

2023

ANNUAL REPORT



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MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

*County of Paintearth
No. 18*



DIVISION 1
George Glazier
Councillor

*County of Paintearth
No. 18*



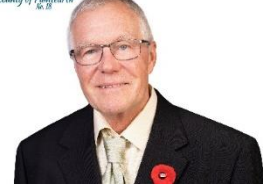
DIVISION 2
Dale Norton
Councillor

*County of Paintearth
No. 18*



DIVISION 3
Stan Schulmeister
Reeve

*County of Paintearth
No. 18*



DIVISION 4
Terry Vockeroth
Councillor

*County of Paintearth
No. 18*



DIVISION 5
Maurice Wiart
Deputy Reeve

*County of Paintearth
No. 18*



DIVISION 6
Sandy Shipton
Councillor

*County of Paintearth
No. 18*



DIVISION 7
Diane Elliott
Councillor

COUNCIL MEETINGS



Please be advised that Regular Council Meetings are scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month commencing at 9:00 a.m., having the same subject to individual change. Council meeting dates are available on the County's website, please visit www.countypaintearth.ca for more information.

*County of Paintearth
No. 18*

2023-2024 COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Agricultural Service Board (ASB): All Councillors (4-year term), Members at Large – Dan Bunbury, Dale Pilsworth, Chairman – M. Wiart, Vice-Chairman – S. Schulmeister

Assessment Review Board: T. Vockeroth, (D. Norton, Alternate), Tom Coppock, Dionne Elliott, Tony Nichols, Marilyn Weber, Tyrill Hewitt, Ray Deschane, Clerk – Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), M. Simpson

Emergency Management Advisory Committee: D. Elliott, T. Vockeroth, Director Emergency Management - T. Pawsey and Deputy Director Emergency Management – M. Simpson

Fire Intermunicipal Committee: D. Norton, S. Schulmeister, S. Shipton, G. Glazier, Chief Administrative Officer - M. Simpson

Mine Liaison Committee: G. Glazier, S. Schulmeister, T. Vockeroth, Chief Administrative Officer - M. Simpson, Development Officer – T. Pawsey

Municipal Planning Commission: D. Elliott, G. Glazier, S. Schulmeister, M. Wiart, Development Officer – T. Pawsey

Negotiating Committee: G. Glazier, S. Schulmeister, S. Shipton, CAO – M. Simpson, Assistant CAO – L. Roth

Weed & Ag Pests Appeal Committee: Jaron Bye (Dec/22), Walter Pickles (Dec/22), Loren Rodvang (Dec/22), Marilyn Weber (Dec/22)

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS:

Alberta Rural Transportation Committee: D. Elliott, G. Glazier, M. Wiart

Alliance Seed Cleaning Plant: M. Wiart, D. Norton (Alternate)

Battle River Alliance for Economic Development (BRAED): S. Schulmeister, T. Vockeroth (Alternate)

Battle River Economic Opportunities Committee (BREOC): G. Glazier, S. Shipton (Alternate)

Battle River Research Group: S. Schulmeister

Battle River Watershed Alliance: T. Vockeroth

Brownfield Recreation Centre: D. Elliott

Castor & District Family & Community Support Services (FCSS): S. Shipton, ACAO – L. Roth, Member At Large - Brenda Hepp

Castor & District Housing Authority: *G. Glazier, S. Shipton*

Castor & District Museum Society: *S. Shipton*

Castor & District Recreation Board: *D. Norton*

Castor, Consort, Coronation & Area Doctor Recruitment/Retention Committee: *G. Glazier, ACAO – L. Roth, Member At Large - B. Hepp*

Castor Doctor Recruitment/Retention Committee: *D. Norton, M. Wiart, ACAO – L. Roth, Member At Large - B. Hepp*

Castor Municipal Library Board: *S. Shipton*

Castor Spray Park Committee: *S. Shipton*

Coronation & District Community Bus Society: *D. Elliott*

Coronation & District Recreation Board: *D. Elliott*

Coronation & District Seniors' Housing Authority: *G. Glazier, ACAO – L. Roth*

Coronation & District Support Services Board (CDSS): *D. Elliott, G. Glazier, Members At Large – Brian Bunbury, Tyrill Hewitt*

Coronation Doctor Recruitment/Retention Committee: *G. Glazier, D. Norton, ACAO – L. Roth, Member At Large – Dionne Elliott, Member At Large – B. Hepp*

Coronation Memorial Library Board: *D. Elliott*

Coronation Reg. Health Services (Assisted Living): *D. Elliott, G. Glazier*

Coronation Seed Cleaning Plant Board: *D. Norton, M. Wiart (Alternate)*

Coronation/Consort Victim Services Committee: *S. Shipton*

East Central Ambulance Association: *G. Glazier, D. Norton, S. Shipton, Treasurer, Chief Administrative Officer – M. Simpson*

East Central 911 Call Answer Society: *G. Glazier, S. Schulmeister*

Fleet Community Association Committee: *D. Norton*

Halkirk & District Recreation Board: *T. Vockeroth*

Paintearth & Neutral Hills Family – Community Connection: *D. Elliott*

Paintearth Community Adult Learning Council: *D. Elliott*

Paintearth Economic Partnership Society (PEPS): *D. Elliott, G. Glazier, S. Schulmeister, T. Vockeroth (Alternate), Treasurer, ACAO – L. Roth*

Paintearth Regional Waste Management Ltd. (PRWM): *S. Schulmeister, M. Wiart, Secretary Treasurer, Chief Administrative Officer – M. Simpson*

Palliser Regional Municipal Services Board: *D. Norton, G. Glazier (Alternate)*

Parkland Regional Library Board: *S. Shipton, D. Elliott (Alternate)*

Regional Subdivision & Development Appeal Board Members: *D. Norton, T. Vockeroth, Member At Large – Ray Dechane*

Regional Emergency Management Grant Steering Committee: *T. Vockeroth*

Shirley McClellan Regional Water Services Commission (SMRWSC): *T. Vockeroth, M. Wiart (Alternate)*

Targeting the Conservation and Restoration of Riparian Areas, Red Deer River Watershed Alliance (RDRWA): *T. Vockeroth*

Valley Ski Hill Committee: *M. Wiart*

Veterans Memorial Highway Association: *D. Norton, D. Elliott (Alternate)*

Waste Connections of Canada Landfill Liaison Committee: *G. Glazier*

COUNTY OF PAINTEARTH SURVEY

The County of Paintearth conducted a municipal survey in January 2022. There were 651 surveys distributed, having received 289 survey responses, the response rate was 44%. The next upcoming municipal survey will be undertaken following the next municipal election.

2025 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The next municipal election will be held on October 20, 2025.

Nominations for the next general municipal election open between January 1, 2025 and September 20, 2025.

Information regarding the next election will be available late 2024 and will be on the County's website: www.paintearth.ca



MESSAGE FROM THE CAO

Michael Simpson | Chief Administrative Officer
Phone: 403-882-3211



Thank you all for taking the time to review the County’s annual report. The Administration of Paintearth County continues to work hard to deliver programs and services for ratepayers and property owners, families and individuals. In 2024 the County continues to move forward on strategic goals such as next-level speed broadband deployment, strengthening the ties between agricultural learning and primary education and preparing shovel-ready sites for development. All of these actions are geared towards retaining youth on the farm, bringing in outside investment dollars and being competitive on a global scale in terms of opening market access.

Paintearth County continues to embrace out of the box thinking in order to deliver creative, relevant solutions in a timely fashion. Whether its renewed focus on enhanced service delivery, planning for future growth and taking steps today for tomorrow’s shovel-ready projects, Council is leading the way in the province and relaying the vision of its people to Administration in a tireless effort to improve the quality of life for all that live here.

As I mark my six-year anniversary with Paintearth in August, I am proud of the spirit of endurance that this municipality has shown in times of adversity, the equitable dealings we’ve had with neighbours and businesses, and the broad and inclusive scope of work that we’ve carried out as a community. As other municipalities watch Paintearth chart a new course for growth and fellowship it becomes evident that we are entering a world of new possibilities. I am proud to support this Administration and Council in their work.



A BRIEF HISTORY:

The County of Paintearth was first known as ID No. 19-J-4.

In 1913 – the ID name changed to Local Improvement District No. 365.

In 1919 the name changed to the M.D. of Progress No. 365, retaining the same until 1944.

In 1944 – the M.D. of Paintearth was organized by uniting the following:

- M.D. Progress
- M.D. Stocks (formed in 1916)
- M.D. Coronation (formed in 1915)
- M.D. Dublin (formed in 1906)
- M.D. Sullivan (formed in 1913)

In 1962 – Municipal District of Paintearth and Castor School District were united to form the County of Paintearth No. 18, which contained forty-five (45) townships.

In 1994 – the Provincial Government amalgamated several school districts, including the County of Paintearth School Board with the Clearview Regional Division No. 24 (now known as Clearview School Division No. 71).

The County of Paintearth is a municipality with rich character and historical depth. The community leans into its heritage by celebrating and recognizing those who pioneered the region. The robust mindset of progress is still visible on the landscape today, comprised of elements that are each a nod to the past, present and future.

Deep rural values support the community's quality of life, as can be seen in the many progressive projects undertaken by the County of Paintearth.



MUNICIPAL OFFICE

Please be advised that the County of Paintearth Municipal Office is open Monday to Friday, excepting Statutory Holidays, from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (closed from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. for lunch).

Municipal Office Contact Information:

Office: #1 Crowfoot Crossing, TR 374 & Hwy 12
Mailing Address: Box 509, Castor, Alberta, T0C 0X0

Phone: 403-882-3211
Fax: 403-882-3560

Municipal website: www.paintearth.ca

Emergency Contact Information:

Public Works Emergencies: Bryce Cooke 403-740-6311
Utility Emergencies: Mitch Elhard 403-740-4952

CORPORATE SERVICES

Lana Roth | Assistant Chief Administrative Officer
Phone: 403-882-3211

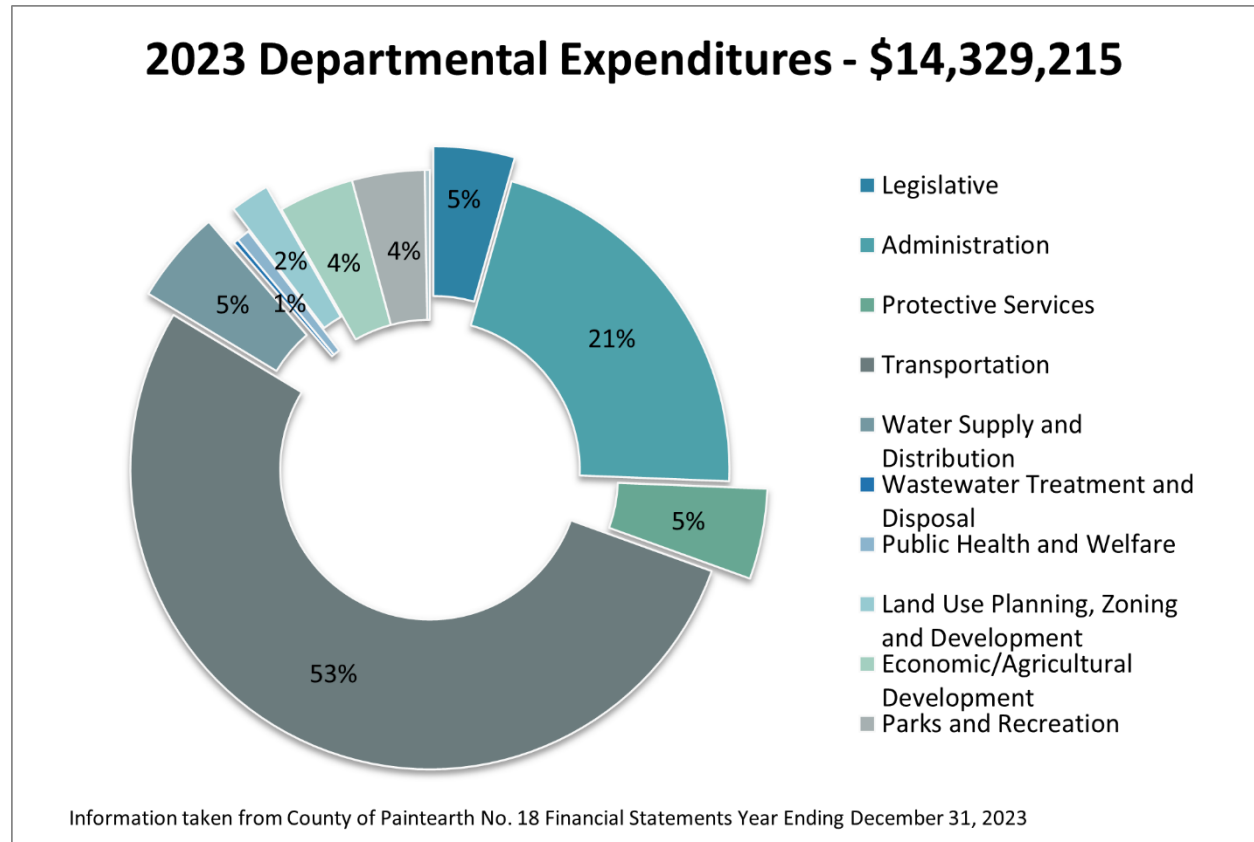
The Corporate Services department is responsible for the overall management of the financial affairs of the County. This includes assessment, property taxes, accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, capital project financing and tracking, grant applications and reporting, utilities billings, IT management, GIS/GPS, and other general administrative functions.



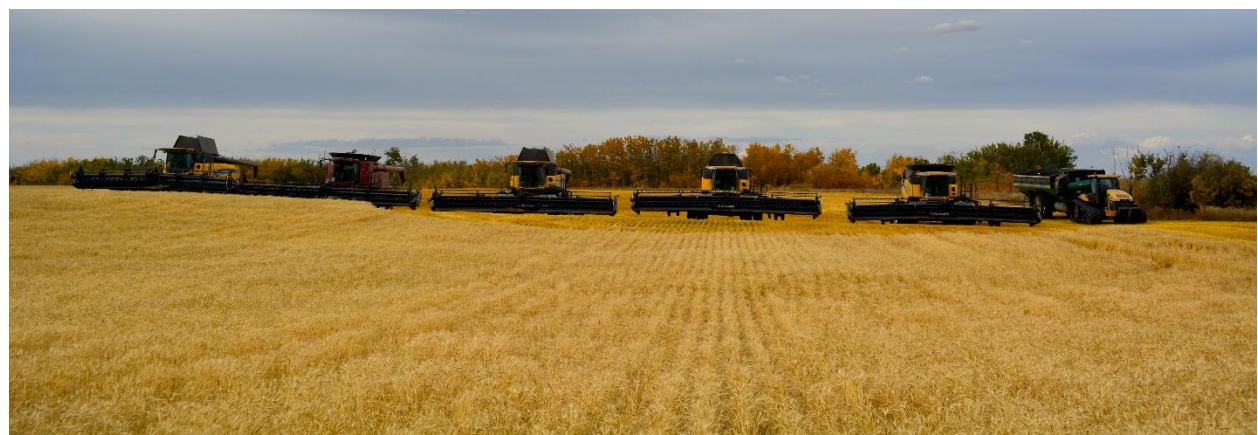
The department is responsible for accounting and financial reporting services with the annual audited financial statements as well as other interim reporting.

The 2023 Financial Statement is available to the public and can be obtained on the County’s website www.countypaintearth.ca or by contacting the Municipal Office at 403-882-3211.

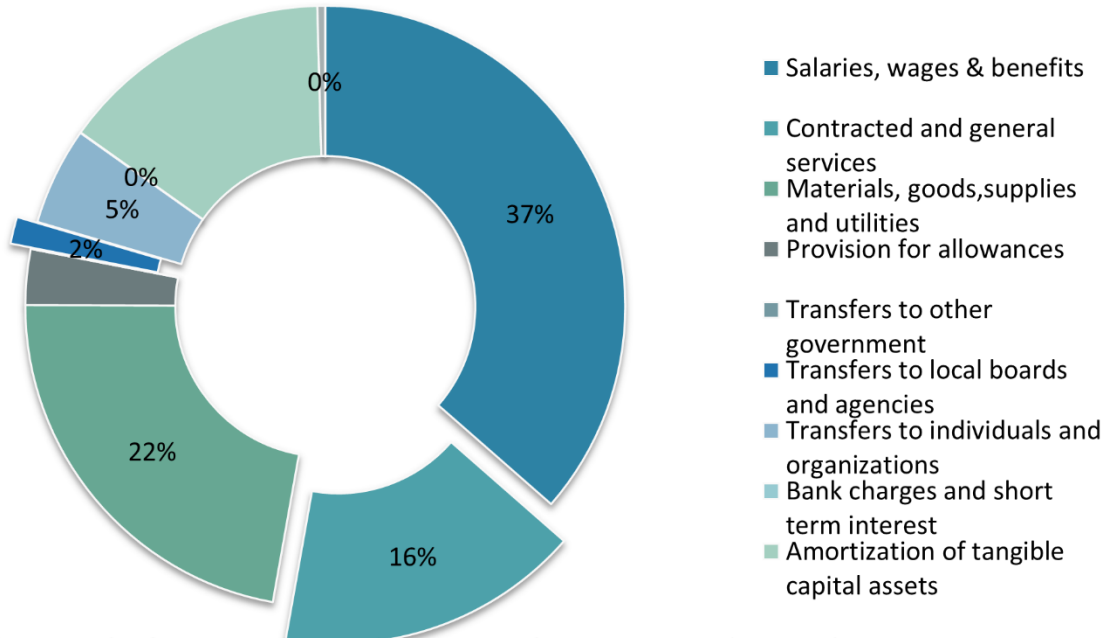
The following pages provide an overview of 2023 Departmental Expenditures, Expenditures by Object, Revenues and Property Tax Revenue and Allocations.



EXPENDITURES	2023 Budget	2023	2022
Legislative	\$638,700.00	\$629,500.00	\$538,144.00
Administration	\$2,120,400.00	\$3,041,823.00	\$2,792,956.00
Protective Services	\$753,600.00	\$699,278.00	\$566,166.00
Transportation	\$9,919,168.00	\$7,612,921.00	\$8,307,360.00
Water Supply and Distribution	\$726,300.00	\$718,422.00	\$664,970.00
Wastewater Treatment and Disposal	\$86,000.00	\$38,992.00	\$31,997.00
Public Health and Welfare	\$102,000.00	\$101,769.00	\$98,708.00
Land Use Planning, Zoning and Development	\$471,400.00	\$302,762.00	\$380,052.00
Economic/Agricultural Development	\$685,400.00	\$582,653.00	\$610,016.00
Parks and Recreation	\$601,200.00	\$560,255.00	\$539,001.00
Culture	\$41,000.00	\$40,840.00	\$39,651.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$16,145,168.00	\$14,329,215.00	\$14,569,021.00



2023 Expenditures by Object - \$14,329,215

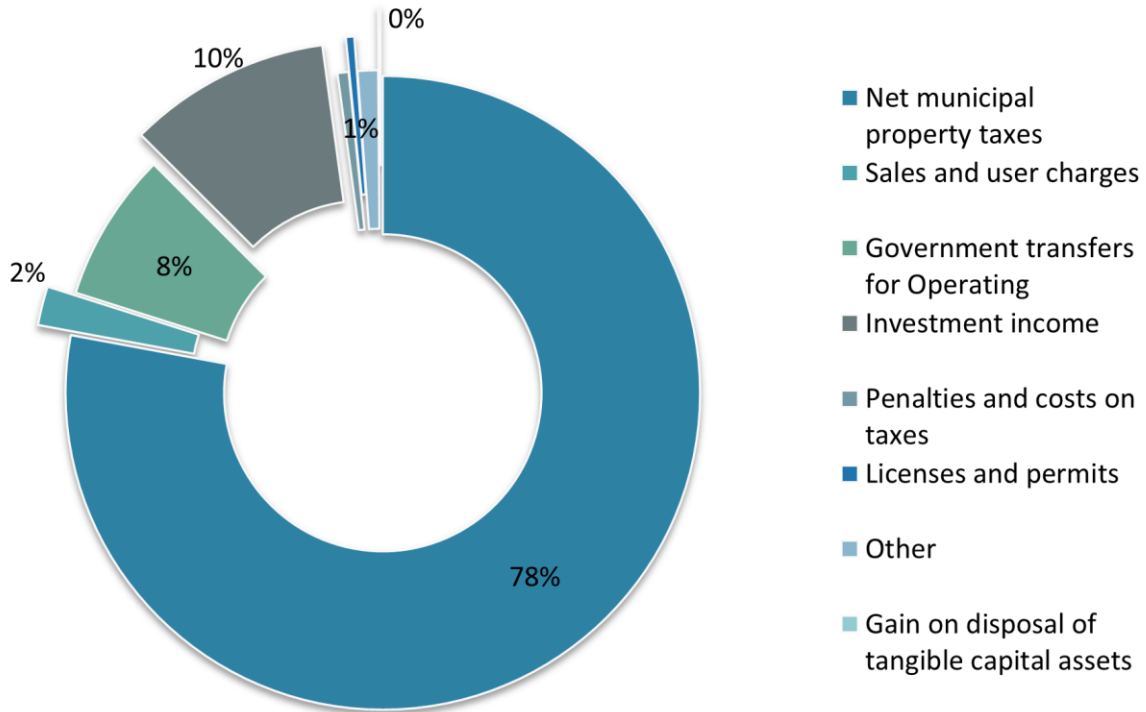


Information taken from County of Paintearth No. 18 Financial Statements Year Ending December 31, 2023

EXPENDITURES	2023 Budget	2023	2022
Salaries, wages & benefits	\$5,732,660.00	\$5,221,102.00	\$5,051,057.00
Contracted and general services	\$2,139,549.00	\$2,344,745.00	\$2,085,366.00
Materials, goods, supplies and utilities	\$4,709,159.00	\$3,191,090.00	\$4,067,368.00
Provision for allowances	\$101,500.00	\$428,313.00	\$362,904.00
Transfers to other government	\$2,300.00	\$2,686.00	\$2,616.00
Transfers to local boards and agencies	\$194,000.00	\$207,905.00	\$176,147.00
Transfers to individuals and organizations	\$817,900.00	\$754,706.00	\$722,152.00
Bank charges and short-term interest	\$11,800.00	\$3,722.00	\$3,876.00
Amortization of tangible capital assets	\$2,375,300.00	\$2,114,116.00	\$2,097,535.00
Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	\$61,000.00	\$60,830.00	\$0.00
Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$16,145,168.00	\$14,329,215.00	\$14,569,021.00



2023 Revenues - \$17,589,959

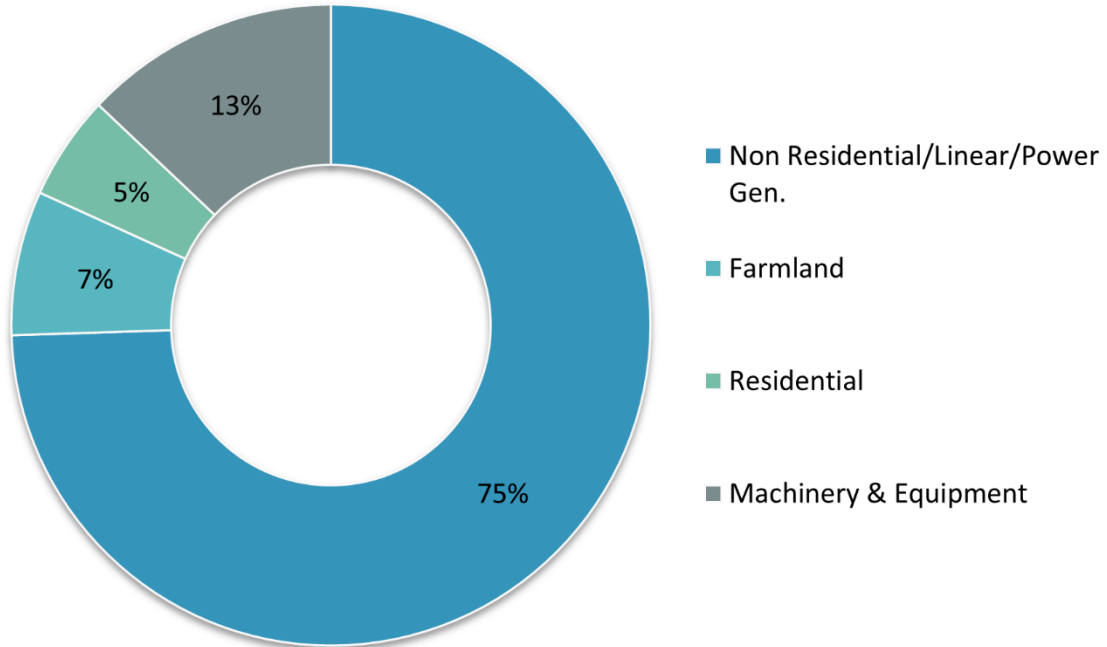


Information taken from County of Paintearth No. 18 Financial Statements Year Ending December 31, 2023

REVENUE	2023 Budget	2023	2022
Net municipal property taxes	\$13,329,429.00	\$13,704,773.00	\$13,159,290.00
Sales and user charges	\$505,358.00	\$349,082.00	\$383,053.00
Government transfers for Operating	\$343,907.00	\$1,338,660.00	\$1,068,011.00
Investment income	\$480,000.00	\$1,816,433.00	\$789,960.00
Penalties and costs on taxes	\$125,000.00	\$99,736.00	\$237,012.00
Licenses and permits	\$39,000.00	\$76,196.00	\$74,786.00
Other	\$10,000.00	\$183,274.00	\$228,178.00
Gain on disposal of tangible capital assets	\$18,950.00	\$21,805.00	\$19,672.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$14,851,644.00	\$17,589,959.00	\$15,959,962.00

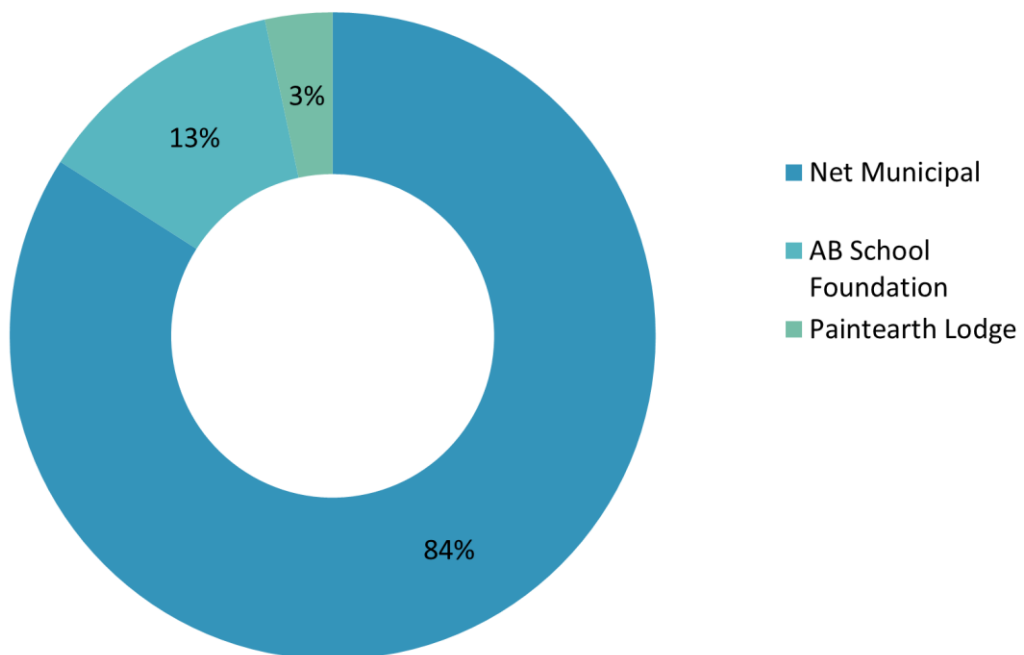


2023 Property Tax Revenue



Information taken from County of Paintearth No. 18 Bylaw No.714-23

2023 Allocation of Property Taxes



Information taken from County of Paintearth No. 18 Financial Statements Year Ending December 31, 2023

COMMUNITY BYLAW OFFICER

Colm Fitz-Gerald #8042 | Community Bylaw Officer

Office: 403-882-3211

Work Cell: 403-740-2997



The nature of the duties performed by Officer Fitz-Gerald include, but are not limited to, administration and enforcement of County bylaws, consultation duties with the R.C.M.P. and other County groups. Education was the focus and continues to be with the major oil and energy companies, and local landowners with regards to the use of county roads, among other areas. His knowledge further supports other County departments in the scope of his duties.

In summary, there were twenty-two (22) files in 2023 that Officer Fitz-Gerald supported. Files included Road Use Agreements (RUAs), fire calls, bylaw files, assist files with the R.C.M.P. and other miscellaneous files as they arose.

County road use was active in 2023, having 1,056 road permits issued. It is of note that as of October 1, 2022, the County road use permit fee increased from \$14.50 to \$21.00. 2023 saw an increase in permits with the Garden Plain (Trans Alta) Wind Project finishing and the Paintearth Wind Project in full swing, resulting in an increase in road permits. Officer Fitz-Gerald was an intricate part of the set up for both the Paintearth Windmill Project, which began its groundwork in 2022, and the Halkirk II Windmill Project. This in turn, required the continuation of the pre-and-post patrol of roads. Officer Fitz-Gerald continues to work with the R.C.M.P., Commercial Enforcement and local Fire Departments.



Officer Fitz-Gerald also manages the County's fire program and is tasked with monitoring and updating the relevant bylaws to his duties, including enforcement of the same. There were 127 fire permits issued in 2023. The County purchased a FLIR Thermal Camera in 2023, of which Officer Fitz-Gerald utilizes to check the temperature of fire sites to ensure that fires are completely out. This additional tool has supported fire safety while promoting protection to persons, property, and the environment.

Officer Fitz-Gerald is also an important team member on the County's Emergency Management Team, being involved in the Planning Section of Incident Command System (ICS). The Incident Command System (ICS) is a standardized on-site management system designed to enable effective, efficient incident management by integrating a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure. Officer Fitz-Gerald has obtained his level 300 ICS certification which provides the authority to be a trained Incident Commander as well as other leading roles in an emergency.

2023 was a busy year and the momentum continues into 2024 with the completion of the Garden Plain (Trans Alta) Windmill Project, the continuation of the Paintearth (Potentia) Windmill Project and the commencement of the Halkirk II Windmill Project. Potentially the County may see solar projects as well.



COMMUNITY SERVICES

Todd Pawsey | Director of Community Services
 Phone: 403-882-3211



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Development Permit fees, applications and related forms can be found on the County website by visiting www.paintearth.ca. The Director of Community Services is available for questions, inquiries, and is willing to assist/guide all community members through the subdivision or development permit process.

In 2023, the County saw an increase in industrial development; having both the Paintearth Wind Project and Halkirk 2 Wind Project starting construction, and Garden Plain Wind Project began its operations. The County also has five (5) solar projects waiting for the Provincial government to determine how best to treat renewable energy applications into 2024 and beyond. A number of other developments are outlined below.

Permits: Through the development permit process, the County of Paintearth safeguards and ensures its community members a safe and effective building and planning process for all developments, buildings, and subdivisions. A comparison of 2023 activity levels against the previous year is found below.

Development Permits	2023	Value	2022	Value
Residential Homes (including mobile)	8	\$ 2,975,000	5	\$ 1,540,000
Residential – accessory, additions	5	\$ 190,000	3	\$ 257,000
Agricultural Uses	1	\$ 539,000	8	\$ 0.00
Industrial/Commercial	40	\$ 167,630,000	40	\$ 190,110,000
Recreational, Home Occupation	1	\$ 0.00	1	\$ 0.00
Totals:	55	171,334,000	57	\$ 191,907,000

2023 signaled an uptake in developments as major industrial projects commenced, thereby increasing the County assessment. The same trend is the anticipated norm for the next few upcoming years. Heartland Generation’s announcement of hydrogen developments, at the power generation plant at the Battle River, also signify serious development potential for the County.

Subdivisions: The County received 2 subdivision applications during 2023, having one approved by the end of the year. Please be advised that the average process length for a subdivision is at least four (4+) months to complete, and costs range from three-to-five thousand dollars (\$3-5,000.00). Septic systems regulations are still the subdivision size

limiting factor, as open discharges require a ninety (90) metre setback to all property lines, thus making the common acreage about ten (10) acres or more. The County strongly recommends an initial discussion or review with staff prior to application. The review is to aid a smooth process and help avoid any obstacles or issues that may arise.

Palliser Regional Municipal Services (PRMS): PMRS 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, plumbing and private sewage disposal. For more information detailing the development and safety code requirements of your project, please contact the Director of Community Services at the office or visit www.palliserservices.ca.

Municipal Planning Commission (MPC): The County's Municipal Planning Commission presides over all discretionary or sensitive development permits and subdivision requests. In 2023, the MPC was comprised of Councillor Diane Elliott (Chair), Councillor George Glazier, Deputy Reeve Maurice Wiat and Reeve Stan Schulmeister.

Fleet Development: The Fleet Development is complete and the new acre lots are available for sale, being \$18,900.00 (+GST). Further information regarding the Fleet lots may be obtained by viewing the County's website www.paintearth.ca or by contacting the Director of Community Services at 403-882-3211.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The County continues to work on agricultural value-added projects such as reviewing possibilities in the plant protein processing industry, as well as featuring developments at the Crowfoot Crossing Industrial Park. The County has promoted Crowfoot Crossing to hospitality planners, food and beverage industry representatives and continue to market Crowfootcrossing.ca as the information becomes available about the individual lots and, traffic and development stats. The County is also working with additional renewable energy projects that will aid in employment and job creation. Also commenced in 2022 were projects involving broadband, solar generation, and the exploration of increasing water distribution in the County.

INDUSTRY

In terms of new projects, 2023 was a better year for the Oil and Gas industry in the County. There were twenty-four (24) industry projects requiring access to the County's road network. Five (5) new pipeline crossings, from both industry and the local gas utility, were provided. Twenty-six (26) electrical projects occurred, being either new services or upgrades/salvages. Further, new activity included twenty-seven (27) new projects involving either additional or new wells, pipeline projects or asset upgrades to same.

There continue to be plenty of clean-up and reclamation efforts happening across the region. 2023 continued the trend of industry reclamation, having thirteen (13) site rehabilitation or reclamations certificates issued, another twenty-six (26) well sites abandoned, and ten (10) pipeline abandonments within the County. There appears to be

continued efforts to clean up old non-producing assets and removing the same from industry books.

DISASTER SERVICES & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2023 began with dry conditions and wildfires throughout the County. The largest emergency threat in the County is wildfires during the dry grass season. The County encourages all residents to be vigilant to the use of fires and when so allowed. The County features the FireSmart Program, having information on the same available on the County's website www.paintearth.ca, and encourages all community members to review their properties for fire risk.

The County continues to update its emergency preparedness and our ability to coordinate responses in the Emergency Operations Centre. To that extent, in 2023 a regional partnership was formed with the Towns of Castor and Coronation and the Village of Halkirk to mutually assist each other in times of need. This partnership's formative process has new plans, exercises, and is on track to complete in 2024 with updated bylaws, emergency plans and skilled workforces. The County received a provincial grant to aid to improve Emergency Management Resources.

Lastly, winter brought periods of prolonged cold temperatures. The County reminds community members to be prepared with household supplies for up to 72-hours and to have alternative plans in event of power outages, snowed in roads, or other Alberta winter weather conditions.

PARKS AND RECREATION

In 2023, County campgrounds being Huber Dam Campground and Burma Park, had seasons that were relatively similar to previous years, if not slightly higher in usage. Huber Dam Campground received additional trout stocking. The aerator seems to assist with oxygenation of the water which is increasing the vitality of the fish. Ball season was back in play at Burma Park. The newly refurbished backstops with new chain-link mesh fencing, along with the refinished bleachers, should be a treat for fans in the seats! Both Huber Dam and Burma Park are operated by contract caretakers.

Valley Ski Hill was open for the 2023 – 2024 season, having many upgrades to the facility. The ski hill continues to offer local snow sport activities for all ages. The community looks forward to the 2024-2025 season!



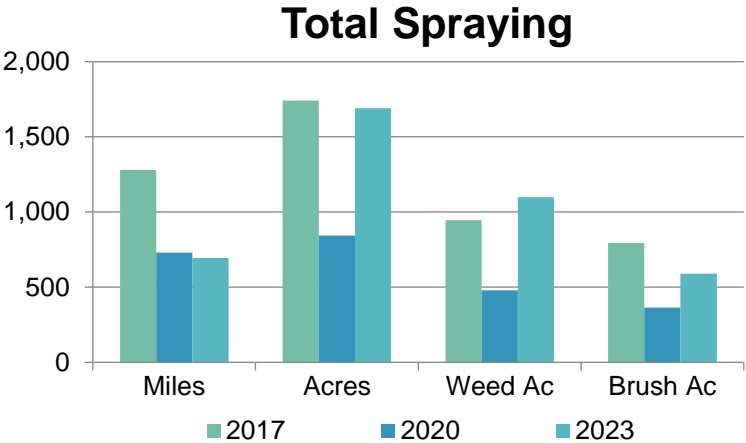
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Jeff Cosens | Director of Environmental Services
Phone: 403-882-3211

INDUSTRIAL VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Roadside Spraying: Roadside spraying is completed in a three (3) year rotation. In 2023, the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) staff performed a partial blanket in Division 4 and, spot sprayed Division 5 and part of Division 6.

694.5 miles were sprayed across the entire County for a total of 1099 acres. 65% of the spraying completed was for weed control.



Division 4 had 76% coverage, Division 5 had 62% and part of Division 6 had 46% coverage. Approximately 64% of the right-of-way's were sprayed in the rotation. The total program cost was \$143,910.00 or \$85.13/acre.

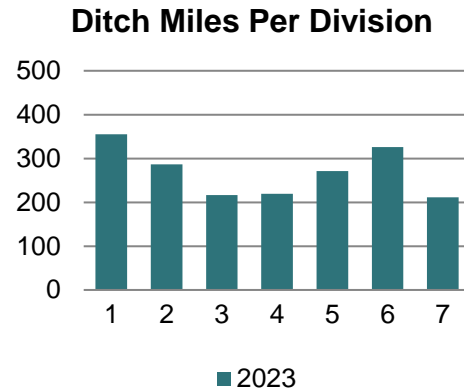
Private Land Spraying: The County provides custom spraying on private land for control of small patches of persistent prohibited noxious or noxious weeds. The ASB is equipped with a skid sprayer that fits in the back of truck, ATV sprayer and a UTV boomless sprayer. In 2023, the ASB sprayed for nine (9) landowners for 19 acres for the control of absinthe wormwood and white cockle mostly, but other noxious weeds were targeted. ASB staff also sprayed 18 acres of land the County is responsible for and 14-miles or 26 acres of the rail line for Paintearth Regional Waste Management.

Weed Inspections: Weed inspections have always been a part of ASB duties, however the department also relies on the public. If you are concerned or are aware of a weed problem, please contact the ASB staff by calling 403-882-3211. Alternatively, a community member can 'Report A Weed' under the Environmental Services portion of the County's website www.paintearth.ca, or report the same utilizing EDDMaps, an app for mobile phones.



Roadside Mowing: In 2020, the Roadside Mowing Program changed from one 15-foot pass on every road to all gravel roads and the backroads that the ASB staff sprayed. The ASB staff tries to get a second pass on all pavement, however this is dependent on growing conditions.

The ASB staff completed 1,885.25 miles of road. Staff started on July 17, 2023, and completed the same by September 15, 2023. The annual mileage of the program was reduced due to windfarm construction in the southwest portion of the County.



ASB staff picks rocks that have been identified and marked in the previous year. Please avoid piling rocks or any other objects (gates, etc.) in the ditch as they are sometimes not visible. Please be mindful that doing so poses a hazard.

Total program cost for mowing was \$90,335.00 or \$47.93/ditch mile. The rotary mowers are the preferred method as it allows for mowing of smaller brush, increased visibility, less grass on road surface, and lower risk of creating fires.

CONSERVATION

Tree Program: The County has always held this program in high priority and landowners who order two-hundred (200) or more trees can request assistance in the planting of the trees at no charge.

Please be advised that any resident or business can order trees. There are no longer restrictions on who can apply. Those who order trees are responsible for the cost as set by the nursery www.treetime.ca. The ASB will continue to help in the planning and design of tree shelterbelts and will provide assistance in the form of a tree planter and staff.

Environmental Program Funding: The Shelterbelt Rejuvenation Program, a separate program from the regular tree program mentioned above, was the main component of the ASB's environmental programming for 2023. Having completed its second year of orders, seven (7) landowners ordered a total of 1,003 trees.

On April 12, 2023, the ASB partnered with the Stettler County to bring Working Well Workshop to Linda Hall. The eight (8) attendees learned ways to develop and protect well water sources to preserve their long-term productivity.

Lastly, four (4) ASB bulletins were published throughout the year, being distributed to over 1,100 mailboxes in the County.

PEST CONTROL

Coyote Predation Management:

The County recognizes that predation of livestock by coyotes can be a serious problem, which are a declared nuisance pest under the *Agricultural Pests Act*. Livestock producers can request assistance in the control of coyotes where predation is confirmed. ASB distributed poison to one (1) landowner for coyote predation in 2022.

Surveys: The ASB surveyed for Clubroot in 2023. Inspectors follow a protocol for proper biosecurity and sampling techniques before entering the land. Five (5) fields per division are surveyed at a minimum for each, for a total of thirty-five (35). They also sampled four (4) fields for blackleg at the request of Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation while performing the clubroot surveying.

ASB staff conducts a grasshopper survey every year; and, in 2023 ASB staff surveyed thirty-six (36) fields and the numbers were found to be moderate to low levels but increasing compared to past surveys.

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation in partnership with Battle River Research Group continues to survey the area. This work helps us to understand insect populations and range expansion of the targeted insects so that industry can understand the risk and potential damage. The information gathered from pheromone traps, field insect collections and counts or damage assessment is used to create forecast maps and make control recommendations. The data from the



surveys is used to for more than just creating forecast maps though, it can be utilized to direct insect pest research priorities or researchers can utilize the collection of samples in their studies.

The other surveys in the County are:

Pea Leaf Weevil: Pea leaf weevil damage was low in the survey conducted in late May – early June. Seems the weather that is favouring grasshoppers is helping to keep weevil numbers low.

Wheat Midge: In the five (5) fields Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation sampled for wheat midge in 2023, no wheat midge was found. This data does not mean that wheat midge will not be an issue moving forward into 2024 and beyond. Should the growing conditions favor midge development, rain in May and June 2024 or late seeding, it will be important to scout for the insect while the wheat is still in flower. It is known, that midge can spread at least one additional winter in the ground waiting for proper conditions for it to finish its lifecycle.

Cabbage Seedpod Weevil: No cabbage seedpod weevil were found in the County of Paintearth.

Berta Armyworm: The bertha army wood trap site never climbed into double digits. It will be important to continue with the trapping as to provide sufficient information of any brewing issues.

Cutworms: In 2023, cutworms were an issue in much of the province. We really need to remind our producers of cutworms as they need to be prepared to scout in the spring, so they don't get caught out.

To learn more about the surveys go to: <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-insect-pest-monitoring-network.aspx#surveyresults>

Beaver Dam Removal: The ASB 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 Director of Environmental Services 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.



2023 ASB EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES AVAILABLE

Rental Equipment Available

Backpack 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
Grain Bag Roller	No charge

Pest Control Products Available

Magpie Traps	\$50.00 Ref. Deposit
Skunk Traps	\$50.00 Ref. Deposit
Coyote Control Materials	No charge
Beaver Dam Removal	\$100 for 1 st dam and \$50 for each additional
Scare Cannon	No charge

Vegetation Management

1. Private Land Spraying - \$80.00/hr plus the cost of the chemical per Litre applied at cost plus GST, where applicable, will be charged. One (1) 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 - \$135.00/hr and chemical cost, plus 10% and any GST applicable.
3. Weed Picking - \$40/hr plus GST.

Tree Planting

Both the tree planter and staff are provided free of charge for tree orders over two hundred (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').

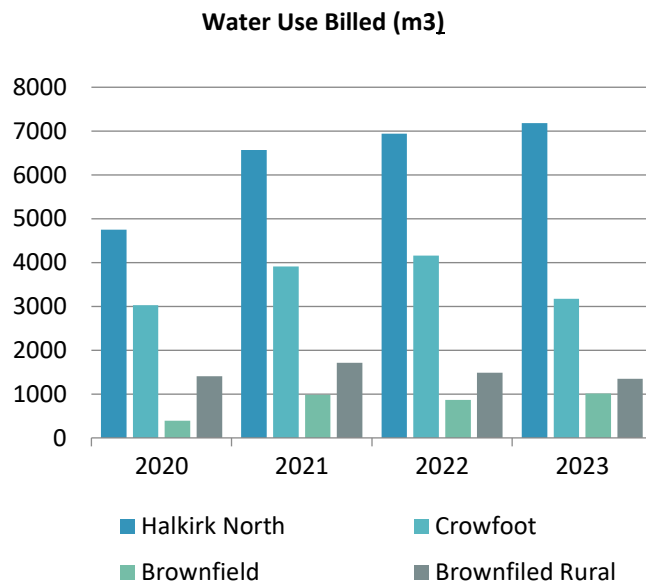
Pesticide Container Sites

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



RURAL WATER DISTRIBUTION

In 2019, the County agreed to enter into an agreement with the Shirley McClellan Regional Water Services Commission (SMRWSC) which places the Brownfield Transmission Line and the Brownfield Truck Fill with the SMRWSC. In 2022, the County received approval that would allow the County to hot-tap into the SMRWSC main distribution line. Residences would still require a cistern or a rural water reservoir for water storage. Landowners adjacent to the SMRWSC can become County water customers at their own cost under Terms and Conditions in the County Water and Sewer Bylaw No. 690-20.



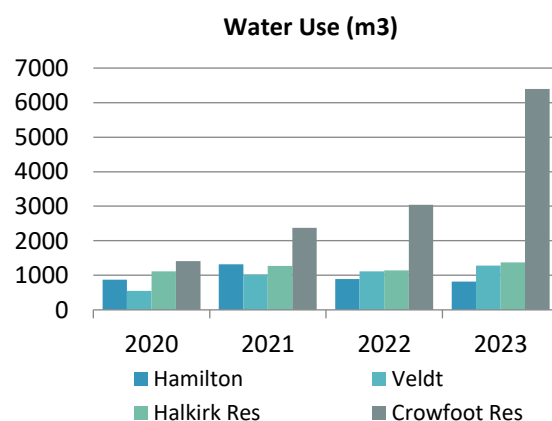
The Coronation Reservoir serves the Town of Coronation and the residents along Secondary Highway 872 to Brownfield, including the Hamlet of Brownfield. The County owns all the service connections off the line and is ready to serve twelve (12) residences. The Hamlet of Brownfield currently serves seven (7) parcels, and the water is metered. The Halkirk Reservoir is ready to serve twenty-six (26) users. The Crowfoot Reservoir currently only serves the Crowfoot Subdivision and the Crowfoot truck fill. Water is charged on actual use, and in 2023 the rate was \$3.25/cubic metre (m3). All water in the County is read with meters.

The County is invested in three reservoirs strategically placed in Halkirk, Crowfoot Crossing, and west of Coronation. There is approximately 40.5 miles of waterline in the County of which 24.5 miles of rural waterline is owned by the County.

TRUCK FILL FACILITIES

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

The Crowfoot Reservoir operates with both coin and prepay accounts. The Halkirk Reservoir is currently only a coin box, accepting loonies and toonies. For anyone



wanting to use the Brownfield truck fill, please contact the SMRWSC directly or Stettler County for more information. Water rates for reservoirs are \$5.00 /m³, Hamilton and Veldt are \$2.20/m³. Please be advised that the Village of Halkirk receives the proceeds from the Halkirk Reservoir.

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.

For more information, please visit the Environmental Services Department, Utilities section on the County's website www.paintearth.ca.

PUBLIC WORKS

Bryce Cooke | Director of Public Works
Phone: 403-882-3211

Public Works Emergencies: Bryce Cooke 403-740-6311
Utility Emergencies: Mitch Elhard 403-740-4952



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 sign(s) are posted when a road is banned, indicating the percentage of axle weights that are permitted to travel on the road. All County paved roads are banned year-round at either a 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 & OVER DIMENSIONAL 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 is available 24-hours per day by calling toll free 1-888-830-7623.

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 weights.

GRAVEL PROGRAM

In 2023, the County graveled approximately 201-miles of roads by applying approximately 52,247 tonnes of $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch and 3,370 tonnes of $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch gravel. To achieve this, the Summer Road Gravelling Program utilizes three (3) super-b belly dumps.

The County stockpiles approximately 45,000 tonnes of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch gravel from municipal gravel pits to various stockpile sites, utilizing County fleet gravel trucks. In 2022, the County purchased approximately 55,000 tonnes, supplied and delivered, of 4-20 Alberta Transportation spec. $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch gravel from outside sources.

The County's gravel inventory consists of approximately 482,770 tonnes of $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch crushed road gravel and 1,700,000 tonnes of gravel in reserves. The County has approximately a 29-year supply of gravel, with the current gravel inventory and materials in reserves.

ROAD NETWORK

The County is divided into eight (8) grader divisions, with each grader operator maintaining approximately 188 km of local gravel roads and approximately 24 km of field access roads. The County's grader fleet consists of eleven (11) Caterpillar 160M / AWD motor graders. The County purchases new graders on a 6-year buyback program and sells the used graders on the open market at the end of 6-years. This enables the County to have sustainable and reliable equipment to maintain the road system.

The road system is comprised of:

Regularly Maintained Roads	1520 km
Field Access Roads	141 km
Grassed Trails	241 km
Paved Roads	45 km
Total:	<u>1947 km</u>

Lastly, there is one plow truck in the County's fleet for winter sanding and plowing needs.



ROAD APPROACHES/ CULVERTS

The Public Works Department built four (4) new approaches in 2023, of which three (3) required culverts. Also, Public Works widened three (3) previous approaches, of which one (1) required a new culvert. The Public Works Department replaced thirty-nine (39) culverts across rural roads. No liners or culvert boring were completed in 2023.



ROAD SIGNAGE

The Public Works Department is responsible for approximately 1,100 different signs throughout the County. In 2023, sixty-two (62) signs were installed or replaced, and Forty-two (42) new signposts were installed. If you notice a sign missing or knocked down, please contact the County Office immediately by phoning 403-882-3211.

BRIDGE PROGRAM

There are 110 bridges and bridge-sized culverts throughout the County, having the County responsible for all maintenance on the same. The County has trained staff in minor bridge maintenance for all various sizes of bridge structures, having major repairs on these structures contracted out. Maintenance on these bridges is scheduled throughout the winter or on rain days. In 2022, the County contracted the replacement of one (1) treated timber bridge, which was replaced with three (3) bridge-sized culverts. Lastly, the County contracts WSP Engineering to conduct all bridge inspections.

It is of note that in 2013 the Provincial Government cut all funding for bridge files.

FENCE LINE BRUSHING

The Public Works Department brushed approximately 4-miles of fence line and ditch bottoms.

BACK SLOPING

The Public Works Department back sloped thirteen (13) 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 six (6) miles of road ditches.

GRAVEL RECLAIMING

The Public Works Department purchased a gravel reclaimer in 2017. The same is mounted on a grader that pulls gravel off road slopes and shoulders which returns the material back to the road's surface. The County has reclaimed 742-miles of roadway in this manner, of which 94-miles were completed in 2023. The County reclaims, and saves on average, 80 tonnes of $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch gravel per mile. The average cost per tonne of $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch gravel is \$19.21.

SAFETY PROGRAM



Tammy Hildreth | Safety Officer

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 2023, the County passed the internal safety audit with a score of 93%. The safety program is ongoing and will always be a priority within the County's daily operations.



REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

BATTLE RIVER ALLIANCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (BRAED)

Contact Name: Caroline McAuley, Executive Director
Phone: 780-618-4967
Website: <https://www.braedalberta.ca/>

CLEARVIEW SCHOOL DIVISION

Phone: 403-742-3331
Website: <https://www.clearview.ab.ca/>

PAINTEARTH ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (PEPS)

Contact Name: Carol Thomson, Economic Development Officer
Phone: 403-882-3211
Fax: 403-882-3560
Website: <https://www.paintearth.ab.ca/>

PAINTEARTH COMMUNITY ADULT LEARNING COUNCIL (PCALC)

Phone: 403-578-3817
Toll Free: 1-888-587-3817
Website: <https://paintearthlearning.ca/>

PAINTEARTH REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT LTD.

Contact Name: Kevin McDougall, Transfer Station Supervisor
Phone: 403-882-3211
Fax: 403-882-3560
Website: www.countypaintearth.ca

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please contact the County of Paintearth Municipal Office by calling 403-882-3211 or by visiting the County's website www.paintearth.ca