



County News

May 2017



Social Media

You can now find us on Facebook, and Twitter where we provide the latest information and news regarding Cardston County. We are also on YouTube, where you can view all of our Council meetings.

Our Webpage is:

www.cardstoncounty.com



County Tax Info

General Tax Information

- **Payments Received after May 15** will not be reflected on your tax bill but will be applied to your property tax account.
- **Penalty Applied** - A 5% penalty will be applied on July 1, 2017 on current taxes owing.
- **Outstanding Utility Payments** - Any utility account balances over 90 days as of March 31, 2017 have been transferred to your tax account as per County bylaw 583.2009.

Options for paying taxes

- **Online Banking** - ATB, Alberta Credit Unions, RBC, TD, CIBC.
- **Interact e-Transfer** Use the password **taxes** and the email: office@cardstoncounty.com
- **Monthly** - Set up a pre-authorized payment plan by bringing a void cheque to the office. The 2017 taxes must be paid up in full prior to starting 2018 pre-authorized payments.
- **In Person** - Taxes can be paid at the County office by cash, cheque or debit (no credit cards), during regular business. There is also a drop box on the side glass door for after hours drop off.

Taxes are due on:

June 30, 2017

(mail postmarked June 30 or earlier will be honoured)

Tax Forms are available on our website:

www.cardstoncounty.com

This includes the assessment complaint form.

Regular Office Hours

Monday - Friday

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

More info:

Penalties:

Taxes that remain unpaid after the due date are subject to the following penalties:

July 1st: 5% on current Levy

January 1st: 5% on current Levy

March 1st: 12% on total balance owing

Note:

- Penalties are imposed under the authority of the Cardston County Tax Penalty By-Law, passed pursuant to the Municipal Government Act.
- Any property on which the taxes are in arrears

are liable to the recovery proceedings specified in the Municipal Government Act.

- Where the taxes are paid by a mortgage company, the owner is responsible to ensure that the taxes are paid on time.
- An assessment complaint does not exempt you from paying taxes on time or from late payment penalties. If a complaint is successful, the adjustment will be applied to the tax roll. Re-

fund cheques will be mailed out, when applicable.

- **Seniors Property Tax Deferral Program.** Information on this program can be found at www.seniors-housing.alberta.ca/seniors/property-tax-deferral.html or 1-877-644-9992

Citizen Satisfaction Survey

Cardston County would appreciate your participation in our **2017 Citizen Satisfaction Survey** so that we can better understand the needs of our residents and identify areas for improvement. Your input will help us gauge community satisfaction with Cardston County and help us improve the services the County provides to our residents.

A link to the electronic version of the survey can be found on the County's website at **www.cardstoncounty.com**. We would prefer to receive responses online if possible, but hard copies of the survey have been included with your 2017 Tax Notices.

Burn Permits

Cardston County residents wishing to conduct an open fire must acquire a fire permit before proceeding with the burn. You can contact us at **(403) 653-3712** during our regular business hours of 8:30am to 4:30pm to obtain a fire permit.

The fire permitting system was established so our fire departments know which fires are controlled burns and which could be wild-fires. Residents who proceed with an open fire without first acquiring a permit will be responsible for the costs of our fire departments responding to the burn.

County Gravel

Cardston County will be offering gravel again for purchase this year from June 5-9th and August 21-25th. Gravel will be available from multiple pits throughout the week, so you can contact our office at **(403) 653-4977** to find out the specific dates and times of availability for each pit.

If you are interested in purchasing gravel from Cardston County, you will need to come to the County Office and pick up a purchase order prior to receiving any gravel. You will need to provide the purchase order to the driver, or whoever is picking up the gravel. The cost of the gravel is \$10/yard.



Agricultural Services Board(ASB)

Cardston County offers a number of agricultural services to residents, including farm equipment rentals, herbicide and pesticide sales, gopher poison, weed spraying, and various workshops hosted throughout the year. We provide these services to farmers and ranchers due to the importance of the agricultural sector in supporting our communities and economy.

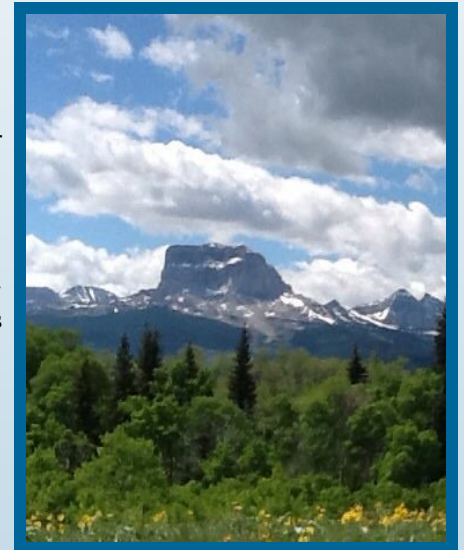
Our equipment rentals include a pasture plow, seed drill, and more. If you are interested in our equipment rentals or herbicide/pesticide services, you can call **(403) 795-2594** for more information.

Development Permit Applications

With development season about to begin, Cardston County would like to remind residents that development permits are required for any new development. You can pick up a development permit application from our office or print one off from our website.

We encourage residents to contact our Director of Planning Services at **(403) 653-4977** prior to submitting a development permit application to ensure that the proposed development complies with our Land Use Bylaw and that any necessary information has been provided.

We have had to raise development permit application fees this year to cover the administrative costs of processing applications. Fees for Permitted Use applications will now be \$100 and fees for Discretionary Use applications will now be \$200. Even with the increases, Cardston County's development permit application fees are equivalent to our neighbouring municipalities. There are also additional costs for development that is started without permits in place.



2017 Property Tax Rates

Cardston County collects municipal property taxes in order to provide services like road construction and maintenance, recreational and leisure opportunities, agricultural services, emergency services, utilities such as water, and more.

Cardston County, along with all other municipalities, is required to collect various requisitions on behalf of the provincial government to help fund provincial education and senior programming. The provincial government requires that municipalities collect these requisitions via municipal property taxes and reallocate them back to the provincial government. These provincial requisitions are included in your property tax rate.

Combined Rates	2017	2016
Residential	6.9407	6.7084
Agricultural	14.4997	14.2427
Commercial / Industrial	20.0516	18.8146
Machinery & Equipment	15.3700	14.3650
Power Generation	16.1590	15.1518