



MD of Willow Creek

Fall Newsletter



Published September 2026



**Council Message
and Announcements**
Pages 2 - 6



Enforcement Services
Pages 22 - 23



Finance
Page 7



Infrastructure
Pages 24 - 25



Agricultural Service Board
Pages 8 - 16



**Planning
and
Development**
Pages 26 - 30



Emergency Services
Pages 17 - 21



Public works
Pages 31 - 33

COUNCIL MESSAGE



Fall 2026 Council Message

Fall is almost here – you can almost smell it in the morning air!!

Kids are back in school!!

Like the seasons, the weather seems to go in cycles. A couple of years ago, we were declaring an agricultural disaster due to drought conditions and dams were at critical levels – Now, for 2 years, we have seen rains (and unfortunately, some big hailstorms) that have kept much of the countryside green all summer to the beginning of September. The rains have been a blessing not only for crops, hay and pastures but also for filling the dams for next year.

As this is written on the **Labour Day weekend, may the fruits of your labor be abundant!** Remember, **“Always do your best. What you plant now, you will harvest later.”** (Og Mandino)

Harvest has been in full swing – some are close to finishing, just canola and second cut timothy to put up around here. Yields appear to be good with some dryland reports of lighter grain (perhaps due to excessive heat and not enough moisture at the right time(s)). Calf prices are good. All in all, the 2026 year has not been that bad for the agricultural community.

Let's give you a rundown of what Council has been and will be up to:

Road Tour – May 19 – The purpose was to provide Council with a comprehensive, on the ground overview of key municipal infrastructure projects, operation assets and upcoming capital investments across the MD of Willow Creek. It also served to connect approved and planned budgets with the real outcomes, highlight areas of recent improvement and identify locations requiring future attention. Council members were appreciative of learning about specific areas of the MD that they had not seen before. **This Tour definitely provided Council with a clearer picture ...** continued on pg.3



Council Message

Continued...



of how capital investments, maintenance strategies and grant funding translate into tangible outcomes for residents, industry, and visitors across the MD. The tour included Claresholm Airport (lighting renewal & Cross-Strip renewal), Claresholm Medical Clinic, Pipeline Rd (Township Rd 124 to Campground), Flying E Road (curve improvements), Mushroom Farm Road (RR283), RR 290, Nanton Lunch, Clear Lake Park, Township Rd 92, Fort Macleod Pit Stop Tim's, RR 250, RR241/Moon River Estates (Rd Construction, Water Plant & Wells, Horse Paddocks), RR 263(widening & extension of base/pave), Granum (Stormwater Project, etc.) and Bridge File 963.

Council Open House & BBQ – June 24 – Granum Homesteader – Had a fabulous turn out with great conversations and food. Thank you to the Granum Fire Department for doing the barbequing.

Events Attended – Councillors represented the MD at various events – Moon River AGM, Grand Opening of Structural Truss & Forma Steel in Fort Macleod, High School Graduation Ceremonies in Nanton, Claresholm & Fort Macleod, Western Canadian Regional Little League Championship Tournament in Fort Macleod, Midnight Days Pro Rodeo hosted by the Fort Macleod & District Ag Society, Granum Canada Day & Parade, Claresholm Days Parade and Bringing Hearts Home Campaign.

Southern Alberta Summer Games – held in Bow Island July 8 – 11th

A huge Thank You to everyone who participated and Congratulations to all for representing this MD!!

Coffee Chat with Council – August 19 – Fort Macleod – 16 ratepayers attended – Great questions and discussion. Topics included Road Maintenance by AB Transportation & Economic Corridors, South Windy Ridge Wind Project, Seniors Lodge & Requisitions, gravelling private driveways, etc. There can be a lot of misconception out in the MD about various issues. If you have any questions or are concerned about an issue, PLEASE call your Councillor or the MD office to get the right answers.

Tax Notices were mailed out in May 28th. The deadline for payment is Monday, November 2, 2026. The onus is on you, the ratepayer, to ensure that property tax payments have been received by the MD by that date.

Municipal Development Plan (MDP) – Following its review, the proposed MDP is now available for public input. The MDP guides our Land Use Bylaw (LUB). Public open houses will be held on September 14 at the Golden Age Centre in Stavely and September 17 at the REO Hall in Fort Macleod. Both sessions run from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. and were advertised in local newspapers and social media.

Policy No. 120-54 – The Community Grant Policy – (New & will replace “Discretionary Funds”) **establishes a clear framework for community grants** that benefit youth centered activities, programs or facilities, align with Council priorities, remain fiscally responsible, and will not create ongoing obligations to the MD of Willow Creek. Notification will be sent to all those who have benefitted from the Discretionary Funds previously. This new Policy will apply at the next Budget cycle.

Community Aggregate Payment Levy Bylaw No. 2038 – New & to be implemented September 1, 2027. This Bylaw does not apply to Pits for Personal Use. The uniform Levy Rate for all shipments of aggregate from a pit within the MD shall be \$0.30 (Thirty Cents) per tonne of aggregate. The revenue raised through this levy will be used for the payment of infrastructure, maintenance of infrastructure and other costs within the Municipality. **Thank you** to those aggregate operators who took the time to meet with Council and to respond to the survey. Council appreciates your candor and input any time.

GOA's Changes to the Code of Practice for Pits – Council's biggest concerns are:

- 1.Loss of Local Autonomy- Again an application is made directly to AEPA (Alberta Environment & Protected Areas) for a Class 1 Gravel Pit and the MD (Municipal Planning Commission) has no say in approving it or not approving it. Again, the MD will only be involved at the Development phase.
- 2.There will be no Public Consultation with any of the applications for a Class 1 pit.... Continued on pg. 4

Council Message

Continued...

We continue to submit our concerns to the GOA and AEPA..

Council will be attending the **RMA Conference in Edmonton Nov 2 – Nov 5th** where we will bring many of our concerns and hopefully get some meetings with Ministers – i.e. Transportation & Economic Corridors, etc.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Foote Family (Fort Macleod Div 1) – Calgary Stampede BMO Farm Family for 2026

Connor Lucas – 2026 Canadian Jr. High School Rodeo Champion – Light Rifle

Councillor Brian Nelson – Stavely's Citizen of the Year for 2026

CAO Derrick Krizsan – newly elected Vice Chair of ARMAA – (Alberta Rural Municipalities Administrators)

Blessed Thanksgiving on October 12th

Council is very thankful for our C.A.O., administration and staff and the fantastic work they do all year. MORE importantly, we are grateful for the opportunity to serve you.

Happy Spooky Halloween – October 31st

Legacy of Our Land Banquet – Mark your Calendars for **Friday November 6, 2026** – Stavely Community Center, Stavely

Your Council,
Glen Alm, Evan Berger, Cecilie Fleming, Earl Hemmaway, Brian Nelson, Maryanne Sandberg, John Van Driesten

Did you know ?

✓ The MD of Willow Creek covers more than 4,485 square kilometres of southern Alberta, making it one of the larger rural municipalities in the region.

✓ More than 6,000 people call the MD home, with a population density of only about 1.4 people per square kilometre. That means lots of open space and wide-open views!

YOUR 2026 COUNCIL

DIVISION 1

JOHN VAN DRIESTEN

403 382 1963

john.vandriesten@mdwillowcreek.com



DIVISION 2

CECILIE FLEMING

403 625 1124

cecilie.fleming@mdwillowcreek.com



DIVISION 3

MARYANNE SANDBERG

403 553 2141 | Cell 403 894 2147

maryanne.sandberg@mdwillowcreek.com



DIVISION 4

GLEN ALM

403 625 2154

glen.alm@mdwillowcreek.com



DIVISION 5

EARL HEMMAWAY

403 625 6286

earl.hemmaway@mdwillowcreek.com



DIVISION 6

EVAN BERGER

403 646 3097 | Cell 403 682 9772

evan.berger@mdwillowcreek.com



DIVISION 7

BRIAN NELSON

403 625 0965

brian.nelson@mdwillowcreek.com



Announcements and Rural News Roundup



— YOU'RE INVITED! —
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DECEMBER 1, 2026
6:30 – 8:30 PM

MD of Willow Creek Administration Building
273129 Sec Hwy 520 West
Box 550
Clareholm, AB T0L 0T0
www.wccrwa.ca
willowcreek@ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:
Signs that your property is targeted.
Learn what to look for and how to protect what matters most.

Stronger Communities Start with Informed & Connected Neighbours

EDUCATION • KNOWLEDGE • SUPPORT
Working together for a safer rural community.

GET INVOLVED. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
Everyone has a role in keeping our rural community safe!

Everyone is welcome!
We look forward to seeing you there.

By working together, we build stronger, safer, and more connected communities across the M.D. of Willow Creek.



Did you know...

Council Meetings are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC?!

Regular Council meetings are open to the public and are typically held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Please refer to the meeting schedule to the right for specific dates.

Individuals or groups wishing to make a presentation to Council are encouraged to contact the Municipal Office at 403-625-3351 prior to the meeting date to arrange a delegation time.

Council meeting agendas are available before each meeting and can be accessed on the Municipal website at <http://www.mdwillowcreek.com> or picked up in person at the Municipal Office.

Your local government is here to serve you, and public participation is always welcome.

Administration Office Holiday Closures

Monday October 12 – Thanksgiving

Wednesday November 11 – Remembrance Day

December 25 – Christmas Day

December 28 – Office Closure

January 1 – New Years Day

MD of Willow Creek Council Meeting Dates

September 9th September 23rd

10:00 a.m. – Agricultural Service Board

11:30 a.m. – Council Meeting

October 14

10:00 a.m. – Municipal Planning Meeting

11:30 a.m. – Council Meeting

October 28

9:00 a.m. – Agricultural Service Board

10:30 a.m. – Organizational Meeting of Council

1:00 p.m. Council Meeting

November 10

9:00 a.m. – Municipal Planning Meeting

11:00 a.m. – Council Meeting

November 25

9:00 a.m. – Agricultural Service Board

11:00 a.m. – Council Meeting

December 9

10:00 a.m. – Municipal Planning Meeting

11:30 a.m. – Council Meeting

December 16

10:00 a.m. – Agricultural Service Board

11:30 a.m. – Council Meeting

Announcements and Rural News Roundup

Rural Residents Recycling Collection Update

Beginning October 1, 2026, you may notice some changes to the recycling collection sites.

The current recycling trailers will be replaced with recycling bins, resulting in a new look and collection setup.

For recycling collection inquiries, please contact Collective Waste Solutions at: 587-855-3928 or by email at : cmcustomerservices@collectivewaste.ca. To learn what materials are accepted and not accepted for recycling, please visit circularmaterials.ca/granum.

Thank you for your cooperation as this transition takes place.

Photo of the Month



Congratulations to Mary Roelofsen, the MD of Willow Creek's August

"Photo of the Month" Winner!

Thank you for capturing and sharing the beauty of our community through your lens.



SOME OF OUR FAVORITE HONORABLE MENTIONS



PHOTO CONTEST THEME FOR SEPTEMBER IS: HARVEST
OCTOBER'S THEME IS : STORMS
SEND YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO: MDPHOTOS@MDWILLOWCREEK.COM

A Huge Announcement for Legacy of Our Land!

Turn to Page 35 to discover who our incredible guest speaker will be!



2026 PROPERTY TAX REMINDER



Don't Miss the Deadline!

**PROPERTY TAXES DUE:
DUE NOVEMBER 2, 2026**



AVOID LATE PENALTIES

Payments must be received by **November 2, 2026**, to avoid penalty charges.



ONLINE BANKING



THROUGH YOUR FINANCIAL INSTITUTION



BY MAIL



IN PERSON AT THE MD OFFICE

Plan Ahead. Stay Ahead.



A friendly reminder from your Municipal District.

Payment Options

ONLINE BANKING

Use your account number.

E-TRANSFER

Payments@mdwillowcreek.com

CREDIT CARD

Pay online. Fees apply.

IN PERSON

Cash, cheque, debit or credit.

DROP-SLOT

Beside the front doors.

TIPP

Monthly automatic payments.

ONLINE BANKING PAYEE CHART

BANKING INSTITUTION	PAYEE NAME
ATB Financial	MD of Willow Creek No 26
Bank of Montreal (BMO)	Willow Creek No 26, the Municipal District of - Tax
CIBC	Willow Creek MD No 26
Central 1 Credit Union	Willow Creek No26
Royal Bank	MD OF WILLOW CREEK NO 26
Scotia Bank	District of Willow Creek No 26 Tax
TD Canada Trust	Willow Creek #26 (Mun Dist of) Taxes

Pay on time and avoid late fees and penalties

Agricultural Service Board

Agricultural Service Board Contacts

Municipal District of Willow Creek No. 26



273129 Secondary Highway 520

Box 550

Main Office:

(403)-625-3351

Carla Preachuk

Director of Agricultural Services

Extension: **229**

(403)-625-1656

carla@mdwillowcreek.com

Ryan Dovell

Asst. Agricultural Fieldman/Enviro. Tech.

Extension: **249**

(403)-682-7834

ryan.dovell@mdwillowcreek.com

Agricultural Succession Planning and Estate Administration

Workshop Details:

Date:

October 28th, 2026

RSVP Deadline - October 27th

Time:

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Location:

Claresholm Community

Centre - Lodge Room

(690 59th Ave W, Claresholm, AB)



Walsh LLP



To register, please call/text:

Carla - 403-625-1656 | Ryan - 403-682-7834

Wild Boar Update

Not yet found in the MD of Willow Creek



39 Reports received in 2026 (across Alberta)

- 14 wild boar (3 confirmed)
- 20 Domestic type
- 5 Non *Sus scrofa*
- 31 wild boar removed in 2026 (across Alberta)

No reports outside of the known areas of concern



Strychnine Update

Emergency Use Registration

- September 1st marked the end of the strychnine application window for 2026.
- While shipping restraints held back many producers from accessing this product, it will be available February 2027
- Producer's will be required to complete an updated Stewardship Training Certificate in 2027. We will keep you notified when the training is available.

Remember if you purchased strychnine this year, the evaluation forms are due by **October 15th** (regardless of whether you used all of your product or not).

Completed evaluation forms can be emailed to:

Carla@mdwillowcreek.com or dropped off at the MD office

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.alberta.ca/richardsons-ground-squirrel-control#strychnine-access>

SCAN
ME!





The MD of Willow Creek was proud to support the 23rd annual SAGSW, held July 22-23rd, at the Cassils Community Centre.

This year, 40 participants and 8 guest speakers dove into virtual fencing, riparian health, and soil management.

A highlight of the event was our local ranching women's panel sharing powerful stories of land stewardship. Most importantly, attendees left with actionable tools to transform their grazing management at home!



ASB Rental Equipment

To book, please call:

Carla @ 403-625-1656

Ryan @ 403-682-7834

Gary @ 403-625-6095

Soil Conservation Equipment



Hagedorn 2277 421 bushel
Manure Spreader
\$300.00/day

*Min. tractor requirement = 100hp
*Horizontal drum / PTO = 1000



Handheld Broadcast
Seeder
No Charge

Livestock Equipment



Portable Norac 41-12L
Livestock Scale w/ Digital
Head
\$100.00/day

*2-inch hitch ball required



SmartReader - HR3 Handheld
Livestock ID Reader (Battery)
No Charge

*Max use - 3 consecutive days
*USB converter cable &
Bluetooth adapter incl.

Vegetation Management Equipment



15L Herbicide
Backpack Sprayer
No Charge

*Max use = 2
consecutive weeks

450L Skid Herbicide
Sprayer
\$30.00/day



450L Skid Tree
Sprayer w/ high
volume pump
\$30.00/day

These units will fit in the back of a ½ ton truck

Animal Control Equipment



Skunk/Raccoon
Live Trap
No Charge



Magpie Traps
(Small and Large)
No Charge



Pressurized
Exhaust Rodent
Controller
(P.E.R.C.-412)
\$200.00/day

BMO Farm Family – Foote Farms (Biography from the Calgary Stampede)

Hardships in farming demand a certain grit and toughness to come out stronger on the other side. However, through those difficult seasons, there are often opportunities for growth that forge true strength and joy. For the Foote family – the 2026 BMO Farm Family from the MD of Willow Creek No. 26 – the past generations have brought periods of good times, but also many challenges, especially for their parents, Melvin and Edith Foote. It was their resilience that made a lasting impact on the generations who followed. “Our farm life has taught us not only the value of work, but the joy that comes with doing,” shares Stuart.

Foote Family Farms consists of five separate entities: Duane Foote Farms Ltd., operated by Duane and Heather Foote; Stuart Foote Land and Cattle Corp., operated by Stuart and Susan Foote; Gurney Land and Livestock, operated by Wes and Carolyn Gurney; Byron Foote Farms Ltd., operated by Byron and Sarah Foote; and Melede Farms Ltd., operated by Patrick and Christina Foote.

The Foote family's ancestors arrived from Utah in the early 1900s to homestead in southern Alberta. Stuart and Duane's great-grandfather, Abraham Wilde, homesteaded in 1902. His 21-year-old son, Jesse, was a great help in working on the farm, but returned to Utah about 20 years later to visit friends. While there, Jesse convinced his friend, Eldred Foote, who had just married, to continue farther north than his original plan of Burley, Idaho, and homestead in Alberta instead. Eldred Foote purchased his homestead in Welling, Alberta, in 1920. Later, Eldred's son, Melvin Foote, married Edith, the daughter of Jesse – the man who had convinced Eldred to come to Alberta. Melvin and Edith grew up in thriving farm operations and were given the opportunity to get started on their own, about 50 miles from their parents.

Once they started out on their own, Melvin and Edith faced their share of difficult times. They settled in a valley near the river, where they dealt with repeated flooding and two fires within a four-year span. This was also during the 1960s, when grain farming was challenging. However, raising and milking Brown Swiss cows helped pull them through those difficult years. At first... Continued on Pg. 11



Foote Family Continued...

they sold cream to buy groceries for the family. Then, in the 1970s, they applied for milk quota and built a small herd of about 50 cows. The dairy operation stabilized their income, and slowly, things got better. Melvin and Edith ran the dairy operation for 23 years, until the family decided to sell it in 2000 and reinvest the money in irrigated land.

Brothers Duane and Stuart followed in their father's farming footsteps, but each took a slightly different path to get there. Stuart had an opportunity to rent land in 1978, and Duane joined his father in the operation in 1983. Stuart initially had more work capacity than land, so he also helped his father and brother. "I was their best resource for manpower," Stuart chuckles. In 1987 and 1991, Stuart bought more land and grew his operation, but the three of them continued to help one another. Later, Stuart's children also joined the family career – Carolyn in 2004, Byron in 2005 and Patrick in 2006.

Today, the five different farms crop about 7,000 acres of rented and owned land, including 1,750 irrigated acres. They grow peas, durum, spring wheat, canola and mustard. Wes and Carolyn also have a purebred Angus herd of 120 head and have an annual production sale each spring. They also custom feed up to 500 short-keep cattle. In addition, Stuart and Susan have 40 purebred Braunvieh cows, a breed especially popular in the Mexican market prior to BSE. Stuart now keeps the herd registered more as a hobby but still enjoys the breed's characteristics and the beef it provides.

The Footes have employed various farming practices over the past 60 years, including direct seeding technology, satellite guidance and advances in irrigation. Their irrigation started with Melvin using 20-foot hand-move pipes in the 1950s, progressed to flood irrigation on machine-levelled land, and later moved to pivots. Most recently, they utilize variable rate controls to regulate water application rates on oversaturated spots in an effort to increase productivity.

However, looking back, one of the most unique and pivotal practices has been bagging silage, a method the family began using in 1979. They quickly found that bagged alfalfa silage offered better quality and consistency than the barley silage they had previously relied on. They started to cut three times per year and discovered that when they fed their dairy cattle the third cut, the cows had little interest in consuming the grain in the milking parlour because they were already satisfied.

"Bagging silage was the most significant move we made," reflects Stuart. "We got more production off the same acres, and better, more consistent quality. No matter what conditions occurred in the growing season, there was never a question about the quality of the feed." While they do not have dairy cows to feed today, they are still bagging silage for their cow-calf herds and custom-fed cattle. Their grandchildren's 4-H cattle also achieve strong gains on it.

Community is what brought the Foote family to Alberta, so it's no surprise...Continued on Pg. 12

Agricultural Service Board

Foote Family Continued...

The community remains a core part of the family today. Melvin and Edith were very community-minded, serving as 4-H and Boy Scout leaders, helping with the Fort Macleod centennial celebrations and serving in leadership roles at church and with the Canadian Brown Swiss Association. The Foote family continues that legacy through their church, coaching, 4-H, local farm organizations and Boy Scouts. Some of these highlights include: Stuart serving as a Boy Scout leader for 25 years and as a board member for the Southern Water Users Association for 23 years; Wes coaching for more than 20 years in Fort Macleod; and Duane and Heather recently completing an 18-month mission in Japan.

The Foote family is grateful not only for the support they have in one another, but also for the opportunity to experience the joy of this lifestyle together. "Our ability to come together in the critical seasons of the year and get the job done is a great blessing," states Stuart.

Congratulations!



**FOOTHILLS FORAGE
AND GRAZING ASSOCIATION**

AGRICULTURE & SIGHTSEEING TOUR NEW ZEALAND

February 13 - March 4, 2027

Experience one of the world's most beautiful countries, New Zealand, known for its stunning forests, mountains, lakes, beaches, and fjords. This 18-day itinerary explores both the South and North Islands, combining vibrant cultural cities with immersive agricultural visits and farm experiences. The journey concludes with a relaxing stay in Fiji, offering time to unwind and enjoy the Pacific.

PRICING - TWIN RATE FOR LAND ARRANGEMENTS
Prices vary depending on group size

Group 30-34 travellers (twin rate) - \$10,199 per person
Group 25-29 travellers (twin rate) - \$10,688 per person
Group 20-24 travellers (twin rate) - \$10,989 per person

FLIGHTS

International Flights will be booked once we have final numbers to request group flights. Approximate pricing for flights are \$1954 per person

Domestic Flights from Christchurch to Queenstown and Palmerston North will be approximately \$382 per person

For full itinerary, visit: www.foothillsforage.com/NZ



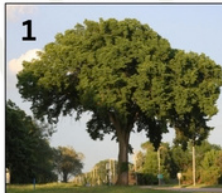
To book, contact Lawrence Rowley at:
403.764.2044 or lawrence@leadertours.ca



Dutch Elm Disease STOPPED

In Alberta, two species of Elm trees (*not native*) are affected by Dutch Elm Disease:

1. **American Elm (*most susceptible*)**
(Credit: Steven Katovich - Bugwood.org)
2. **Siberian Elm**
(Credit: Patrick Breen - Oregon State University)



Dutch Elm Disease is caused by a fungus that clogs the elm tree's water conducting system, causing the tree to die. This fungus is primarily spread from one elm tree to another via three beetle species.

How to spot it:

- Leaves suddenly wilt, droop and curl
- Leaves turn yellow, then brown, but stay on trees
- When bark is peeled back, dark brown or red streaks can be seen

Prevention is Key!

1. **Don't Move Elm Wood**
Elm firewood can carry beetles that spread Dutch elm disease. Dispose of elm wood properly and avoid transporting it.
2. **Prune at the Right Time**
Avoid pruning elms from **April 1 to September 30**, when beetles are most active.
3. **Watch and Report Early**
Look for wilting, yellowing, or browning leaves, especially on one branch or section of the tree. Report concerns promptly to help prevent spread.



SCAN HERE



SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Resources, Programs, and Best Practices for Producers in the MD of Willow Creek

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE AGRICULTURAL GRANT FUNDING



Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP)

On-Farm Value Added

Provides funding for:

- Processing Capacity Expansion
- Food Safety Improvement
- New Product and Process Development
- Market Development and Access

Water Program

Provides funding for:

- On-farm Irrigation
- On-farm Water Supply



Learn More:

alberta.ca/on-farm-value-added-program
alberta.ca/water-program



Watershed Legacy Program

Through the Watershed Legacy Program, Oldman Watershed Council (OWC) works directly with rural stakeholders and provides funds, tools, and technical assistance necessary to take steps toward sustainable land management.



Learn More:

oldmanwatershed.ca/project/watershed-restoration-sustainable-land-management



AGRICULTURAL OPERATION PRACTICES ACT

The MD of Willow Creek is home to significant livestock production, forage acreage, and crop farming operations. Careful nutrient management helps protect agricultural productivity, supports good neighbour relations, and preserves local water resources while ensuring producers remain compliant with provincial legislation.



Follow required manure and nutrient application setbacks from residences, wells, and water bodies.



Keep accurate manure storage, transport, and land application records.



Avoid spreading where runoff could impact surface water or groundwater.



Review recent AOPA updates regarding digestate and approved organic materials.



Planning a new or expanding Confined Feeding Operation (CFO)? Contact the NRCB early in the process.



More Information: alberta.ca/manure-management-guidelines-and-legislation



INSECT PEST MONITORING

Each year, Agricultural Services participates in several monitoring and survey activities. This includes:

Bertha Armyworm Monitoring

A significant insect pest of canola. We monitor numbers captured in pheromone traps and send the data to Alberta Pest Monitoring Network to assess whether an outbreak is likely.

Learn More:

alberta.ca/bertha-armyworm-overview



GRASSHOPPER SURVEY

Grasshoppers can impose a massive amount of damage to both crop and pasture when their population explodes.

We collect field and crop count data from approximately 10-11 sites throughout the MD, we also sweep net counts and identify any grasshoppers caught in the net. This data is also sent off to be analyzed.

Learn More:

alberta.ca/grasshopper



CROP DISEASE MONITORING

We also complete crop surveys and send samples to the province that are analyzed for potential diseases.

We complete these surveys on:

- 9 wheat fields
Testing is completed for Ergot, Bunt, Smut, and various strains of Fusarium
- 2 barley fields
Testing is completed for Ergot, Smut, and various strains of Fusarium
- 7 canola fields
Testing is completed for Blackleg, Clubroot, and Verticillium

Learn More:

alberta.ca/crop-diseases



SOIL CONSERVATION: A FALL STEWARDSHIP REMINDER

The Alberta Soil Conservation Act encourages landowners and occupants to take appropriate measures to prevent soil erosion and maintain the long-term productivity of agricultural land.

Healthy soils are essential to the long-term sustainability of agriculture in the MD of Willow Creek. Stewardship efforts today help preserve productive farmland and rangeland for future generations.

Learn More:

alberta.ca/soil-health-management-resources



Healthy soils. Clean water. Strong communities.
Working together today for a sustainable tomorrow.

For more information on Agriculture Services in the MD of Willow Creek, please visit:

mdwillowcreek.com



Celebrating 70 years of the MD of Willow Creek



In 2026, the MD of Willow Creek Agricultural Service Board (ASB) proudly celebrates 70 years of serving agriculture, rural residents, and the land that sustains our communities.

When Council established the Agricultural Service Board on February 18, 1956, its mission was simple: provide local leadership on agricultural issues and support producers facing the challenges of the day. Just nine days later, the first ASB meeting was held, marking the beginning of a long tradition of agricultural stewardship and innovation.

Looking back through decades of meeting minutes reveals a fascinating history of a Board that was always willing to adapt to the changing needs of agriculture.

In its earliest years, the ASB focused heavily on weed control, roadside spraying, pest management, and livestock health programs. By 1957, weed inspectors had been hired and the Agricultural Fieldman was granted authority under provincial weed and pest legislation. The Board also played an important role in the establishment of a Brucellosis Restricted Area, supported by an overwhelming majority of local producers.



The ASB's work quickly expanded beyond weeds and pests. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, the Board supported seed cleaning plants in Nanton and Granum, sponsored 4-H champion calf awards, encouraged conservation initiatives, investigated municipal park development, and even explored cooperative septic tank servicing for rural residents.

Innovation has always been a hallmark of the Willow Creek ASB. Throughout the years, the Board embraced new technology and new approaches to solving agricultural challenges. Demonstration plots were established to evaluate emerging herbicides, livestock disease control programs were implemented, and the municipality became an early participant in soil conservation initiatives. By the 1970s, the ASB was distributing shelterbelt trees at one of the highest rates in Alberta and supporting producers through programs focused on salinity, forage development, and pest control.



The Board also developed practical programs that producers could use directly. Over the years, the ASB purchased livestock scales, hoof-trimming equipment, spraying equipment, traps, and other rental tools that helped producers improve efficiency while reducing individual costs. Many residents will remember borrowing ASB equipment as a valued local service.

Continued Pg. 16

Celebrating 70 years of the MD of Willow Creek Agricultural Service Board

Environmental stewardship has remained a constant priority. Historical records show the ASB addressing salinity concerns, promoting soil conservation, supporting forage production, monitoring invasive weeds, and pioneering biological control methods such as flea beetles for leafy spurge management. Long before environmental stewardship became a common term, the ASB was actively working to protect the land for future generations.

Producer education has also been central to the Board's success. From tractor maintenance schools and grazing workshops to agricultural awareness initiatives in schools, the ASB has consistently invested in sharing knowledge and building capacity within the agricultural community.



The minutes also provide a glimpse into how agriculture and technology evolved over time. In the early years, the Board discussed cameras for weed identification and four-wheel-drive trucks for field work. By the 1990s, discussions had shifted to computers, email, GIS mapping, and eventually municipal websites. In 2005, GPS technology was installed in ASB spray trucks, demonstrating the Board's commitment to modernizing service delivery.



Through changing markets, weather events, livestock diseases, invasive species, technological advances, and evolving producer needs, one thing has remained unchanged: the ASB's commitment to supporting agriculture in the MD of Willow Creek.

As we celebrate 70 years, we recognize the many Agricultural Fieldmen, Board members, Councils, staff, and producers who have contributed their time, knowledge, and leadership. Their dedication has helped shape a resilient agricultural community and a strong legacy of stewardship, innovation, and service.

Here's to 70 years of agricultural service and stewardship in the MD of Willow Creek, and to the generations that will continue that legacy into the future.

ASB Fun Facts...

Some of the most interesting items from the minutes could be highlighted in sidebars:

- 1956:First ASB Supervisor hired for \$3,000 per year.
- 1963:Request for a camera to photograph weeds and agricultural issues.
- 1967:Concern raised about the spread of Downy Brome.

- 1977:Willow Creek was among Alberta's leaders in shelterbelt tree distribution.
- 1993:Debate over buying the ASB's first computer.
- 1996:Fieldman McLean's comment about learning the "&*\$#@~ new computer and phone system."
- 2005:GPS technology installed in ASB spray trucks

CURRENT ANIMAL & CROP HEALTH ALERT

Harvest Season Outlook for **WILLOW CREEK PRODUCERS**



ANIMAL HEALTH



AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI):

Recent Alberta poultry cases were reported elsewhere in the province in 2026. Poultry producers should continue enhanced biosecurity, particularly during wild bird migration periods.



CROP/PLANT HEALTH



STRIPE RUST: Active reports continue across southern Alberta, with conditions favorable for spread in susceptible wheat varieties. Producers in the Willow Creek region should remain vigilant and scout cereal crops regularly.



CANOLA DISEASE RISK: Regional alerts indicate elevated risk for sclerotinia stem rot, while blackleg and verticillium stripe remain ongoing concerns across Alberta canola production areas.



PULSE CROP DISEASES: Wet conditions in parts of Alberta have increased concerns regarding Aphanomyces root rot and Ascochyta blight, particularly where peas, lentils, or chickpeas are grown.



LOCAL OUTLOOK



CURRENT RISK LEVEL:
LOW TO MODERATE

No significant disease emergency has been identified specifically within the MD of Willow Creek. Current concerns are primarily preventative and monitoring focused.



Producers are encouraged to scout cereals, canola, and pulse crops closely through harvest and fall planning, and maintain strong poultry biosecurity. No major local livestock disease outbreaks have been reported.



AGRONOMY BATTLES: Claresholm



OCTOBER 22



1:00 PM – 3:00 PM



CLARESHOLM AGRIPLEX
Claresholm, AB



PUT YOUR AGRONOMY KNOWLEDGE TO THE TEST!

Work as a team. Solve real-world agronomy challenges.
Learn, compete, and connect with local producers.



REGISTER ONLINE

www.farmingsmarter.com



BURN BARREL REQUIREMENTS



METAL MESH SCREEN

Openings no larger than 7 millimetres.
Must remain in place during combustion.



METAL CONTAINER

Used to contain combustible materials.
Must not exceed 185 litres in capacity.



NON-COMBUSTIBLE BASE

Barrel must be situated on a
non-combustible base.



SAFE LOCATION

Located so as not to endanger nearby
combustible materials or structures.

Residents are reminded that burn barrels and incinerators must comply with the requirements outlined in MD of Willow Creek Bylaw No. 1952 to help reduce the risk of unwanted fires and to protect our community.

A burn barrel must be a metal container used to contain combustible materials and must not exceed 185 litres in capacity. It must be equipped with a metal mesh screen with openings no larger than 7 millimetres, which must remain in place while burning. Burn barrels must also be located on a non-combustible base and situated so they do not pose a risk to nearby structures or combustible materials.

An incinerator must be a non-combustible structure, container, or barrel located a minimum of 5 metres (16.5 feet) from buildings, property lines, and combustible materials. It must be constructed of brick, concrete block, heavy-gauge metal (18-gauge minimum), or another suitable non-combustible material. The structure must be in good condition, free from holes or significant thinning caused by oxidation. Incinerators must be fitted with a 6 mm expanded metal spark arrestor screen (or equivalent) that remains in place at all times during burning. Flame height must not exceed 1 metre (3.28 feet) above the incinerator.

Within the MD of Willow Creek, all fires must be continuously supervised by a responsible adult, and an adequate supply of water to control or extinguish the fire if necessary.

By following these requirements, residents can help safeguard lives, property, and the community from preventable fires. For complete details and additional information, please refer to MD of Willow Creek Bylaw No. 1952.

BURN PERMITS

MD OF WILLOW CREEK

CLASS 1 BURN PERMIT



For small burns that are less than 10 ft x 10 ft x 5 ft in size.

CLASS 2 BURN PERMIT



For large burns that are 10 ft x 10 ft x 5 ft or larger.



ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS MAY APPLY TO CLASS 2 PERMITS



Limits on the number of fires allowed at one time.



Minimum firefighting equipment required on site.

OTHER IMPORTANT POINTS:



Burn permits are required year-round for most open burning activities.



Bylaw compliant burn barrels and incinerators do not require a burn permit.



Recreational campfires in a fire ring do not require a burn permit.



Fires must be supervised by a responsible adult.



Burning is not permitted when winds exceed 25 km/h or are gusting.



Only Class A combustibles (clean wood/paper products) may be burned.



Ensure all conditions of the burn permit are followed.



UNDER A FIRE RESTRICTION OR FIRE BAN,

burn permits may be suspended or cancelled, and all fires ignited under a burn permit must be extinguished immediately.



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY FOR A BURN PERMIT,
VISIT THE ONLINE BURN PERMIT SYSTEM AT

www.mdwillowcreek.com



STAY INFORMED WITH THE ALBERTA EMERGENCY ALERT APP!

EMERGENCY ALERTS WHEN EVERY MINUTE COUNTS



WILDFIRES



SEVERE
WEATHER



FLOODS



HAZARDOUS
MATERIAL
INCIDENTS



EVACUATION
ORDERS



The **FREE** Alberta Emergency Alert App delivers **fast, reliable** notifications about emergencies and disasters that may affect your community.



Customize notifications for multiple locations across Alberta, so you can stay informed about the places that matter most.



The app complements alerts broadcast through radio, television, and social media.



**CRITICAL
INFORMATION
QUICKLY**
WHEN EVERY
MINUTE COUNTS



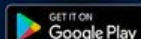
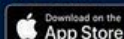
**BE PREPARED.
STAY INFORMED.**



DOWNLOAD TODAY:

alberta.ca/emergencyalert

AVAILABLE FOR



HARVEST SEASON Safety Reminder

FROM WILLOW THE FIRE BISON

Hello, friends!

Harvest season is one of the busiest and most rewarding times of the year, but it's also a time when the risk of field fires increases. A little preparation can go a long way in keeping your family, equipment, crops and community safe!



INSPECT & MAINTAIN EQUIPMENT

Regularly inspect and maintain equipment. Check for worn bearings, damaged belts or electrical issues that could spark a fire.



BE PREPARED

Keep fire extinguishers fully charged and easily accessible in all vehicles and equipment. Have water tanks or other firefighting tools ready in the field.



PARK SAFELY

Avoid parking hot machinery on dry grass or stubble.



WATCH THE WEATHER

Monitor conditions, especially wind and humidity. Warm temperatures, low humidity and strong winds can quickly turn a small spark into a fast-moving fire.

Stay safe, have a successful harvest,
**AND LET'S KEEP OUR FIELDS AND
COMMUNITIES FIRE-SAFE!**



DID YOU KNOW? FIRESMART PLANTS CAN HELP INCREASE **RESILIENCE TO WILDFIRE** ON YOUR PROPERTY

Meet the Showy Stonecrop

There's still colour to be found in the garden, thanks to this FireSmart plant: **Showy Stonecrop!**

This pretty perennial succulent is an excellent **fire-resistant plant**. As a late season bloomer, it brings color when other plants are fading. The striking clusters of pink flowers sit on top of upright stems, offering nectar that attracts birds, bees and butterflies.



While pollinators love it, deer and rabbits generally dislike the plant's rubbery foliage. Thanks to the thick water-storing leaves and stems, this succulent is harder to ignite, making it well-suited to the **intermediate zone**.

Showy stonecrop grows **30 to 60 cm** tall depending on the cultivar, does well in poor soils, and is extremely cold hardy, though it will not tolerate standing water. It is a good choice for a hot, sunny, xeriscape garden.

WHY IT'S A GREAT CHOICE:

- ✓ Fire-resistant succulent
- ✓ Attracts birds, bees, and butterflies
- ✓ Drought tolerant and low maintenance
- ✓ Thrives in poor soils
- ✓ Extremely cold hardy
- ✓ Adds late-season colour to the landscape



FIRESMART TIP

Choosing fire-resistant plants can help reduce wildfire risk around your home while creating a beautiful, pollinator-friendly landscape.



Learn more about FireSmart landscaping at:
firesmartalberta.ca



HAY STORAGE & RISK OF SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION

Every year, farm and ranch operations experience haystack and barn fires that begin without a spark or open flame. While not common, spontaneous combustion in stored hay is a very real hazard and can result in the loss of livestock feed, buildings, equipment, and even lives.



THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN PREVENTING SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION IS PROPER MOISTURE MANAGEMENT.

As a general guideline:

- 1 Small square bales should be below approx. 20% moisture.
- 2 Large round and square bales generally require lower moisture levels.
- 3 Hay that feels damp, unusually heavy, or was baled shortly after a rain event deserves extra attention.



INDICATORS THAT HAY MAY BE HEATING INTERNALLY:



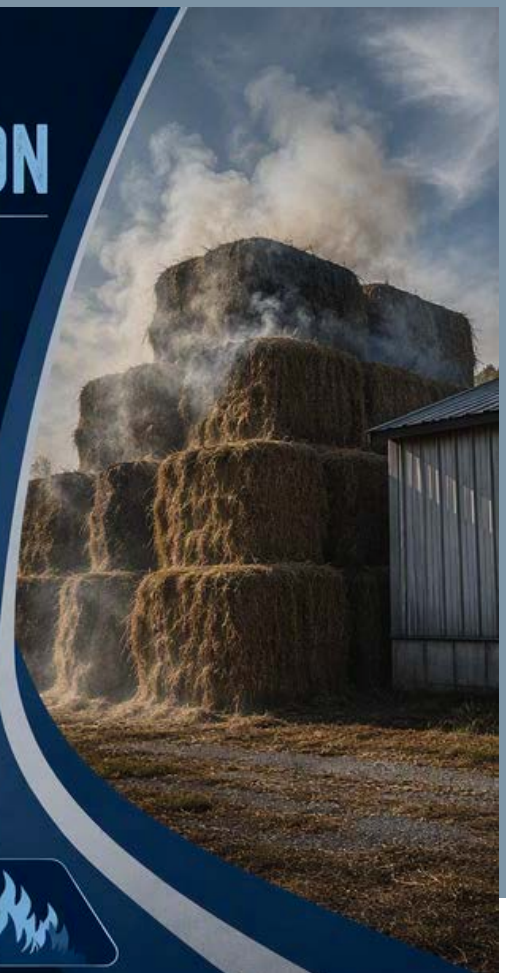
- 1 A strong musty or caramel-like smell.
- 2 Visible steam or condensation near the stack.
- 3 Mould growth.
- 4 Hay that feels unusually warm when probed.



BEST PRACTICES FOR REDUCING FIRE RISK IN STORAGE:



- 1 Store in a dry, well-ventilated location.
- 2 Leave space between stacks to improve airflow.
- 3 Separate newly baled hay from older cured hay whenever possible.



If hay temperatures are rising rapidly or smoke is visible, use extreme caution. Moving overheated hay can introduce oxygen into the stack and cause a smoldering hot spot to flare into an active fire. What may appear to be a minor issue can escalate quickly.



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

OCTOBER 4-10, 2026

CHARGE INTO FIRE SAFETY™

SAFE CHARGING IS A SUPERPOWER™



CHEAP CHARGER? DON'T CHANCE IT.

Use only the charger that came with your device or one approved by the manufacturer.



FEELS HOT? STOP USING IT.

If a device becomes unusually hot, swells, smokes, or smells strange, stop using it immediately.



FULLY CHARGED? TIME TO UNPLUG.

Unplug devices when charging is complete. Don't leave them plugged in longer than necessary.



SOFT SURFACE? HARD PASS.

Charge devices on hard, flat surfaces, not on beds, couches, or under pillows.



FOR TOOLS & RIDES, CHARGE OUTSIDE.

When possible, charge larger battery-powered equipment such as power tools, e-bikes, and scooters outside and away from exits.



ON A FLIGHT? KEEP IT IN SIGHT.

Keep charging devices where they can be monitored and follow airline safety requirements.



FIRE SAFETY STARTS AT HOME, IN THE SHOP, AND ON THE FARM.

Small charging habits today can help prevent fires tomorrow.

NEW TRAFFIC SAFETY BYLAW

SAFER ROADS. STRONGER COMMUNITIES. SHARED RESPONSIBILITY.



Council has recently adopted a new Traffic Safety Bylaw that modernizes local traffic regulations, improves public safety, and provides clearer rules for parking, emergency scenes, recreational vehicles, and highway use throughout the M.D. of Willow Creek.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FOR RESIDENTS:

- 1  **HEAVY VEHICLE PARKING CONTROLS:**
New provisions regulate the parking of heavy vehicles to reduce visibility concerns and traffic hazards in hamlets.
- 2  **RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARKING:**
Rules govern recreational vehicles parked on municipal roadways and storage areas, including location, restrictions, and permitted equipment.
- 3  **VEHICLE NOISE:**
New vehicle noise provisions reduce excessive or unnecessary noise that may disturb residents and negatively impact community quality of life.
- 4  **PARKING RESTRICTIONS EXPANDED:**
Clear parking setbacks and restrictions improve traffic flow and visibility, including prohibitions against parking in unsafe or restricted areas.
- 5  **NO PARKING IN HAZARDOUS LOCATIONS:**
Prohibited areas include: within 1.5 m of driveways, stop signs, crosswalks, and curb-access ramps, within 3 m of fire hydrants, on sidewalks or boulevards, near rail crossings, bridges, culverts, utility infrastructure, or field approaches, and in locations that block emergency exits, traffic control devices, or create safety hazards.
- 6  **ACCESSIBLE PARKING ENFORCEMENT IN HAMLETS:**
Accessible parking stalls in hamlets are reserved for vehicles displaying a valid accessible parking placard or approved licence plate. Misuse or improper display of permits is prohibited.
- 7  **INOPERABLE AND UNROADWORTHY VEHICLES:**
Vehicles may not be parked on a highway if inoperable, improperly equipped, or stored for repair or services. This keeps public roadways safe and unobstructed.
- 8  **PEDESTRIAN SAFETY:**
Pedestrians must travel facing oncoming traffic where no sidewalks are available and use the shoulder of the highway whenever possible. Hitchhiking along municipal highways is prohibited.
- 9  **UNAUTHORIZED CAMPING:**
Prohibits unauthorized camping and temporary shelter structures on municipal highways and public areas. Supports public safety and protects municipal infrastructure.
- 10  **EMERGENCY SCENE SAFETY:**
Provides the Fire Chief, Peace Officer, and emergency personnel with authority to establish traffic control, close roads, direct traffic, and ensure safe access to emergency scenes. Residents must comply with directions from emergency responders.

WE ALL PLAY A ROLE
IN KEEPING OUR ROADS
SAFE.



RESPECT
OUR RULES



KEEP CLEAR
STAY SAFE



LOOK OUT
FOR EACH OTHER



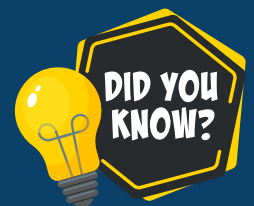
PARK ACCESSIBLY
PARK RESPONSIBLY



EMERGENCY
RESPONDERS
COUNT ON YOUR
COOPERATION



Residents are encouraged to review the full Traffic Safety Bylaw on the M.D. of Willow Creek website to learn more about the new regulations and how they help support the safety and well-being of our community.



The MD of
Willow
Creek
Traffic
Bylaw
No. 2050
was
adopted by
Council on
September
9, 2026.



The new Traffic Safety Bylaw is about more than rules and regulations. It reflects the commitment of creating safer roads, protecting emergency responders, and maintaining accessible and respectful public spaces for everyone.

After all, **community safety** is
a **shared responsibility**.
Thank you for doing your part!



MD of Willow Creek Enforcement Services

SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING



REPORT CONCERNS 24/7
Enforcement Services Complaint Line

(403) 625 2248

Your observations help keep our communities safe.

REPORT:



Bylaw Concerns



Animal Control Issues



Abandoned Vehicles



Parking Complaints



Noise Complaints



Nuisance Properties



AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK

The Enforcement Services Complaint Line is monitored 24/7.

If a Peace Officer is not on duty at the time a complaint or concern is received, the next available Peace Officer will follow up within 24 hours of receiving the complaint.



Traffic safety
is everyone's
responsibility!

Community
Peace Officers
help keep our
roads, school
zones, and
communities
safe through
education,
enforcement,
and public
awareness. A
simple action
like slowing
down, wearing
your seatbelt,
or putting
away
distractions
can make a
big difference
in preventing
collisions and
protecting
lives.

BRIDGE FILE 963 REPLACEMENT PROJECT — MOVING FORWARD —

The MD of Willow Creek is pleased to announce that construction of the replacement for Bridge File 963 on Range Road 274 south of Township Road 120 is moving forward following the successful completion of engineering design, land acquisition, environmental approvals, and the contractor procurement process. The project represents a significant investment in the municipality's transportation infrastructure and will provide residents with a safer, more reliable crossing for generations to come.



A BRIDGE WITH MORE THAN A CENTURY OF HISTORY

Bridge File 963 has served the Willow Creek area for over 100 years. The original Pratt through-truss bridge was constructed between 1911 and 1913 following a petition for a bridge crossing submitted in 1905. Over the decades, the structure underwent several modifications, including being raised in 1962 and the addition of two approach spans, creating the three-span bridge that exists today.

The bridge has successfully carried local traffic through numerous flood events and changing transportation demands, becoming a familiar landmark for area residents and agricultural producers.



WHY REPLACEMENT IS NECESSARY

While the bridge has provided many decades of dependable service, ongoing inspections have identified significant deterioration. The structure currently carries a Structural Condition Rating of 33.3% and a Sufficiency Rating of 29.7%, reflecting both the age of the bridge and limitations related to width, height, and load capacity.

The existing bridge's narrow 4.2-metre width, restricted vertical clearance, and reduced load ratings present challenges for modern agricultural and commercial traffic. Replacing the bridge will improve safety, increase reliability, and better accommodate current transportation needs within the municipality.



The MD of Willow Creek appreciates the public's understanding and cooperation during construction and looks forward to delivering this important infrastructure investment for the community.

Building a Stronger Connection
FOR TODAY AND FOR GENERATIONS.

Infrastructure Improvements

The Council of the Municipal District of Willow Creek continue to work toward maintaining the quality of services within the Municipality through investment into important infrastructure that provides these services. Many projects were completed to date in 2026. Highlighted projects/initiatives are listed below:

- Claresholm Airport Cross Strip Renewal
 - o Renewing the surface and paint markings of an existing decommissioned runway
 - o The cross strip will act as a secondary runway to be used for emergency landings and when the wind direction is favorable
 - Range Road 241 – Selective Base Repairs and Overlay
 - o From the bottom of Moon River Estates to Highway 3
 - Range Road 263 – Widening, Grading, Base and Pave
 - o From Township Road 92 north 825 meters
 - Bridge Maintenance
 - o Maintenance on multiple bridges
 - o Major repair work on Bridge File 789 west of Granum
 - Granum Water Plant Commissioning (Funded by Hamlet of Granum Special Tax)
 - o Full recommissioning of existing water plant
 - Granum Lift Station Pump – Rebuild
 - o Rebuild of 1 sanitary sewer pump in the main lift station (Funded by Hamlet of Granum Special Tax)
 - Potable Water System Repairs
 - o Numerous repairs to the MD's potable water systems
 - Roadway Shoulder Pulls – Throughout the MD
 - o Numerous roads throughout the municipality received an overhaul with heavy maintenance to renew the roadway geometry
- Projects that are scheduled to commence in early October are:
- Granum Surfacing Works (Funded by Hamlet of Granum Special Tax)
 - o Railway Avenue
 - o Replace end of life roadway
 - Claresholm Airport Main Runway Lighting Replacement
 - o New runway lighting, wind socks, and ARCAL system
 - Bridge File 963 – Southwest of Claresholm
 - o A major bridge replacement valued at \$6.35 million
 - o Construction completion expected in mid 2027
 - Grant applications will be submitted prior to the end of November for numerous projects and will proceed if successful in gaining grant funding
 - o Airport tiedown area
 - o 3 Bridges
 - o Roadway widening – Township Road 92
 - o Roadway base/pave – Township Road 122
- All in all, the municipality had another successful construction season with the help of internal forces, contractors, and consultants as required. We look forward to continued progress and a productive construction program for the remainder of 2026 and again in 2027. If you have any questions regarding the projects please call our office at 403-625-3351.



Moon River Drive
Deep Strength Repair



Moon River Drive
Finishing Work



Range Road 263
Base work



Range Road 263
Grading and Utility Relocation

Alberta Safety Code Permits

BUILDING • ELECTRICAL • GAS • PLUMBING • PRIVATE SEWAGE



Permits are required.

The Safety Codes Act requires that contractors and homeowners in Alberta obtain permits before beginning work on structures and systems covered under the Safety Codes Act. This work typically includes new construction, installations, alterations, repairs, renovations, relocations, changes of use, solar systems, demolitions and removals.

Accredited agencies.

The Municipal District has contracted three accredited safety code agencies to provide knowledge, support, experience and qualified professionals for all safety code disciplines.



Phone:
403-329-3747



Toll Free:
1-800-621-5440



Email:
contact@parkinspections.com



www.parkenterprises.ca



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SAFETY CODES INC.**

PERMITS & INSPECTIONS



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Toll Free:
1-877-320-0734



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info@superiorsafetycodes.com



www.superiorsafetycodes.com



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1-587-787-4143



Toll Free:
1-888-852-3558



Email:
south@inspectionsgroup.com



www.inspectionsgroup.com

SAFE COMMUNITIES • STRONG BUILDINGS • A BETTER ALBERTA



DID YOU KNOW?

Even small projects may
require a **development permit**.

BEFORE YOU:

- ✓ Build a deck
- ✓ Move in a building
- ✓ Open a home-based business
- ✓ Install solar panels
- ✓ Start a tourist home



**CHECK WITH PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT FIRST.**



A quick phone call today could
save you **time, money,** and
frustration tomorrow.



BUILD A DECK



MOVE IN A BUILDING



OPEN A HOME-BASED BUSINESS

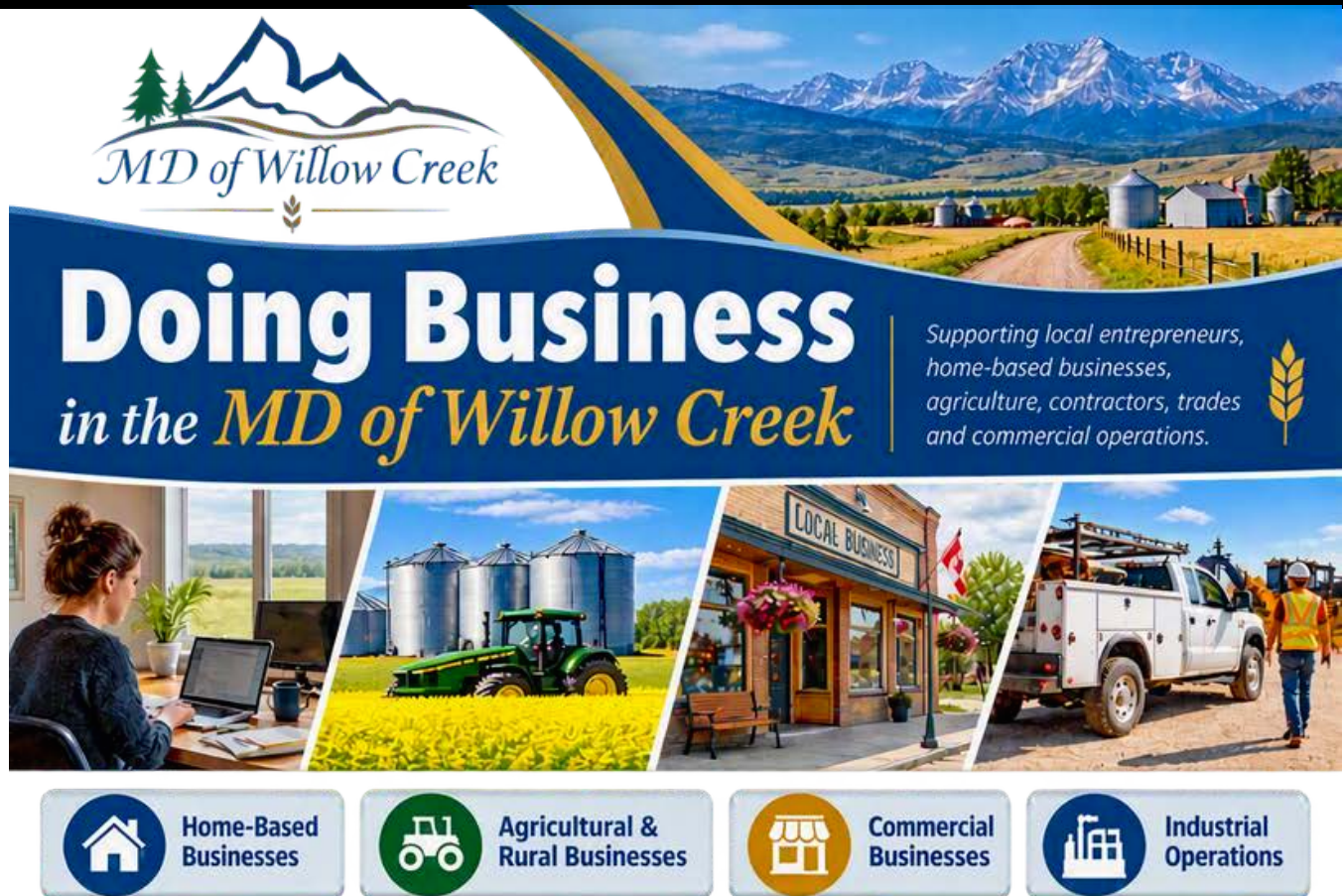


INSTALL SOLAR PANELS



START A TOURIST HOME





Thinking about starting or operating a business in the MD of Willow Creek? We're pleased to welcome businesses of all sizes, including home-based businesses, commercial and industrial operations, and non-resident businesses working within our region.

To operate within the Municipality, businesses are required to hold a valid Business Licence issued by the MD of Willow Creek, in accordance with Business Licence Bylaw No. 2036.

Business Licence Bylaw No. 2036

For non-resident businesses, the process is simple: complete the Business Licence Application Form available on our website and submit the finished form by email.

Business Licence Application Form

Residents of the municipality will need to apply for a development permit before a business licence can be issued. This helps ensure the proposed business activity meets local land use and development requirements.

What Information Will You Need to Provide?

Depending on the type of business, applicants may be asked to provide additional details to help the MD understand how and where the business will operate. For home occupation applications, this information is submitted as a supplement to the Development Permit Application. Applicants may be asked to provide:

- Applicant name and contact information
- Whether the business will operate on-site or as an off-site/mobile business
- A site plan or floor plan for the proposed business
- A description of the goods or services the business will provide...continued on Pg. 28

Planning and Development

- Whether the business will operate from inside the home or from an accessory building
- Whether another business is already operating from the residence or premises
 - Days and hours of operation
- Number of employees and estimated clients or customers per day
 - Available parking spaces for clients, employees, and deliveries
 - Whether commercial vehicles or trailers will be used on site
- Any proposed outdoor storage areas, including what will be stored and where
 - Whether flammable or hazardous materials will be kept on the premises
- Any proposed signage, including the number, type, size, and location of signs

Detailed information helps the MD review the application for completeness, confirm whether additional approvals are required, and ensure the business is suitable for the location and surrounding area.

What does the annual renewal process look like?

Business Licence Renewal Reminder & Fee Schedule

Business licences expire annually on December 31 and must be renewed by January 31 of the following year. Renewal notices will be sent to current licence holders unless the Municipality has been notified that the business is no longer operating.

CURRENT BUSINESS LICENCE FEES

	RESIDENT BUSINESS	\$100
	NON-RESIDENT BUSINESS	\$200
	REGIONAL LICENCE	\$80

 Renewals received after **JANUARY 31** are subject to a **\$100 LATE PAYMENT FEE.**

 **RENEW EARLY**
to keep your licence active
and in good standing.

**SCAN TO
APPLY OR RENEW**



QUESTIONS? CONTACT THE MD OF WILLOW CREEK

— 403-625-3351 —

We're happy to help guide you through the business licence application process.



DO YOU NEED A DEVELOPMENT PERMIT?



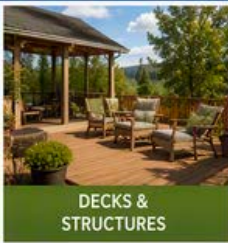
Ask Before You Build.

It could save you time, money and headaches.

A DEVELOPMENT PERMIT **MAY BE REQUIRED**
Confirm your project meets the Land Use Bylaw.



NEW BUILDINGS & ADDITIONS



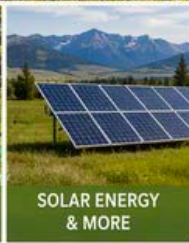
DECKS & STRUCTURES



BUSINESSES & COMMERCIAL USES



TOURIST HOMES & RENTALS



SOLAR ENERGY & MORE



When in doubt, **ask before you build**. It's the best way to protect your investment and keep your project on track.

One of the most common questions we receive from landowners is: "Do I need a development permit for this?" The answer is often yes—even when the project seems small or straightforward.

Under the Municipal District of Willow Creek No. 26 Land Use Bylaw No. 2025, a development permit is required for development unless the proposed development is specifically exempted under the bylaw. A development permit confirms that the proposed development and use of the property comply with the applicable land use district and development regulations.

What types of development commonly require a permit?

A development permit may be required for much more than constructing a new house. Some examples include:

- New buildings and structures, including homes, shops, garages, agricultural buildings and other accessory buildings.
- Additions or expansions to existing buildings.
- Decks, covered decks, patios and similar structures.
- Moving a building onto a property, including moved-in homes and other buildings.
- Changing the use of an existing building or property. For example, converting a garage, shop or other building to a different use.
- Starting a business or commercial operation on a property, including home-based businesses.
- Tourist homes (AirBnb) and short-term rental operations.
- Solar energy systems
- Industrial, commercial or recreational activities that involve a change in land use or development of the property.
- Temporary uses or storage of buildings and shipping containers, where permitted/discretionary by the Land Use Bylaw.

Continued on Pg.30

Planning and Development

The MD's recent development permit decisions illustrate how broad the range of applications can be, including accessory buildings, moved-in dwellings, solar energy systems, tourist homes, commercial operations and temporary storage of buildings.

A common misconception is that if a building or structure is already on a property, or if an activity is occurring on private land, a development permit is not necessary. This is not necessarily the case. The Land Use Bylaw regulates both development and the use of land. A change in how an existing building or property is being used may require a development permit even if no new construction is taking place. Some examples would include converting an existing building into a business, tourist accommodation or another use can require municipal approval before the new use begins.

What about building permits?

A development permit and a building permit are not the same thing. A development permit is issued by the Municipal District and deals primarily with land use, site development and compliance with the Land Use Bylaw. Building, electrical, plumbing, gas and private sewage systems permits are separate requirements administered through the appropriate accredited Safety Codes agency. Depending on the project, you may need both a development permit and Safety Codes permits.

What if my use is a “permitted use”?

A permitted use means that the use is allowed within the applicable land use district when the proposal meets the requirements of the Land Use Bylaw. It does not necessarily mean that you can begin the use without first obtaining a development permit. A development permit is still required unless the development is specifically exempted by the Land Use Bylaw.

The MD's Planning & Development Department can help determine whether your proposed development is a permitted, discretionary or prohibited use and what approvals may be required.

If you are planning to build, move, expand, convert, renovate, establish a business, start a new use or significantly change your property, please contact the Planning & Development Department before beginning the work or operation. Obtaining approval before starting can help prevent delays, additional costs (double or triple the fee amounts, double the safety code fees) and enforcement action if the development is later found to be non-compliant.

When in doubt, ask before you build.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?



Visit the MD of Willow Creek **Planning & Development webpage** or contact the Municipal District office at **403-625-3351**.



The complete **Land Use Bylaw No. 2025** and development permit information are available at:

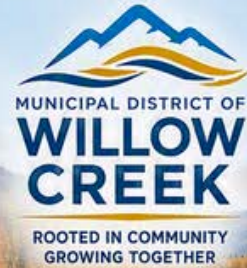


mdwillowcreek.com/bylaws-and-policies



PUBLIC WORKS

Preparing for Fall Operations



FALL MAINTENANCE UNDERWAY



1. Crews Are Working On

- Road grading on gravel roads
- Shoulder maintenance
- Culvert inspections
- Drainage improvements
- Vegetation management



2. Why It Matters

- Reduce flooding risks
- Prevent ice build-up
- Improve road conditions before freeze-up
- Protect municipal infrastructure



3. Watch for Equipment

- Graders
- Gravel trucks
- Mowers
- Maintenance equipment



4. Drive Safely

- Slow down
- Obey work zone signs
- Give crews plenty of space
- Stay alert for changing road conditions



PREPARED ROADS • SAFE DRIVERS • STRONG COMMUNITY



WINTER READINESS

Starts Before the Snow Falls

Public Works prepares months in advance to ensure roads remain safe and passable throughout the winter season.



GETTING READY FOR WINTER

- ✓ Servicing snowplows, graders, and sanders
- ✓ Stockpiling winter maintenance materials
- ✓ Equipment repairs and preventative maintenance
- ✓ Winter response planning
- ✓ Reviewing safety procedures
- ✓ Inspecting road infrastructure and signage

WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE PRIORITIES

-  Emergency access
-  School bus routes
-  Traffic volumes
-  Public safety considerations

WINTER OPERATIONS MAY INCLUDE

-  Snowplowing priority roadways
-  Sanding and traction control
-  Snow removal where hazards exist
-  Monitoring weather conditions
-  Responding to drifting snow and extreme weather

HOW RESIDENTS CAN HELP

-  Allow extra travel time
-  Reduce speed and drive to conditions
-  Stay back from snowplows and graders
-  Avoid passing maintenance equipment
-  Keep approaches clear when possible
-  Report significant road hazards



IMPORTANT REMINDER

Snowplows and graders often stop, turn, and change direction unexpectedly.

GIVE MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT PLENTY OF SPACE



TOGETHER, THROUGH PREPARATION, COOPERATION,
AND SAFE DRIVING PRACTICES, WE CAN HELP KEEP
WILLOW CREEK MOVING THROUGHOUT THE WINTER MONTHS.



GRADER SAFETY

Slow Down. Stay Back. Stay Safe.

**ROAD MAINTENANCE CREWS ARE WORKING FOR YOU.
PLEASE GIVE THEM THE SPACE AND TIME THEY NEED TO WORK SAFELY.**

Rural roads require regular maintenance to keep them safe and passable for everyone. Graders play an important role in maintaining our roads, but they also create hazards for both operators and motorists.



THEY MAY NOT SEE YOU.

Dust, road conditions, blind spots, mirrors, and the position of the blade can greatly reduce visibility. Never assume the grader operator can see you.



GRADERS TAKE TIME TO STOP.

Graders are large and heavy machines and cannot stop quickly. Even at low speeds, it can take a long distance and time for a grader to come to a complete stop. Passing too closely or unexpectedly can put you and the operator at risk.



AVOID DISTRACTIONS.

Using a phone, adjusting controls, talking with passengers, or simply becoming impatient can reduce your reaction time and increase the risk of a serious collision—especially on gravel roads where visibility can change in an instant.



RURAL ROADS HAVE UNIQUE RISKS.

Loose gravel, soft shoulders, hills, curves, and dust clouds can make it difficult to see and react. Drive defensively, be patient, and expect delays.



**STAY AT LEAST 15 METRES (50 FEET)
BEHIND A GRADER AT ALL TIMES.**



15 METRES = ABOUT 3 CAR LENGTHS



**GRADERS CREATE DUST
THAT CAN LIMIT VISIBILITY.**



**THE BLADE AND OTHER PARTS
MAY NOT ALWAYS BE VISIBLE.**



**YOUR PATIENCE HELPS
KEEP EVERYONE SAFE.**

BE PATIENT. EXPECT DELAYS.

A few extra moments of patience can prevent a serious accident. Road maintenance crews are working to improve the roads we all use. By slowing down, staying back, and following the operator's instructions, you help keep both crews and motorists safe.



REMEMBER:

**IF YOU CAN'T CLEARLY SEE THE GRADER OPERATOR,
THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE THEY CAN'T SEE YOU.**

SAFETY TIPS AROUND GRADERS

- ✓ Slow down when approaching road maintenance equipment.
- ✓ Stay at least **15 metres (50 feet)** behind the grader.
- ✓ Never assume the operator can see you.
- ✓ Wait until the grader has come to a complete stop.
- ✓ Only pass when the operator clearly signals or waves you through.
- ✓ Watch for dust, loose gravel, soft shoulders, and changing road conditions.
- ✓ Avoid distractions and keep your full attention on the road.

Thank you for helping keep our roads and our community safe.





MD of Willow Creek

FAST ANSWERS. CONNECTED COMMUNITY.

Find the information and services you need
in just a scan. Save time, get connected,
and stay informed with the MD of Willow Creek.





**MD OF WILLOW CREEK
WEBSITE**



Explore information
about your community,
council, bylaws, news
and more.



**SERVICE
REQUEST**



Report issues,
request services,
and help keep our
community strong.



**FIRE
PERMITS**



Apply for fire permits
quickly and help
protect our land
and communities.



MD MAP



View maps, property
information, and
important planning
resources.

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PO Box 550
Clareholm, AB
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CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF AN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD IN THE MD OF WILLOW CREEK



LEGACY OF OUR LAND

SPONSORED IN PART BY:

**FORTIS
ALBERTA**

BANQUET

PRESENTED BY:



NOVEMBER 6, 2026

DOORS OPEN AT 5:00PM, PRIME RIB DINNER TO FOLLOW AT 6:15PM

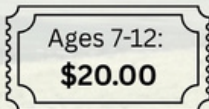
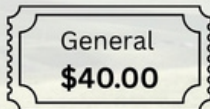
STAVELY COMMUNITY CENTER

(5101 52ND STREET)



TICKET RSVP DEADLINE

OCTOBER 29TH, 2026



To purchase tickets, you can:

visit the MD of Willow Creek office with Cash,
Cheque, Debit or Credit Card

Or

E-Transfer: finance@mdwillowcreek.com

Please use LEGACY as the password (state how many tickets you would like, your name, and email address).

A follow up receipt will be sent.



WITH SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER:

FILIBE MASETTI LEITE

Filipe Masetti Leite, world-renowned Long Rider, award-winning filmmaker, and best-selling author, is the youngest person in the world to cross the Americas on horseback. An eight-year journey that took Filipe and his beloved horses across 12 nations trekking more than 27,000 kilometres.

Travelling at 3 km/h and 30 km a day, relying on the kindness of strangers, Filipe Masetti Leite saw the reality of life on this planet.

With devastating droughts, the threats of grizzlies and snakes, the unpredictable weather, and the deadly impact of the drug trade, daily life is hard. But it's also beautiful. Despite the hardship, he was overwhelmed by the kindness of people who had nothing but were willing to offer a place to sleep and water and pasture for his horses.

The true lesson Filipe learned from his odyssey is that there is always a way to accomplish anything you can dream if you can put your fears aside and take that first step!

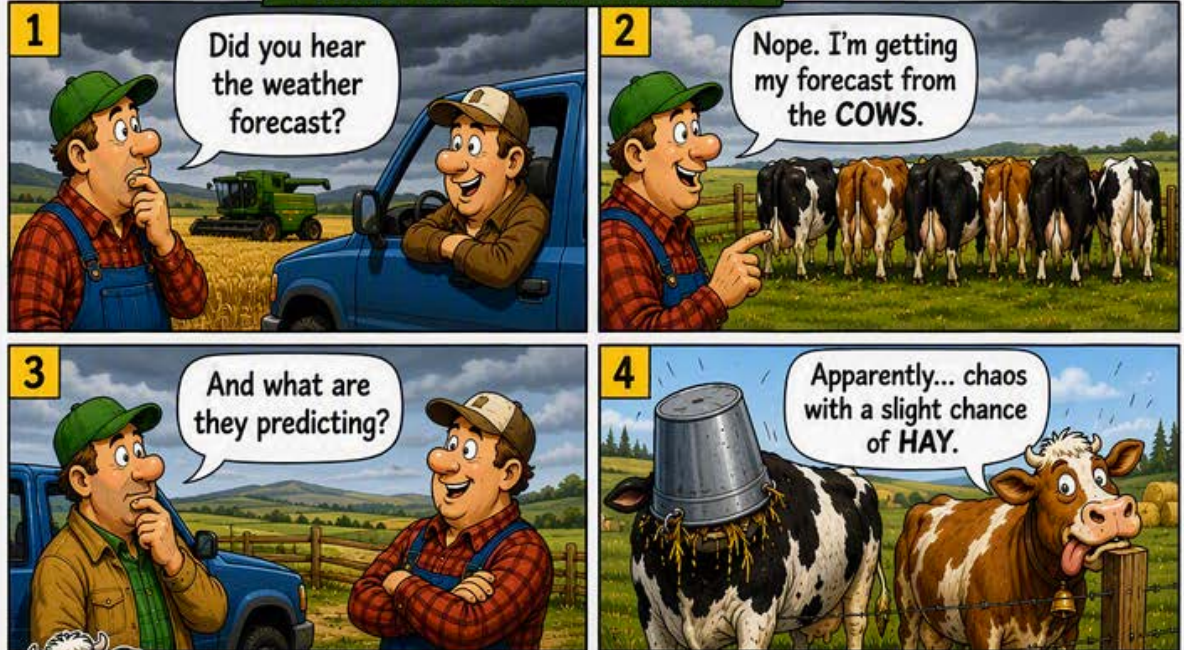


From the FUNNY FARM

A little humour from the MD of Willow Creek

MD of Willow Creek

EPISODE #1: "THE WEATHERMAN"



Humour helps us appreciate the lighter side of rural life, but we also recognize that some challenges are no laughing matter. If you are struggling, or concerned about someone else, please reach out. Call or text 988, call 811, or call 911 if someone is in immediate danger. Together, we can support stronger, healthier rural communities. ♥