

### Local Firefighters Celebrated with Service Awards



**Ben Collins**



**Brenden Miller**



**Jeremy Shipley**

Red Deer County hosted its annual Protective Services Awards on January 31, 2026 to celebrate achievements from 2025, and acknowledge exceptional service from Red Deer County's Protective Services members from across all divisions of Fire-Rescue, Emergency Management, and Patrol. Three firefighters from Fire Station 8, in Delburne, were recognized with service awards.

Ben Collins received his two-year service award, and Brenden Miller was awarded Firefighter of the Year for East Battalion. Jeremy Shipley received his two-year service award and he was awarded Member of the Year for East Battalion. Both awards for the East Battalion are voted on by all the members in the Battalion which include those from Station 8 in Delburne and Station 11 in Elnora.

Congratulations Ben, Brenden, and Jeremy. The entire community thanks you for your service!

### Thank You to the Delburne Futures Committee

The Village of Delburne would like to recognize the Delburne Futures Committee for their 15 years of dedication and hard work to community development. Your volunteer efforts demonstrate that one small group can make a huge impact. Our citizens enjoy many recreational amenities because of your tireless commitment to making Delburne a better place.

*To every member, thank you for making a lasting and positive difference in our community!*

The Committee has submitted a history of the society. See it inside this issue!



## Village of Delburne

Municipal Office: 2111 20 St.

### Hours of Operation

*Monday to Thursday:*

9:00 am - 4:30 pm

**Closed: Noon to 1:00 pm**

*Friday:* 9:00 am - Noon

*Village Office:* 403-749-3606

*Public Works:* 403-749-3607

*Fax:* 403-749-2800

After Hours Water Emergency:

403-749-3607

Mailing Address:

Box 341, Delburne, AB T0M 0V0

Email: [village@delburne.ca](mailto:village@delburne.ca)

Website: [www.delburne.ca](http://www.delburne.ca)

Facebook: @VillageofDelburne



## Village of Delburne Council Meetings

**Tuesday, April 14th & 28th  
5 pm at the Village Office**

Meetings are open to the public. Enter from the front door, go left down the hallway and Council Chambers is the first door on the right. Take a seat.

If you wish to speak to Council, please book an appointment to present at a future meeting. Alternatively, you can have an issue addressed by writing a letter to Council.

Letters and delegations for the meeting agenda must be submitted/booked at least **7 days** prior to the next meeting.

**Village Voice Submissions:** The deadline for the next issue is the **third Monday** of the current month. Submissions must meet the requirements as outlined in the *Municipal Newsletter Policy*. Please submit by emailing [villagevoice@delburne.ca](mailto:villagevoice@delburne.ca) or drop off your poster at the Village Office.

Village of Delburne 2026 Property Assessment Notices were mailed out on March 4th. If you have not received your assessment, please contact the Village Office at 403-749-3606 or [village@delburne.ca](mailto:village@delburne.ca).

The deadline to file an assessment appeal is **April 28, 2026**.

Before filing an appeal, we recommend discussing your assessment with our Village Assessor Kevin Bohlken of Wild Rose Assessment Services at 403-343-3357.

### To file an assessment appeal:

Form **LGS1402** must be filled out and a fee will be charged:

- Residential Property: \$50.00
- Non-Residential Property: \$250.00

Pick up an appeal form at the Village Office or download online at:

[www.alberta.ca/municipal-property-assessment-complaints-and-appeals](http://www.alberta.ca/municipal-property-assessment-complaints-and-appeals)

Council will set the 2026 tax rate in April and tax notices will be mailed out in May. Property taxes must be paid by June 30, 2026.

# Village of Delburne Employment Opportunity Seasonal Public Works Labourer

The successful applicant will report directly to the Public Works Foreman. The position is from May 1 to October 31 each year and may include some work through the winter months for snow removal. Duties will include, but will not be limited to, the operation and maintenance of water and sewer equipment; installation of water and sewer mains and service lines; operation and maintenance of equipment and vehicles; road, street and sidewalk construction and maintenance; maintenance and repair of parks and recreation facilities.

Applicants must be able to work with a minimum of supervision, must work well with the public and be responsible and civic minded. He or she must have, or be willing to obtain, an understanding of the water and sewer systems, treatment facilities, and water and sewer main construction, a knowledge of road construction and maintenance, knowledge of equipment operation and maintenance, ability to interpret and work from blueprints and engineering plans and drawings. Good communication skills, both written and oral, will be an asset.

Experience and Educational Requirements:

1. Possess a current and valid driver's license. A driver's abstract will be required by the successful candidate.
2. Good physical condition.
3. Working knowledge of equipment operation, Public Works construction and maintenance, and a practical aptitude to carry out work assignments and duties.
4. Must have a minimum of grade 12 or equivalent education.
5. Provide a criminal records check.

The Village of Delburne will accept applications for the position of Seasonal Public Works Labourer until 4:30 PM April 15, 2026. Cover page and resume attached should be addressed to:

Gary Rusaw  
Public Works Foreman  
Village of Delburne  
Box 341  
Delburne, AB T0M 0V0  
Email: [gary.rusaw@delburne.ca](mailto:gary.rusaw@delburne.ca)

Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.



## Delburne Eco Station

Fall/Winter Hours: October 1st to April 30th

Tuesday: 2 pm - 5 pm Saturday: 9 am - 3 pm

- ✓ Cardboard & Paper
- ✓ Tin cans
- ✓ Plastic containers
- ✓ Electronics

2001 10<sup>th</sup> Ave - East side of Fawn Meadows Golf Course

[www.delburne.ca/about-delburne/garbage-and-recycling/eco-station](http://www.delburne.ca/about-delburne/garbage-and-recycling/eco-station)



## April Recycling Dates: Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>

Report a missed pick-up:

587-217-1975

[EPR-Alberta@e360s.ca](mailto:EPR-Alberta@e360s.ca)

[circularmaterials.ca/delburne](http://circularmaterials.ca/delburne)

- ♻️ Have recycling to the curb by 7 a.m.
- ♻️ Give containers a quick rinse
- ♻️ Ensure materials are clean, dry and loose in your recycling
- ♻️ Flatten cardboard to save space





# Summer Employment Opportunity

## Qualifications:

- Between 15 and 30 years of age at the start of employment.
- Was registered as a full-time student during the preceding academic year.
- Intend to return to school on a full-time basis during the next academic year.
- A student in a secondary, post-secondary, vocational or technical program.

## Summer Position – Public Works

Duties include maintenance and repairs of roads, sidewalks, parks and other municipally owned facilities; cutting and maintenance of grass on all municipally owned property; working and dealing with public; and performing other related duties as may be required by the Public Works Foreman.

Must have a valid class 5 driver's licence.

This seasonal position will work 40 hours per week  
with a hourly wage of \$15.00/hr.

Start date is negotiable with an end date of August 28, 2026.

**Applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is found.**

Please apply by delivering your resume to the Village of Delburne Public Works, Delburne Village Office or email to: [gary.rusaw@delburne.ca](mailto:gary.rusaw@delburne.ca)



The Delburne Sr Outlaws hockey club would again like to thank everyone within our wonderful and amazing community for the support for our 2025 - 2026 ECSHL season. This program could not succeed at the level we have been able to maintain for seven seasons without the support of our sponsors, volunteers, fans, the Ag Society, and our players and their families. We also want to call special shout-outs to everyone who bought one of our raffle tickets this year and hopefully won one of our prizes or squareboard or a 50/50 at some point!

Your Outlaws finished with a 7-9-2 record with 7 points finishing 8th. We faced the top-seed Stettler Imperials for an extension of our Red Deer River Rivalry and fell short to a powerful Imperials team. With the new additions to the roster, the organization took great steps forward and look to continue that growth into next season.

The Senior Outlaws organization is proud to operate on a community-first perspective. Our success is a collective success. We look forward to input from our sponsors and volunteers on how we can grow even bigger with your support and ideas.

On behalf of President Gwen Craig and GM Brian Christensen, thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

More info @

DGC **HANGOUT** .COM

**DELBURNE GOSPEL CHURCH**  
Experiencing Christ Jesus Together



In May the youth from Delburne Gospel Church will be doing yard work for people in the community. If you would like your yard raked, cleaned and ready for summer, sign up today at [dgcHangOut.com](http://dgcHangOut.com)

**YARD** **SPRING**  
→ **CLEAN** ←  
→ **HELP SEND KIDS** ←  
→ **TO CAMP** ←



# REMINDER



**ALL PETS MUST BE ON A LEASH**  
**PLEASE PICK-UP AFTER YOUR PET**  
**WASTE BAGS & GARBAGE CONTAINERS ARE PLACED THROUGHOUT THE VILLAGE**

**RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP BYLAW ENFORCEMENT:**  
**ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES**  
**403-506-9380**

# CAMP ALEXO

*A Place Where Memories are Made*

**JUNIOR LEADER PROGRAM**  
SUMMER 2026 | AGES 14-17

For youth ages 14-17, this program is designed to help them develop leadership skills and provide a fun, challenging experience. Participants will learn about themselves and others, and will be given the opportunity to lead a group of youth in a variety of activities. The program is held at the Delburne Youth Centre, and is open to all youth in the community.

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE ADVENTURES**  
JUNE 29 & 30 | AGES 13-17

Join us for two days of fun and adventure on the beautiful Saginaw River. Participants will learn about canoeing, and will be given the opportunity to lead a group of youth in a variety of activities. The program is held at the Red Deer & Rocky Mountain House, and is open to all youth in the community.

**WAPIABI**  
JULY 6-10 | AGES 7-12

The first camp of the summer, Wapiabi is a fun and challenging experience for youth ages 7-12. Participants will learn about themselves and others, and will be given the opportunity to lead a group of youth in a variety of activities. The program is held at the Delburne Youth Centre, and is open to all youth in the community.

**PHOENIX Adventure Camp**  
JULY 14-23 | AGES 13-17

Phoenix Adventure Camp is designed for teens looking to explore their potential and develop leadership skills. Participants will learn about themselves and others, and will be given the opportunity to lead a group of youth in a variety of activities. The program is held at the Delburne Youth Centre, and is open to all youth in the community.

**THUNDERBIRD Adventure Camp**  
JULY 27-AUGUST 1 | AGES 10-13

Thunderbird is for youth who are looking for adventure. Participants will learn about themselves and others, and will be given the opportunity to lead a group of youth in a variety of activities. The program is held at the Delburne Youth Centre, and is open to all youth in the community.

**SHUNDA**  
AUGUST 4-7 | AGES 7-12

For many young people, Shunda is their first experience of a summer camp. It is a fun and challenging experience for youth ages 7-12. Participants will learn about themselves and others, and will be given the opportunity to lead a group of youth in a variety of activities. The program is held at the Delburne Youth Centre, and is open to all youth in the community.

**WASKWAY Leadership Camp**  
AUGUST 10-14 | AGES 13-17

Waskway will have our campers work together to form teams, develop their leadership skills, and complete a variety of challenges. Participants will learn about themselves and others, and will be given the opportunity to lead a group of youth in a variety of activities. The program is held at the Delburne Youth Centre, and is open to all youth in the community.

**BIGHORN**  
AUGUST 17-21 | AGES 7-12

Bighorn is the last camp of the summer and always a fun one. It is a fun and challenging experience for youth ages 7-12. Participants will learn about themselves and others, and will be given the opportunity to lead a group of youth in a variety of activities. The program is held at the Delburne Youth Centre, and is open to all youth in the community.

**SUMMER 2026**

**bgc**  
Red Deer & District Club

**YOUTH HQ**

REGISTER AT:  
[YOUTHHQ.CA](http://YOUTHHQ.CA)



Find local events through our Community Events Calendar:

[www.delburne.ca/news-events/events-calendar](http://www.delburne.ca/news-events/events-calendar)

# HEADQUARTERS SALON



**403.749.3033**

1833 - 22 Avenue, Delburne, AB



**NOMAD**  
vet services

**Dr. Colin Nicholas**

403-588-0220

[Nomadvetservices@gmail.com](mailto:Nomadvetservices@gmail.com)

[Nomadvetservices.com](http://Nomadvetservices.com)

*Celebration of Life for  
Keith Van Manen*

April 10, 2026 at 1:00 PM  
Delburne Community Hall

**DELBURNE AND DISTRICT LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026

7:00 pm

Delburne Curling Club

This meeting is being called to

**ELECT A NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**

After more than 10 years of service the current executive is stepping back.

We warmly invite *past, current, and future members* to attend, get involved, and help shape the future of the club.

Your voice and participation matter — we hope to see you there!

**Legion** ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 142 DELBURNE ARDLEY

**DURING THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY,  
ALL NEW MEMBERS CAN JOIN THE  
LEGION FOR FREE FOR 2026**



Membership forms are available at Legion Pub Nights which take place every Thursday from 6 pm to 10 pm at 2020 22 Ave in Delburne.

You can also join by phone or online.

Call 855-330-3344 or visit <https://portal.legion.ca/join>

Please mention that you want to join Branch #142, Delburne-Ardley.

Sign up for your free membership today and when you renew in 2027, you'll be automatically eligible to win a Ford F-150!

Local groups can submit to the Village Voice for FREE!

For content guidelines see the Municipal Newsletter Policy:

[www.delburne.ca/news-events/village-voice](http://www.delburne.ca/news-events/village-voice)

The deadline to submit to the May issue is Monday, April 20th.

Email:

[villagevoice@delburne.ca](mailto:villagevoice@delburne.ca)

**Good Friday - 11am  
Easter Sunday - 11am**  
2034 27<sup>th</sup> Ave Delburne

DELBURNE  
GOSPEL CHURCH  
Experiencing Christ. Jesus. Together.

FROM TRIAL TO  
**TRIUMPH**  
THE HOPE OF EASTER

Join us this Easter weekend as we remember the sacrifice of Jesus and celebrate the hope of the resurrection.

**COUNSELLOR**

**TINA LARKIN**

MSW, RSW,

Certified Clinical Trauma Professional



(403)860-1179



[tina.larkin.counselling@gmail.com](mailto:tina.larkin.counselling@gmail.com)

Please call for a 15 minute free consultation

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Call me today for a  
free market evaluation.

Jeni Gordon  
REALTOR®



**403.396.5482** | [jgordon@maxwellrealty.ca](mailto:jgordon@maxwellrealty.ca)

## Glenellen Community Centre Events

### Mother's Day Lunch

May 3rd @ 1 pm  
Provided by Red Deer County  
Glenellen Community Centre  
25401 Twp Rd 360

### Glenellen 2026 AGM

April 13th - pizza @ 6 pm, meeting @ 7 pm  
Please RSVP for pizza:  
glenellenhall@gmail.com or  
call/text Dorothy at 403-854-1532

## DELBURNE PLAYSCHOOL

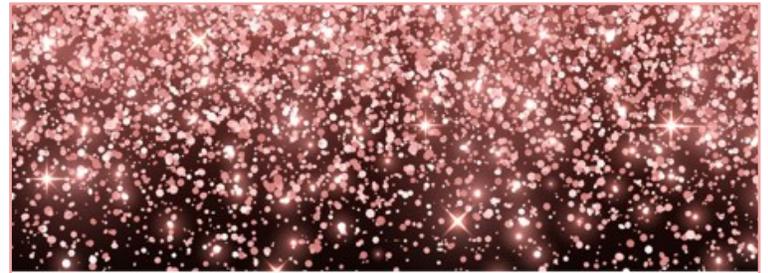
### REGISTRATION NIGHT

THURS. APRIL 16TH,  
3:30 - 6:30 PM

Registration opens April 1st for  
26-27 school year.

Come, meet the teachers, and check  
our space!  
2101 20th Street.

Contact 403-877-8433 by text or  
delburneplayschool@hotmail.com with any  
questions or more information.



# It's Time To Dance

YOU'RE INVITED TO

Urban Studio

DANCE RECITAL

MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> 7PM

DELBURNE COMMUNITY HALL

## *Cumberland Playful Theatre*

Date(s): April 15 - 18, 2026

Where: Cumberland Community Hall

Time: 7:00 pm Doors open at 6:00 pm

Tickets (\$10) available at:

Delburne	Oops Fresh Market
	Servus Credit Union
Elnora	The Grocery Barn

## *Expressions Salon*

Event & Flower Wall Services

**Amanda Horning**

**(403)506-6569**

Custom Cuts, Colors, Extensions,  
Bridal Hair, & Flower Wall Rentals

Help us update the online

**Delburne Groups & Organizations Directory!**

Check out the link:

[www.delburne.ca/residents/groups-organizations](http://www.delburne.ca/residents/groups-organizations)

If you see any incorrect information or you want to  
add a new organization, please contact us at  
403-749-3606 or village@delburne.ca



# Delburne Municipal



The library had **1,384** open hours in 2025!



**185** people have a card at our library



**4,615** people walked through our doors last year



In addition to **2,707** website visits



The library added **590** new items last year



Bringing the total collection to **5,323**



There were **1,636** downloads of e-Content



Contributing to a total of **4,800** checkouts!



We lent our items to libraries outside of our system **3,507** times



Our service is delivered by **3** dedicated staff



And **4** amazing volunteers



The library has **7** public computers



And brought in **1,799** items upon patron request



We answered **97** reference questions



And our meeting spaces were booked **28** times



**0** mobile devices available for loan



We offered **75** in-person programs



virtual programs



And **0** digital literacy programs



**580** people attended in total!



And our Wi-Fi had **7,217** connections!

# CONNECT



LESS BUFFERING....

# MORE LIVING

Why wait for a better connection?

Make the switch to a provider on the CONNECT network and experience connectivity that supports your lifestyle.

*Get Connected!*

**1.888.994.7689**  
**RURALCONNECT.CA**

## SPRING CONCERT Pine Lake Singers



Spring concert  
Sunday April 12--2 pm  
Pine Lake Hub  
**\$5.00**

Join us for some great music!  
Prizes! Lunch!

## Delburne Food Bank 403-598-3588

If you need a hamper, please call and leave a detailed message before **5 PM on Tuesdays**.

Food Hampers are distributed on **Wednesdays**.



Check out the Delburne Business Directory!  
[www.delburne.ca/business/business-directory](http://www.delburne.ca/business/business-directory)

# Fed by FREDRICK

ELEVATED CATERING

**403-848-4406**



*Holistically You*  
Beauty Bar



Scan to Book

2123 20 St, Delburne

Hair · Lashes · Brows · Esthetics · Energy Healing

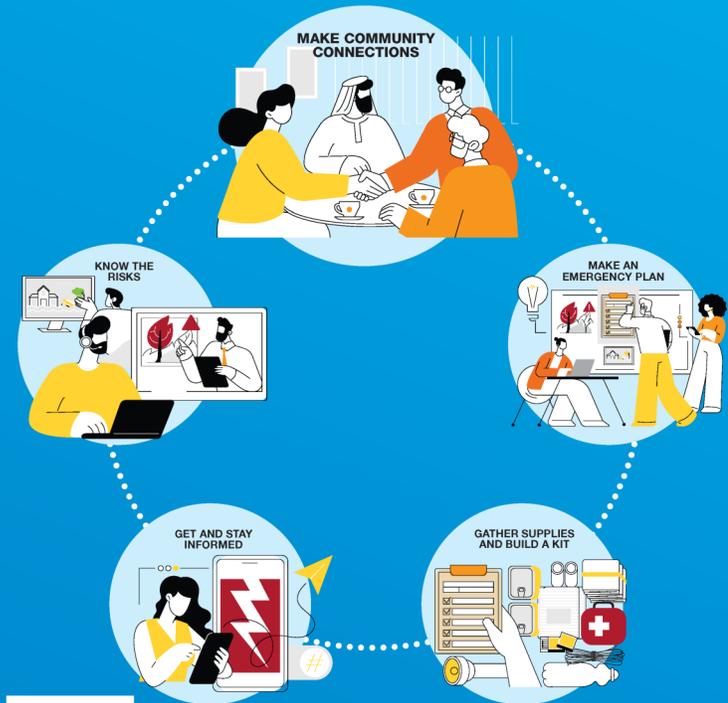
Text to Book (403) 373-4734 • Walk-ins Welcome

# Emergency Preparedness Week

May 3-9, 2026

Before, during and after an emergency—we are **In It Together**.

#BePrepared and learn more about the importance of making community connections to help you build resiliency for disruptions, big or small.



Learn more at [alberta.ca/beprepared](https://alberta.ca/beprepared)

Alberta

# Happy EASTER

Wishing you and your family a joyful and peaceful Easter.



Hon. Devin Dreshen, MLA  
Innisfail-Sylvan Lake

📞 403.865.7580 📍 A-5027 - 49 Street, Innisfail, AB T4G 1M1  
📞 403.887.9575 📍 111, 4914 50 Ave, Sylvan Lake, AB T4S 1C9

## Delburne Community Hall Society

### Annual General Meeting

Thursday, May 7th at 7 pm

Delburne Community Hall

Everyone is welcome!

## Statistics Canada is hiring across Canada for the 2026 Census!

**APPLY NOW:**  [census.gc.ca/jobs](https://census.gc.ca/jobs)

Pay your Delburne utility bill with a credit card.

A 3% user fee is applied.

Visit: [payment.optionpay.ca/village-of-delburne](https://payment.optionpay.ca/village-of-delburne)

ROYAL LEPAGE

### Pat MacDonell

Royal LePage Network Realty Corp.  
Real Estate Agent

patmacdonell@royallepage.ca 

Mobile: 403-304-5858 

3608 50 Ave Unit 6  
Red Deer, AB T4N 3Y6 



## Lousana Water Wells Servicing

Water Well Servicing and Drilling

**403-749-2242**

### Toddler Easter Egg Hunt

Thursday April 2  
11-2 pm

Bring the littles to search the library for Easter Eggs!

The eggs are then traded with the librarian for treats and a small spring toy. Ages 1-5yrs Free Activity.

### Astronomy Events in April

Some events for anyone interested in astronomy.

April 2: Full Pink Moon

April 17<sup>th</sup>: New Moon

April 20-27: Venus near Pleiades Cluster

April 14 to 30<sup>th</sup>: Lyrid Meteor Shower (peak will be April 21/22 around noonish) For us best viewing is before dawn.

April 29<sup>th</sup>: Comet C/2025 R3 (PANSTARRS)

Maximum brightness (possible naked eye object.

April 29<sup>th</sup>: Second Full Moon of the month.

## Delburne Library

### Easter Crafts

Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 3:30 to 4:30 pm  
Everyone Welcome!

### Family Movie Wednesdays

These will continue every Wednesday at 5:30, Movie choice will be posted on Facebook.

### What Your Library Card Can Do For You!

Your library card will allow you to research your ancestry!

You have access to Ancestry.com Library Edition This program is found on our website, under e-content. Just scroll down until you find the link.

### Closed for Easter Weekend

The Library will be closed April 3 and 4<sup>th</sup> for the Easter Long Weekend.

The Library wishes everyone a Happy Easter!

### Bad Art Afternoon

The library will be hosting a Bad Art Afternoon Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup>, from 3pm to 4:30pm

This is for ages 8-12 yrs. Registration is required as spots are limited.

Register by calling 403-749-3848 or email delburnelibrary@prl.ab.ca

If a Bad Art program is wanted for teens or even adults please let us know!

## THE DOLLYWOOD IMAGINATION LIBRARY OF DELBURNE AND LOUSANA ACCEPTING NEW READERS!

*If your child/children are under 5 years old you qualify for this community program\**

### What can you expect?

A free book every single month for your little reader(s) from birth until they turn 5!

### How to register?

Go to [Imaginationlibrary.com](http://Imaginationlibrary.com) and choose Delburne as your community

**\*Must have TOM postal code and be the primary caregivers**

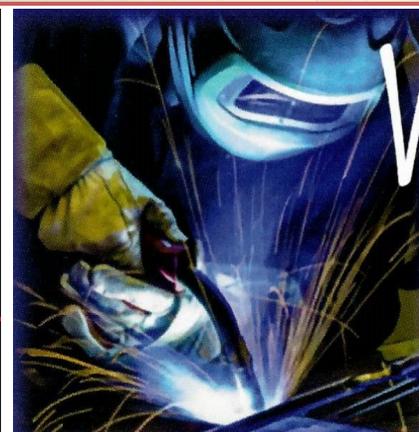
Contact Christina or Makenzie for more info at [imaginationlibdel@gmail.com](mailto:imaginationlibdel@gmail.com)




*Brittany Silbernagel*

**C: 403.896.2748**  
**E: [brittanysilbernagel@royallepage.ca](mailto:brittanysilbernagel@royallepage.ca)**

**ROYAL LE PAGE** Network Realty Corp  
6, 3608-50 Ave, Red Deer, AB T4N 3Y6



**MIKE'S ETALWORX**

- WELDING REPAIRS
- FABRICATION
- CUSTOM PROJECTS

Delburne, AB



**587.877.6920**  
**[mr.knightly@yahoo.ca](mailto:mr.knightly@yahoo.ca)**



**Delburne Family & Community Support Services**  
**Community Navigator Courtney Biggs**  
**Phone: 403-749-3654 Email: delbfcss@delburne.ca**  
**Monday - Thurs.: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm**



IMPORTANT: Please note new operating hours for the Delburne FCSS

**Lifeline**

Call for more information to 1-800-387-1215 or 1-866-916-9344

**bgc** Red Deer & District Club

**DELBURNE KIDS CLUB**

- Leadership
- Teamwork
- Healthy Choices

**Ages 7-11**

**3:10pm - 5:00pm**

**Every Tuesday**

**Delburne Community Hall**

**Healthy Aging Alberta**

**Healthy Aging CORE is a digital knowledge hub that connects organizations and individuals with the resources and education needed to help older Albertans age with independence and vitality in their own communities. For More info Please visit <https://corealberta.ca/>**

**KEYSTONE DELBURNE EVERY TUESDAY**

**REGISTER NOW!**

**AGES 12-17**  
**5:30PM - 7:30PM**

**Delburne Community Hall**

**bgc** Red Deer & District Club

**Get the latest on local programs and events. Follow us on Facebook: Delburne FCSS | Instagram: @fcssdelburne**

**Delburne Family & Community Support Services  
Community Navigator Courtney Biggs**

**Phone: 403-749-3654 Email: delbfcss@delburne.ca**

**Monday - Thurs.: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm**



IMPORTANT: Please note new operating hours for the Delburne FCSS



*Golden Circle Outreach*  
**Delburne**



- Outreach Services:**
- Alberta Senior Benefits
  - Assistance with Government Forms
  - Referrals for Tax Assistance
  - Home Maintenance Services
  - Homestyle Frozen Meal Program
  - Housing Resource List
  - Information and Referral Services
  - Supportive Medical Transportation



**Toll Free Elder Abuse Line**  
1 (877) 454-2580  
Monday to Friday,  
8:30am-4:30pm

**Walk-Ins at Delburne Municipal  
Office Anytime Between 10am-12pm**

**March 16, 2026, April 13, 2026,  
May 11, 2026, and June 8, 2026**

**For more information contact  
Outreach Coordinator:  
(403) 343-6074**

## THE DELBURNE FUTURES COMMITTEE (2011) DISSOLVES SOCIETY AFTER 15 YEARS

A simple question “What if?” sparked a fifteen year journey that would reshape parks, paths, and possibilities for an entire community. This is the story of the Delburne Futures Committee (2011), a small group of ladies (and Glenn) who dared to dream bigger for their village.

### A Seed Is Planted (2005)

In 2005, the Delburne & District Chamber of Commerce wanted to create something memorable to draw visitors and build local pride. The idea of “The World’s Biggest \_\_\_\_” floated around the table, but as conversations continued, the concept of the World’s Biggest Bird Bath shifted into something more family centered—a spray park where the community could get together and children could play and laugh on hot summer days.

A small group stepped forward to bring this dream to life: Brenda Smith, Glenn and Lorna Goddard, Tracy Jackson, and Village Councillor Sandy Paradon formed the Spray Park Committee. They wrote grants, hosted fundraisers, and asked the community to believe that something this big could happen in Delburne. But it was a struggle.

Then one day, Stacy Osguthorpe approached the committee and wanted to honor the memory of her brother Garth Ziegler by making several significant donations from their Garth Ziegler Memorial Golf Tournaments. With those gifts, years of effort tipped into momentum. Piece by piece, dollar by dollar, the community pulled together over \$685,000 to build the Delburne Spray Park. But the Spray Park became more than concrete and water features. It became proof that Delburne could reach further than anyone expected.

### Project #1 - Delburne Spray Park \$685,000- (Early Futures Committee)



Lorna Goddard, Brenda Smith, Tracy Jackson, Glenn Goddard, and Sandy Paradon

### Becoming “Delburne Futures Committee” (2011)

As the Spray Park neared completion, the Village of Delburne began planning to replace the aging playground at Main Street Park. Brenda Smith saw an opportunity: what if this wasn’t just a new playground, but part of a broader vision—a cohesive, welcoming area where families could spend the day?

She presented her ideas to council and not only did she get the go ahead but 4 Village Councillors jumped right on board! The group realized they needed a more formal structure to keep dreaming and building. On March 29, 2011, the Delburne Futures Committee (2011) was officially formed, with members: Brenda Smith, Lorna Goddard, Glenn Goddard, Darlene Dushanek, Dawn McKenzie, Jill Brett, and Sandy Paradon. They chose the word “Futures” for a reason. Every meeting, every grant, every late night email was about the future of Delburne’s children, families, and visitors.

## Project #2 – Delburne Main Street Park – \$325,000 (2011 – 2012)

The Village had put aside about \$108,000 for a new playground at Main Street Park. With the success of the Spray Park, the Committee took that seed and imagined a full scale transformation: a multi recreational park with proper Bathroom amenities alongside the spray park—busy, colorful, and full of life. A true family space where there was something for older kids too.

Over roughly eighteen months, the committee raised more than \$325,000. Old Main Street Park gave way to:

- A vibrant new playground worth about \$210,000
- A basketball court with “The Keg” backboards
- An outdoor fitness area
- Shade shelters, bathrooms, and changing rooms
- Picnic tables for gatherings and casual visits
- Pathways that tied it all together

The most magical moments happened during construction. School classes came out to lay sod. Children from EVERY grade 1–12 created unique vibrant benches that still sit in the park today—each one a little piece of student pride left behind. And those benches have NOT been vandalized in over 15 years.



The Old Main Street Park



Group that helped lay sod



Result of winning Keg Comp



Why the backboards on the basketball court say “The Keg”. When the committee entered a contest from The Keg for a \$25,000 award, success depended on votes. Suddenly, people around town were stopping each other on the street to say, “I voted today!” When the cheque was finally presented, the representative simply said, “I don’t know what you folks did, but it wasn’t even close.” Future’s Members - Darlene Dushanek, Jill Brett, Dawn McKenzie, Sandy Paradon, Brenda Smith, and Lorna Goddard.



### Project #3 – Delburne Centennial Trails - \$450,000 (2012 – 2013)

By 2012, the Futures Committee had one eye on the upcoming 2013 Delburne Centennial. Grants were available for Centennial Projects both provincially and federally. If ever there was a time to fulfill their desire for walking trails around town, they knew it could be done if they combined them with history.

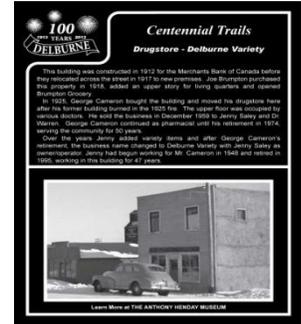
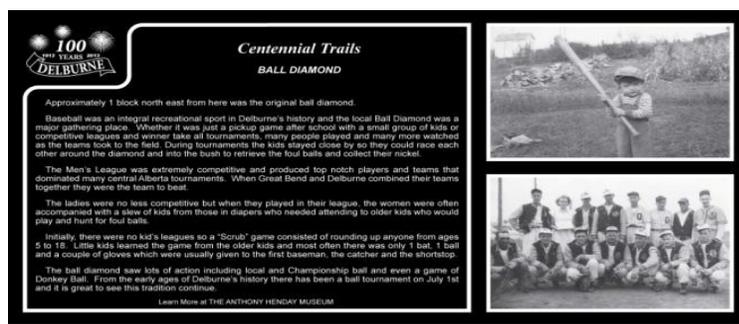
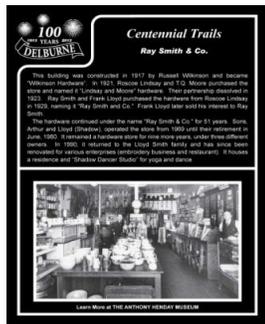
The Centennial Trails Project was designed not just to move through town, but to walk through its past. Over \$450,000 later, Delburne had:

- 17 Historical plaques on buildings and 26 trail markers telling stories of the village
- A Centennial gazebo
- 2 km of smooth paved trails
- A Memorial Tree Garden with new trees, benches, and paths



The trails were carefully planned to start at the school for quick student access for activities, wind through the DECRA grounds, past the old skate park, along Railway Avenue, and over the tracks to the Memorial Tree Garden. Students could safely walk and run. Families could bike together. Seniors could stroll comfortably.

After HUNDREDS and hundreds of volunteer hours and consulting with Shelley Nicholson at the Museum, all the different aspects of the project started to come together. Any 1 of these parts of the projects would have been a handful but all 4 at once was almost insurmountable. Deciding the width of the trails (6' or 8') alone almost started WWII in the village. But the committee stuck to their guns and 8' trails ended up right decision. The Future's members at this time were Brenda Smith, Lorna Goddard, Glenn Goddard, Darlene Dushanek, Dawn McKenzie, Diane Sullivan, and Arianne Zimmer.



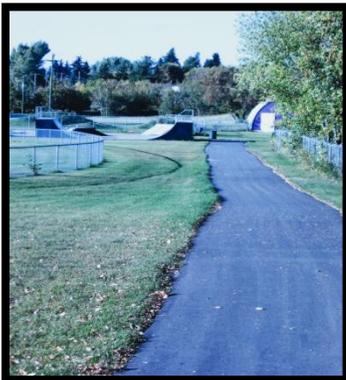
## Project #4 – Delburne Skate Park - \$333,000 (2013 – 2015)

By fall 2013, the Futures Committee promised themselves a break. No new major projects for at least a year. They were tired... Then, one month later, Gale Ralph approached Brenda Smith with a heartfelt request: would Futures consider taking on a skate park for the kids? The answer, after only one key meeting with New Line Skate Parks, Village Council, and Public Works, became clear. The project wasn't just about concrete and ramps. It was about giving young people a place of their own; a place to be seen, challenged, and encouraged.

Working together with Delburne School especially Vice Principal Stephen Banks and with the full support of Principal Ted Hutchings, a student steering group began to form. Soon, The Ghost Ryders was born. They weren't just skaters and bikers. They were leaders. With the guidance of Futures and New Line, they helped:

- Design the entire Skate Park
- Build a Board of Directors
- Speak at council meetings and to potential sponsors
- Volunteer at community suppers so townspeople could meet "their" kids
- Raise money through events and initiatives (Future Committee members ended up with Popcorn Fatigue!)

They even took on branding, creating a logo embedding the old Delburne Water Tower as a nod to home.



The Ghost Ryders turning sod with Dawn McKenzie, Darlene Dushanek, Ariane Zimmer, Lorna and Glenn Goddard, Diane Sullivan, and Brenda Smith. (Right) The Ghost Ryders Competition with Bev Jamieson and rest of Futures Committee.

And then they did something no one else had done. They launched what is believed to be the **world's first** multi-school sanctioned skatepark competition. Students from multiple schools and divisions across Central Alberta came to compete in Delburne as if it were any other school sport. Stephen Banks, Brenda Smith and Bev Jamieson went above and beyond to make this a reality for these kids. For five years, Delburne hosted the event and at its peak year there were 75 kids from 14 different schools and 6 different school divisions!! The skatepark world across Canada took notice! The Competition continues to this day. When Stephen Banks retired, Lindsay Thurber in Red Deer took over the event and rebranded themselves as the Ghost Raiders.

## Project #5 – Main Street Pavilion - \$143,771 (2020 -2022)

**The Last Big Build – A Pavilion For Gathering** - Years later, when the old camp kitchen at Main Street Park was set to come down, the question arose: what should take its place? The answer became the Main Street Pavilion. Once again, the Futures Committee stepped forward, understanding that as a society they could access grants and outside funding that might not otherwise arrive. The project ran during COVID. With all the delays and surprises that era brought, it still took shape.



By the time it was complete, the pavilion felt like a natural extension of everything that had come before it: a practical, beautiful place for people to gather. And the projects finished where it had all begun.

### The Numbers Behind The Story



Over those 15 years, the committee helped bring in a **total of \$1,936,771** through five major projects:

- Spray Park – \$685,000
- Main Street Park – \$325,000
- Centennial Trails – \$450,000
- Skate Park – \$333,000
- Main Street Pavilion – \$143,771

Of that total, the Village put in about \$250,000 in municipal grant money. Nearly \$1.7 million arrived from the outside:

grants, sponsorships, donations, contests, and fundraising. **AND Every project** came in on time and on budget except the Pavilion but it was close and it was also done during Covid!

Not everyone believed these projects were a good idea. There were the voices saying: “It will just get wrecked.” “Vehicles will tear up those trails.” “You’ll never raise that kind of money.” “The Skate Park will just bring out the worst in the kids” “Why make every project wheel chair accessible?” “I should get a say where my tax dollars go” and as always “It just can’t be done.” And believe it or not, there was even great opposition to the development of the Memorial Tree Park. (Which filled quickly with 108 trees!)

But for every time they heard these remarks, there were always people in their corner reminding them that the fight was worth it. So they pushed forward with kindness, persistence, and determination. At the heart of it all was their small team—about six women and Glenn—who showed up repeatedly. They didn’t all think the same way. They didn’t always agree. But they trusted each other’s hearts and shared the same question: “What will make Delburne better?” They brainstormed. They argued sometimes. They laughed a lot. They divided the work, leaned into their strengths, and met deadlines that seemed impossible on paper. They shot for the moon, and often, landed exactly where they aimed which many times surprised even them.

And piece by piece, the “It can’t be done” list turned into a list of finished projects.

## Choosing To End Well

After fifteen years, the Delburne Futures Committee (2011) has chosen to dissolve as a society. It was not a decision made from defeat, but out of completion. The parks, paths, and gathering spaces have been built. The grants have been written, the cheques cashed, the sod laid and the ribbons cut.

It is impossible to describe the sheer number of hours spent planning and executing these projects. None of us would have been successful in our individual roles without the absolute support of the rest of the team. EVERYONE worked diligently on EVERY project. Brenda's main job was writing the grants, Dawn McKenzie accounted for every penny spent and kept our spending in line. Lorna and Glenn were there from the beginning and saved us thousands of dollars by housing the Newline Skate Park workers at their farm (who does that?) Diane Sullivan's meticulous planning of the Memorial Tree Park and trails resulted in little pieces of heaven. Bev Jamieson was instrumental with the Skate Park and working with Brenda and Stephen Banks with the Ghost Ryder Program. And then our rock, Darlene Dushanek, who every step of the way did all those thousands of other necessary jobs that glued everything together, including my glasses. (There's a story there)

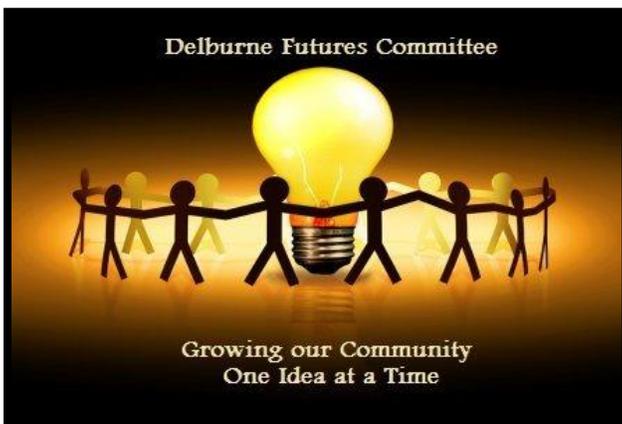
**OUR HEART FELT GRATITUDE goes out to all the different Village Councils, Public Works, CAO Karen Fegan, and Administration.**

**None of this would have been possible without ALL of your tremendous support!**

Another big SHOUT OUT to all the contractors who listened to our visions and steered us in the right direction and worked closely with us so that every project was the best it could be.

**But it takes a village to pull off projects like these.** So a huge thank you to every person who: • Voted in a contest • Bought a ticket or a darn bag of popcorn • Helped lay sod • Painted a bench • Sponsored a feature • Cheered from the sidelines • Continued to write cheques for every project! **IT WAS ALL SO APPRECIATED!**

**Delburne Futures Committee Established March 29, 2011 and Dissolved March 29, 2026**



Front Row - Dawn McKenzie, Lorna Goddard and Diane Sullivan  
Back Row - Darlene Dushanek, Brenda Smith, Bev Jamieson, Glenn Goddard

The Delburne Futures Committee (2011) may have dissolved as a society, but our hope is that it will live on in the laughter at the spray park, the endless fun in the playground, the footsteps on the trails, the games on the courts, the tricks in the skate park, the conversations taking place under the pavilion roof and the peacefulness of a stroll through the Memorial Tree Park as we remember our loved ones.

It has truly been quite the ride. Thanks for the journey!