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The Beaver County

Chronicle

A Free Weekly Publication Serving All of Beaver County

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Ryalta Industries Ltd.



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Beaver County passes operating budget and mill rate bylaw - tax notices set to go out mid-May

Patricia Harcourt

Beaver County passed its operating budget for 2025 with approval from all councillors at the April 16 regular meeting.

Council approved a 2025 operating budget for municipal purposes of \$23,557,140. The county will receive revenue of \$8,234,907 from fees, grants and transfers from reserves, leaving \$15,322,233 to be taxed by levy.

Council also approved an adjustment to the 2025 capital budget of \$250,000 for road construction gravel, asset management, equipment repairs, administration office lighting and administration office building audio/visual updates. Funding will come from reserves for a total capital budget of \$11,542,198. The county will receive revenue of \$9,791,582 from grants, sales of goods and services and reserves. This leaves \$1,750,616 to be raised through a tax levy.

However, the same meeting saw only two readings given on the mill rate bylaw, which failed to pass as Deputy Reeve Gene Hrabec failed to provide unanimous consent for third reading to be given. At the April 16 meeting, Hrabec read out a list of reasons for objecting to a two per cent increase in the mill rate for

this year.

The rest of council approved of the 2025 mill rates, but it did not pass because third and final reading had to be set over to April 30 for completion. At that meeting, Reeve Kevin Smook (Division 1), Councillor Lionel Williams (Division 2), Councillor Barry Bruce (Division 4) and Councillor Dale Pederson (Division 5) all voted in favour of the mill rate bylaw, causing the mill rate bylaw to be passed. Voting against the motion was Councillor Hrabec.

Ryan Arndt, general manager of corporate services, explained how the mill rates are set: "The county's assessment base determines the mill rates that must be levied to pay for budget expenditures," stated Arndt.

The assessment base has increased over the previous year by \$69 million, putting the total assessment in 2025 at \$1.347 billion.

"This increase will generate additional taxes of \$631,788," he stated.

"Despite this increase in taxes, a two per cent increase in the municipal mill rate is required to balance the total municipal budget, both operating and capital," he said.

Arndt pointed out, however, that this is separate from other mill rates the county must levy for fire

protection and emergency management, the provincial policing contract, and the mill rates for school and seniors housing requisitions.

These requisitions are levied by the county with the funds handed over to Beaver Emergency Services Commission (BESC), the province's police fund, the Alberta School Foundation, and Beaver Foundation.

"We have no control over this," he said, of these requisitions the county is obligated to collect on behalf of these agencies. All have decreased somewhat except for the school requisition which rose slightly.

Taking into account these mill rate impacts, the overall effect on the various classes of property were itemized including:

- Residential properties - 2.11 per cent increase;
- Farmland properties - 2.03 per cent increase;
- Non-residential properties - 1.81 per cent increase;
- Small business properties - 1.76 per cent increase.

Arndt noted that an single ratepayer's assessment may increase or decrease and affect their individual taxes.

Assessment and tax notices are expected to go out in mid-May.

Municipal Affairs Minister resigns, to become Speaker

Patricia Harcourt

Ric McIver, who was serving as Minister of Municipal Affairs in the UCP government, has resigned his office as of May 12. He resigned in order to become the new Speaker of the House in the Alberta Legislature.

"Yesterday evening I accepted the resignation of the Honourable Ric McIver from his position as Minister of Municipal Affairs," said Premier Danielle Smith in a statement the following day.

"I am grateful for Ric's hard work and commitment to his constituents and to serving Albertans," said Smith.

"And I am pleased to congratulate the Honourable Ric McIver on his election to Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

"After decades of public service, Speaker McIver has a proven track record of representing his constituents with dignity and honour as the MLA for

Calgary-Hays in his various ministerial roles, and previously as City of Calgary councillor.

"He is respected on both sides of the aisle and I know he will approach his new role as Speaker with the utmost seriousness," Smith continued.

"In order to hold his new bi-partisan role, Speaker McIver has resigned from his position as minister of municipal affairs," said Smith. "Alberta's

McIver will be temporarily replaced by Joseph Schow, currently serving as Alberta's Minister of Tourism and Sport, and Government House Leader.

He will serve as interim Municipal Affairs minister "until a new minister is appointed," said Smith.

She added that Schow will be made available to municipalities around the province, "as they continue to navigate the uncertainty of the wildfire season."

McIver replaces the outgoing Speaker Nathan Cooper who has been appointed the province's official representative in Washington.



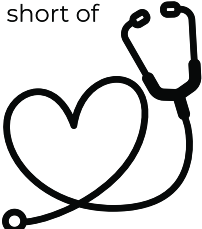


RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NURSING WEEK: MAY 12-18

This week, we join communities across Canada in celebrating National Nursing Week, a time to recognize the tireless dedication, skill, and compassion of nurses who play a vital role in our healthcare system. Nurses are there during life's most challenging and most joyful moments—providing comfort, care, and expertise when it's needed most. Their commitment to their patients and communities is nothing short of extraordinary.

To all nurses: thank you for your unwavering service, your strength, and the heart you bring to healthcare every day. We appreciate everything you do.

Be sure to thank and appreciate the nurses in your life this week—they truly deserve it!



IMPORTANT DATES

May 21

- 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM - Regular Council Meeting

June 4

- 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM - Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting

CAMPGROUND BOOKINGS!

Attention outdoor enthusiasts! Planning your next camping adventure? Why not try out Camp Lake or Black Nugget!

Access the online booking tool on our website under the **Explore menu**.

Both campgrounds officially open on **May 15th**



Claystone Waste presents

The 2025 Giant Pumpkin Growing Contest

For residents of Tofield, Viking, Ryley, Holden, and Beaver County

Info at claystonewaste.com/pumpkin



Want to join in the fun?

Ask for a pumpkin seed pack and brochure from the Scale House Attendant when you pick up some Claystone Compost from the Ryley Transfer Station!

Completed entry forms must be submitted by **May 30**.



WHATS HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Book Club

Location: Ross Creek Community Hall, 531041 Rge Rd 191
Rural book club that meets the first Tuesday of each month. Meetings run from 7PM - 8PM, all ages welcome!

Tofield AA - Thursdays, 8 - 9 PM
Basement of Bardo Lutheran Church, 4737 57 Ave, Tofield.

Viking AA - Wednesdays, 8 PM, Zoom option also available.
Golden Valley Lutheran Church, 5327 56 Ave, Viking.
<https://area78aa.org/meetings/147-3>

Submit your event/s, meetings and/or gatherings to the events calendar on the website! Just head to the website, under the Explore menu click on County Region Events Calendar. We have partnered with Go East to share local events on our website!



JOIN OUR TEAM!

We're looking for dynamic, motivated superheroes to join our team! What's your superpower?!

- Heavy Equipment Operator III - Grader Operator**

For more information, and details on how to apply, visit our website > Government > Careers



THE VILLAGE OF HOLDEN IS HIRING!

The Village of Holden is hiring for the following position:

- Public Works Foreman/Equipment and Systems Operator**

For more information, please head to their website: www.holden.ca under News & Community



DON'T SPARK A WILDFIRE

In Alberta, around 63% of wildfires are human-caused. Don't be the reason someone loses their home, or worse.

Stay fire-smart:

- Avoid driving or parking on dry grass
- Secure trailer chains to prevent dragging
- Never leave burn barrels unattended
- Check for fire bans before lighting any fire

Let's all do our part to prevent fires.

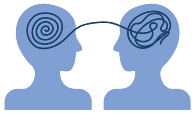


To learn more about wildfire prevention, scan the QR code.

NEED HELP? FREE. CONFIDENTIAL. LIVE ANSWER 24/7

Albertans can access community services via phone, text or chat anytime 24/7. Connect with 211 to find information about services such as disability supports, employment, health supports, housing and volunteering. These services are free, confidential, and available in over 170 languages over the phone.

- Dial 2-1-1
- Text INFO to 211
- Visit ab.211.ca and click “Live Chat”



NATURE'S WEALTH

Environmental Funding Opportunities for Your Land

- How to Find Money for Your Restoration Projects
- Join us for a day of family, fun and learn how to find money for projects on your land from funding organizations.
- Hear firsthand success stories from local landowners.
- Book Mobile, Information Booths and a FREE BBQ!

May 10, 2025 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Birch Bay Ranch

51505 Range Road 215, Sherwood Park

Beaver Hills Watershed Stewardship Society
www.beaverhillswatershed.ca



Photo by Martha Rutherford Conrad

Music Jam / Open Mic

Admission - \$ 5 per person
Musicians/Participants - No Charge
Come Dance/Listen to the Music!

**SUNDAY
MAY 18, 2 PM**
HOLDEN COMMUNITY HALL
4919 - 49 Ave. HOLDEN, AB

For more info:
Dave 780-720-5839
or beaverhillplayers17@gmail.com

Musicians and spectators welcome!

RYLEY MUSEUM SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MAY 28, AT 10:00 AM

RYLEY SUNSHINE CLUB

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

WILLIS AT 780-886-8144

CONSTRUCTION SEASON IS COMING, PLEASE REMEMBER...

Construction workers have families, friends, and lives. Please respect the posted speed limits in construction zones to ensure they can return home safely.



Stay in the loop!



Mailing list

Get news, meeting highlights, the road construction schedule, the Chronicle, and more - direct to your inbox!

Website

Information on County programs and services can be found on our website, along with the latest news.



BEAVER COUNTY

2025 COUNTY CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

ALL DATES ARE APPROXIMATE AND WEATHER DEPENDENT

	START DATE	EST. END DATE	AS OF MAY 14
Culvert Maintenance	April 1	Nov 1	
Patching oil roads	May 1	Sep 29	
Hard-Surface Locations Constructed in the following phases: Phase 1 (P1): Cement, Phase 2 (P2): Chip Seal 1st Lift, Phase 3 (P3): Chip Seal 2nd lift, Phase 4 (P4): Final sweep of Chips.			
Kingsway Estates - 501	May 12	May 16	
Rge Rd 202 between Twp 502 & 504	May 19	May 30	
Beaver Creek Estates North - 50514 Rge Rd 202	Jun 2	Jun 4	
Rge Rd 200 from Hwy 630 to campground entrance & Hoopers Dr	Jun 5	Jun 9	
Whispering Hills Estates - 51308 Rge Rd 195	Jun 10	Jun 14	
Rge Rd 200 from Hwy 630 to Blackfoot Grazing Reserve Entrance	Jun 16	Jun 24	
Twp 492 approx. 1.72kms east of Rge Rd 170	Jun 26	Jun 27	
Twp 490 between Hwy 857 & Rge Rd 142	Jul 2	Jul 25	
Twp 490 between Hwy 870 & Rge Rd 120	Jul 28	Aug 22	
Twp Rd 512 from Rge Rd 191 to HWY 834	Aug 25	Sep 3	
Shoulder Pulls (Location TBD)			
Backsloping (location TBD)	Oct 2	Nov 1	
Gravelling	Mar 13	Dec 22	
Dust Control- 1st Application	May 13	May 30	
Dust Control- 2nd Application	Aug 8	Aug 15	
Completed In Progress Scheduled Delayed			

RANGE ROAD 202 CONSTRUCTION NOTICE:

Over the coming weeks, Range Road 202 will undergo a significant road upgrade—from a gravelled surface to a durable, all-weather hard surface. This improvement includes stabilizing the existing road base with soil cement, followed by the application of two layers of chip seal. Although this process differs from traditional asphalt paving, residents and motorists will enjoy a similar finished surface—dust-free when dry and mud-free when wet.

During construction, sections of the road may be temporarily closed to allow crews to work safely. Detours will be clearly marked. Please plan alternate routes where possible or drive cautiously if you must travel through the construction zone (local traffic only).

Beaver County is committed to maintaining a safe, injury-free work environment for all staff, contractors, and the public. We kindly remind all drivers to respect posted speed limits in construction areas. Excessive speed poses a serious risk to workers and others in the area.

Construction sites can present potential hazards such as heavy equipment, dust, mud, gravel, chip seal materials, and other debris. We urge everyone to stay alert and travel with care.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to improve your roads. These upgrades are essential to maintaining safe and reliable infrastructure in high-traffic areas.

For more information, please contact the Beaver County Service Centre at 780-663-3730.

Social media

Find us on Facebook, X (Twitter), Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn.



Praise heaped on Ag Societies

Patricia Harcourt

While there is good news for the seven regional agricultural societies across the province, the praise went out to all the rural agricultural societies organizing on behalf of their communities.

The Alberta government announced recently that renewed funding will be “powering up communities with Ag Society dollars.”

The promise was for “new and continued funding,” to help Ag Societies “plan for tomorrow.”

The announcement came from RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation on April 24.

New funding includes \$4.03 million in one-time support payments going out to seven regional Ag Societies “to help them manage cost pressures and allow them to plan for the future, including achieving more sustainable operational models,” he stated. It also includes a one-time investment of \$2.87 million “to support business transformation projects and funding set aside for a third party consultant to help with those efforts.”

Sigurdson was high in his praise for the work of Ag Societies throughout Alberta.

“Agricultural Societies play a crucial role in the province’s rural communities,” he said. “They bring people together, organize and run events, and improve the overall quality of life for residents in the communities.”

Alberta has more agricultural societies than any other province with 202 helping their communities to enjoy life and thrive with events and activities.

The funding is designed “to help regional Agricultural Societies weather increasing costs and plan ahead with a one-time cash injection of more than \$7.4 million,” states Sigurdson.

“It’s hard to overstate the impact these societies have on rural Alberta,” said the minister. “From event organizing to infrastructure upkeep, they energize folks and bring communities together.

“This funding will ensure our regional ag societies are able to keep up their good work and continue to be pillars of their communities,” he said.

This one-time funding is in addition to the annual \$2.8 million in annual funding through the Agricultural Societies Grant Program.

The government hired a consultant to assess the societies in 2024 and provide recommendations on addressing their financial struggles.

“Those recommendations helped inform this funding and the next steps,” Sigurdson explained.

Agriculture Societies are driven by volunteers such as the ones in communities within Beaver County, including Tofield, Ryley, Holden Bruce, Viking, and Kinsella.

On a provincial level, these local ag societies are part of the 39,000 events and activities held each year in Alberta.

Beaver County Reeve clarifies mill rate issue for ratepayers

Claystone dividend cannot be used to offset mill rates

I’d like the opportunity to provide clarification regarding the passing of the mill rate bylaw by Beaver County Council on April 30.

Beaver County Council passed the 2025 Operating and Capital budgets at the April 16 Council meeting. The budget aligns with strategic priorities and corporate goals, including expanding resources in public works, agriculture services and public safety. In order to balance the budgets, which is required by the Municipal Government Act, Council must pass a mill rate bylaw, which together with property tax assessments, determines the amount of taxes due from each ratepayer.

At the April 30 Council meeting, four out of five Councillors, a clear majority, supported administration’s recommendation of a 2 per cent municipal tax mill rate increase by passing third reading of the mill rate bylaw.

Each Councillor has a right to vote however they want. Each Councillor also has a right to make an amending motion, if they want to propose a change in the motion that is being considered. No amendment was proposed.

Councillor Hrabec suggested using funds from the Claystone Waste Dividend to offset the mill rate increase. Beaver County Council passed a motion to approve the current Claystone Waste Dividend Policy and accompanying administrative procedure, on September 20, 2023. Councillor Hrabec made the motion, which Council supported. The policy outlines specific uses of these funds, however it does not include using the funds to offset the mill rate.

Thanks,
Kevin Smook,
Reeve, Beaver County

Attention Readers & Advertisers

Our staff is aware of and closely monitoring another potential Canada Post work stoppage that could affect Canadians as of May 23 at 12:01 a.m.

Canadians could be facing a full or partial shutdown of postal services similar to what was experienced just six months ago.

If a labour stoppage does occur, our staff will be putting plans in place to ensure our May 28 edition and beyond is as widely available as possible. This will include arranging multiple pick-up locations for subscribers in the absence of post office box delivery, extra quantities at the various newsstands that carry our paper, and free online readership (whereas there is normally a subscription fee). These measures were successful in 2024 and as a result we were able to retain most of our normal readership during such an important and busy time of year.

Please stay tuned to our websites ***weeklyreview.ca & tofieldmerc.com*** for future updates when and if the work stoppage goes ahead, including whether or not it will affect the May 28 edition and what alternate methods to pick it up or view it for free online have been made.

the Weekly Mercury ***The Tofield***
R E V I E W