



County of Paintearth
No. 18



2016 Annual Report

Table of Contents

County Council.....	2
Message from the Reeve.....	2
Administration Office.....	3
Website.....	3
Department of Corporate Services.....	3
Department of Environmental Services.....	8
Rural Water Distribution.....	11
Burma Park.....	12
Department of Planning and Development.....	13
Disaster Services.....	13
Community Peace Officer.....	14
Department of Public Works.....	15

County Council

Division 1: George Glazier (Reeve)

Division 2: Brian Bunbury

Division 3: Doreen Blumhagen

Division 4: Robert (Rocky) Dahmer

Division 5: Walter Weber

Division 6: Tyrrill Hewitt

Division 7: Diane Elliott (Deputy Reeve)

Chief Administrative Officer – Tarolyn Aaserud, CLGM

Council Meetings

Regular County Council Meetings are scheduled to be held every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month commencing at 9:00 a.m. The adopted Council Meeting Minutes are available on the County's Website or photocopies are available to the public for a nominal fee.

Message from Reeve George Glazier

Thank you for reviewing our annual report. This report includes a description of the activities, programs and projects that have occurred in the County of Paintearth for the year of 2016. The County continues to endeavor to provide effective and efficient services to you the ratepayer. Please review the following reports and do not hesitate in contacting me to discuss further.

Alberta has seen the political climate change in the past two years. County Council and Administration continues to work with our Provincial and Federal Government colleagues to voice and lobby the concerns of rural Alberta. The County continues to lobby the Province to help our ratepayers' transition with the end of the coal industry in our region, province and country.

I would like to thank my Council colleagues and staff on the continued dedication to our municipality and ratepayers.

Kindest regards,

George Glazier, Reeve

Administration Office

Office Hours

The County Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday except statutory holidays. The Office is closed daily from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Website

For information regarding the County of Paintearth No. 18 please visit our website at www.countypaintearth.ca

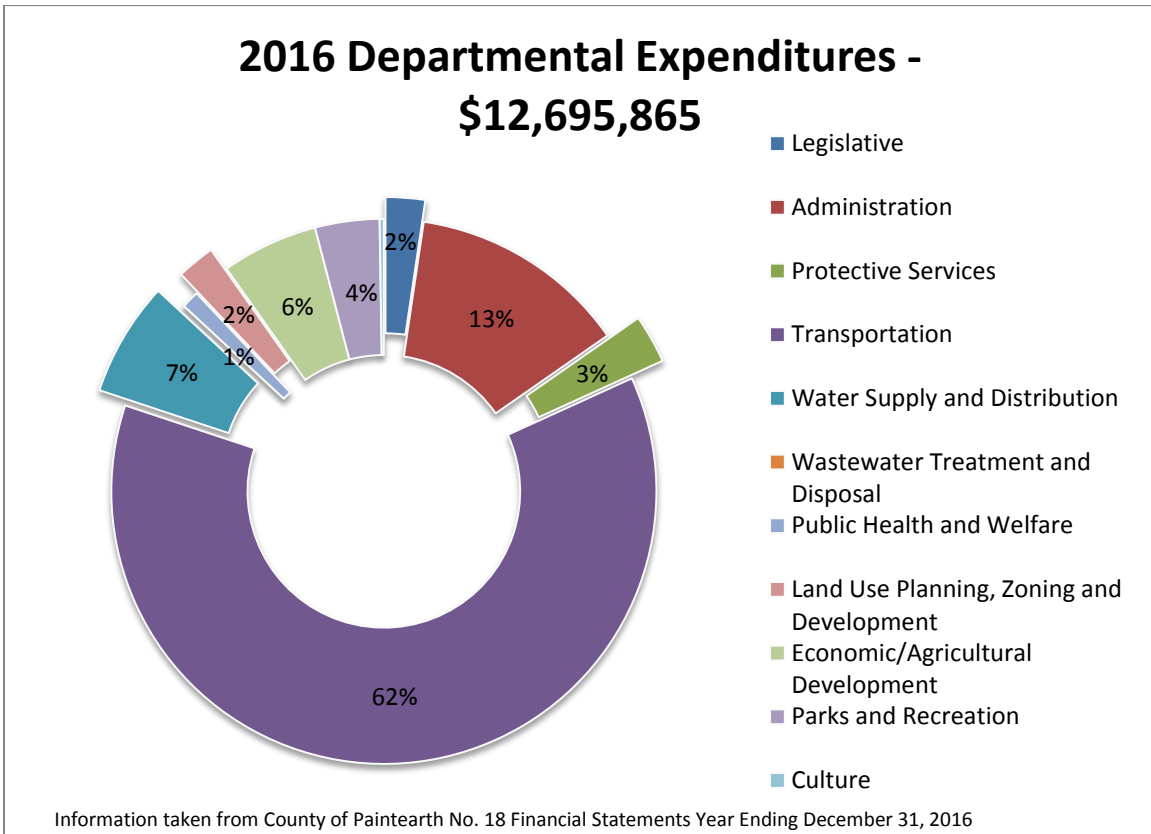
Department of Corporate Services

The Corporate Services department is responsible for the overall management of the financial affairs of the County. This includes assessment, property taxes, accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, capital projects financing and tracking, utilities and other general administrative functions.

The department is responsible for accounting and financial reporting services with our annual audited financial statements as well as other interim reporting.

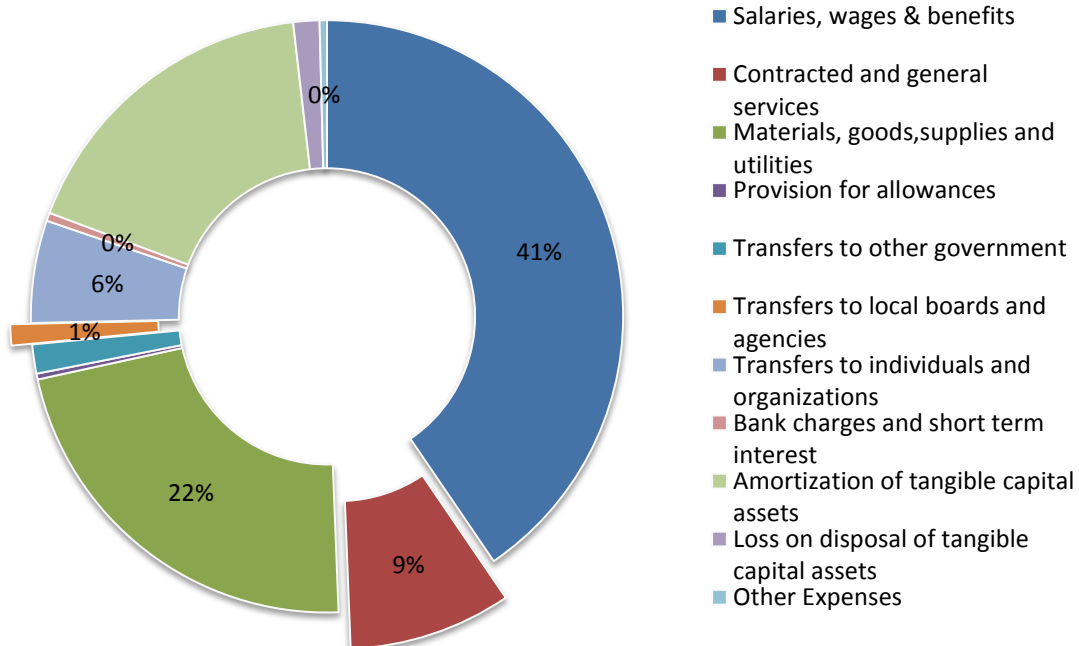
The 2016 Financial Statement is available to the public and can be obtained on the County's website (www.countypaintearth.ca) or by contacting the administration office at 403-882-3211.

2016 Financial Synopsis



EXPENDITURES	2016 Budget	2016	2015
Legislative	\$332,900.00	\$297,409.00	\$303,264.00
Administration	\$2,122,298.00	\$1,647,082.00	\$2,269,709.00
Protective Services	\$366,668.00	\$365,649.00	\$365,156.00
Transportation	\$10,193,908.00	\$7,859,441.00	\$8,412,788.00
Water Supply and Distribution	\$696,410.00	\$862,706.00	\$594,748.00
Wastewater Treatment and Disposal	\$75.00	\$72.00	\$72.00
Public Health and Welfare	\$148,200.00	\$132,203.00	\$121,680.00
Land Use Planning, Zoning and Development	\$229,500.00	\$288,575.00	\$209,513.00
Economic/Agricultural Development	\$698,000.00	\$726,770.00	\$622,192.00
Parks and Recreation	\$364,500.00	\$484,675.00	\$338,918.00
Culture	\$38,900.00	\$31,283.00	\$30,979.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$15,191,359.00	\$12,695,865.00	\$13,269,019.00

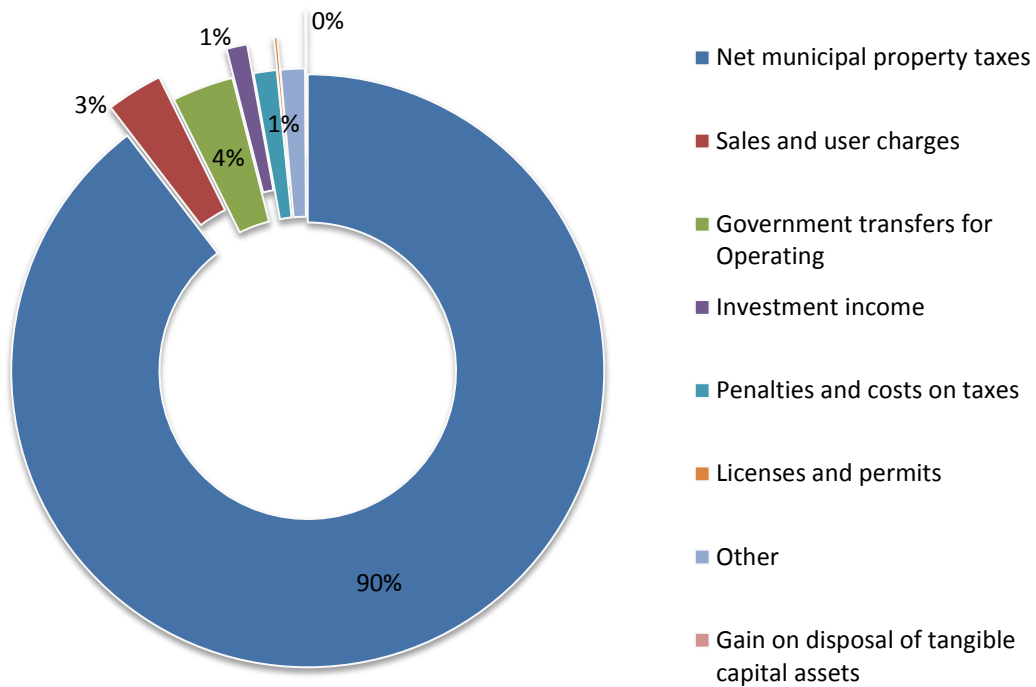
2016 Expenditures by Object - \$12,695,865



Information taken from County of Paintearth No. 18 Financial Statements Year Ending December 31, 2016

EXPENDITURES	2016 Budget	2016	2015
Salaries, wages & benefits	\$5,732,587.00	\$5,172,796.00	\$4,816,749.00
Contracted and general services	\$1,427,367.00	\$1,136,195.00	\$1,045,076.00
Materials, goods, supplies and utilities	\$4,781,504.00	\$2,836,891.00	\$4,071,148.00
Provision for allowances	\$81,500.00	-\$40,666.00	\$602,937.00
Transfers to other government		\$203,077.00	
Transfers to local boards and agencies	\$82,700.00	\$147,395.00	\$66,107.00
Transfers to individuals and organizations	\$650,126.00	\$714,582.00	\$687,940.00
Bank charges and short term interest	\$132,000.00	\$57,133.00	\$72,428.00
Amortization of tangible capital assets	\$2,253,575.00	\$2,234,869.00	\$1,812,962.00
Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	\$50,000.00	\$182,279.00	\$93,462.00
Other Expenses		\$51,314.00	\$210.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$15,191,359.00	\$12,695,865.00	\$13,269,019.00

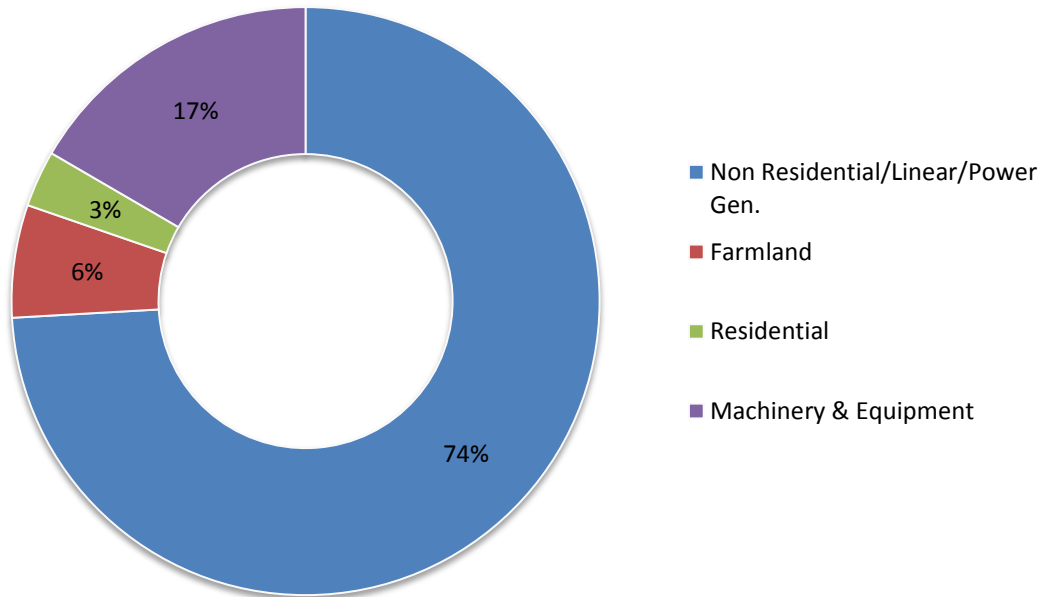
2016 Revenues - \$15,852,477



Information taken from County of Paintearth No. 18 Financial Statements Year Ending December 31, 2016

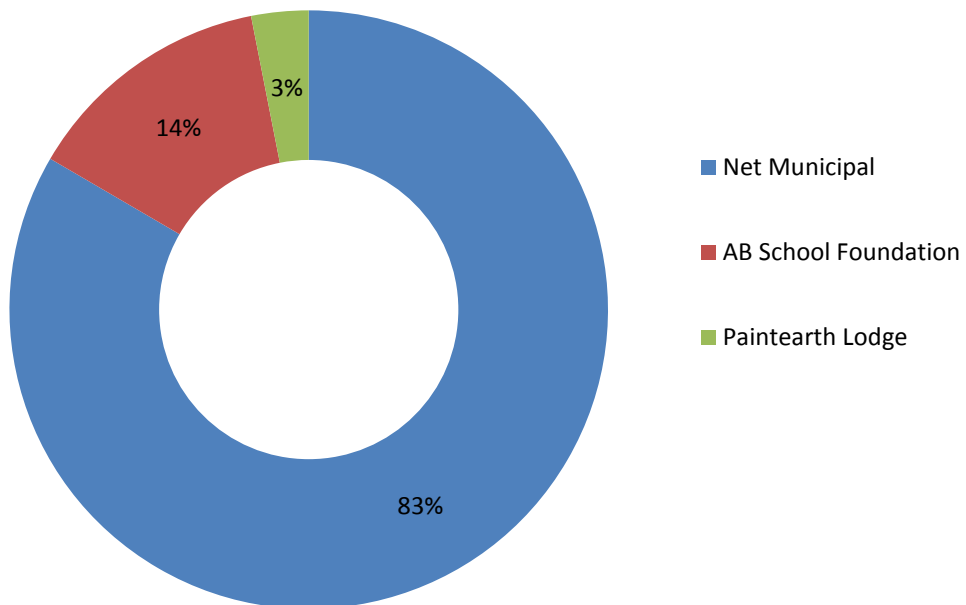
REVENUE	2016 Budget	2016	2015
Net municipal property taxes	\$14,395,489.00	\$14,202,104.00	\$14,691,982.00
Sales and user charges	\$298,590.00	\$486,672.00	\$292,610.00
Government transfers for Operating	\$380,000.00	\$532,907.00	\$502,585.00
Investment income	\$140,000.00	\$179,119.00	\$148,138.00
Penalties and costs on taxes	\$75,000.00	\$199,710.00	\$196,911.00
Licenses and permits	\$39,000.00	\$28,831.00	\$59,627.00
Other	\$16,100.00	\$210,619.00	\$16,319.00
Gain on disposal of tangible capital assets		\$12,515.00	\$19,071.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$15,344,179.00	\$15,852,477.00	\$15,927,243.00

2016 Property Tax Revenue



Information taken from County of Paintearth No. 18 Bylaw No.646-16

2016 Allocation of Property Taxes



Information taken from County of Paintearth No. 18 Financial Statements Year Ending December 31, 2016

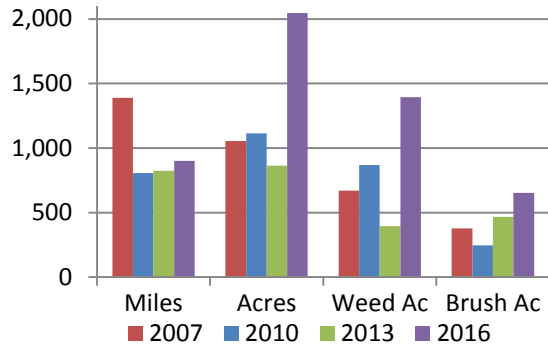
Department of Environmental Services

Industrial Vegetation Management

Roadside Spraying

Roadside spraying is done in a three year rotation with the majority being spot sprayed. Division 7 was blanket sprayed up until the weeds could be more easily identified and spot spraying of Division 1 and part of Division 6 was sprayed. 90 miles of brush that was mechanically removed with the mulcher in was targeted as well.

Across the entire County 900 miles were sprayed for a total of 2,045 acres. 68% of the spraying done was for weed control. Total program cost was \$115,000 or \$56.50/acre. 39% of the right-of-ways were sprayed.



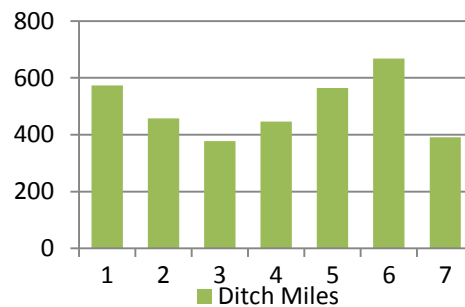
Private Land Spraying

The County provides custom spraying on private land for control of small patches of persistent perennial noxious or restricted weeds. The ASB is equipped with an ATV sprayer and a UTV boomless sprayer. This service is offered at a very minimal cost as noted on the "SERVICES AND EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE TO COUNTY RESIDENTS".

ASB sprayed 5 sites for Leafy Spurge, Toadflax, Absinthe Wormwood, and Scentless Chamomile with some handpicking as well.

Roadside Mowing

Our goal is to complete a minimum of one 15 foot pass on all roads. 1,739.5 miles were completed with 945 mi of gravel, 65 mi of pavement, and 183 mi of backroads with 224.5 mi of second cut and 294.5 mi of full cuts. We start in June in order to complete the work as weather and mechanical conditions can play a role. Realize that areas mowed in the beginning of the year will have regrowth that may require a second cut and if time allows we will do so. In 2016 ASB mowed a fuller cut (2 pass on each side) than in any other year as time and staff allowed.



The mowers have been equipped with GPS and allow us to mark different objects such as culverts and rocks. ASB staff picks those rocks that have been marked in May. Please avoid piling rocks or any other objects in the ditch as they are sometimes not visible. We would also ask that any gates that you would like to leave open please have leaning up against the fence.

Total program cost for mowing was \$124,000 or \$19.95/ac. The rotary mowers are the preferred method as it allows for mowing of smaller brush, increased visibility, less grass on

road surface, and less risk of creating fires.

Weed Inspections

Weed inspections have always been a part of ASB duties, but we also rely on the public. In 2016 there was 2 seasonal staff that inspected the entire County. In 2016 3 weed notices were issued.

Conservation

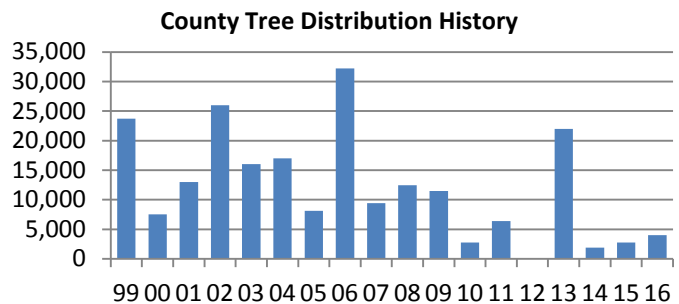
Tree Program

Prior to and since the elimination of the PFRA Shelterbelt Program tree orders and farming practices have reduced the number of trees planted.

The County has always held this program in high priority and landowners who order 200 trees or more can request assistance in the planting of the trees at no charge. 4,010 trees were ordered.

Any resident or business can order trees. There are no longer any restrictions on

who can apply. Those who order trees are responsible for the cost as set by the nursery. The ASB will continue to offer a tree program in cooperation with other private industry if feasible. To help in weed control and moisture retention plastic mulch is available for sale to producers with a minimum purchase of a roll (1500'). An applicator is available to lay the mulch down.



Environmental Program Funding

In 2016 the ASB received funds to conduct Environmental Programs in which part was used for the Tree Program as well as identifying invasive plant populations in riparian sensitive areas. We also sponsored workshops that included Alternative Energy, Grazing School For Women, Cowbytes and Herd Management Seminar in partnership with the Battle River Research Group.

Pest Control

2% Liquid Strychnine

The County has been involved in the sale of 2% liquid strychnine ever since the province has been able to receive an emergency registration from the Pest Management Regulatory Agency. Although the delivery has changed over the years the registration has restricted the sale of the liquid strychnine through the ASB's only. 83 producers received strychnine in 2016.

Coyote Predation Management

The County recognizes that predation of livestock by coyotes can be a serious problem, which are declared a nuisance pest under the Agricultural Pests Act. Livestock producers can request assistance in the control of coyotes where predation is confirmed.

Surveys

The County contracts Battle River Research Group to conduct Clubroot Surveys. Five fields per division are surveyed for each and no disease was found in those fields. ASB staff conducts a grasshopper survey every year and in 2016 numbers were still found to be at low levels.

Beaver Dam Removal

The Board recognizes that beaver dams need to be removed or breached periodically to protect, maintain or construct infrastructure or to avoid the flooding of private and public land. The Ag Fieldman is a licensed blaster and is available for the removal of beaver dams. Prior to the start of the blasting, the landholder must sign a Beaver Dam Blasting Agreement.

2016 ASB EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES AVAILABLE

Rental Equipment Available

Back Pack Sprayer	\$50.00 Ref. Deposit
Hand Broadcast Seeder	\$50.00 Ref. Deposit
Cattle Scale	\$40.00/half day or \$75.00/ full day
Hay Probes	no charge
Gallagher Tag Reader	\$250.00 Ref. Deposit

Pest Control Products Available

Magpie Traps	\$50.00 Ref. Deposit
Skunk Traps	\$50.00 Ref. Deposit
Crop Protection Blue Books	\$11.43 + G.S.T.
Coyote Control Materials	no charge
Beaver Dam Removal	\$100 for 1 st dam & \$50 for each additional

Vegetation Management

1. Private Land Spraying - \$50.00 calling fee plus the cost of the chemical per L applied at cost plus G.S.T, where applicable, will be charged. One follow-up treatment will be included in the initial call out fee if needed. Subsequent call outs will be charged at the discretion of the applicator.
2. Industry Spraying - \$125.00 per hour and chemical cost plus 10%.
3. Weed Picking - \$20.00 per hour for residents and \$50 per hour for industry.

Tree Planting

Tree planter and staff are provided free of charge for tree orders over 200. Shipping charges for the trees shall be paid for by the ASB. Plastic mulch will be available for sale to producers with a minimum purchase of a roll (1500').

Pesticide Container Sites

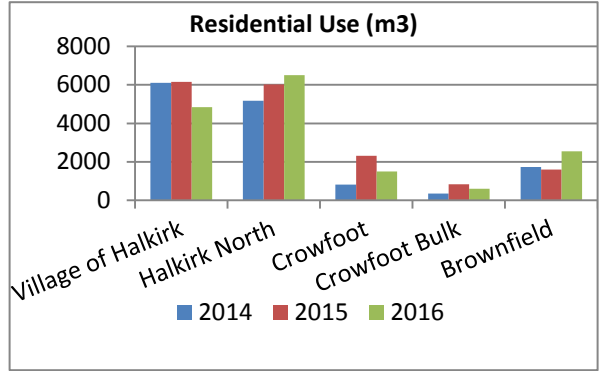
Castor Waste Transfer Site	SW 03-38-14 W4
Coronation Waste Management	SW 36-36-11 W4

Rural Water Distribution

Rural Water Distribution

There has been approximately 21.5 miles of rural water line constructed off the Halkirk Reservoir that is ready to serve 20 users currently. The Crowfoot Reservoir currently only serves the Crowfoot Subdivision and the Coronation Reservoir currently serves the Town.

Water is brought to the property line where a meter vault is installed. During the engineering phase of a project the cost for hook-up is \$7,500 and \$15,000 if after. Water is charged based on actual use. A \$20 monthly capital fee is also applied.



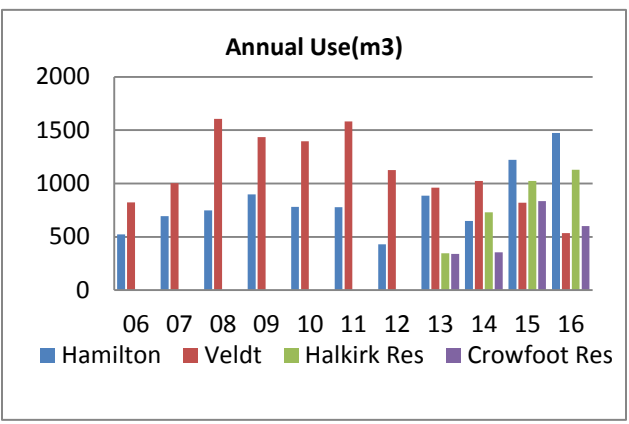
An engineering firm was hired to design a model for how the reservoirs can best be utilized for rural water pipelines. Development in the future will also be dependent on the size of possible construction projects and grant funding.

The County is invested in three reservoirs strategically placed in Halkirk, Crowfoot Crossing, and west of Coronation that will be used in the rural water distribution.

Truckfill Facilities

The County operates two types of truckfills. The Halkirk and Crowfoot Reservoirs have drinking water that is open to everyone and Hamilton (NE-32-35-10) and Veldt (NW-12-38-15) are wells that are for agricultural, firefighting, and County use only.

All are coin box operated and accept loonies and toonies. Water rates for reservoirs are \$5/m³; Hamilton and Veldt are \$1.75/m³. The Village of Halkirk receives the proceeds from the Halkirk Reservoir. The graph shows the annual use of each. In comparison the average 4 person family household uses 87,600 gallons (400 m³) per year.



The water wells are also used in a groundwater monitoring program. The static water level in both facilities has not changed. The wells are also shock chlorinated in the spring.

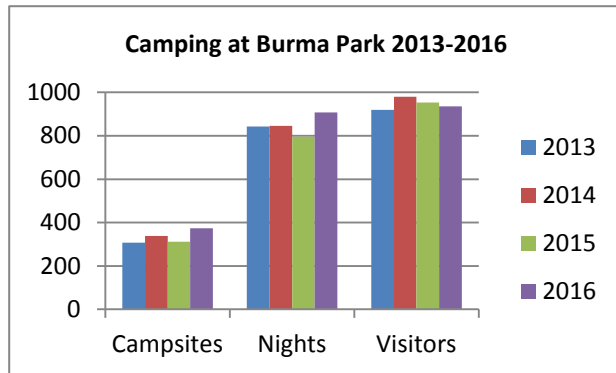
Burma Park

Burma Park

There are 21 campsites located at the park with baseball facilities. There are two playgrounds, shower facilities, hiking trails and free firewood. Camping rates are \$25 for power and \$20 for non-power.

The main project for 2016 was the installation of a new youth playground.

There were just over 950 visitors to the park of which 58% of those were from the County.



Department of Planning and Development

Through the development permit process, the County of Paintearth safeguards and ensures its ratepayers a safe and effective building and planning process for all developments, buildings, subdivisions. The Development Officer is available for questions, inquiries, and is willing to assist/guide all residents through the permit process. A comparison of 2016 with the previous year is found below.

Development Permits	2015	Value \$\$	2016	Value \$\$
Residential Homes (incl mobile)	16	4,361,000	8	1,725,000
Residential – accessory, additions	9	514,000	5	186,000
Agricultural uses	1	23,000	3	106,000
Industrial/Commercial	2	380,000	13	1,366,000
Recreational	0		1	140,000
Totals		5,278,000		3,523,000

Development Permit fees, applications and related forms can all be found on the website. The County completed an annual update to the Land Use Bylaw which brings the County current and aids in the proper development of areas and safeguards rural lands. In 2016 the updates were around solar and wind energy uses and some general regulations.

Subdivisions – There were only 2 subdivision applications in the County during 2016 with one of them being completed prior to Dec 31 and 1 early into 2017. One was an acreage creation or

farm site separation, and the other was a title separation for two quarters. Due to the area size requirement of open discharge septic systems, most acreages are now required to be a minimum of 10 acres, thus the County updated the Land Use Bylaw to reflect this. Most subdivisions take approx. 3-4 months to complete, the County recommends an initial discussion or review with the Development Officer prior to the process, in order to aid in a smooth process and avoid any obstacles.

Palliser Regional Municipal Services is the agency responsible for all planning and subdivision review within the County. PRMS also handles all safety codes permits and applications for building, electrical, gas, and plumbing and private sewage disposal. For more information or to receive a package detailing the development and safety code requirements of your project please contact the Development Officer at the office.

The County's Municipal Planning Commission – MPC – presides over all discretionary or sensitive development permits and subdivision requests. In 2016 the MPC was comprised of the following Councilors; Tyrill Hewitt (Chair), Diane Elliott, Walter Weber, and Reeve George Glazier.

INDUSTRY

In 2016 there were 22 oil and gas projects requiring two new approach constructions, and 20 projects accessing via existing approaches - which is a large reduction from the previous year. There was only one new pipeline crossing of our road network, bored underneath, which was also down by a large margin from the previous year. 2016 showed a greatly reduced number of resource exploration projects as only 57 project notifications were received (down 10 from the previous year's 68). The fact that most (38) of those notifications were abandonments or reclamations, illustrates a continued slowing of pace in the petroleum industry. Let's hope that 2017 rebounds a little!

2016's newest action came from Karve Energy, Bruin Oil and Gas, and Rifle Shot Oil with exploration and development projects. TransCanada Pipelines are also quite active in the County with annual maintenance and quality assurance programs.

Disaster Services

The County continues to update its emergency preparedness, and additional staff training is continuous for those who may need to help coordinate responses in the Emergency Operations Center. In our County, the threat of wildfires in the dry grassy season is the largest threat and we encourage all residents to be ever vigilant in the use of fires, when so allowed. Check the website regularly for fire ban information!

The 2016 massive fire in Wood Buffalo showed that while Albertans are "resilient", we are still unprepared for many typical or likely events in the County. The County recommends residents check out the provincial "FireSmart" program, for both farms and residential areas. We cannot

take preparedness for granted - the County in 2017 will be undertaking a voluntary “farm emergency planning worksheet” that will help residents and the County to be well prepared for most large events! Watch for it in your mail ...

National Emergency Preparedness Week is one week in May, however residents are asked to consider being prepared all year long. Information on emergency preparedness planning and stocking 72 hour emergency kits is on the website as well as at the office. Living in a rural area has both advantages and disadvantages however a recent seminar hosted by AEMA found the rural population well suited to outlast most natural or weather disasters!

The County’s Public Safety Services Committee consists of Councillors Brian Bunbury, Doreen Blumhagen, Reeve George Glazier, CAO Tarolyn Aaserud and Director of Emergency Management Todd Pawsey.

Community Peace Officer

The Community Peace Officer role in the County is one of liaison and education. It includes: liaison with the oil companies, ATCO and landowners, enforcement of Bylaws and County Policies. The position also includes the designation as Fire Guardian. Its mandate is to issue fire permits and ensure safe practices when burning debris. The final component is education with the local council and schools in use of roads, fire permits, etc.

Mr. Colm Fitz-Gerald is the Community Peace Officer for the County of Paintearth. He can be reached at the County Office (403-882-3211).

Road Bans

The County places bans on the roads throughout the year to protect them from damage, such as deep ruts and potholes that overweight vehicles can cause. Traffic signs are posted when a road is banned, indicating the percentage of axle weights that are permitted to travel on the road. All our paved roads are banned year round at 50% or 75% ban.

All Secondary Highways located in the County are under Provincial jurisdiction. For information on roads under Provincial jurisdiction, visit, www.transportation.alberta.ca, or call toll free 1-877-236-6445.

Overweight & Overdimensional Permit Approval Services

To improve the availability of service to Industry, to better track the movement of these heavy loads and to improve the ability to recover cost for any damages that may occur, the County of Paintearth has partnered with Roadata Services Ltd. (RDS) to provide approval services for the movement of heavy loads on County roadways.

RDS will provide all approval services as per the guidelines established by the County. This service will be available 24 hours per day at (888) 830-7623 (toll free).

Allowable Weights: When movement is not restricted due to road bans, adverse weather or individual roadway limitations, the County follows Alberta “Allowable Permit Weight” guidelines. Please remember that any municipality has the authorization to limit weights below provincially defined weight.

Department of Public Works

Gravel Program

The County graveled approximately 242 miles of roads in 2016. The County applied approximately 67,000 tonne of ¾ inch, 11,500 of 1½ inch and 2 inch gravel in 2016 to the roads. The summer road gravelling is completed with 4 county owned trucks. We use three super-b belly dumps and one tandem truck with a tridem pup.

The County stockpiles approximately 30,000 yards of ¾ inch and 10,000 yards of 1 ½ inch gravel from our gravel pits to various stockpile sites using our own gravel trucks. The past year, the County has purchased approximately 67,000 tonne of 4-20 Alberta Transportation spec ¾ inch gravel from outside sources, for the west side of our County.

Our gravel inventory consists of 560,000 tone of ¾ road gravel and 1,730,000 tone of gravel in reserves. The County has about a 30 year supply of gravel with the current gravel inventory and materials in reserves.

Road Network

The County is divided into 10 grader divisions with each grader operator maintaining approximately 100 miles of gravel roads and approximately 25 miles of back roads. The County’s grader fleet consists of 1 Caterpillar 160H motor graders, 2 Caterpillar 14H motor graders, and 10 Caterpillar 160M / AWD motor graders. The County buys new graders on a 5 year buyback program and sells the used graders on the open market at the end of 5-7 years. This enables the County to have sustainable and reliable equipment to maintain our roads. The County also has one plow truck for our winter sanding & plowing needs.

The road system is comprised of:

Regularly Maintained Roads	1,095 miles
Non-Regularly Maintained Roads	254 miles
Undeveloped Roads	470 miles
Paved Roads	<u>28 miles</u>
Total:	1,844 miles

Road Approaches/Culverts

The Public Works Department built 24 new approaches of which 21 required culverts. The Public Works Department replaced 17 culverts across rural roads.

In 2016 the Public Works Department did not bore or reline any of our culverts across roadways with large fills. These projects are contracted out.

Road Signage

The Public Works Department is responsible for looking after approximately 1,036 different signs throughout the County. In 2016, 83 signs were installed or replaced and 62 new sign posts were installed. If you notice a sign missing or knocked down, please contact the County Office immediately.

Bridge Program

The County has 110 bridges and bridge size culverts. We are responsible for all maintenance on our structure. Major repairs are contracted out. We have staff trained in minor bridge maintenance on all the bridges size structures. Maintenance on these bridges is scheduled throughout the winter or rain days. The County contracts all the bridge inspections out to WSP Engineering.

In 2013 the Provincial Government cut all funding for bridge funding. In 2014 we installed our first single lane temporary 70 t bridge structure, also installed a second one in 2015. We placed this structure over top of the existing bridge.

Fence Line Brushing

The Public Works Department brushed approximately 20 miles of fence line and ditch bottoms.

Back Sloping

The Public Works Department back sloped 16 miles of ditches and fence lines. This service is considered on a request and priority basis. Requests are to be submitted on a hold harmless application and landowners must remove their fence. There is no charge for this service.

Mulching

The Public Works Department mulched approximately 36 miles of road ditches with contract mulcher and 40 miles with county owned mulcher.

Road Stabilization

The Public Works Department applied MG30 on 50 miles of gravel roads using approximately 1,249,700 liters at a cost of \$0.21 per liter. The total cost for product was \$351,450.00. The County will be using this product for farm and other road stabilization projects in the future. The biggest advantage to using this product is that it is none corrosive. We also save on the amount and frequency that gravel is applied to the road once the base has been established with MG 30.

Safety Program

The County of Paintearth is committed to a strong safety and loss program that protects its staff, its property and the public from accidents. In 2016, the County passed the external safety audit with a score of 91%. The safety program is ongoing and will always be a big part of the County's daily operations.