies about the admissions process and the multi, mini interview (MMI) process. The organizing municipalities hope to build on the success of this mentorship and networking opportunity at future events.

The success of the event would simply not have been possible without the phenomenal outpouring of local support. More than 35 sponsors donated funds, door prizes, ticket sponsorship or swag bag items for each of our attendees. The UCVM and local veterinarians graciously donated their resources, time and expertise. The municipalities would like to extend the largest heartfelt appreciation to each of the attendees, sponsors and volunteers that made this event possible.

# LADIES CALVING CLINIC a Tri-County Initiative since 2015 CALLIC 2025



Than

#### 2025 Clinic:

- 147 attendees
- Representing operations in 16
   Alberta municipalities + 2 in
   Saskatchewan!
- 7 UCVM volunteers
- 2 local veterinarians
- 15 sponsored students

## Our Story

#### **Back to Basics Agenda**

Local Livestock Issues

Dr. Molly Rainforth, Maverick Vet Services
 Colostrum & Perinatal Care

o Dr. Claire Windeyer, UCVM

Calving Basics & Calving Simulators

o Dr. Jennifer Pearson, UCVM

Vaccine Handling & Storage

Dr. Tamara Quaschnick, Zoetis

Measuring Rates of Gain

Local Producer Panel

The Ladies Calving Clinic was born in 2015 in Hanna with Chinook Applied Research Asso 10 years Stettler County and Starland County have joined forces with Special Areas to de county learning and networking opportunity geared specifically to female ranchers in the offers new hands-on skill building sessions, dynamic presentations from industry experts perspectives from our local ladies, all with the aim of supporting thriving sustainable & economic production. And of course, we do it all with a fun twist only the ladies that attend really under





#### SITY OF CALGARY

OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

#### k You to Our Sponsors

- ✓ UCVM Calving Simulators
- **UCVM Training Specimens**
- 37 local sponsors
- 115 Swag Bags donated
- / 66 Door Prizes



#### Youth- Vet Mentorship Hour

- 5 students from each municipality (15) interested in large animal rural veterinary careers
- · Nominated by 4-H Clubs or School Division
- Opportunity to meet Admissions Dept of UCVM
- Group Q&A session with local vets, UCVM professors, current UCVM vet students
- · Networking & resume building
- Sponsored by municipalities to attend event

ciation. Over the last liver a unique triregion. Each event and unique onomic livestock derstand!



## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

#### **Community Initiative**





Ryan Rayno, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons Jackie Watts with Craig Cawiezel

The Rumsey Ag Society is planning their first Cornhole Tournament this year Division 4 Councillor Jackie Watts has given the Society \$500 to assist them with the purchase of scoreboards for this fun new annual event.

Division 2 Reeve Wannstrom Steve presents Percy Poland President Verdant of the Valley & Dorcas Women's Institute with a donation for \$500 from Starland County at opening of the 2025 District Conference held in Verdant



These funds are part of the County's community groups support and is annually presented in each division on a yearly basis. We appreciate all the hard work & dedication that these volunteers give to the community.

#### **Community Services**

This year is shaping up to a busy one for the department with several projects planned. For any questions or concerns related to the following services, feel free to reach me at the Office or my email matthewk@starlandcounty.com.

#### Recreation

The Starland Recreation Area is the pilot site for the tree program with ASB. Site preparation has begun with trimming and removal of dead vegetation. The Southern ball diamond is being removed to open space for future development of attractions. Starland has partnered with Alberta Transportation to reinstall washrooms at the boat launch at HWY 27, this project is scheduled to be completed by May 5th. Council approved the installation of permanent outhouse structures at Horsethief Canyon our hope is to have them in this year. Another ongoing project has been the Springwater School. With the transfer documents finalized, Council has approved a new roof to extend the life of the structure so it can be viewed for years to come.

#### **Cemeteries**

A columbarium is being placed at the Delia Cemetery this year, this will be the final installation of these monuments from the initial plan. Gates are planned for Rowley and Craigmyle in the same style that was installed at the Morrin Cemetery last year. As mentioned in previous editions, the County is willing to remove grave covers that are cracked or broken so please reach out and we can arrange disposal. This service is also available for graveside vegetation. A new walker mower has been purchased to help maintain our cemeteries, this replacement should provide more reliable upkeep of our sites.

#### **FCSS**

I want to thank Julie Matthews for coming to present to the schools and public on the latest scams facing Albertans, her sessions were very informative and well received. The board approved the interim budget that supported longstanding partnerships but has left some unallocated funds available for events and programs throughout

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

the year. If you or a group you are involved with provides programming that fits within the FCSS mandate, feel free to reach out to discuss potential partnership opportunities.

#### **Fire**

With another dry spring on tap we ask that you please take precautions and minimize potential fire risks. Burn permits can be found on our website and any changes in the fire ban status will be there and on albertfirebans.ca.

I would like to thank the Government of Alberta

for approving our **FSTP application** and providing funding for vital training courses, to increase the safety of our communities.

Equipment replacement remains a priority for emergency services. Michichi will be receiving new SCBAs and a new apparatus storage building is scheduled to be built in Rumsey. A Request For Proposals (closing May 28th) is available on our website at <a href="https://starlandcounty.com/tender-opportunities">https://starlandcounty.com/tender-opportunities</a> or call 403-772-3793 for more information.

#### **Empower Your Non-Profit with Expert Training!**

Unlock the potential of your non-profit organization with the Alberta Non-Profit Learning Centre. Access free online courses and webinars designed to enhance governance, leadership, and management skills. Whether you're a board member, volunteer, or staff, our resources will help you navigate the complexities of non-profit operations and drive impactful change in your community.

Visit <a href="https://www.alberta.ca/non-profit-learning-centre">https://www.alberta.ca/non-profit-learning-centre</a> today and start your journey towards excellence!

#### SPECIAL FEATURE

# We are excited to introduce the Wild Aspen Enrichment Center!

We are a new childcare facility serving Delia and the surrounding communities. As directors of Wild Aspen, Nichole Clayholt & Tiffany Scarlett understand that high-quality childcare helps small communities and their families thrive.

We welcome children aged 12 months to 12 years, including drop-in, part-time, and full-time hours. Our toddlers have a boisterous learn-through-play program that includes lively adventures in and about the Delia community. Our Montessori-inspired preschool program is one of a kind. We offer preschool content Monday through Friday, with the option to participate on whichever days work best for you. Our preschool children learn, play, and grow



in the community as they participate in frequent community-wide field trips and enjoy all the wonders of our beautiful small town.

Our ever-growing out-of-school Care program is very excited to serve students from Grade 1 to Grade 6 with adventure, friendship, and excitement during the summer months, school holidays, and after school.

We pride ourselves on offering families exceptional childcare from the best early childcare educators, and we encourage you to book a tour! Friendship and community connection begin at an early age, and we would love you and your family to join the Wild Aspen

Family!! Wildaspenenrichmentcenter@gmail.com 403-854-8731

