

ANNUAL REPORT



2017

For the year ending December 31, 2017



Mackenzie County



Mackenzie County

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Vision Mission & Values

Our Vision is...

An enhanced quality of life, choices in community opportunities and healthy economic climate.

Our Mission is...

Through the effective use of resources, provide a reasonable and equitable level of service and endeavor to create a sustainable economic climate.

Our Organizational Values are...

Efficient, fiscally responsible organization that is sincere and approachable, treats people with respect and maintains a high degree of integrity.

MESSAGE FROM THE REEVE



On behalf of Mackenzie County Council, I present you with the 2017 Annual Report. In this report you will find the budget highlights for 2018 and statistics from the various activities throughout the year. Hopefully you will also get a snapshot of the counties financial position. We apologize for not being able to present our financial statements as there has been a delay in not having them ready but I assure you they will be available soon on our website.

I would like to thank the outgoing councillors for the hard work they did in their years of service on council and especially thank Bill Neufeld for the many years of service as a Councillor and Reeve. The job as Reeve always looks easy when you sit on the sideline but let me assure you there is a lot more to the job than meets the eye. I would also like to welcome our four new councillors that were elected last fall. I'm not sure they knew what they were getting into when they let their name stand for election. Right after election we go into the budgeting process for the new year and then soon after the assessment/tax notices come out and we all find out what we really signed up for. Let me assure you we all care about the ratepayers of Mackenzie County and will work hard to try and reduce the tax burden. Remember we feel it too as we are also ratepayers.

I would also like to thank Lisa, Eric and Jacquie for the hard work they did with the Caribou Committee. I believe they have been able to convince our Government about the importance of local involvement with caribou preservation all while trying to preserve our forestry and oil industries so that we, as Mackenzie County, can continue to prosper and survive.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers that have been behind the scenes across the County striving to make Mackenzie County a better place. Our non-profit organizations have a huge impact on everyone, and our volunteer firefighters work tirelessly to serve our communities. We thank you for your time and dedication to our region.

We have received great positive feedback regarding the condition of the county roads. The grader operators have been doing a fantastic job and the County has invested a great deal of money into gravel to ensure that the roads maintain their excellent condition. We placed a new bridge across the Buffalo River in Blue Hills at an approximate cost of two million dollars for farmers to access their farmland. This was done in conjunction with a Provincial Government grant of approximately one million dollars.

Our campgrounds are well used and we continue to upgrade them to add value to your camping experience. The County is currently working with Alberta Environment & Parks for expansion of our existing campgrounds. The equine addition at Machesis Lake campground has proven a success. Mackenzie County also contributed toward the upgrades at the La Crete arena porch addition and lobby renovation. The Hamlet of Zama received an award from Fire Smart Canada

for the initiatives carried out under the Fire Smart Program. The truck water fill stations in Fort Vermilion and Buffalo Head were officially opened in 2017. These stations are greatly beneficial to local residents. We are currently working on securing funding for a waterline that would service the Rocky Lane and Blue Hills areas.

Be sure to check out the Agricultural Fair and Trade Show on August 10 & 11, 2018. This event is family and community orientated, so there is something for everyone to come out and experience. Mackenzie County is once again teaming up with the Town of High Level and the Town of Rainbow Lake for the Mackenzie Regional Charity Golf Tournament, which will be held on June 20, 2018. 70% of the proceeds go toward the Northwest Health Foundation, and 30% to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

The harsh winter wreaked havoc on the natural gas supply in Mackenzie County. This is a situation that we hope to never face again. This is why we have been proactive in pursuing meetings with the Provincial Government, working hard in a support role and lobbying with our Northern Lights Gas Co-op. We have met numerous times with Minister Carlier, stressing the importance that our Provincial Government help us to secure a new gas line so that we have a looped system supplying gas to the majority of Mackenzie County. Our MLA Debbie Jabbour assures us that the Provincial Government wants to and will fix this problem, working with the Gas Co-op to make this happen.

With the steady growth of our communities, we have been working very hard lobbying our Provincial Government about the need for more and better services in our region. Some of the issues we take to them are:

- to bring much needed health services closer to the larger population areas, such as dialysis needs, maternity services, and chemotherapy treatments;
- Tompkins crossing/Ferry issues, Highway 697 widening, money for bridges to new lands, and the benefit we see and encourage the Province to support the railroad to Alaska;
- the need for more RCMP officers in our County; and
- the need for more farmland in our County.

If you want to know more about your County and what is going on, our website is a great place to access County information. You can find council meeting agenda packages and minutes, other important dates, as well as our financial statements, business plans, annual reports, and more. The public is encouraged to engage with councilors and our council meetings are always open to the public.

Thank you again to all of our citizens for another great year. Your individual and collective contributions are what make our region a better place to live, work and play, and for that we are truly grateful.

Respectfully – Reeve Peter Braun

MACKENZIE COUNTY: THE ORGANIZATION

Governance

Mackenzie County is divided into ten electoral areas called wards. Each ward has a Councillor that has been elected by citizens within his/her ward boundaries. Each Council member serves a four-year term. The elected Council then elects a Reeve and Deputy Reeve from within, on an annual basis at their Organizational Meeting.

In addition to attending Regular Council Meetings (2 per month during regular business hours), Council Members also attend community functions and serve on a variety of internal and external committees. The Reeve is ex-officio for all Council committees and boards, while Councillors select representatives for these committees during their annual Organizational Meeting.

Council provides direction, makes strategic policy decisions, represents the public's interests, and performs the duties of Councillors as per the Municipal Government Act.



Council's effectiveness depends on Councillors providing input on their areas while thinking and voting for the whole municipality.

Council 2017–2021 Term

Reeve Peter F. Braun, Ward 3 (La Crete)
Deputy Reeve Lisa Wardley, Ward 10 (Zama)
Councillor Josh Knelsen, Ward 1 (Blue Hills/Buffalo Head)
Councillor Anthony Peters, Ward 2 (La Crete Rural)
Councillor David Driedger, Ward 4 (La Crete/LC Rural)

Councillor Ernest Peters, Ward 5 (Blumenort)
Councillor Eric Jorgensen, Ward 6 (Fort Vermilion Rural)
Councillor Cameron Cardinal, Ward 7 (Fort Vermilion)
Councillor Walter Sarapuk, Ward 8 (Rocky Lane)
Councillor Jacquie Bateman, Ward 9 (High Level Rural)



MACKENZIE COUNTY: THE ORGANIZATION

Establishment History

Mackenzie County became an incorporated municipality on January 1, 1995 when it was formed as a Municipal District from being an Improvement District.

The County received specialized municipality status on June 23, 1999 to address concerns about municipal government and management in a municipality that serves a number of unique communities within a very large territory. Therefore, provisions of the MGA and other enactments are modified.

Under the Specialized Municipality status the following matters are not valid unless passed at a council meeting to which 2/3 of the Councillors present at the meeting vote in favour of the bylaw or resolution:

- a) Procedures of the Council of the municipality;
- b) Remuneration of Councillors;
- c) Property tax;
- d) Changing the number of Councillors, the boundaries of wards or the methods of selecting a chief elected official;
- e) Appointing and terminating the chief administrative officer;
- f) Adopting a budget;
- g) Any other matter designated by the Council pursuant to the procedure as established under clause (a).

Then on March 8, 2007 the municipality's name was changed from Municipal District of Mackenzie No. 23 to Mackenzie County.

Demographics

Population	11,171 (2016 Federal Census)
Total Area of Municipality	7,761,580 hectares
Total Area of Farmland	790,000 acres
Number of Hamlets	3 (La Crete, Fort Vermilion, Zama)
Number of Dwelling Units	3,088 (2016 Federal Census)
Total Positions	81 Full-Time 5 Part-Time 17 Summer/Seasonal
Length of Roads	2005 km (includes 104 km of paved roads & streets)
Length of Water Mains	169.57 km
Length of Wastewater Mains	68.05 km
Length of Storm Water Drains	10.40 km
Vehicle Fleet (incl. fire equip)	63 (cost ≥ \$5,000/unit)
Equipment (incl. graders)	180 (cost ≥ \$5,000/unit)
Building Structures	88 (cost ≥ \$5,000/unit)
Bridges (incl. culverts over 5' in diameter)	73 (cost ≥ \$5,000/unit)

MACKENZIE COUNTY: THE ORGANIZATION

2017-18 Boards & Committees

In addition to regular duties, members of Council serve on several boards and committees. These boards and committees can be internal (created by Council for a specific reason) or external (where the County has been invited by an outside organization to participate). Members of Council represent the interests of the municipality while serving on these boards and committees, and report back to the rest of Council.

Council currently has approximately 18 internal boards and committees. Meeting frequency and the number of Council appointees depends on the committee's terms of reference. Generally the Reeve serves as *ex-officio* (appointed by position) on all County boards and committees.

Council also participates on approximately 25 external boards and committees.

Council appoints Members-at-Large to various boards and committees depending on the committee terms of reference, either in an advisory capacity or as the result of statutory

requirements. Some of these include the Municipal Planning Commission, Mackenzie County Library Board, Community Streetscape Committees, Appeal Boards and the Boreal Housing Foundation. Advertisements are placed in September of each year for available positions with appointments being made at the annual Organizational Meeting in October.



Below is a list of the current boards and committees on which Councillors sit. Some committees are more active than others.

Internal Boards/Committees

- Aboriginal Consultation Committee
- Agricultural Appeal Board
- Agricultural Land Use Planning Committee
- Agricultural Service Board
- Assessment Review Board
- Community Services Committee
- Community Streetscape Committees—Fort Vermilion and La Crete
- Community Sustainability Committee
- Emergency Advisory Committee
- Finance Committee
- Inter-Municipal Planning Commission
- Inter-Municipal Subdivision & Development Appeal Board
- Land Stewardship Committee
- Mackenzie County Library Board
- Municipal Planning Commission
- Public Works Committee
- Subdivision & Development Appeal Board
- Tompkins Crossing Committee

External Boards/Committees

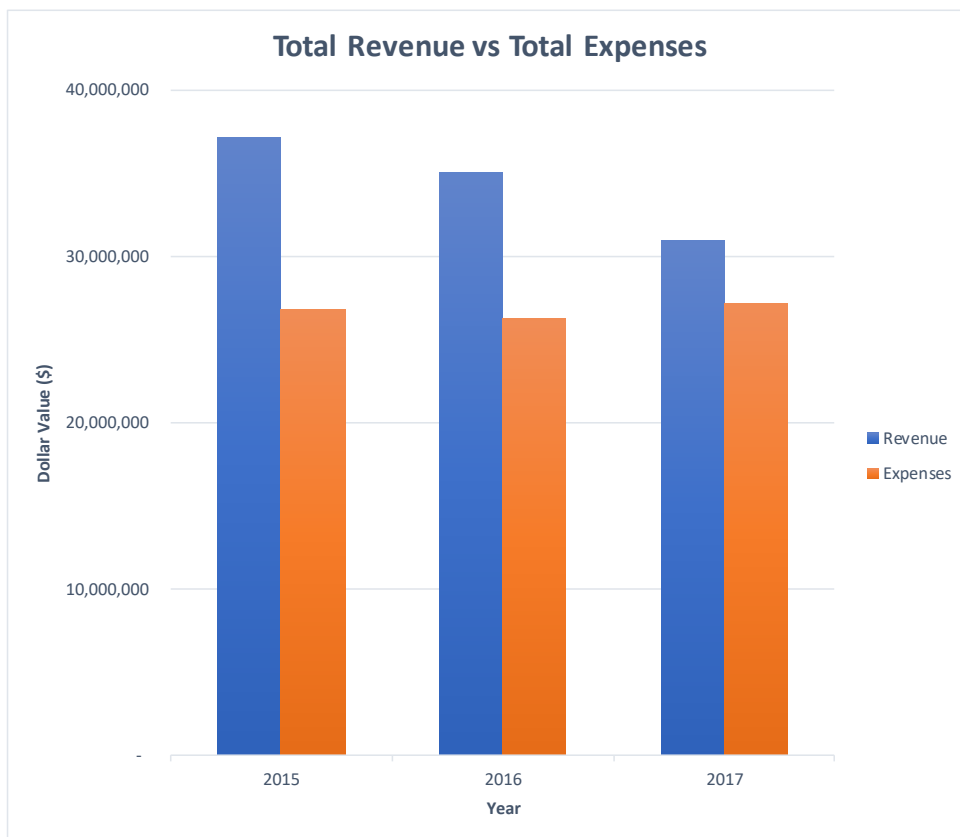
- Boreal Housing Foundation
- Caribou Mountains Wildland Advisory Committee
- Community Futures Northwest
- Friends of St. Theresa Society
- Hay Zama Committee
- High Level Forests Public Advisory Committee
- La Crete Community Adult Learning Council
- Local Recreation Boards
- Local Family & Community Support Services
- Mackenzie Applied Research Association (MARA)
- Mackenzie Frontier Tourist Association (MFTA)
- Mackenzie Regional Community Policing Society (VSU)
- Mackenzie Regional Charity Golf
- Mackenzie Regional Waste Management
- Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance
- Northeast Community Adult Learning Council
- Northern Lakes College CEC
- Northern Lights Forest Education Society
- Northern Transportation Advisory Bureau (NTAB)
- Northwest Alberta Regional Emergency Advisory Committee
- Northwest Species at Risk (NWSAR)
- Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI)
- Tall Cree Joint Mutual Aid Committee
- Veterinary Services Inc.
- Water North Coalition

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

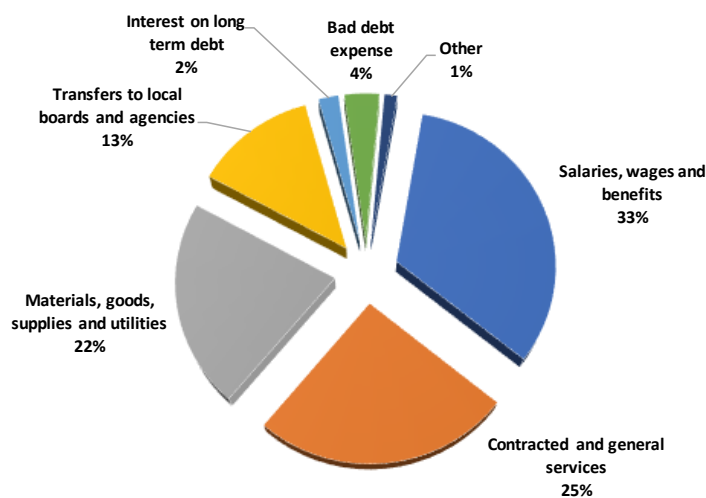
2017 Audited Financial Results

Below is a snapshot of the year end details for 2017. Additional time was required to complete the financial audit this year and therefore the entire Audited Financial Statement

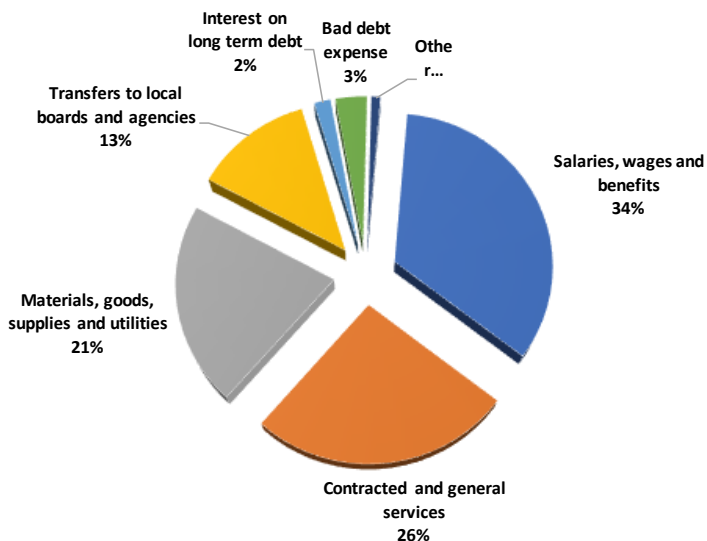
(AFS) has not been included in the report. Our deadline to submit our AFS to Alberta Municipal Affairs is July 3, 2018. A copy will be posted on our municipal website at that time.



2016 EXPENSES

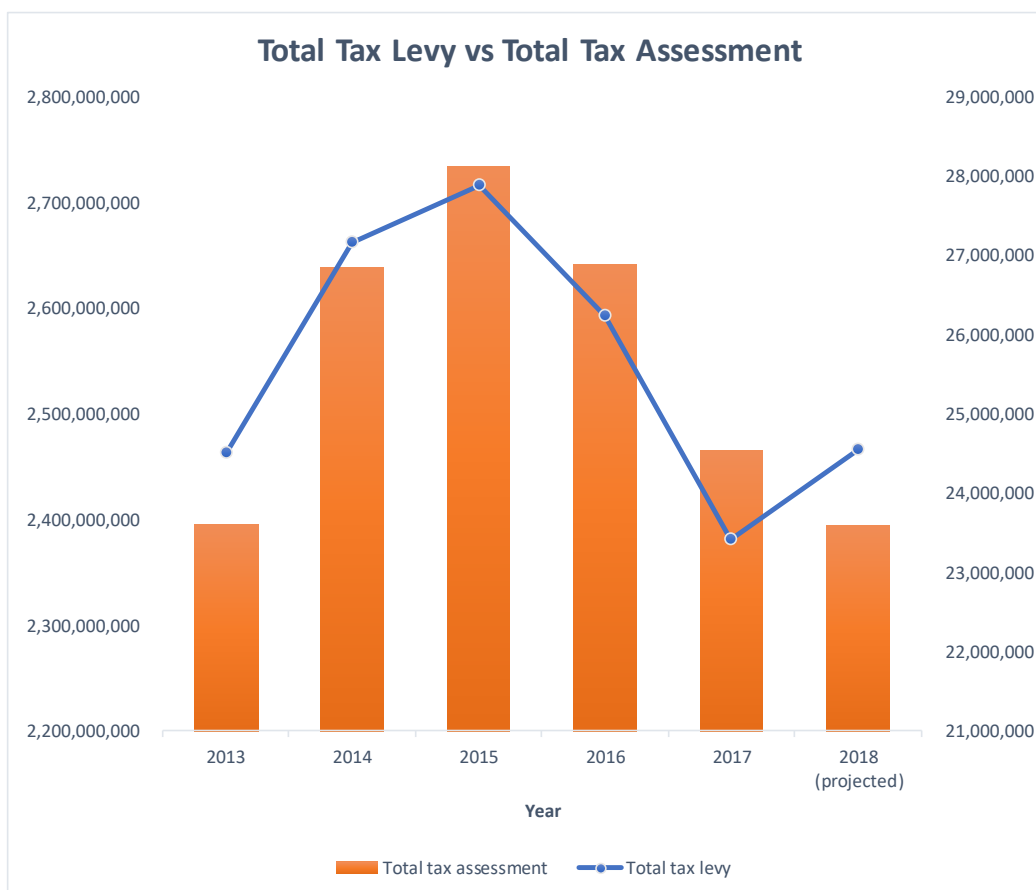
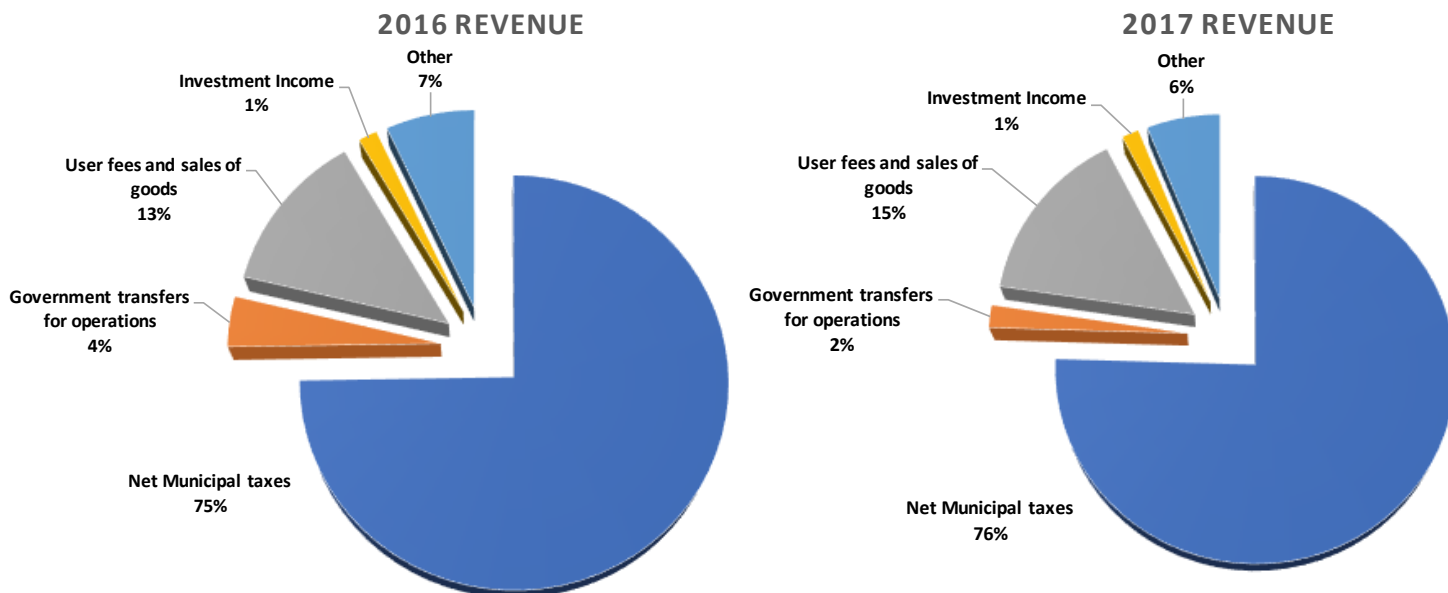


2017 EXPENSES



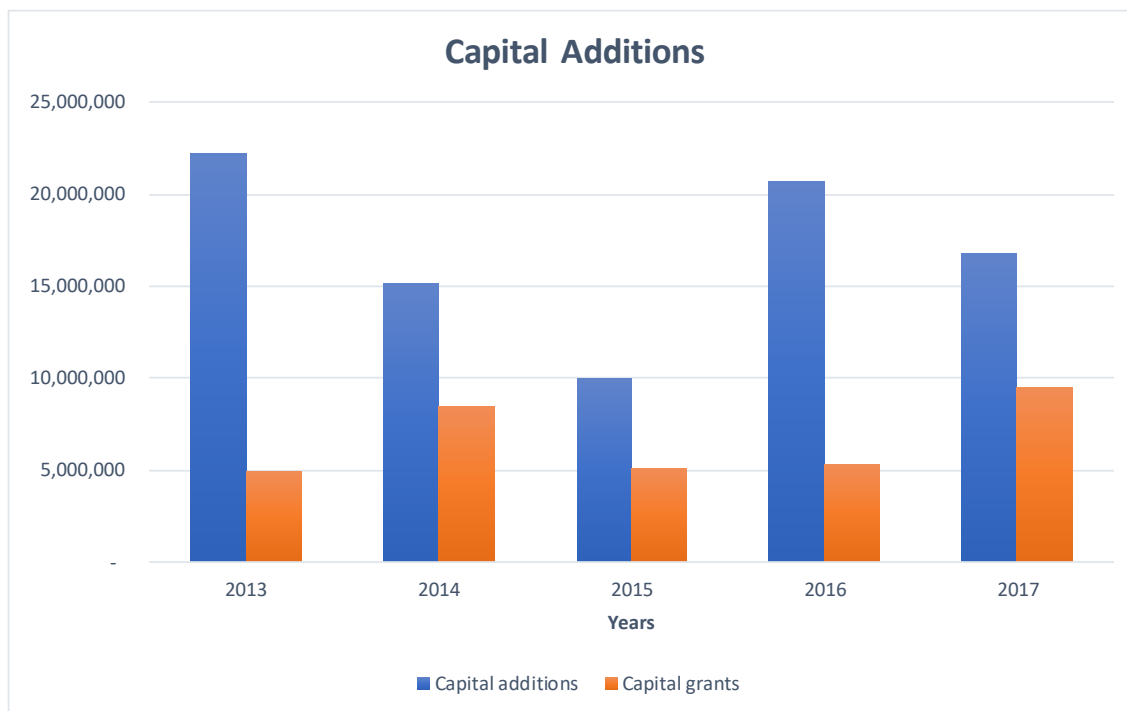
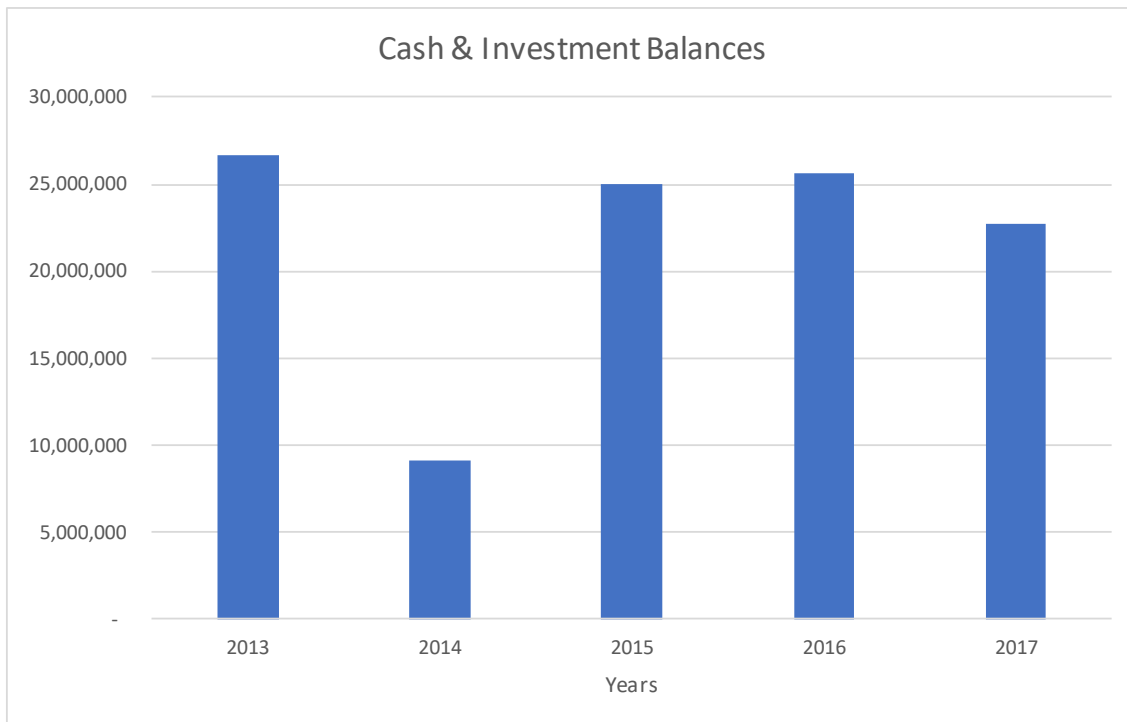
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2017 Audited Financial Results



AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2017 Audited Financial Results



2016 Significant Projects

La Crete Lagoon Upgrade
 La Crete Potable Water Project
 Rocky Lane Store Road Reconstruction

2017 Significant Projects

Buffalo Head/Steep Hill/Bear River Drainage Project
 La Crete Rural Potable Water Project
 94th Avenue La Crete Asphalt Overlay
 Prairie Packers to West La Crete Road Rebuild

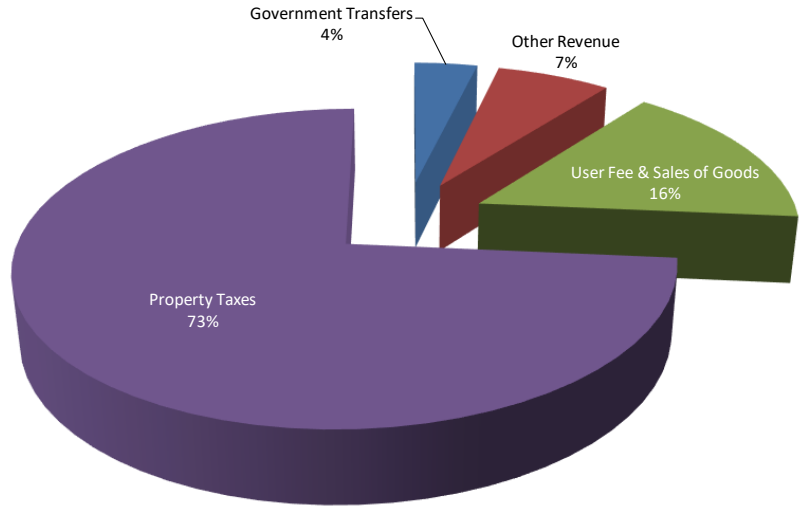
2018 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

2018 Operating Revenues

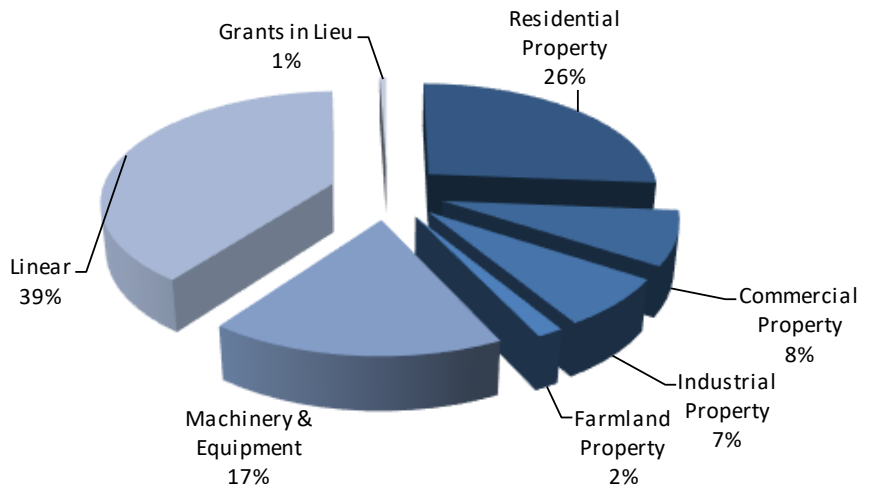
Under the Municipal Government act, each council must adopt an operating and capital budget for each calendar year. Mackenzie County Council reviewed, deliberated and adopted the 2018 operating and capital budgets. Council has the drive and energy to build a fiscally responsible, results oriented culture and enjoy working in a publically accountable environment. Council's directive to administration was to prepare draft budgets while maintaining the same level of services with no changes to the mill rate from 2016 and 2017. This means that while the County residents will continue to enjoy quality and timely services, residents will not see a change in their tax bills unless their individual property assessment has changed.

Total operating revenues are projected to be \$32.39 million (a slight increase from 2017 \$32.29 million).

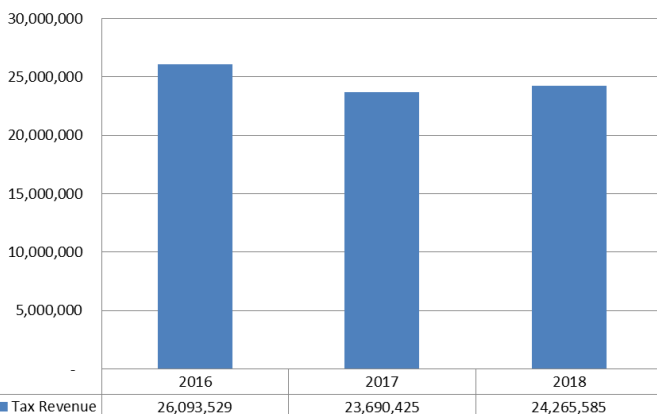
2018 Operating Revenues - Excluding Requisitions Amounts



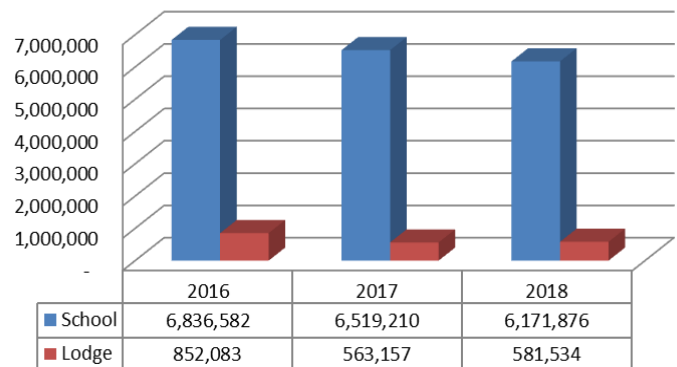
2018 Municipal Tax Revenue



Municipal Tax Revenue

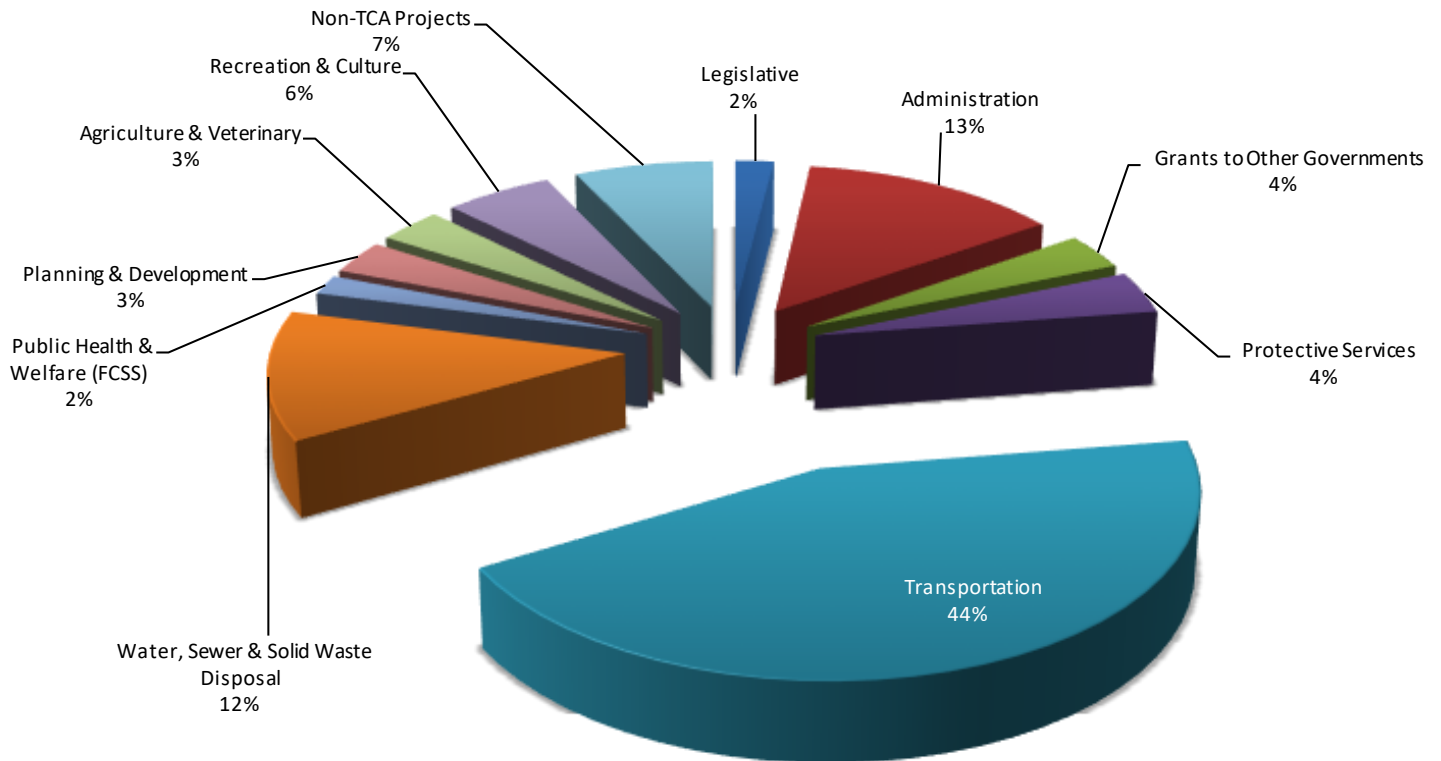


School & Lodge Requisitions



2018 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

2018 Operating Expenses



Total operating expenses, excluding requisition transfers but including amortization of tangible capital assets, are projected to be \$43.38 million, which is an overall 7% decrease from 2017. The decrease is mainly due to bridge repairs and maintenance, engineering, professional services. These decreases are also due to decreases in interest on long term debt.

The schools requisition transfer will be \$6,520,150 (2017 - \$6,519,210), and the seniors lodge requisition transfer will be \$459,700 (2017 - \$563,157).

Operating expenses include \$550,400 in grants to non-profit groups and bursaries, \$373,353 to FCSS (Family and Community Support Services), \$1,198,919 to recreation boards, and \$228,000 to the Mackenzie Library Board.

In order to support the regional services provision, the County entered into agreements with the neighbouring municipalities of the Towns of High Level and Rainbow Lake. The 2018 transfer to these local governments is projected to be \$1,573,902.

2018 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

2018 Projects

The new 2018 capital projects are estimated at \$10,907,111 and are projected to be funded according to the chart on the right.

Some of the major projects and/or equipment replacements scheduled for 2018 are:

Administration

- HVAC for Council Chambers/ Meeting Room/Photocopy Room
- Firesmart Program (Zama)

Enforcement/Fire Department

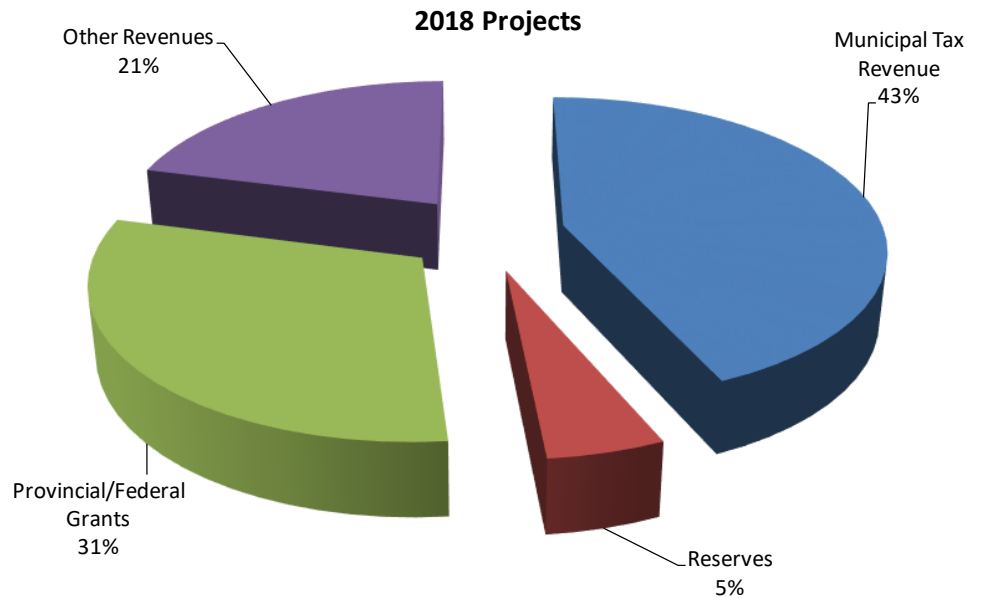
- Training Props
- Woodland Skid
- Piston Intake Valve & Booster Reel (Tompkins)
- Fire Truck (FV)

Parks & Playgrounds

- Hutch Lake Cabins Expansion
- Storage Shed (FV)
- Zero-turn Mower (LC)
- Splitter/Processor (FV)

Planning & Development

- Municipal Census
- Fort Vermilion/La Crete Streetscape



Recreation

- Various capital improvements for Recreation Boards in FV, LC and Zama
- Splash Park Electrical & Plumbing (LC)
- Renovate Old Dressing Rooms (LC)
- Blue Hills Skate Shack Repairs (LC)
- Arena Ice Surface Lighting Upgrade (FV)
- Boiler Room Upgrades (FV)

Sewer Disposal

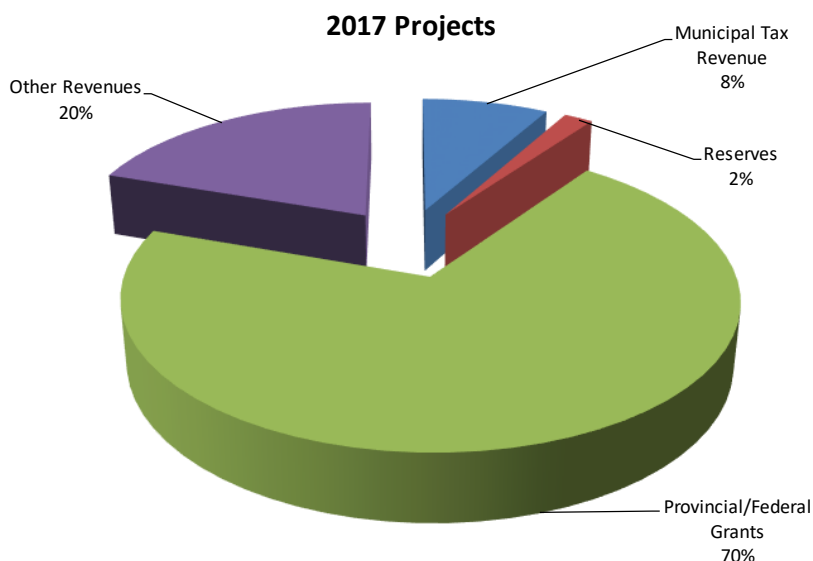
- Main Lift Station Meter (LC)
- Sewage Forcemain (ZA)

Transportation

- Various oil dust control locations
- Overlay on 46 Ave. (FV)
- Rebuild Eagles Nest Road (FV)
- Overlay on 47 Ave. (Hospital Hill) (FV)
- Road Rebuild—Airport Road (LC)
- Crosswalk Lights x2 (LC)
- Crosswalk Lights (FV)
- Overlay on Various Roads (LC)
- Overlay on River Road (LC)
- Chip Seal—North & South Access (LC)
- Street Improvements (LC)
- Various equipment replacements

Water Treatment & Distribution

- Rural Water Supply North of Peace River

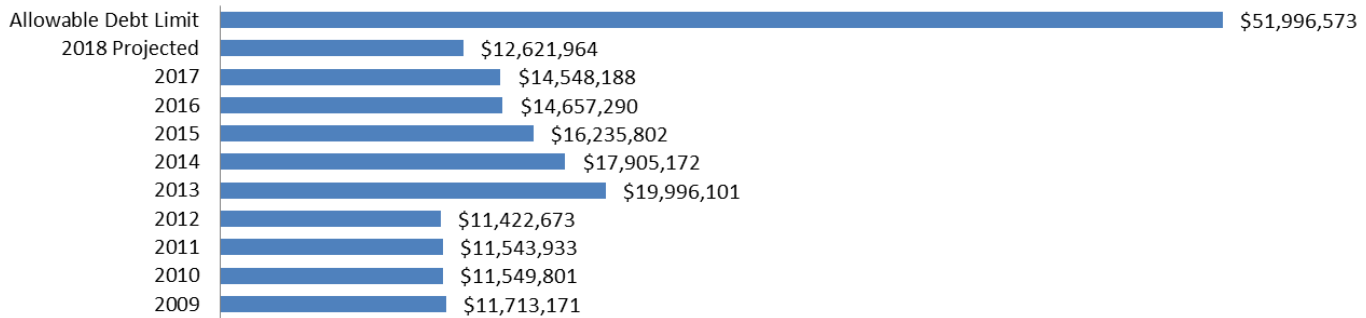


2018 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

What is the County's long-term debt?

The County has been borrowing funds for major capital projects. All of the County's debentures are arranged through the Alberta Capital Finance Authority who offers low fixed rates.

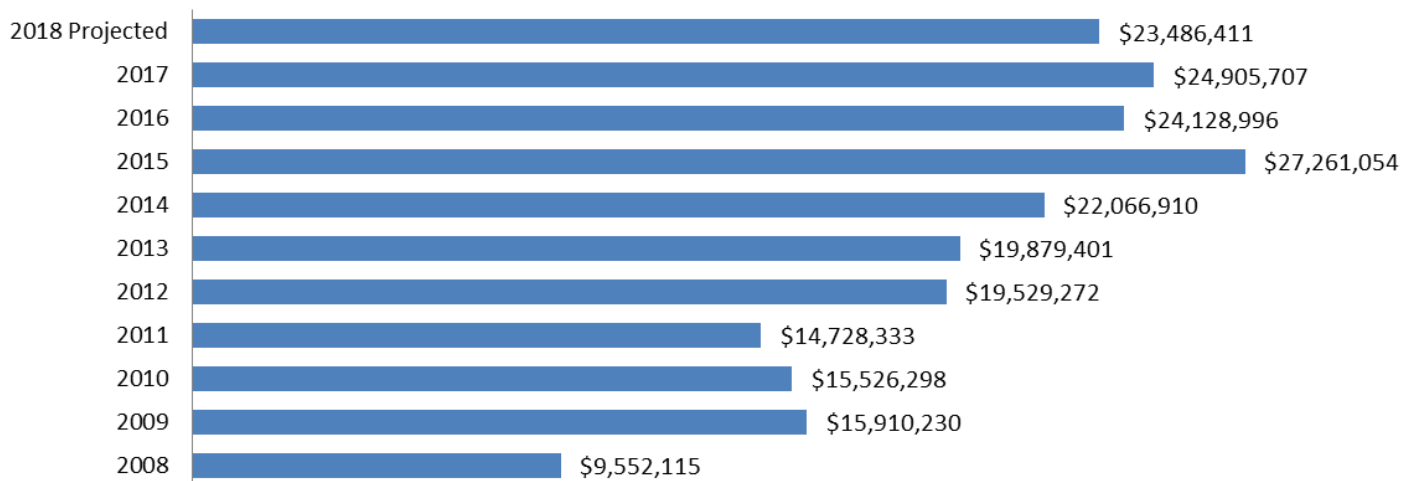
The Municipal Government Act and Alberta Regulation 255/00 defines the debt limits for municipalities. If the borrowing takes place as intended based on the preapproved bylaws, the County will be at 24% of its allowable debt limit on December 31, 2017 as permitted under MGA, AR 255/00.



Does the County have reserves?

In general, establishing reserves and setting aside a specified amount of funds annually assists in long term financial planning, and assists in maintaining a stable taxation structure. Council has established various reserve policies. These policies define

the purpose, permitted uses (must have a motion of Council), targeted minimum and maximum reserve levels, and the annual minimum contributions.



2018 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Regional Collaboration

The Mackenzie Region has three incorporated municipalities within its boundaries: Mackenzie County, Town of High Level and Town of Rainbow Lake. Three municipalities are continually working together on regional sustainability initiatives.

Agreements with the Town of High Level

Mackenzie County has a Regional Service Sharing Agreement (RSSA) and an Inter-Municipal Development Plan (IMDP) agreement with the Town of High Level. The purpose of the RSSA is to share certain services provided by the Town to the County's residents residing within close proximity to the Town and/or regionally. These services are recreation, airport, fire protection, and potable water (Footner line north of the Town).

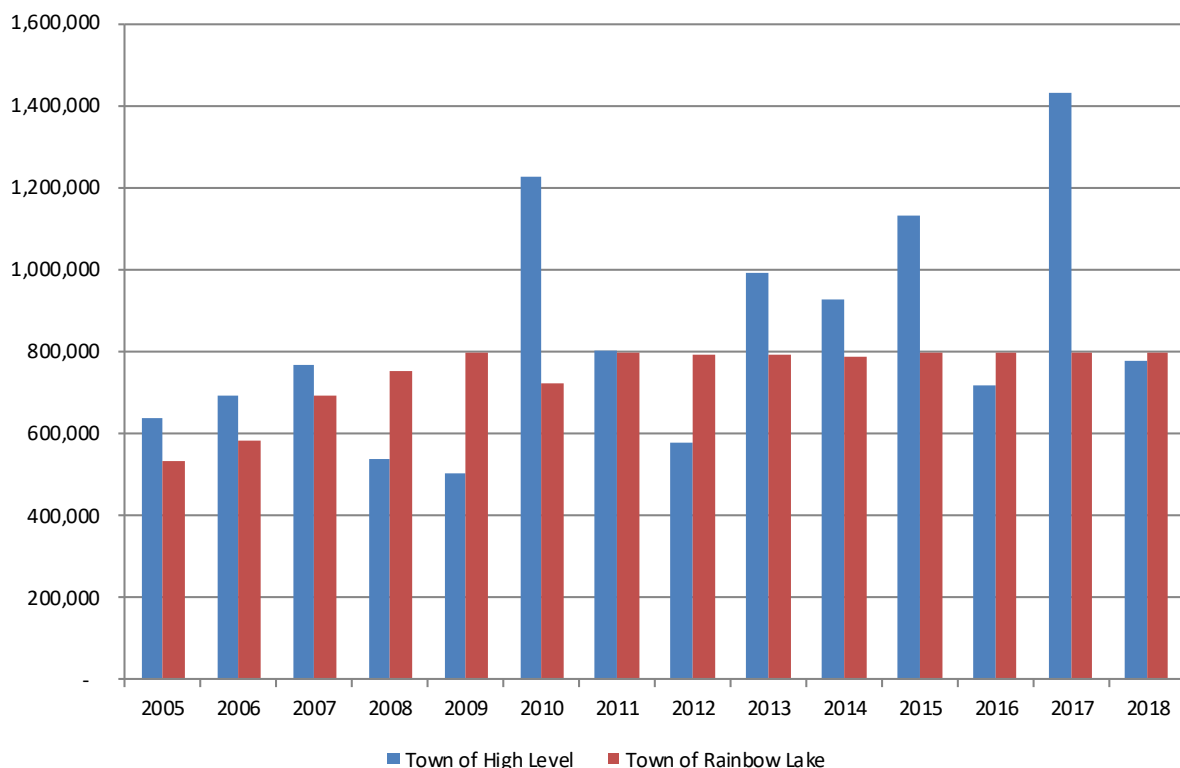
Based on the agreement, the County shares revenues from service areas (defined as 40 kilometers radius around the Town) in exchange for provision of these services. An annual payment is equal to 25% for the property tax levied by the County against all properties in the service area or \$500,000, whichever is larger for any given year. In addition, the County funds the Town's capital projects at the following rates: 20% for recreation projects, 30% for airport projects and 50% for fire protection projects. Total contributed dollars vary and based on the actual capital projects undertaken by the Town.

The purpose of the IMDP is to jointly control the development within an area around the Town of High Level. This is accomplished through a joint Inter-Municipal Planning Commission that meets on a monthly basis to review the proposed developments within the specified area.

Agreement with the Town of Rainbow Lake

Mackenzie County Council recognizes the small urban centre, "one industry town" challenges experienced by the Town of Rainbow Lake. Therefore, the County and the Town entered into a revenue sharing agreement. The agreement is meant to assist the Town through a consistent and predictable funding source. The Town uses this funding for provision of services to their residents. The agreement is based on a formula that fluctuates upon changes in assessment in a sphere of influence defined in the agreement, resulting in approximately 10% (approximately \$800K) payment per annum of the total property tax collected within the sphere of influence.

Alberta municipalities are encouraged to collaborate with each other for the provision of services. Cooperation and collaboration promotes effective and efficient use of resources and reduces duplication of services. The chart to below shows the cost-shared amounts provided by Mackenzie County to the Town of High Level and the Town of Rainbow Lake since 2005.



2018 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Grants to Other Organizations

County Council recognizes the value of volunteers and the non-profit groups operating within the region. The application deadline is September 30th of each year. The 2018 operating budget includes \$2,330,673 in funding that will be provided to FCSS, Recreation Boards, and numerous other non-profit organizations.

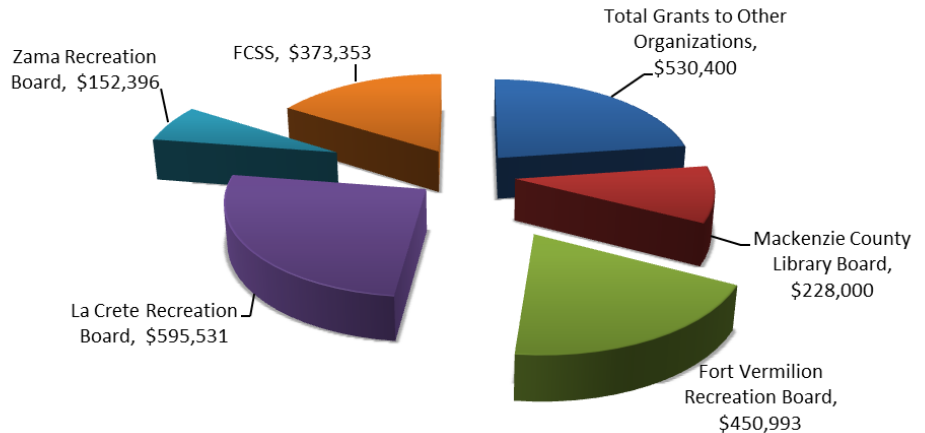
The chart on the right identifies the Council approved grants during budget deliberations.

The County has an operating agreement with the La Crete Agricultural Society and the Fort Vermilion Recreation Board whereby the County pays all conventional utilities for the La Crete Heritage Centre and the Fort Vermilion Community & Cultural Complex.

The County has a cemetery funding policy whereby each cemetery that is located within Mackenzie County receives a \$600 maintenance grant annually.

The County provides operating and capital funding to the Fort Vermilion, La Crete, and Zama recreation boards. The recreational boards operate the County-owned facilities and provide a range of programs and activities to local residents and visitors.

The County provides funding towards the provision of FCSS programs and activities.



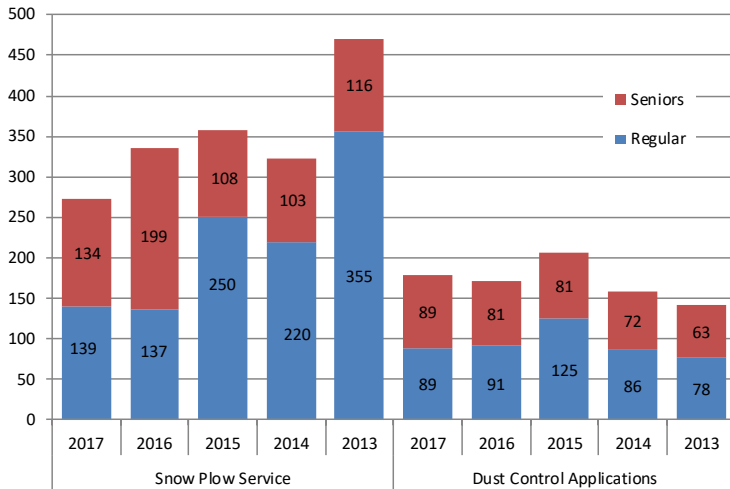
Grants to Non-Profit Groups and Organizations	2018	2017	2016
Zama Chamber of Commerce	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
Rocky Lane Agricultural Society	39,000	34,000	26,000
Fort Vermilion Friends of the Old Bay House	2,500	11,500	
High Level Agricultural Society (Exhibition Association)	15,000	15,000	10,000
High Level Rural Community Hall	25,000	20,000	20,000
Watt Mountain Wanderers	-	5,000	5,000
La Crete Agricultural Society	89,000	86,000	75,000
La Crete Area Chamber of Commerce	25,000	23,000	23,000
La Crete Field of Dreams Stampede Committee	25,000	35,000	-
La Crete Meals for Seniors	6,000	4,000	4,000
La Crete Seniors' Inn (drop-in centre)	7,000	4,341	3,000
La Crete Polar Cats	5,000	5,000	5,000
La Crete Community Equine Centre	10,000	10,000	100,000
Fort Vermilion Agricultural Society	25,000	25,000	25,000
Fort Vermilion Area Board of Trade	17,000	12,000	12,000
Fort Vermilion Mackenzie Applied Research Station	50,000	50,000	50,000
Fort Vermilion Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 243	6,000	6,000	6,000
Fort Vermilion Seniors' Club	4,000	4,000	4,000
Frontier Veterinary Services	66,000	60,000	60,000
Tompkins Improvement Board	7,700	-	-
Cemeteries	4,200	4,200	4,200
High School Bursaries	25,000	25,000	25,000
Rainbow Lake Youth Centre Society	25,000		
Rainbow Lake Family Centre	-	5,000	
Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI)	28,000	28,000	28,000
Farm Women's Conference/Farm Safety			2,000
Mackenzie Regional Charity Golf	1,000	1,000	1,000
Mackenzie Frontier Tourist Association	15,000	15,000	15,000
Miscellaneous	15,000	15,000	15,000
Total Grants to Other Organizations	\$ 545,400	\$ 511,041	\$ 526,200
Mackenzie County Library Board	\$ 228,000	\$ 228,000	\$ 228,000
Fort Vermilion Recreation Board	\$ 450,993	\$ 874,289	\$ 939,692
La Crete Recreation Board	\$ 595,531	\$ 644,378	\$ 480,646
Zama Recreation Board	\$ 152,396	\$ 209,073	\$ 138,677
FCSS	\$ 373,353	\$ 373,353	\$ 373,353
	2,345,673	2,840,134	2,686,568

2017 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Public Works

Mackenzie County provides a variety of operational services year round. The following graphs are intended to provide a glimpse into the daily operations of our municipal services.

Snow Plow Agreements & Dust Control Applications

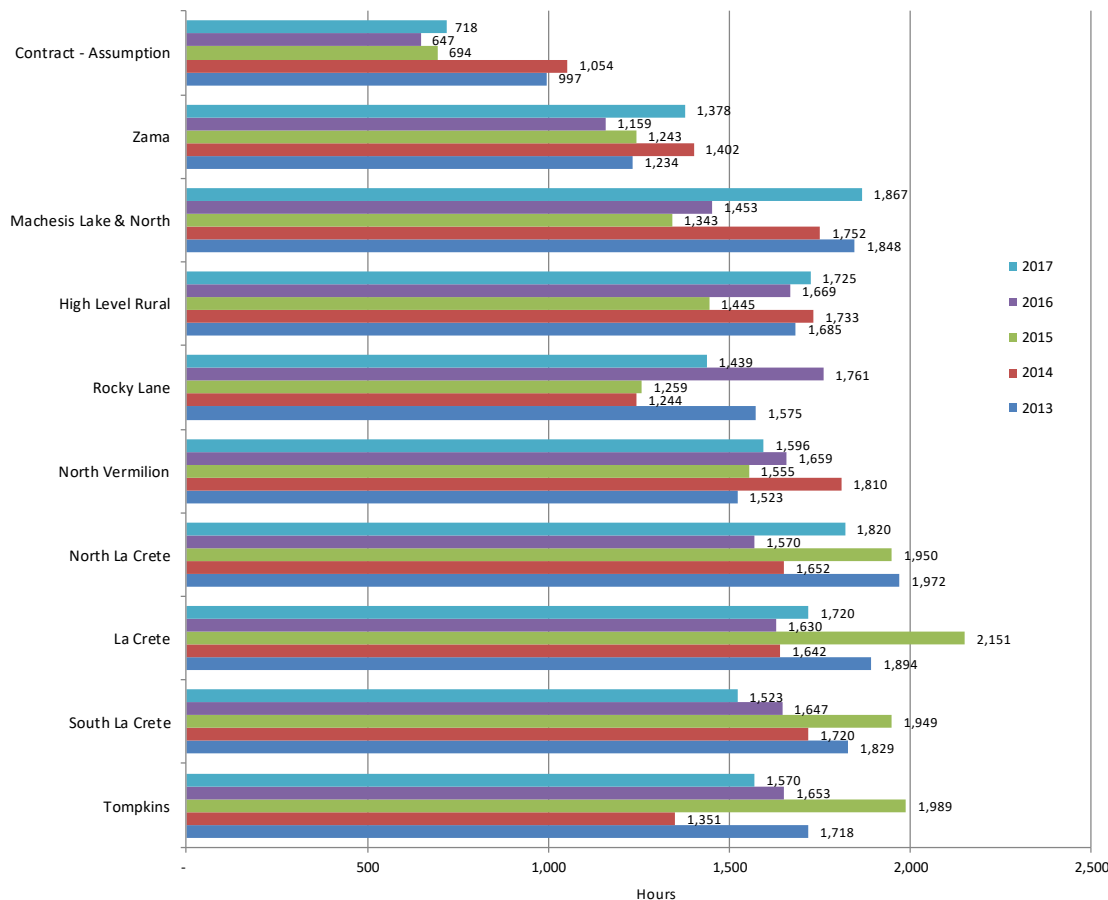


Mackenzie County has a winter maintenance program which offers plowing service (up to 1/4 mile) to rural residents. In 2017, the County completed services 655 times for seniors and 386 times for other residents.

The County applies dust control along gravel roads within the Hamlets, within school zones, major intersections, and other identified areas. Residents within the County may also apply for dust control at a cost of \$750 per linear meter with calcium chloride, which came into effect February 28, 2018. This service is provided free of charge to Seniors.

The actual costs to the county is approximately \$1,700. per application.

Grader Beat Hours



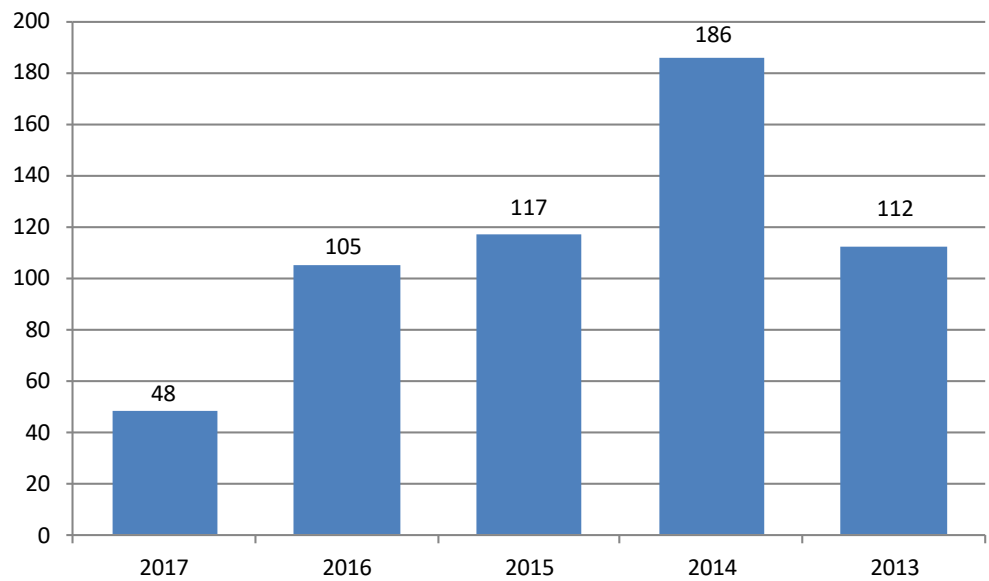
The County has nine grader beats and one contract grader. Their hours of operation are indicated on the graph below. The variances in unit hours are due to weather, number of dust controlled areas, staff vacancies, etc. The average grader beat is 205 kilometers.

2017 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Approach/Driveway Access Requests

All new subdivisions require proper access that meets the County's standard. Policy PW039 Rural Road, Access Construction and Surface Water Management Policy outlines the application and approval process.

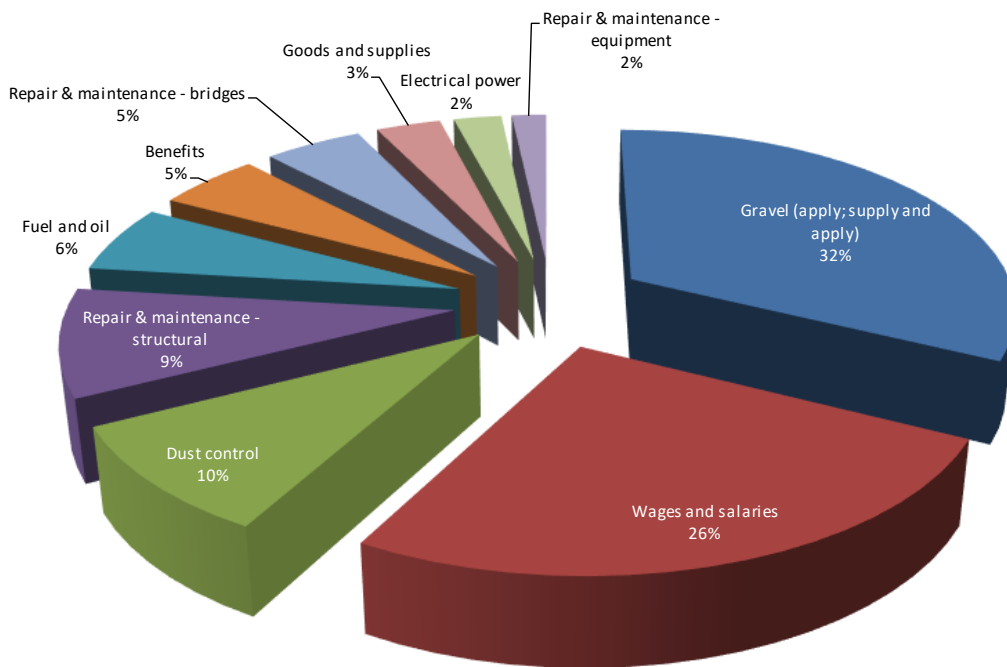
Increases in 2013 and 2014 coincide with higher numbers of rural subdivision and additional access requests to new farm land.



Transportation

As the County has over 2000 km of gravel roads the bulk of the transportation budget goes to acquiring and applying gravel to these roads. Along with gravel roads there is also dust associated with it. In order to mitigate this, the County applies calcium chloride or SB90 (oil dust control) on certain roads.

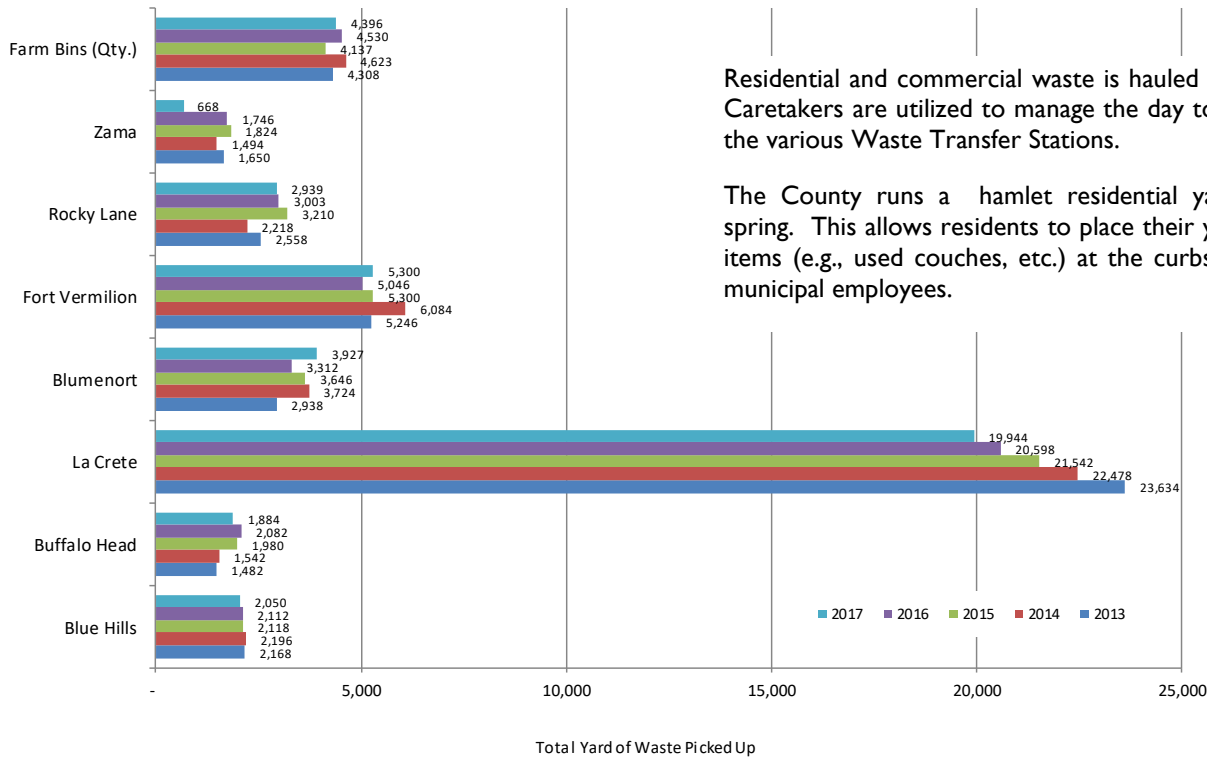
Repair and maintenance is the cost to replace culverts and fixing spots on roads.



*Top 10 Expenses in Transportation Department

2017 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Waste Transfer Stations



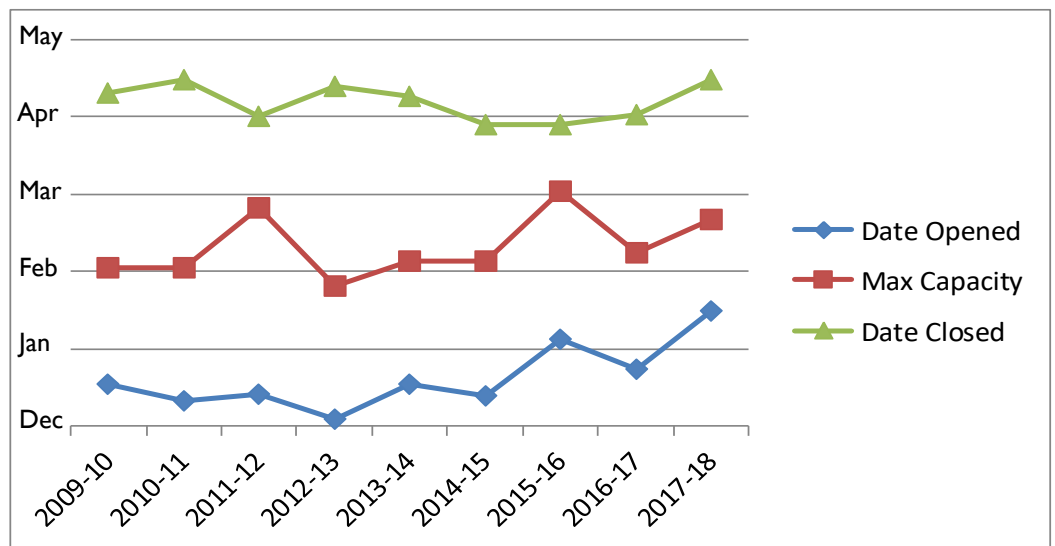
Residential and commercial waste is hauled within the County. Caretakers are utilized to manage the day to day operations at the various Waste Transfer Stations.

The County runs a hamlet residential yard clean up each spring. This allows residents to place their yard waste or large items (e.g., used couches, etc.) at the curbside for pick up by municipal employees.

Tompkins Ice-Bridge

Mackenzie County has an agreement with Alberta Transportation for the construction and maintenance of the ice-bridge on the Peace River at the Tompkins Crossing. The County subsequently tenders the contract work locally (typically every three year).

The chart on the right identifies the opening and closing dates since 2009 as well as the date the ice-bridge reached its maximum capacity of 63.5 tonnes.



	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10
Date Opened	Jan-15	Dec-28	Jan-04	12-Dec	17-Dec	03-Dec	13-Dec	10-Dec	17-Dec
Maximum Capacity	Feb-19	Feb-07	Mar-01	04-Feb	04-Feb	25-Jan	23-Feb	01-Feb	01-Feb
Date Closed	Apr-14	Apr-01	Mar-28	Mar-28	08-Apr	12-Apr	31-Mar	14-Apr	09-Apr

2017 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Parks & Playgrounds

There are a number of parks and campgrounds throughout the County that are operated through the County and the local recreation boards. These include:

- Arena Parks (La Crete & Fort Vermilion)
- Atlas Landing
- Bridge Campsite (Fort Vermilion)
- Buffalo Head Tower Day Use Area
- D. A. Thomas Park (Fort Vermilion)
- Hutch Lake Campground (High Level)
- Jubilee Park (La Crete)
- Knelsen Park (La Crete)
- Machesis Lake Campground (Rocky Lane)
- Mackenzie Housing Park (Fort Vermilion)
- Pioneer Park (Fort Vermilion)
- Reinland Park (La Crete)
- The Big Backyard Park (La Crete)
- Tompkins Landing Day Use Area
- Tourangeau Lake Day Use Area (La Crete)
- Wadlin Lake Campground
- Walking Trails (La Crete & Fort Vermilion)
- Zama Park & Campground

Maintenance of these facilities is done by the Mackenzie County Public Works department, these duties include:

- Grass trimming

- Grass cutting
- Weeding
- Flower beds
- Upkeep of buildings
- Maintenance of playground equipment
- Boat launch care
- Garbage disposal
- Supply firewood

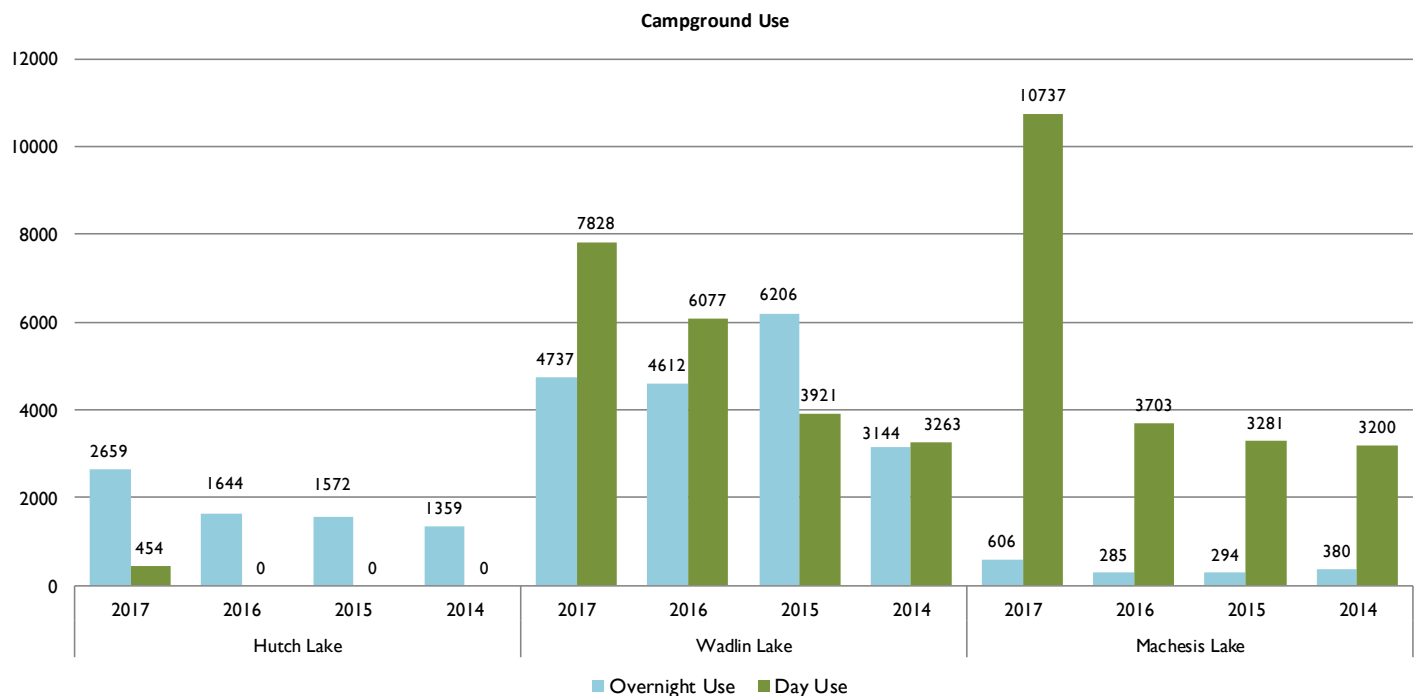
The overnight campgrounds, indicated in the chart below have caretakers on site from mid May to September 30th for Hutch Lake and Wadlin Lake, and the end of August for Machesis Lake. Visitors have come from all provinces of Canada, United States, England and abroad.

Campground Expansions

The Machesis Lake Equine Campground opened in July 2016 with eight sites for overnight horse camping. This campground is adjacent to over 20 kilometers of trails.

Wadlin Lake campground expanded with the addition of 4 new sites and more opening in 2018.

A caretaker site was developed at the Hutch Lake campground with power installed in 2017.



Note: There was no data collected by the caretaker at the Hutch Lake Campground to determine day use statistics from 2014 to 2016. Machesis Lake Campground has high day use in 2017 due to school field trips to the campground.

2017 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Planning & Development

The Planning and Development department is responsible for the operational functions of development permits, safety code permits, subdivision approvals, Land Use Bylaw revisions, mapping/GIS, engineering standards, future growth planning, environmental and regional planning and economic development.

In order to legally operate within the provisions of the provincial government, the department is provided direction by the Municipal Government Act (MGA). All our policies, bylaws, and procedures must comply with the legislation within the MGA. The provincial government is currently reviewing and making amendments to the MGA, which will require our existing policies, procedures and documents to be updated within two years.

The MGA is not our only guide when making planning and development decisions. We have several County documents that require review and consultation such as the Municipal Development Plan, the Inter-municipal Development Plan, Area Structure Plans, Sustainability Plan, and the Land Use Bylaw. All of these documents are needed to regulate, promote and restrict certain land uses and buildings in defined areas and to provide strategic and structured direction for the future growth of Mackenzie County.

The department is based out of the La Crete office and provides service to other areas of the municipality at the request of the client.

Last year, the number of development permits remained similar to 2016 numbers. Though the number of applications were slightly higher in 2017, the value of development was 30% lower than 2016 (\$14,000,000 less) as there were fewer applications for new homes. This decline is also reflected in the number of safety code permits as they are directly connected.

Subdivision applications decreased by 43%, which are the lowest numbers since 2010. 87.5% of the applications were for rural subdivisions.

In keeping with long term planning, our responsibility is to foster community growth by implementing regulations and concepts that match the expectations of each community, while still appropriately guiding responsible development that remains in the best interest of the community as a whole.

The province will soon be implementing the Lower Peace Regional Plan (LPRP). Pre-planning for this process has begun, and we are working with the provincial staff to help them understand the land use concerns and priorities for this region. This will be one of seven (7) regional plans encompassing the province, and after the LPRP is completed we will have five years to ensure that all county planning documents are in compliance with the regional plan.

2017 saw the completion of rural address sign installations across the municipality. As can be anticipated when ordering and

installing approximately 2000 custom signs across our vast County, there were a few hiccups where a sign was missed or installed at the wrong location. The new Land Use Bylaw was approved in July, 2017 and has been in use over the past year. The Land Use Bylaw features new regulation for FireSmart practices.



In regards to airport planning, the Automatic Weather Observation System (AWOS) station have been installed at the Fort Vermilion and La Crete airports which are used to help pilots to detect weather changes that may affect their landing.



The Fort Vermilion airport was renamed to the Wop May Memorial Airport. Throughout the coming year, an Airport Development Plan should be implemented as well as a review of the Airport Vicinity Protection Area document is to be completed.

Planning and Development administration are also responsible for hosting several committee meetings. The department provides background, regulation, and information to the committee members in order for them to make informed decisions.

The committees which fall under the Planning and Development function are the Municipal Planning Commission, Inter-municipal Planning Commission, Agricultural Land Use Planning Committee, Community Sustainability Committee, Northwest Species at Risk Committee, and the Fort Vermilion and La Crete Streetscape Implementation Committees. These committees are created as an opportunity for the public (Members at Large), Councillors, and administration to interact and provide policy direction and recommendation to Council at large.

The Fort Vermilion and La Crete Streetscape committees initiated and implemented some new design elements in each of their communities. Fort Vermilion now has a look out deck in downtown and heritage banners hung along River Road. La Crete has installed two signs that welcome visitors and residents into the downtown area. The respective committees

2017 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Planning & Development Cont'd

are now working towards new goals for the 2018 year.

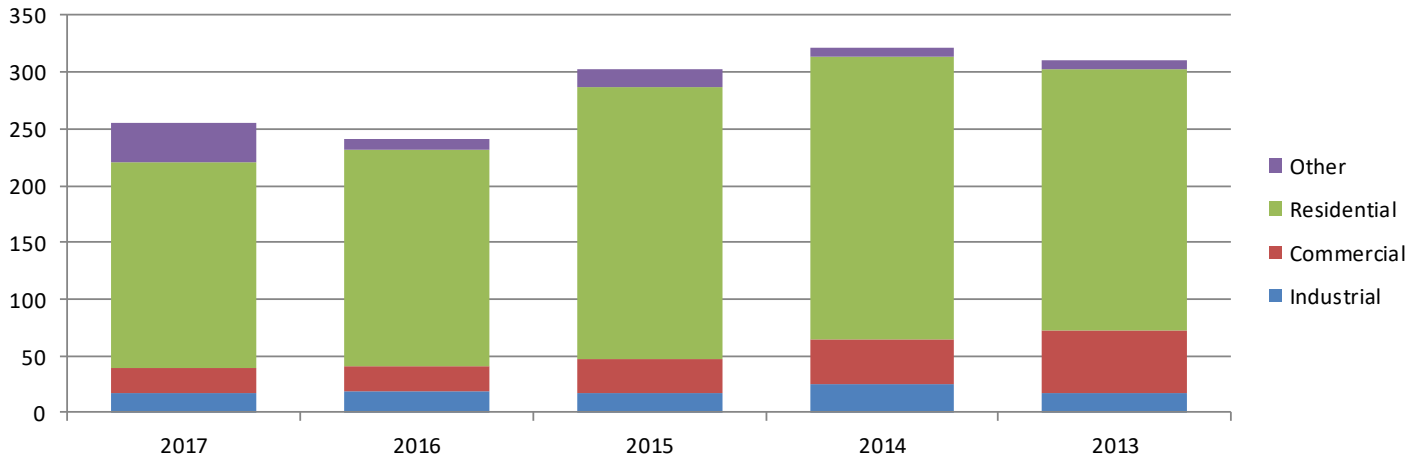
Upcoming projects for the 2018 year are the Fort Vermilion – Peace River Flood Risk Assessment, and the Inter-municipal Collaboration Frameworks (ICF's) with Inter-municipal Development Plans (IDP's) that the County is required to enter into with all adjacent municipalities.

The Fort Vermilion – Peace River Flood Risk Assessment project has been awarded to complete a flood risk assessment for the hamlet of Fort Vermilion. The assessment will help the County to identify any flood hazards, and areas at risk of flooding in and within the immediate vicinity of Fort Vermilion and to enable Mackenzie County to implement appropriate flood defense mechanisms and physical barriers in areas of higher risk, should a flooding event occur.

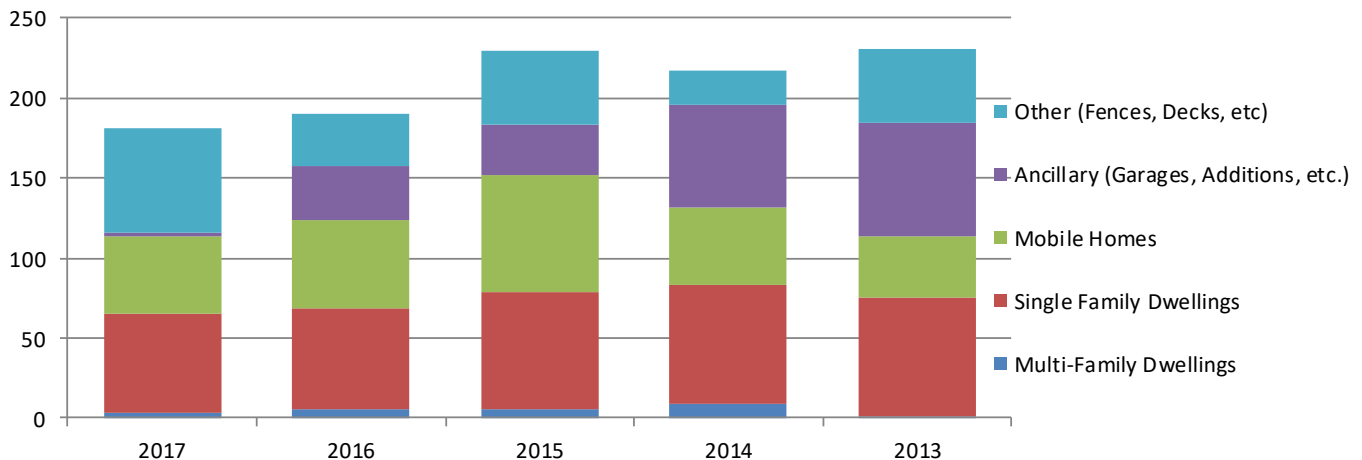
The IDP's and ICF's are required as stated in the MGA amendments and will have to be completed before April 1, 2020.

The IDP's and ICF's are agreements with adjacent municipalities that promote friendly working relationships by create processes and plans together such as mutual aid, notification of major projects, cost sharing, transportation, future development along borders etc. There are six (6) adjacent municipalities that will require IDP's and ICF's; each of them will have to be separate.

Development Applications by Number of Permits

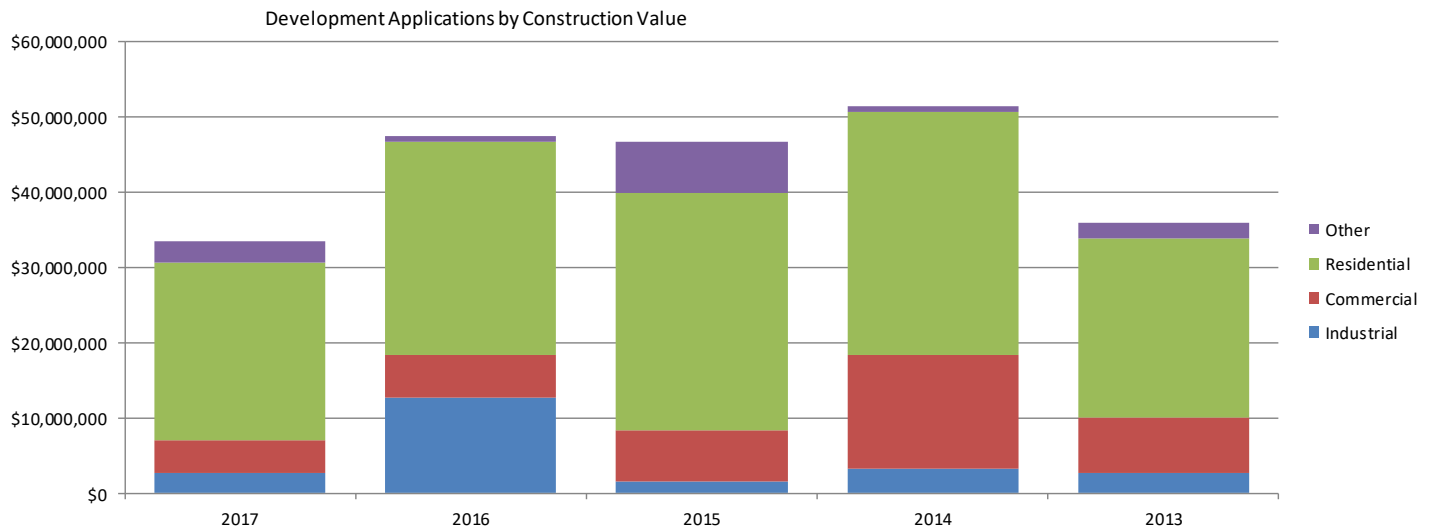
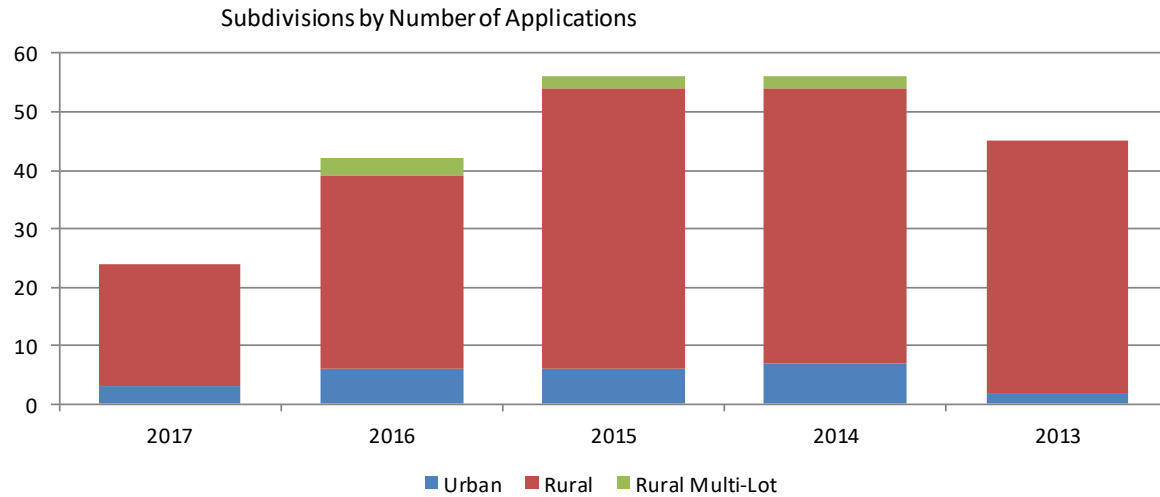


Residential Development by Number of Permits



2017 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Planning & Development Cont'd



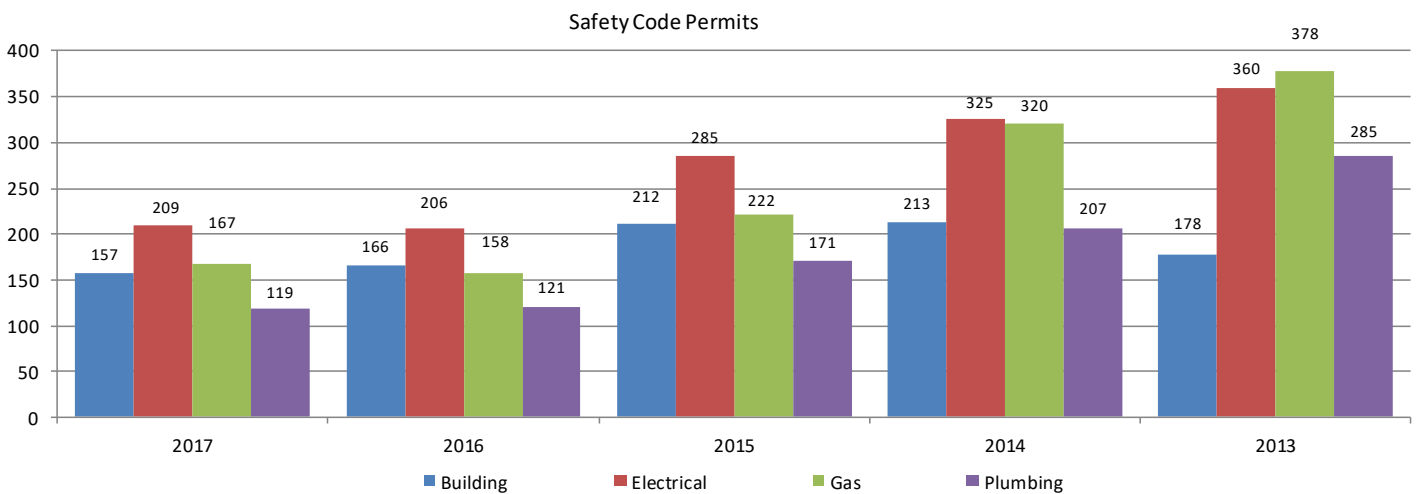
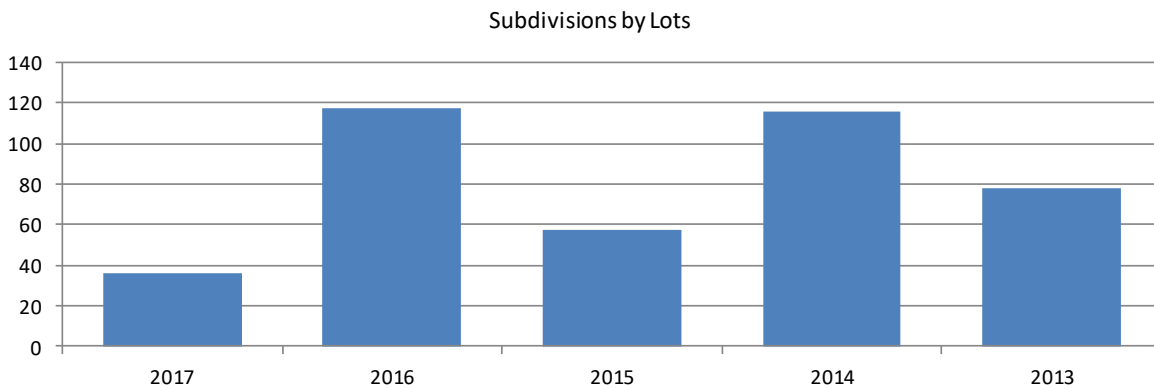
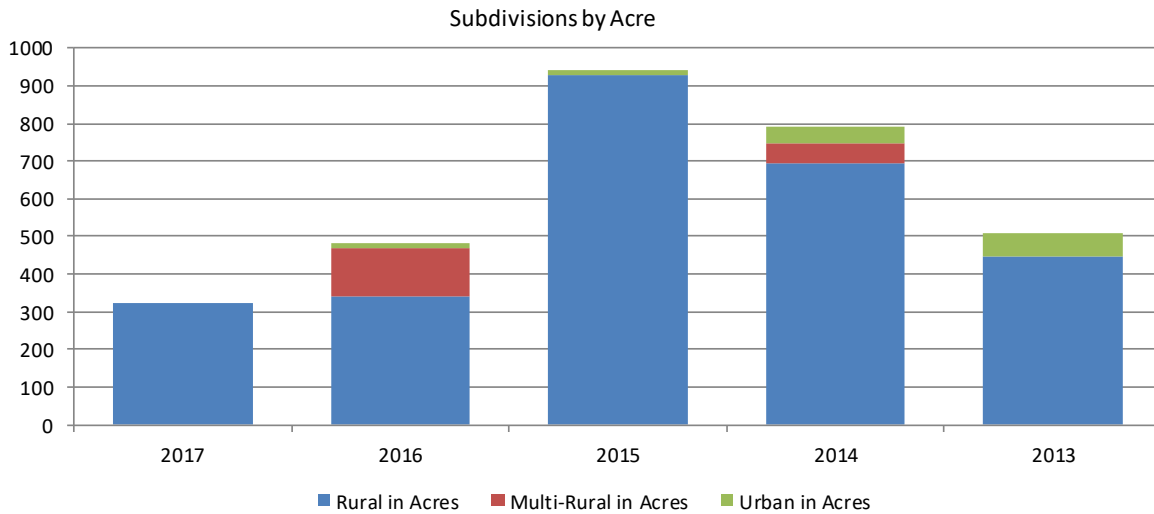
Other—includes public use facilities and home based businesses.

2014—commercial substantial increase due to Alberta Transportation maintenance facility by South Tall Cree and new financial institute in La Crete.

Industrial permits could be affected due to the moratorium imposed by the Province on caribou ranges in 2012 and 2016.

2017 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Planning & Development Cont'd



2017 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Environmental Planning

Land Stewardship Committee

The purpose of the Land Stewardship Committee is to provide recommendations to Council regarding land stewardship practices. The Committee's primary role is to learn and understand the issues and impacts of current, pending and proposed legislation as it relates to land use, deriving strategies on how to mitigate the negative impacts on the County, and provide recommendations to Council on how to best address the issues.

In April 2016, the following items were identified as the actionable objectives of the committee for the coming years: Water Management, Biodiversity & Regional Plans. The committee has been working towards achieving these objectives through data collection, and attending information sessions.

Caribou

Species at Risk, specifically Caribou, has been a prominent focus of the County since summer 2016. There are a few reasons why this is such a concern for the County. First and foremost is the potential economic impact should industrial land uses be severely curtailed on crown lands in our region. The second concern relates to jurisdiction, and a municipality's

ability to impact the land uses within its boundaries. Municipalities were not initially included in the conversation about potential parks/conservation areas, or changes to industrial development, but are still responsible for regulating land use and are dependant on strong industry sectors to keep our communities healthy.

As a result, the County initiated the Northwest Species at Risk Committee, which is a partnership between six municipalities in Northwest Alberta. The Committee has aggressively pushed the provincial government to change their strategy behind their range plans. The Committee authored a report with ten recommendations for the province, with recommendations gathered from local public engagement. Since the report was released in 2017, public engagement has been ongoing. We have also brought resolutions forward to multiple municipal organizations, have had numerous meetings with a variety of government officials, and in large part culminated our efforts with a petition. As a result of the Committee's ongoing efforts, and the concern and contribution from each of you, the residents of the region, the province has taken a step back and is more seriously considering the suggestions from our region.



Look-out Deck—Fort Vermilion Streetscape Project

2017 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Economic Development

As the result of the recent economic fluctuations in Alberta, the County is responding to the challenges facing our businesses, and ultimately our residents, by working with surrounding neighbours and institutions to build on regional assets and emerging opportunities within the trade region. This includes the hamlets of Zama City, La Crete, and Fort Vermilion, and the towns of High Level and Rainbow Lake.

The County has also been involved in different capacities with several broadband projects, of various types. The Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC) initiated a study to determine the current state of broadband internet throughout Northern Alberta. We continue to encourage local Internet Service Providers (ISP) to invest in our County, and recently supported grant applications by two ISPs.

In 2017, Mackenzie County, in partnership with Mackenzie Frontier Tourist Association (MFTA), Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI), and Friends of Historical Northern Alberta Society (FHNAS) have collaborated to build on our regional tourism, particularly featuring Historical sites.

In part of the project, a 'Circle Tour' of the municipality has been implemented. This allows tourists to get a feel for the vast region in approximately 3 hours. The tour begins in High Level; where tourists will travel east to Fort Vermilion, then south to La Crete, west to the Tompkins Landing (Ferry) and north back to High Level ending the tour. Another exciting element of this phase is the installation of signage that identifies historical landmarks in Fort Vermilion and North Vermilion (Buttertown).

A partnership with FHNAS uses a new phone app called 'History Check' to identify and share stories of significant historical landmarks in the municipality. These new tourism resources will encourage self-driving tourists to explore our region.

Another highlight of 2017 was The North to Alaska symposium which brought proponents from both sides of the border together around the idea of running a dual rail line to ship crude oil, agriculture products and consumer goods to and from the port in Valdez. The proposed rail line from Fort McMurray, Alberta would pass through our region and generate increased economic opportunity. At the event, information was presented including the G7G group who have already secured approval from 28 First Nations in Alaska, plus the Assembly of First Nations in Canada to go ahead with the rail line.

To promote agriculture in the area, Mackenzie County Council contributed toward a new organic program which commenced

November 1, 2017 and will run until October 31, 2019. The Mackenzie County Organic Success Program is a two-year, \$330,000 initiative which supports agricultural and agri-food entrepreneurs in the Mackenzie County region to diversify into organic production.

The program will support two cohorts of producers – those in transition and new to organic growing, and experienced organic growers. The Transitioning and New Organic Grower Stream will focus on issues such as the certification process, finances, marketing, weeds, soil fertility, and more. The Organic Farmer Advancement Stream will assist farmers in designing sustainable crop rotations, managing weeds, building soil fertility, and maximizing grain quality.



In 2017, Mackenzie County signed up with Townfolio which is an online platform created to operate as a network or directory of Canadian municipalities. When you visit Mackenzie County's profile you will discover local statistics and specific opportunities for doing business. Townfolio provides Mackenzie County with data automation and an opportunity to promote our municipality to site selectors.

In the coming year, Mackenzie County in partnership with REDI, will be conducting a municipal census. This project will provide more accurate numbers when applying for grants, and further build our regional profile. Investment attraction profiles will also be created to promote investment in oil and gas, agriculture, and forestry.

2017 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Northwest Species at Risk Committee (NWSAR) Message from the Chair

As some of you may be aware the Northwest Species at Risk Committee or NWSAR for short was formed in the fall of 2016 and is made up of the six Northwest Municipalities. The Towns of High Level, Rainbow Lake and Manning and County of Clear Hills, County of Northern Lights and Mackenzie County.

The purpose of NWSAR is to be the voice of this region to the Provincial and Federal governments, range planners and other non-government groups.

When the Denhoff report was made public in June of 2016 it allocated 1.8 million hectares of additional conservation land in this region to be set aside for Caribou recovery. There was no consultation and no conversations with the people on this recommendation. This sterilization of land for any current and future economic use and the removal of access to these lands would have had devastating consequences for all of us. The municipalities who were going to be negatively affected rallied and so this process we call the 'Caribou' started.

It has been an extreme learning curve for us, as elected officials we never in a million years thought we would have to become demi-experts in all things caribou and range planning, but our incredible team of dedicated regional minded Councillors and the hard working staff from multiple municipal partners, have stepped up and have been successful on many fronts.

Our successes would not have been possible without most importantly the grassroots involvement of the 'people of this region', without the industries big and small, the mom & pop businesses, the entities like the Alberta Trappers Association (ATA) Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP), Alberta Forest Products (AFPA) and many more, the list would take up a whole other page, all lending their expertise, advice and support to our group of municipalities!

We have covered many miles, logged fly-time and too many hours to count. Had some laughs, worked through frustration and some loud debates, thousands of emails and even more paper,

because hey we support our forestry industry! We have learned a lot not just about Caribou and the 'file' but about this region and the people in it, it's strengths and challenges. Each individual on NWSAR has a different skill set and as a team we have seen successes. We will continue to work together with both higher levels of government to incorporate as many of our strategies as possible, create solutions and to ensure that access to the land now and into the future in paramount.

We have not only been pushing back against the original range plan, but more importantly offering locally developed strategies and solutions that could be explored and integrated into each of the range plans that cover our area. We have concentrated on actual species population recovery. We are trying to move past the unattainable success measure of at least 65% undisturbed habitat and look at ways to grow the current herds that we have in this area.. it is a complex file and needs to be looks at holistically with a multi-species approach and balanced land use across al sectors and rights holders. Also critical for the economic prosperity within the Northwest is a protection for future economic development and potential economy builders. Our submission to the Province which covers these strategies and methods can be found on our website. www.albertaNWSAR.ca.

The fact that the provincial government has backed up and has put additional consultation processes in place; that our region blew the attendance and feedback numbers out of the water at the most recent Provincial meetings; the announcement that the conservation land discussion is temporarily suspended; that a Government of Alberta organized Northern Alberta delegation traveled to Ottawa to meet with Minister McKenna... all leads to the fact that we have been successful in making both levels of government that are supposed to look after us take a hard second look at pushing their plans through to fruition.

It has not been without frustration, and we expect there to be more, we are hopeful and we are prepared to continue on until we can reach



Alberta's six NW municipalities formed the Northwest Species at Risk (NWSAR) Committee. They are working with the federal and provincial government's to develop protection plans for Woodland Caribou that are effective and consider the socio-economic impact to the region. Visit our website to read our extensive report & recommendations.



Town of High Level



Mackenzie County Mackenzie County



County of Northern Lights



Town of Manning

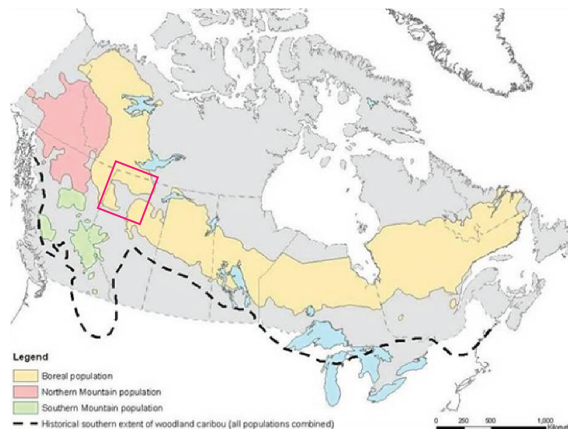


Clear Hills County



Town of Rainbow Lake

www.AlbertaNWSAR.ca



2017 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Northwest Species at Risk Committee (NWSAR)

success in the finals outcome. We are moving now into putting together some of the data that we have discussed that is missing, misleading or absent. We are in the process of applying for FRIAA grant funding, and hope that the Province also partners to increase the effectiveness of these initiatives.

As I am writing this some of us are on our way to Halifax to attend the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) conference in which we are tabling a resolution in partnership with the Mayor of Kenora, Ontario and with the support of SARM (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities) and of course our Alberta Municipalities who have been on board from the start... this resolution targets the lack of recognized municipal partnerships as well as the ever frustrating land based success measure of a minimum of 65% undisturbed habitat. We are going to be working to gain as much cross-Canada support as possible as this affects all Provinces and Territories.

I love using paper but in the effort to not bore you, this is my update in regards to the Caribou file, and if you would like to know more please visit our website and of course 'like' and follow our Facebook page.

www.albertanwsar.ca
www.facebook.com/AlbertaNWSAR

I would like to thank each and every person that has been engaged in this initiative regardless of the degree, without your continued support many of us would be re-training to be Park Wardens!

Lisa Wardley
Deputy Reeve, Mackenzie County
Chair, NWSAR



2017 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Utilities

The Utilities Department is responsible for managing the water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer systems. Operationally this includes water and wastewater treatment, distribution and collection maintenance programs like hydrant flushing, sewer flushing, account connects/disconnects, meter installs and repairs. The department also plans for growth by following consumption and population trends to secure water supply and ensure the services are prepared for the growth.

Under provincial regulations the department is required to operate in accordance with the Alberta Environment Protection and Enhancement Act, Water Act, Potable Water Regulation, as well as Code of Practice for Wastewater Systems Using a Wastewater Lagoon. Additionally, we are also required to operate within the Federal requirements such as the Fisheries Act and Wastewater Effluent Regulations.

In 2017, our department worked on many different water and sewer projects throughout the County. We had two potable water truck fills that opened for water hauling in Buffalo Head Prairie and just outside of the Hamlet of Fort Vermilion. We are still working on getting deficiencies rectified and the concrete pads are on that list to get replaced.

We are currently working on different options for the supply of potable water north of the Peace River to service the Rocky Lane rural area as well as extending rural water to the Blue Hills area and setting up truck fills.

In Fort Vermilion we are continuing to correct water service freezing issues by increasing ground cover, insulating or combination thereof. This will help us conserve more water through the elimination of trickle systems. A lift station grinder



also got installed at the main lift station in Fort Vermilion which should help in maintaining our pumps and less required maintenance.

Two grants were approved for the Hamlet of Zama City after waiting for seven years for acceptance. The Zama Treatment Improvements project will replace the treated water pumps that distribute water to the hamlet along with HVAC upgrades and chemical feed system improvements. Zama's main lift station will be getting replaced after years of sewage backups due to undersized pumps and equipment as a part of the Zama Lift Station Upgrades project.

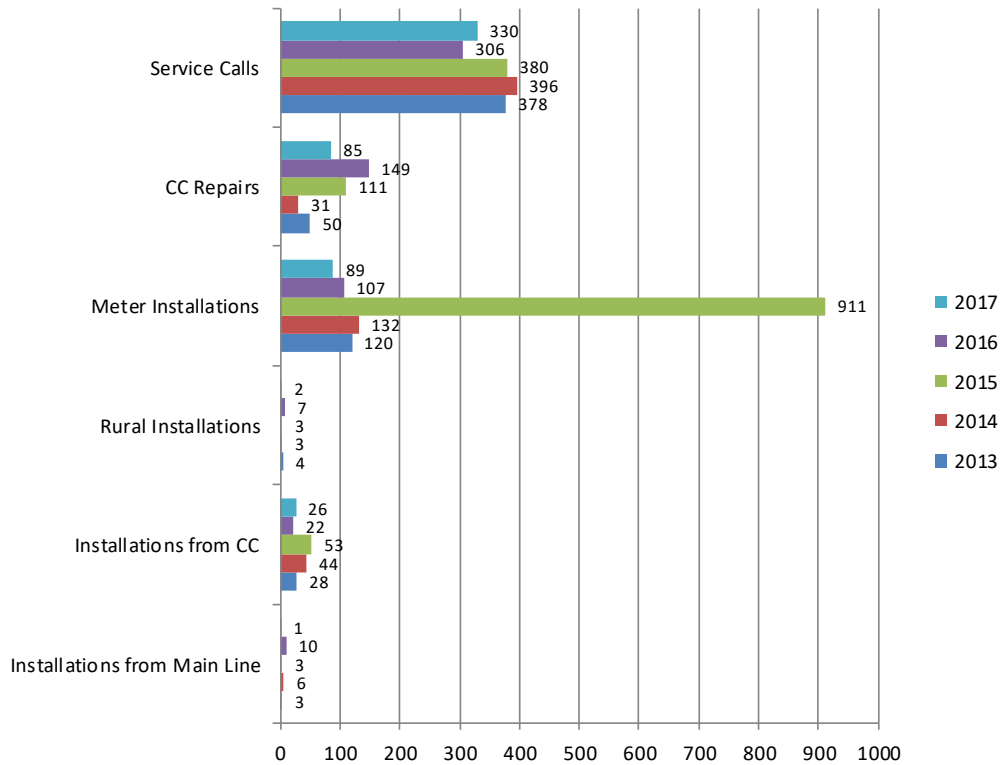
Featured projects in the Hamlet of La Crete include planning for future utility requirements as well as re-routing existing sewer main. We completed a sanitary sewer study to come up with a plan to service the lands north and west of the current hamlet utilities under the project La Crete Sanitary Sewer Expansion project. A fourth well has also been drilled to continue to provide water for the growing demands of the population growth in the La Crete area.



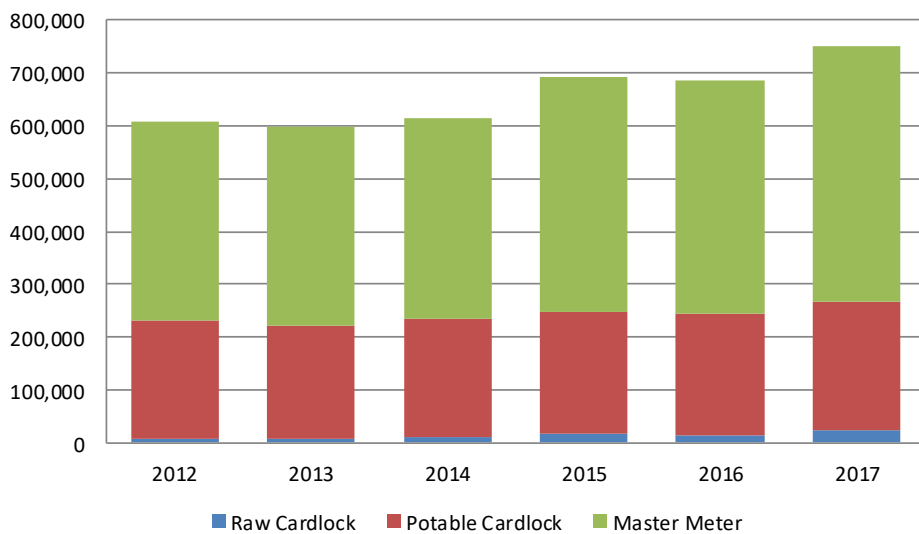
2017 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Utilities

Water Service Installations & Maintenance



Water Consumption Totals



2017 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Mackenzie County Agricultural Service Board (ASB)

Mackenzie County's Agricultural Service Board (ASB) consists of two municipally appointed Councillors and three municipally appointed members at Large.

ASBs are established under the Alberta Agricultural Service Board Act and are responsible for administering and enforcing the provincial agricultural related acts; Weed Control Act, Agriculture Pest Act, Soil Conservation Act, Livestock Disease Act, and the Agricultural Service Board Act. This is achieved through our business plan (available on the Mackenzie County website) where goals and strategies are outlined. The business plan is updated on a regular basis, but our main goals remain the same.

- Encourage development of new value-added agricultural farms and agri-businesses.
- Promote sustainable agricultural policies and practices.
- Strong internal policies and programs to support responsible agricultural land development.
- Appropriate land uses within the County.
- Continuing agricultural land expansion.

The ASB works closely and provides financial assistance to Mackenzie Applied Research Association (MARA). MARA coordinates and conducts all applied research and provides extension services to local agricultural producers.

With noxious weeds such as Canada thistle and scentless chamomile being an ongoing problem within Mackenzie County, two seasonal Weed Inspectors are employed to inspect both the green and white zone area. These weed inspectors work directly with landowners to control noxious weeds found on their properties. Weed identification and weed management are two key components to a successful agriculture operation.

The fifth annual Agricultural Fair and Tradeshow was once again a huge success, with an estimated 3000 residents attending. The Agricultural Fair & Tradeshow is hosted at the MARA grounds. This event draws people from all over Mackenzie County to come out to support and celebrate Agriculture. There is something for everybody at the fair, so mark your calendar for August 10 & 11, 2018 because this is an event you won't want to miss.

A Wolf Depredation Management Program is still continuing in effort to reduce caribou predation,

allowing a \$200 bounty on wolves harvested within Mackenzie County's borders. To date, 346 wolves have been harvested.



The new Shelterbelt program proves to be a tremendous success with over 1500 trees ordered. The purpose of the programs is to promote soil and water conservations and rural and urban beautification.

The ASB also continues to lobby the government to take action regarding the diseased Bison in Wood Buffalo National Park to help protect our local beef producers against Bovine Tuberculosis and Brucellosis.

Over 100 canola fields throughout the County were tested in 2017 for Clubroot. We are happy to report that all samples came back negative. Clubroot is a disease that is on the horizon and the ASB is making every effort to minimize the effects of this disease.

The second annual Organic Growers conference was held in April of 2017 at the La Crete Heritage Centre, which was a huge success with over 80 delegates attending. This conference had an excellent line of speakers and an increase in tradeshow booths.

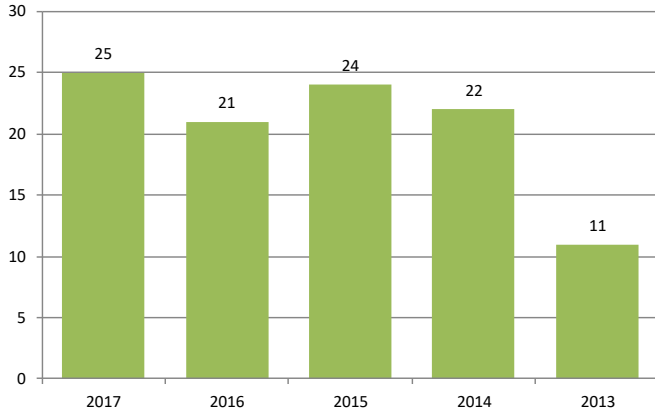
Extensive erosion repairs were completed on the Rosenberger flood control channel in 2018. These and other repairs throughout the County are an ongoing process from year to year as regular infrastructure maintenance. The construction of the Buffalo Head/Steephill Creek Flood control project commenced in 2017 and is expected to be completed in 2018.

Josh Knelsen, ASB Chair



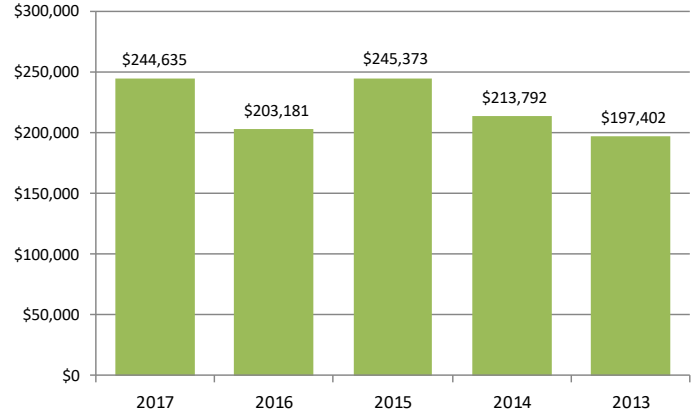
2017 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Pump & Pipe Rental



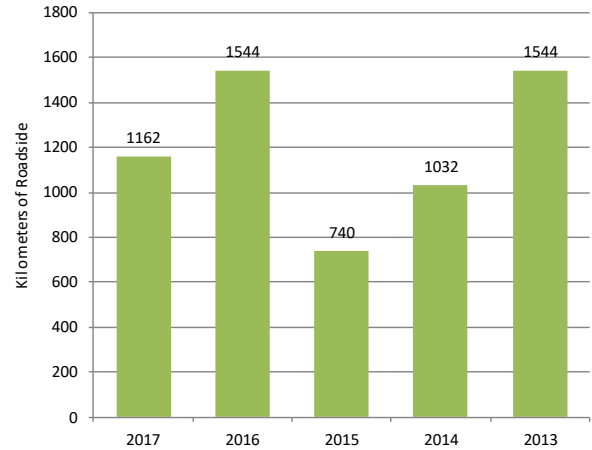
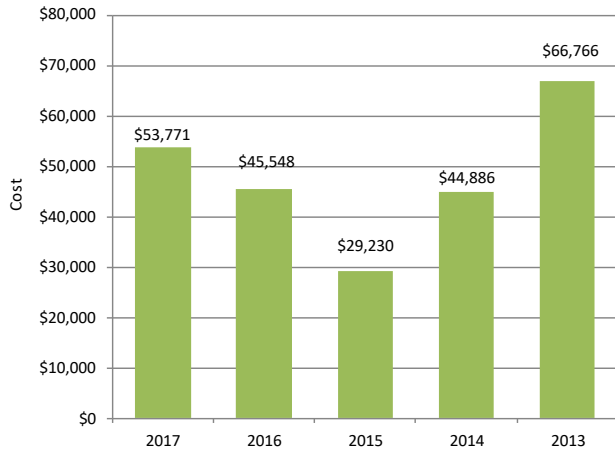
Mackenzie County rents a 6" PTO driven water pump for agricultural use. The pump comes with one-mile of pipe. Two-day rental fee is \$300.

Roadside Grass Mowing

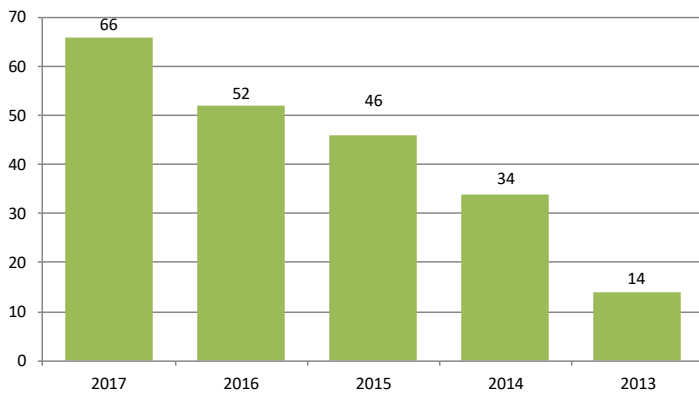


County roads are mowed once each year—one pass cut. Each road receives a full width cut every other year. Approximately 1655 km of County roadside are mowed each year.

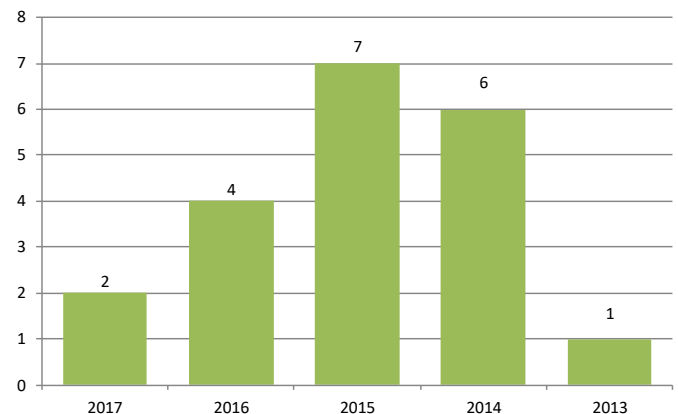
Roadside Spraying



Do Not Spray Requests



Weed Notices Issued



2017 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Seed Cleaning Plant Inspections

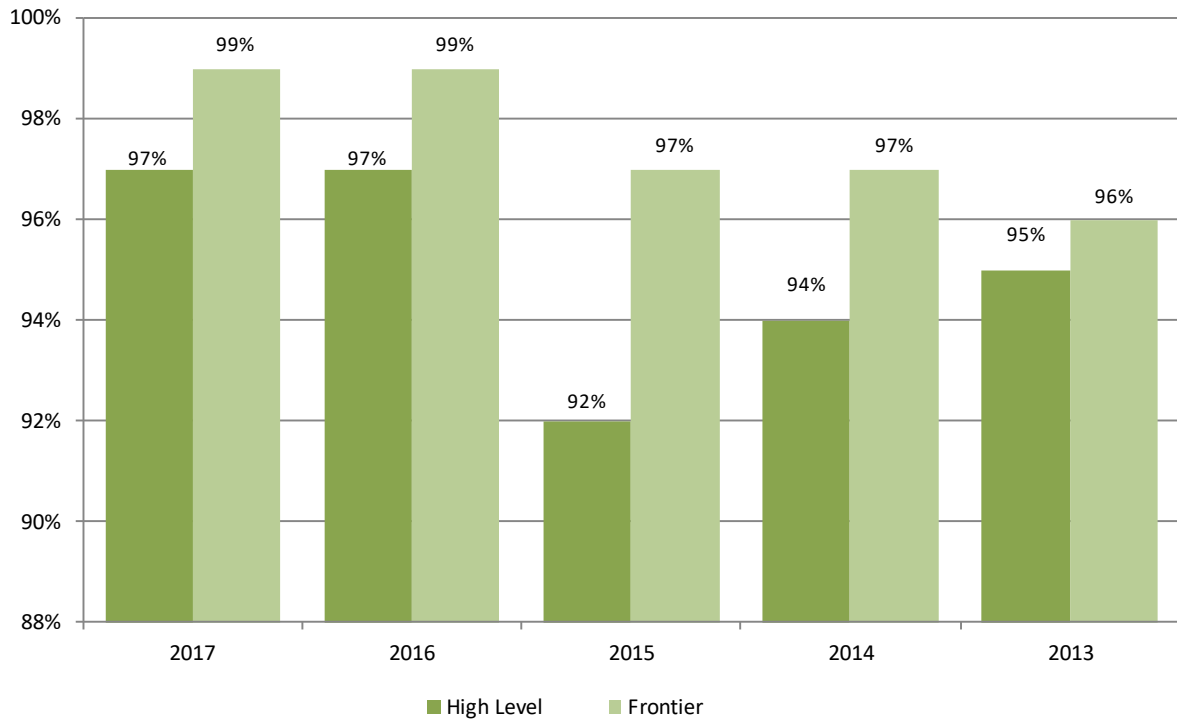
Licenses are issued to Seed Cleaning Plants under the authority of the Weed Control Act. The purpose of licensing is to protect users from the spread of weeds due to faulty practices, design or maintenance of seed cleaning plants.

Plants are rated in two categories:

1. The design, maintenance and operation of the plant relating to the prevention of cross contamination of seeds.

2. The quality of the end product or seed produced.

The chart shows the scores of the High Level Seed Cleaning Co-op and the Frontier Seed Cleaning Co-op inspections. Plants must achieve at least 50% to operate.



2017 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Beaver Control

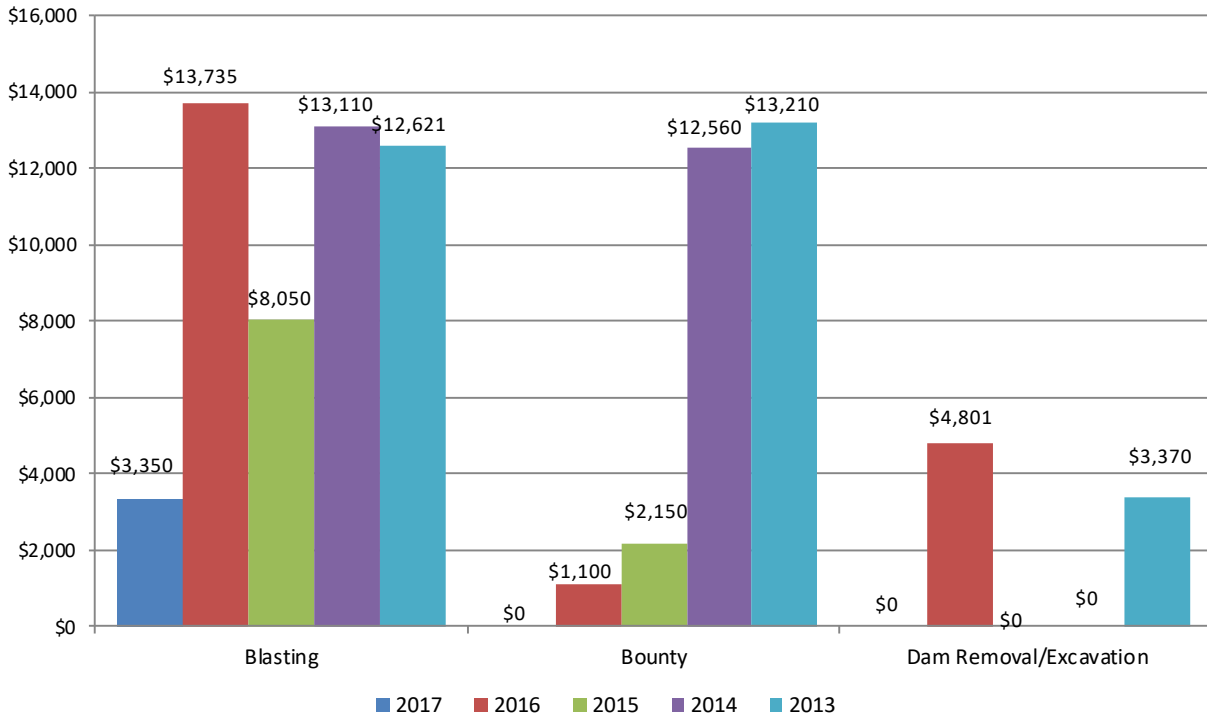
The County has a beaver bounty program to help agricultural producers deal with problem beavers that are flooding their agricultural land.

When a complaint is received from a landowner, the Agricultural Fieldman will inspect the area and decide which method of dam removal is appropriate (backhoe or blasting). Members from one of the two Local Trappers Associations

will remove the beaver from the problem area to help ensure that the problem dam will not be recurring.

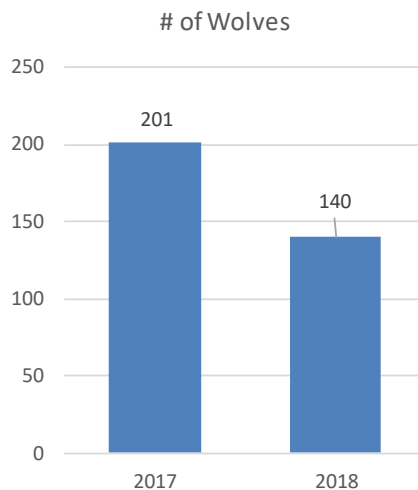
The Local Trapper's Association receives a \$50 bounty for each beaver tail collected from problem areas.

In 2016, Mackenzie County responded to nine concerns due to beaver dams flooding farm land.



Wolf Depredation Management Program

Mackenzie County supports wolf population control efforts in order to reduce Boreal Woodland Caribou predation. The County has implemented procedures to provide a Wolf Depredation Management Program for the purpose of promoting the lawful harvesting of wolves. Through this program, participants will receive monetary compensation (in the amount of \$200) for the entire carcass of an adult wolf lawfully harvested within the boundaries of the County.



2017 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Fire Services

Mackenzie County operates four fire stations located in Tompkins Landing, La Crete, Fort Vermilion, and Zama. High Level rural residents are served by the Town of High Level fire department under a Regional Service Sharing Agreement.

Members on the various fire departments are volunteers and are paid an honorarium by the County. The membership numbers are:

- La Crete/Tompkins—44 active members
- Fort Vermilion—20 active members
- Zama—11 active members

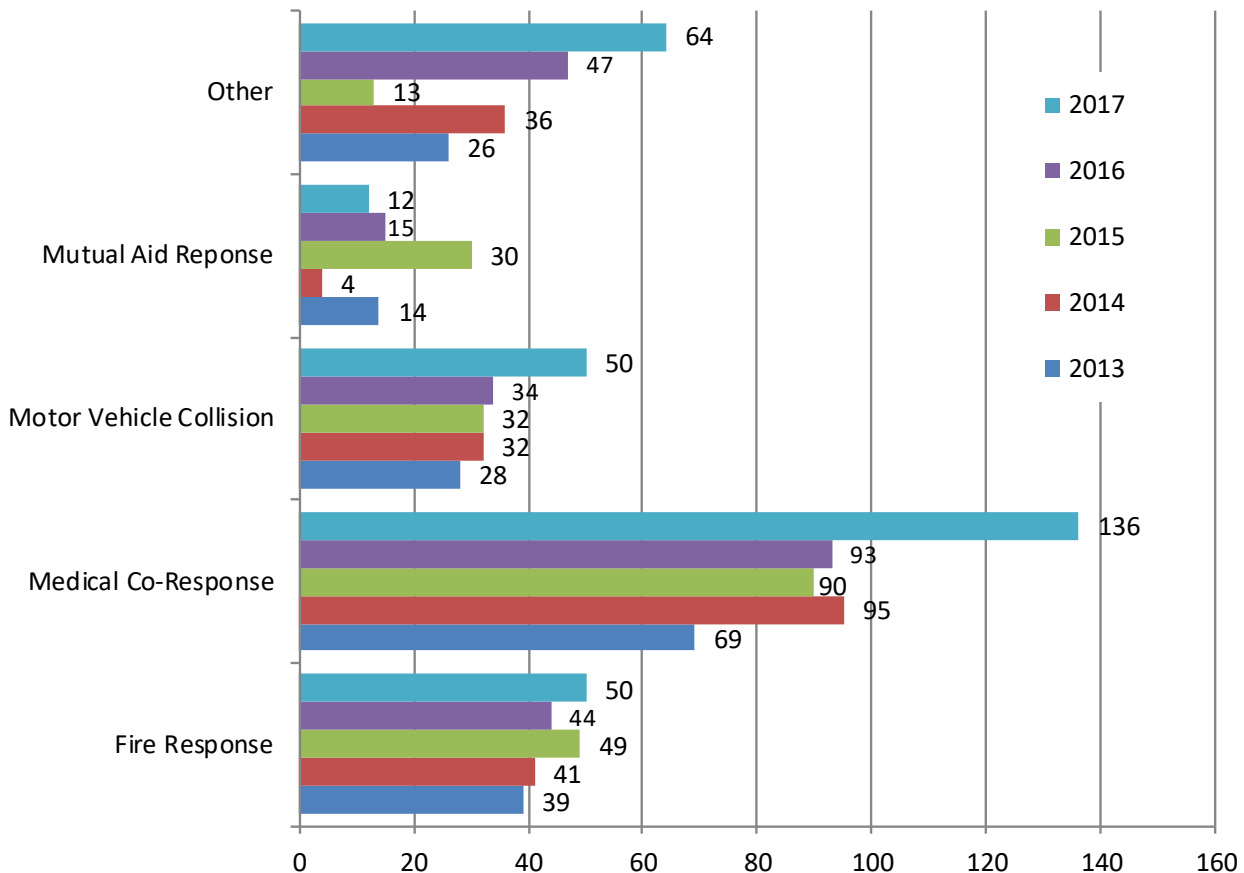
Becoming a firefighter requires a considerable commitment and availability. Some of the expectations and duties of a member are as follows:

- Attend training nights in order to maintain and build skills
- Obtain appropriate fire/emergency training as per the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
- Make an effort to attend as many drill nights and emergency calls as possible

- Respond to emergency calls, not only within the County, but also those in other fire districts as defined in mutual aid agreements
- Be on voluntary call
- Be a team player
- Help maintain an organized and neat station, as well as keep equipment clean

2017 was a busy year for the Fire Departments. There were several large structural fires within the County. Members from Fort Vermilion and La Crete/Tompkins were called in several times to assist with the La Crete Sawmill Pellet Mill fires. Zama Fire Members were busy with a camp fire in June. 2017 also saw an increase in Motor Vehicle Incidents and major fatality incidents.

Thank you to our volunteer fire fighters for doing such a great job!



2017 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Municipal Election

General Municipal Elections are held every four years. Mackenzie County is comprised of ten (10) wards with one (1) Councillor elected for each ward. The Reeve and Deputy Reeve are elected by the Council from within at the annual Organizational Meeting, in accordance with the County's Procedural Bylaw.

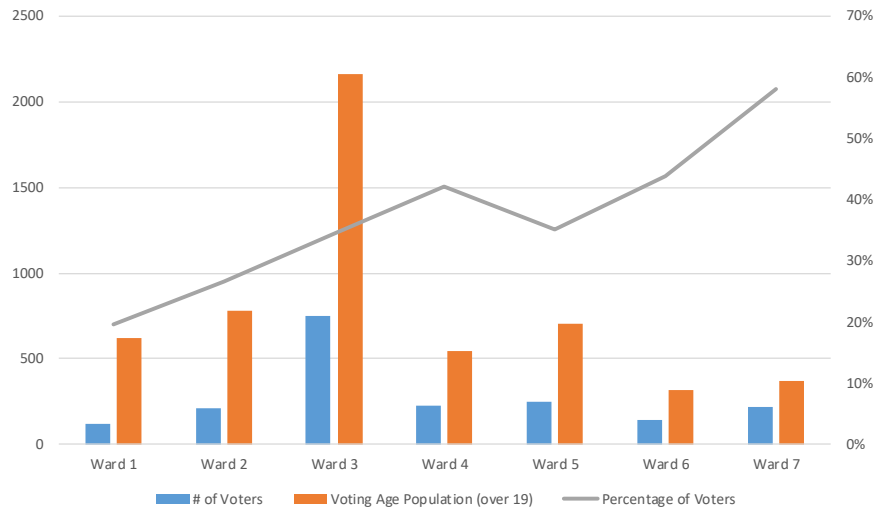
Seven out of the ten wards were challenged and subsequently elections were held in those wards. Three incumbents regained their seats while four new members were elected for their ward.

The organizational meeting was held on October 23, 2017 where all members were sworn in and officially took office. Peter F. Braun was elected as the new Reeve and Lisa Wardley was reelected as the Deputy Reeve.

Councillors will hold office until the next general election in October 2021.

For information regarding elections please visit the County website.

The chart below indicates the number of voters that voted in the 2017 general election. Please note that Wards 8—10 were acclaimed and no election was held for those wards.



Retirement Celebration

October 2017 marked the end of an era, after sitting on Council for 37 years, Bill Neufeld resigned his seat. Bill spent most of those years as Chair/Reeve of the Improvement District No. 23 and Municipal District of Mackenzie No. 23 which is now known as Mackenzie County.

Bill spent countless hours leading the municipality on the local level and lobbying the provincial and federal governments for grant funding. Attended numerous ribbon cuttings and grand opening ceremonies,

speaking at graduations and many other special events.

A highlight was finally finding success in paving Highway 88 in 2014 after lobbying the provincial government for over 35 years.

We appreciate your exceptional governance, leadership, and dedication to serving and advocating on behalf of the residents of Mackenzie County. We wish him all the best in his retirement.





Mackenzie County

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