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Closed June 20th – Sept. 2nd

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The Beaver County

Chronicle

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Black Nugget Lake under blue-green algae advisory

Kari Janzen

A blue-green algae advisory was issued for Black Nugget Lake in Beaver County on Monday, August 25 by Alberta Health Services (AHS), advising visitors to take precaution entering the body of water.

“Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) has been identified in the waters of Black Nugget Lake. Visitors to this lake are advised to avoid all contact with cyanobacterial blooms.

“If contact occurs, wash with tap water as soon as possible. Do not swim or wade or allow your pets to swim or wade in any areas where cyanobacteria is visible,” the advisory says.

AHS also recommends limiting

consumption of whole fish and fish trimmings from the lake, as fish may store toxins in their liver, but says that people are able to safely consume fish fillets.

Boiling water containing blue-green algae does not make it safe to drink, and AHS recommends providing a different water source for pets and animals while the advisory is in effect.

“As always, visitors and residents are reminded to never drink or cook with untreated water directly from any recreational body of water, including Black Nugget Lake, at any time.

“Boiling of this water will not remove the toxins produced by cyanobacteria,” the release says.

Blue-green algae occurs naturally and, when weather conditions are calm, often become visible.

“Appearing like scum, grass clippings, fuzz, or globs on the surface of water, cyanobacteria can be blue-green, greenish-brown, brown and/or pinkish-red, and often smell musty or grassy. Weather and wind conditions can cause algae blooms to move from one location in the lake to another. As such, this advisory will remain in effect for Black Nugget Lake until further notice,” AHS says.

“(However,) please note waters of Black Nugget Lake in which the cyanobacterial bloom is NOT visible can still be used for recreational purposes, even while this Health Advisory is in place,” says AHS.

Symptoms for those who come into contact with or consume blue-green algae include skin irritation, rash, sore throat, sore red eyes, swollen lips, fever, nausea and vomiting and/or diarrhea.

“Symptoms usually appear within one to three hours and resolve in one to two days. Symptoms in children are often more pronounced; however, all humans are at risk of these symptoms. Exposure to the bacteria may be fatal to pets.

“If you suspect a problem related to cyanobacteria or if you require further information on health concerns and cyanobacteria, please call Health Link at 811. Additional information is also available online, at www.ahs.ca/bga,” the release says.

New procedures for barking and vicious dogs after animal services action plan approved

Patricia Harcourt

Beaver County Council has approved the action plan of the animal control services bylaw for “immediate implementation.”

Deborah Juch, General Manager of Community and Protective Services, outlined its parameters, specifically referencing issues around barking dogs and dog attacks as part of the new plan.

“A visual of the county’s revamped animal control webpage incorporating parts of the action plan will be demonstrated for council,” said Juch, at the August 20 regular meeting.

For instance, under the issue of “responsible dog ownership,” public communication will include an animal control brochure, webpage with new expandable information tabs, and print and social media ads promoting responsible dog ownership, the new bylaw, and animal welfare.

For dog attacks, protocols would be established with dispatch services as to when to contact the RCMP for after-hours dog attacks, or to track dogs declared vicious.

Dog attacks are prioritized over other matters, “whether on people, other dogs or livestock,” said Juch.

The county’s community police officers would “apply all the vicious dog provisions in the bylaw in all cases.”

And landlords are also being involved in this plan, which states: “When needed, landlords are made responsible for allowing vicious dogs to remain on their property.”

Another enforcement procedure in the plan is to develop a voluntary surrender process “to facilitate the destruction of dogs who have attacked and injured people or animals.”

This kind of procedure would “close cases sooner and more satisfactorily; reduce public safety risk and future calls for service, and protracted legal

action,” stated the action plan under the category of dog attacks.

The plan also deals with dog barking, and enforcement procedures would start with community peace officers contacting complainants to initiate evidence gathering of the barking dog being complained about.

The CPOs would also make early contact with dog owners “to advise of the complaint and investigation, bylaw requirements and consequences; and, to offer tactics to minimize barking.

In terms of communicating to the public the plan would develop “barking” information tags with a description of “how excessive barking is determined and include advice to owners on how to minimize their dog’s barking.”

There would also be a “how to report” segment and a link to a downloadable “barking log” for complainants to gather evidence.

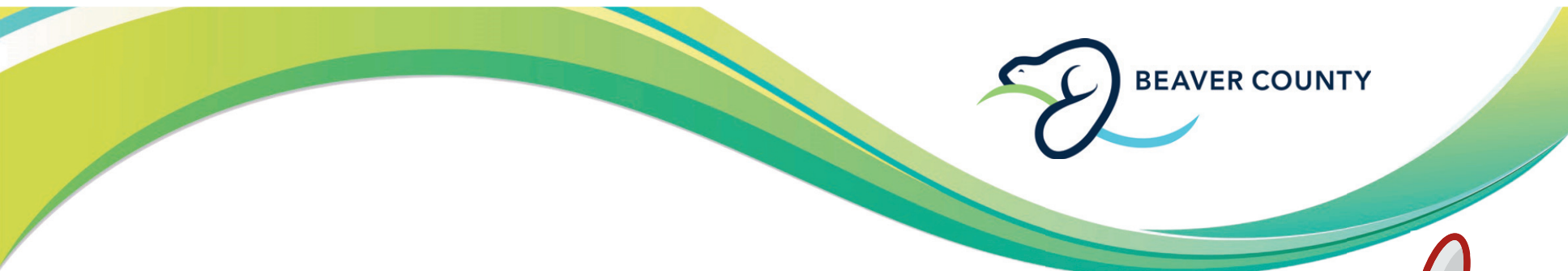
After Juch reviewed the updates in the action plan Councillor Lionel Williams (Division 2) said the plan was “timely.”

Councillor Dale Pederson (Division 5) made a motion for council to adopt the action plan for animal control services, and the motion passed 5-0.

Deputy Reeve Gene Hrabec (Division 3) referred to the fact the kennel services used by the county are not within the county’s borders. “We use an out of county kennel,” he said. Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Kayleena Spiess replied that the county had just signed a new contract with the kennel in question.

But administration is doing an internal review, she added. “If we get additional information we will bring it back.”

Hrabec said the matter didn’t need to be settled then but did want it brought back for further consideration.



IMPORTANT DATES

August 27 & 28 (as needed)

- 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM - Regular Council (Budget) Meeting

September 3

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

CANDIDATE ORIENTATION

Thinking about running for Council? Join us for a **Pre-Election Orientation** designed for anyone considering a run in the 2025 Municipal Election. Learn what it really means to serve your community - from roles and responsibilities to time commitments and decision-making.

Choose the date and location that works for you:

- **Sept 2 – Viking Seniors Centre**
- **Sept 3 – Ryley Community Centre**
- **Sept 4 – Tofield Community Hall**

All sessions run from **6–8 p.m.** | Light refreshments provided

Led by municipal experts Strategic Steps, this session will cover:

- ✓ Council roles & responsibilities
- ✓ Decision-making & governance
- ✓ Service delivery & partnerships
- ✓ Workload, expectations & balance
- ✓ Common challenges and how to avoid them

Those interested from both urban and rural settings are welcome! No registration required! Get prepared, informed, and inspired to lead.

CLAYSTONE WASTE PROUDLY PRESENTS

THE NEW AND IMPROVED

COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

APPLICATIONS OPEN SEPTEMBER 1, 2025

DEADLINE OCTOBER 31, 2025, 11:59 PM

Claystone is proud to offer grants to community not-for-profit organizations to help fund different events and activities.

Our **NEW** grant categories make applying for a grant much easier!

To celebrate the new program, we are taking applications from September 1 – October 31 so we can process applications sooner!

Visit claystonewaste.com/grants for more information on the Community Grant program and submit your online application starting September 1!

claystonewaste.com/grants

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!

BACK TO SCHOOL & SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY

The first day of school is a milestone many parents love to share online. Before posting, keep these tips in mind to protect your child's privacy and safety:

- Avoid posting your child's school name, teacher, or grade - it can make them easier to locate.
- Skip photos that show house numbers, street signs, or license plates in the background.
- Be cautious with "first day of school" signs that include personal details (name, age, school, hobbies).
- Remember: once posted, images and information can be saved, copied, or shared without your control.

Safer Ways to Share

- Focus on fun traditions: a photo of your child's backpack, shoes, or lunchbox.
- Share general "back-to-school" excitement without identifying details.

A little extra caution goes a long way in keeping kids safe while still celebrating this exciting time of year!

HARVEST SEASON ROAD SAFETY

It's that time of year again - swathers, combines, and other farm equipment are on the move throughout Beaver County. Please take a few extra moments on the road to keep everyone safe this harvest season:

For Drivers:

- Be patient - farm equipment often travels under 40 km/h.
- Never pass until you're sure it's safe, and only when you have a clear view of the road ahead.
- Watch for wide equipment that may take up more than one lane or make wide turns.
- Stay alert for flashing lights, slow-moving vehicle signs, and sudden stops.

For Farmers & Operators:

- Use proper lighting and reflective slow-moving vehicle signs.
- Travel during daylight hours whenever possible.
- Ensure escort vehicles are used for especially wide loads.
- Check that mirrors and lights are clean and visible before heading out.

Harvest is a busy season - patience and awareness go a long way in keeping our roads safe for both farmers and motorists. Let's all work together to make sure everyone gets home safely!

DID YOU KNOW?

Alberta has over 40,000 farms, producing everything from wheat and canola to cattle and honey? Agriculture contributes more than \$10 billion annually to Alberta's economy, and harvest season is one of the busiest - and most rewarding - times of the year.

Harvest is a time of gratitude - for the land, for the hands that work it, and for the community that gathers around it.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE FOR THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

Over the summer, County construction crews have been working to upgrade the following roads:

- **Kingsway Estates**
- **Beaver Creek Estates North 50514 RGE RD 202**
- **RGE RD 200 from Secondary HWY 630 to Hoopers Drive and Campground Entrance**
- **TWP RD 492 Approximately 1.72kms east of RGE RD 170**
- **TWP RD 490 between Highway 857 & RGE RD 142**
- **TWP RD 490 between Highway 870 & RGE RD 120**

These locations will soon begin to receive the second layer of chip seal and there may be delays as work crews' direct traffic to work safely. There will be many loose rocks after the second chip seal layer is applied and speed limits will continue to be reduced on these roads until the final sweep is complete. Beaver County's goal is to provide a healthy, injury free work environment for all employees, contractors, visitors, and general public. There are potential hazards to the public and vehicles during the construction process. This can include heavy machinery, dust or mud, road material such as gravel, asphalt coatings and rock chips. We apologize for the inconvenience that road maintenance and upgrading causes, but the same roads that receive the most traffic also need the most maintenance. Thank you for your patience and understanding during construction. If you have any questions, please call the Beaver County Service Centre at 780-663-3730.

PUBLIC SALE OF LAND

Notice is hereby given that under the provisions of the Municipal Government Act, Beaver County will offer for sale, by public auction, at the County Office, at 5120 50th Street Ryley, Alberta, on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 10:00 AM the following lands:

M-RGE-TWP-SC-PS	PLAN	BLOCK	LOT	NAME	ACRES
NW-27-46-11-W4	1562 W	6	32-37	Kinsella	1950.9 m2

Each parcel will be offered for sale subject to a reserve bid and to the reservations and conditions contained in the existing certificate of title.

Beaver County may, after the public auction, become the owner of any parcel of land that is not sold at the public auction.

Terms: Cash, certified cheque or bank draft.

Redemption may be effected by payment of all arrears of taxes and costs at any time prior to the sale.

Dated at Ryley, Alberta, August 22, 2025.

Kayleena Spiess - Chief Administrative Officer

COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANT DEADLINE

Beaver County values the incredible work of community organizations! Through the Community Support Grant program, we provide funding and in-kind support to help bring impactful projects to life.

Thinking about applying? Here's what you'll need:

- ✓ A completed application form,
- ✓ A detailed project budget,
- ✓ The organization's most recent financial statements,
- ✓ Evidence of financial need or quotes for the project.

Deadline: September 30th, 2025

Visit our website under Community > Community Support Requests for more information or to fill out an application form.



2025 COUNTY CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

ALL DATES ARE APPROXIMATE AND WEATHER DEPENDENT

	START DATE	EST. END DATE	AS OF AUGUST 27
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	P1, P2
Rge Rd 202 between Twp 502 & 504	May 19	May 30	P1, P2, P3
Beaver Creek Estates North - 50514 Rge Rd 202	Jun 2	Jun 4	P1, P2
Rge Rd 200 from Hwy 630 to campground entrance & Hoopers Dr	Jun 5	Jun 9	P1, P2
Whispering Hills Estates - 51308 Rge Rd 195	Jun 10	Jun 14	P1, P2, P3
Rge Rd 200 from Hwy 630 to Blackfoot Grazing Reserve Entrance	Jun 16	Jun 24	P1, P2, P3
Twp 492 approx. 1.72kms east of Rge Rd 170	Jun 26	Jun 27	P1, P2
Twp 490 between Hwy 857 & Rge Rd 142	Jul 2	Jul 25	P1, P2
Twp 490 between Hwy 870 & Rge Rd 120	Jul 28	Aug 22	P1, P2
Twp Rd 512 from Rge Rd 191 to HWY 834	Aug 25	Sep 3	P1

Shoulder Pulls (Location TBD)			
Backsloping (location TBD)	Oct 2	Nov 1	
Bridge Replacement (RGE RD 171 from TWP 484 - 490)	Jun 26	Jul 26	
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			

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: TWP RD 512 FROM RGE RD 191 TO SECONDARY HIGHWAY 834

The soil stabilizing for the road base with soil cement is now complete. We will soon be starting the first layer of chip seal and there may be delays as work crews direct traffic in order to work safely. There will be many loose rocks after the chip seal layer is applied and speed limits will be reduced on these roads once opened until the project is complete.

During this construction phase, portions of the road may be closed to allow crews to work safely please use another route, detours will be posted or be cautious when you need to drive through construction zones (local traffic only). Beaver County's goal is to provide a healthy, injury free work environment for all employees, contractors, visitors and general public. Already this year we have had people exceeding the posted speed limit through our construction zones, endangering staff, contractors and the public. There are potential hazards to the public and vehicles during the construction process. This can include heavy machinery, dust or mud, road material such as gravel, asphalt coatings and rock chips. We apologize for the inconvenience that road maintenance and upgrading causes, but the same roads that receive the most traffic also need the most maintenance. Thank-you for your patience and understanding during construction. If you have any questions, please call the Beaver County Service Centre at 780-663-3730.



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.

Social media

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



County awards 2025 Farm Family Award to Roulston Farms

Family very active in the Bruce community and the Bruce Ag Society

Patricia Harcourt

Roulston Farms is Beaver County’s recipient of the 2025 Farm Family Award.

“This award is intended to celebrate outstanding farm families who exemplify the values and traditions of family farming within their rural communities,” said the announcement.

The Farm Family Award winner is publicly recognized and given an award of recognition.

This award of recognition will include the family name added to a Farm Family plaque presented in Council Chambers.

The family will also receive an item of recognition with a maximum value of \$1,000.

Award recipients are an active farm family unit “where agriculture is the major source of income,” said Agriculture Fieldman Jonathan Culbert, in his report to council. Also, the family should strive to increase awareness of agriculture and maintain a high standard in the agriculture business.

“Farm families can also promote the agriculture community through involvement and rural citizenship, be proactive in new agriculture technologies and act as a role model to the rural community,” explained Culbert.

And the Roulston Family has fulfilled these criteria and been involved in and helping their community through years of volunteering and hard work.

Roulston Farms is composed of Rob, Cynthia, and their children Joe and Taylor. They are the owners/operators of a cattle farm in the Bruce area of Beaver County.

The family is very active in the community with Rob being the fire chief for the Bruce Fire Department.

The family members all belong to the Bruce Ag Society with Cynthia the ag society president, and it keeps them very busy in their community.

Their nomination for the Farm Family award said: “There isn’t a time when they don’t have something on the go for the community.” This includes events and fundraisers for the ag society, volunteering at the Bruce Stampede and helping elderly members of the community

with yard work and running errands.

Cynthia serves as a nurse in the Viking Health Centre and Taylor is studying for a nursing career in Grande Prairie. Taylor is often home for short visits to help out with events at the ag society or help out on the farm.

Their son also works hard for the farm and the family. “There’s always something to do on the farm and that’s where you’ll find Joe,” said the comments, adding he really has “a passion for the cows.”

“The Roulstons are a family that goes above and beyond for their community,” a statement that county council obviously agreed with when they voted for this family to receive the award for 2025.

CAO calls goal planning ‘a massive success’ for county

Patricia Harcourt

Beaver County’s Chief Administrative Officer Kayleena Spiess provided county council with an update on strategic priorities at the August 20 regular meeting.

The county’s corporate business plan as prepared by the CAO identifies action items that are used to implement council’s strategic plan. The CAO reports annually to county council on the progress of this plan’s action items.

Spiess reported that four years into the corporate business plan, the county has completed 82 per cent of the goals, and they are currently working on another 4 per cent.

“I think this has been a massive success for our organization,” she said.

There are six overall goals listed for the corporate business plan. They include establishing collaborative partnerships, providing excellent customer service, responsible financing, sustainable infrastructure, enhancing lifestyle, and providing strong leadership.

Referring to the county’s priority wheel of annual corporate goals, the CAO said that the county has completed the review of 102 policies under the Policy Review Project, and is currently working on another 32 more.

The review is designed to refresh

policies that haven’t been updated over the years, she said, calling it “another massive success.”

Projects listed included the Bylaw Review Project, which is a multi-year initiative, as is the New Software Implementation project, which Spiess said was in its third phase.

A Water Viability Project has been stalled this year but there will be work done in future to establish more potable and non-potable water in the county for its rural residents.

The Economic Development file has seen “a lot of headway,” she said, especially in the county’s industrial parks. More water will be needed to establish further business ventures in the county.

The county also continues to work with its urban partners within county boundaries to bolster the economic viability of the county.

Also, “a little bit stalled recently,” is the Surface Water Management Strategy, she said. This strategy goal has been “reprioritized to the Ag Service Department,” and will be going into the next stages of the process.

Other undertakings listed on this priority wheel are a long-term bridge strategy, asset management plan, recreation service agreements, as well as others that are in progress or yet to be started such as the workforce development plan.

County gives first reading to establish inter-municipal committees with towns

Patricia Harcourt

Beaver County Council gave first reading to four bylaws establishing Tofield/Beaver, Ryley/Beaver, Holden/Beaver and Viking/Beaver inter-municipal committees.

Margaret Jones, General Manager of Legislative Services, explained the reason for the bylaws being necessary.

“The county has been meeting with each of its urban counterparts for several years without a bylaw in place,” said Jones.

“Administration has discussed the need for a bylaw with the town and village chief administrative officers and they will be presenting similar bylaws to their councils,” she said.

The meetings are attended by the county CAO and include four such

meetings every year for each inter-municipal committee.

Each inter-municipal committee consists of elected officials from the county and the respective urban municipality, Jones explained.

The Municipal Government Act (MGA) requires that committees of council must be established by bylaw, including inter-municipal committees.

“The proposed bylaws will bring these committees into compliance with provincial legislation,” said Jones.

County Council will consider passing second and third (final) readings of each of the bylaws at a later date.

The same kind of legislation will also have to be passed by the towns of Tofield and Viking, and the villages of Ryley and Holden.