

# West Yellowhead 2025 Visitors' Guide

-EVENTS -FESTIVALS -COMMUNITIES  
-CAMPING -ACTIVITIES



Pembina River park - Evansburg

## Alberta, Canada

-EDSON -YELLOWHEAD COUNTY -HINTON -JASPER -GRANDE CACHE

A publication of THE WEEKLY ANCHOR Box 6870, Edson, Alberta T7E 1V2 Telephone: (780) 723-5787 Email: [anchorwk@telusplanet.net](mailto:anchorwk@telusplanet.net)



# Welcome



## FIND ALL THE SASQUATCH HIDING IN THIS VISITOR GUIDE AND GET ENTERED TO WIN A PRIZE!



Go to @SaskyDaSasquatch on Facebook and list all the places you've found Sasky the Sasquatch hiding in this guide to enter to win some great prizes! And find out about our Yellowhead County Summer Explorer Passport contest on the Yellowhead County Facebook page.

[www.exploreyellowhead.ca](http://www.exploreyellowhead.ca)



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# Welcome to the West Yellowhead

## WEST YELLOWHEAD REGION

Alberta's West Yellowhead is the province's scenic and much-travelled gateway to the northern Canadian Rockies. The area encompasses the boreal foothills of the Rocky Mountains with pine and aspen forests, beautiful flowing stretches of the McLeod and Athabasca rivers, stunning valleys, lakes, streams, and expansive grasslands.

The region's mountain vistas and wildlife are appealing for tourists both as a scenic route and a destination. The area is attractive for recreation opportunities such as camping, trail use, resort holidays, fishing, hunting and other activities.

### TOWN OF EDSON

The town of Edson is an excellent half-way stop on the way to Jasper or a great destination all of its own! Take some time to venture through the community and enjoy the many recreational and cultural events and amenities Edson has to offer.

Whether you're here to catch a show at the Red Brick Arts Centre, enjoying one of the many local Slo-Pitch Tournaments, or visiting some of our great local shops, you'll find plenty to do and see here in Edson!

Check out the Arts in the Park events all summer long at the RCMP Centennial Park, see a bit of the region's history at the Galloway Station Museum, soak up some sun at the Spray Park, or get adventurous and explore the great bike park and hiking trails at Willmore Park.

Popular Edson area activities include camping, boating, fishing, downhill and cross country skiing, canoeing, kayaking, snowmobiling, mountain biking, hiking, trail riding and more!

Not only is Edson a great recreation and arts hub, it also boasts a thriving business community.

So, whether you're looking to relocate to the community, set up a new business, or just visit, Edson is a place you can do it all!

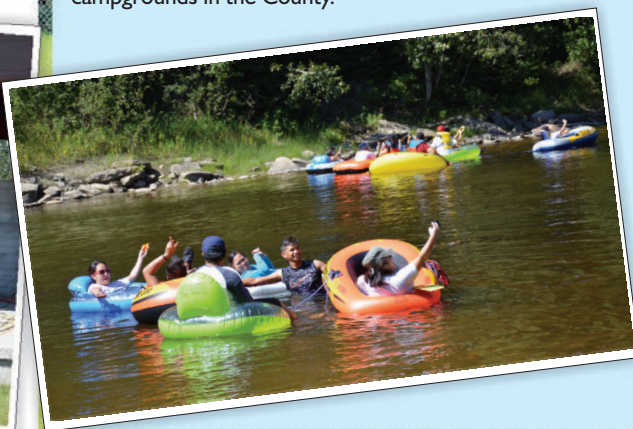
### YELLOWHEAD COUNTY

Stretching from the Pembina River to the Jasper National Park gates, Yellowhead County has some of the most majestic and eclectic landscapes Canada has to offer. The county is located in West Central Alberta, with its eastern boundary about 90 kilometres west of Edmonton and its western edge at the foot of the Rocky Mountains.

Each year, more and more Albertans are making Hinton and Yellowhead County in the Northern Alberta Rockies and Foothills part of their vacation plans – and it isn't hard to see why. Abundant lodging choices of all sorts along Yellowhead Highway 16 and Highway 40 give visitors countless opportunities to explore the Canadian Rockies and the surrounding foothills where you'll find numerous provincial and wildland parks, lakes and rivers, and trails for every type of activity.

Yellowhead County offers the best in classic outdoor experiences. Whether hunting and fishing, camping or visiting guest ranches, you can explore the hundreds of kilometres of trails for motorized and non-motorized activities -all while under the backdrop of the Northern Alberta Rockies.

The active outdoors person has plenty of opportunities for touring, hiking, biking, camping, fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, ATVing, white water rafting, guiding or skiing – as well as taking part in community festivals and events. You can camp in one of seven County campgrounds, or our numerous Provincial Parks or Wildland Parks where swimming, boating, and some of the best fishing in the province abound. There is also a multitude of private campgrounds in the County.







## Welcome to Edson!

The Town of Edson welcomes all visitors. We hope you have a chance to experience all that Edson has to offer. Edson is blessed to be located in resource rich West Central Alberta, featuring a diverse economy in coal, oil, gas, lumber, agriculture, and transportation.

There is something for everyone in Edson and we hope you enjoy our many parks, recreational facilities, and leisure opportunities.

- Leisure Centre (indoor swimming pool with water slide, twin arenas)
- Willmore Park and Campground (cycling and hiking trails with a bike skills park)
- Galloway Station Museum & Travel Centre
- Vision Park ball diamonds facility
- Public Library
- Kinsmen Spray Park
- 18 hole Golf Course
- Red Brick Arts Centre

**Did you know that Edson's Airport is certified for aircraft up to a Boeing 737?**

**The Edson Airport, operated in partnership with Yellowhead County, is the hub for connecting the world to our region.**

**For more information on the Edson airport people are encouraged to visit [www.edson.ca/services/airport](http://www.edson.ca/services/airport) or call 780-723-4010.**





# Town of Edson History

## Main Street

Then Now



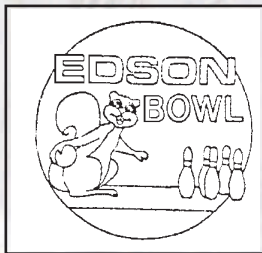
Settlement began

1910

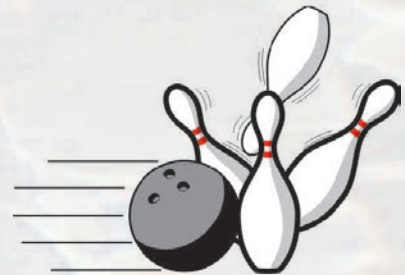
In August of 1910, Edson had a paltry population of 15, but by March of 1912, the population had skyrocketed to 1233. The main street on which the train station was built evolved, gaining a two-storey hotel in 1910. The next year, a national bank, a restaurant, a store and post office as well as an immigration hall all dotted Main Street's landscape.

On September 21, 1911, Edson was officially incorporated as a town, and four schools that year were built to keep up with rising enrollment. By 1912, the town council had planned an eight-room brick school to be built at a cost of \$60,000. By 1913, Edson had its own hospital. Although the railway was the main cause of this growth, Edson was also an important stopover for travellers heading from Edmonton to Grande Prairie via the Grande Prairie Trail.

The local railway yards remained as the critical industry for Edson—Edson benefited from increased shipments of wheat and coal to and from the town. While the coal industry expanded, so did farming in the area as a drought in southern Alberta pushed farmers north. After the war, Edson would see new growth with the expansion of the forestry industry and the growth of a new industry, oil. *References: Ahlf, Marguerite. Edson – 75 Years: A History of the Town, 1986.*



# Edson Bowl



## COMPUTERIZED SCORING

Cosmic Glow Bowling Sat. 7 - 10 p.m.



For more information  
or reservations  
call 723-4617

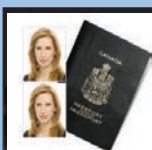




# Local businesses ready to serve



For a fun day-trip, the Edson and Yellowhead County area is home to an amazing assortment of Farmer's Markets, bazaars, craft sales, outdoor activities and more. Local markets can be found in Evansburg, Niton, Wildwood, the Edson Legion, and more.



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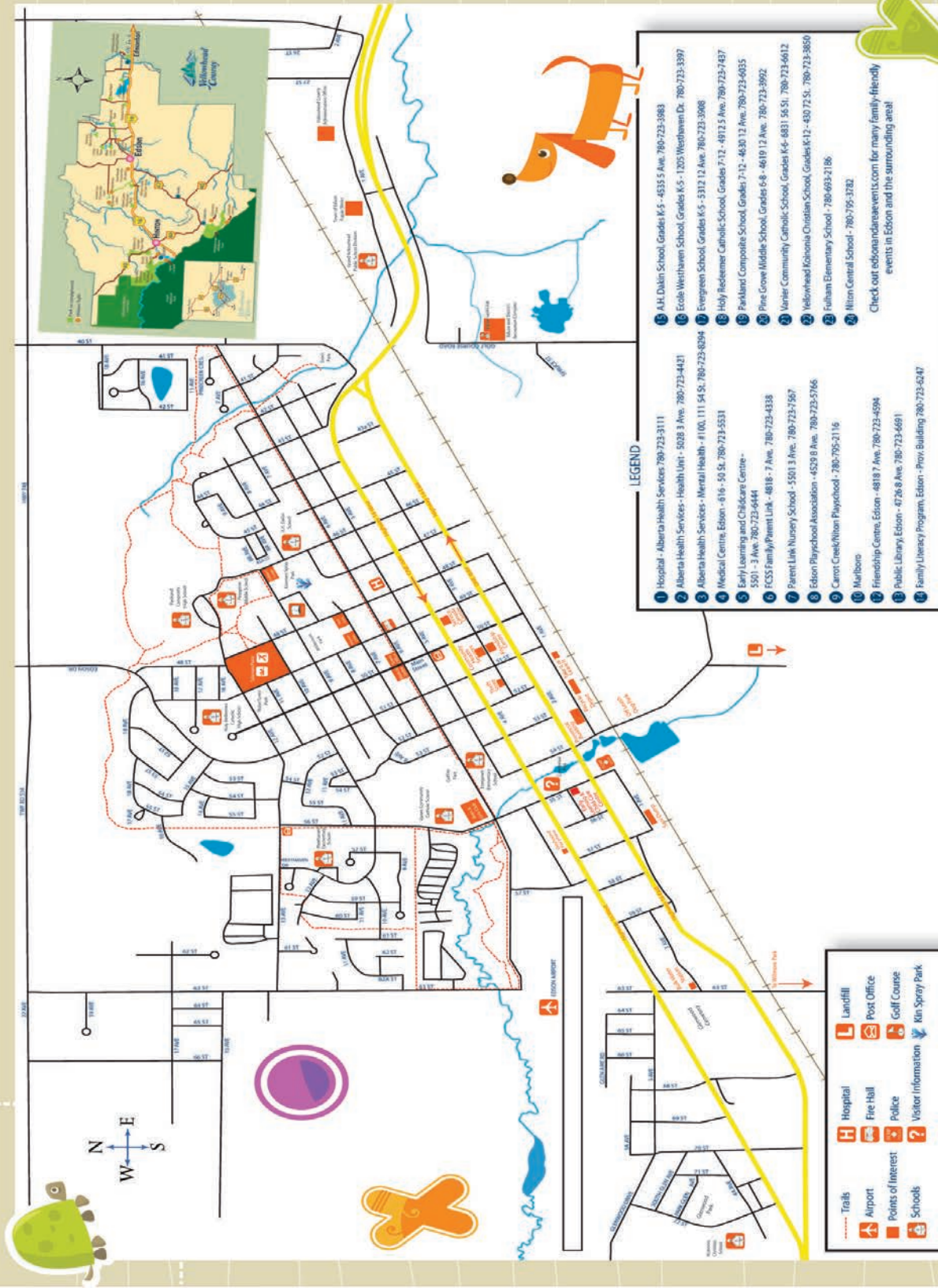
**Edson AB  
409 3rd Street  
(780) 723-7244**



**Hinton AB  
520 Carmichael Lane  
(780) 865-4420**

**Jasper AB  
611 Patricia Street  
(780) 852-7240**









# Town of Edson Events!

# Mark <sup>Your</sup> Calendar!

## 2025

**May 31:** Eddies Big Run, Edson Leisure Centre, Parkland High School

**June 6:** Seniors Week Pancake Breakfast, Edson Fire Hall

**July 1:** Canada Day 1-7pm, RCMP Centennial Park

**July 30:** CEAT Skate Park Luau, Edson Skate Park

**July 26 & 27:** Renaissance Faire, Yellowhead Agricultural Society Grounds

**August 7:** Teddy Bear Picnic, RCMP Centennial Park

**August 30:** Wop May Day, RCMP Centennial Park

**Sept 12 & 13:** Edson Art & Soul Festival, Edson Main Street

**October:** Women's Conference, day TBA, multiple locations

**October 18:** Renaissance Feast, McLeod River Brewing

**Nov 14:** Arts on Fire, Galloway Station Museum

**Nov 21:** Light Up, RCMP Centennial Park

**Sept 25:** Edson Schoolboys Alumni Band Concert, Edson Legion

**See the Town of Edson Programs & Events Facebook Page  
and website for more details on ALL the events listed above.**





# Annual Events & Activities

*\*Please confirm event details with organizers before making plans.*

## Typical Regional Highlights

### May

- Annual Evansburg Legion Garage Sale
- Medicine Lodge Rodeo
- Element Zone Mustachio Bullbashio

### June

- Seniors' Week events
- Wildwood Bronc Bustin', Wildwood
- Rangeton Park Farmer's Day Festival, Evansburg
- Regional Slo-Pitch events begin
- Eddie's Big Run, Edson

### July

- Canada Day Celebrations: Edson, Niton, Evansburg - Entwistle

*\*Please confirm event details with organizers before making plans.*

- CEAT Skate Park Luau, Edson Skate Park
- Edson Summer Festival
- Entwistle Rodeo
- Niton Junction Jamboree, Niton
- Cowboy Church, Niton

### August

- Peers Gold Dust Daze, Peers
- Rank Mini Pony Canada Cup Peers
- P.V. Daze, Evansburg
- Wop May Day, RCMP Centennial Park
- Wildwood Ag Fair, Wildwood
- Edson Custom Cruisers Show & Shine
- Mayor's Golf Tournament, Edson
- Aircraft and Auto Show & Shine, Edson Airport
- YIA Outdoor Movie
- Edson Hillbilly Demolition Derby & Mud Bog, Edson

### September

- Wop May Day, Edson
- Medicine Lodge Rodeo Fall Round-Up
- Art on Fire Awards, Galloway Museum
- Alberta Culture Days





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community and social services.

**Emergency call 9-1-1** Fire, Police, or Ambulance

**RCMP Complaints** (780) 723-8800

Admin (780) 723-8822

115-55th St. Edson, AB

**Edson Fire Dept.** (780) 723-3178 (O)

4835-6th Ave (Fire Hall)

**Edson Hospital** (780) 723-3331

3837 6 Ave, Edson, AB

**Edson Medical Centre** (780) 723-5531

616-50 St. Edson, AB

Town of Edson (780) 723-4401

605-50th St. Edson, AB

**Yellowhead County** (780) 723-4800

2716-1st Ave, Edson, AB

**Edson Veterinary Clinic** (780) 723-3354

4403-2nd Ave, Edson, AB

**Glenwood Park Veterinary Clinic** (780) 725-0133

5529 3 Avenue, Edson, AB

### Schools and Childcare

**Grande Prairie Regional College**

(780) 723-5206, #200-111-54 St.

**Edson Play School Association**

(780) 723-5766, 4529-8th Ave.

**Day Care Society**

(780) 723-5375, 4511-5th Ave.

### Edson Public Schools

Grande Yellowhead Public School Division No. 77

Educational Services Centre

3656-1 Ave, Edson, AB T7E 1S8

(780) 723-4471

Busing Information - (780) 723-6170

### Edson Separate Schools

Living Waters Catholic School Regional Division No.42

Central Office: 4204 Kepler Street

Box 1949, Whitecourt, AB T7S 1P6

(780) 778-5666

Yellowhead Koinonia Christian School - Grades K-12

(780) 723-3850

430-72 St. Edson, AB T7E 1N3





# Great family fun!

## 2025 Annual Edson Summer Festival July 10-11-12

Each summer the Edson and District Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Edson work together to offer family fun and entertainment including carnival rides and games, food, and fun for the young and young at heart.

Local musical talents are also featured as part of this summer celebration!



## Galloway Station Museum

**RCMP Centennial Park:** History of Edson and area comes alive with guided tours of this newly modernized museum and exhibit space. The Travel Centre boasts a coffee bar, barbecue, and free wireless internet access. The centre offers a wonderful stop between Edmonton and Jasper – a welcoming place for one and all. Located between 54th and 55th Streets along the Yellowhead Highway, Centennial Park features the Galloway Station Museum and Travel Centre, Chamber office, outdoor pavilion, a water fountain, a mounted Lockheed T33 jet, a 1907 CN Caboose and Eddie the Squirrel. Over the summer this park plays host to many special events like Arts in the Park, Canada Day, and the Outdoor movie. In addition it is used for picnics, weddings and family activities.



# Getaway and get Surprised

by Arthur White Owl

Over the past 70 years, there have been a lot of happy campers coming out for a summer "getaway" to the Surprise Lake Camp in the Yellowhead County. The camp is 22kms east of Edson and 2 kms south on RR153. It is situated on the eastern shore of a beautiful little lake surrounded by boreal forest. The camp was started and supported by the Surprise Lake Society and was affiliated with the United Church of Canada. It operated mostly as a kids summer camp until 2016 when, out of necessity, it changed directions and morphed into a community hall rental type facility with the capabilities of being used by more diverse groups.

Surprise Lake Camp (SLC) provides the opportunity to connect with nature, with others, and with one's self in a beautiful semi-wilderness setting.

Generations of campers have and still witness spectacular sunset reflections on warm summer evenings while being serenaded by the haunting songs of loons, grebes and other migrant birds. When the sun goes to bed, the night sky becomes a source of ageless wonder. It could be the aurora borealis dancing across the sky, a meteor shower, the multitude of stars or the vastness of space we see.

The camp facility is rustic and always has been. That is part of the charm and memories made here. It was built "For the campers...by the campers" and has a rich history of volunteerism and community involvement since it began back in 1951.

The camp has character and charm with its age and boasts a dining hall that will sit 80 people and a kitchen with all the amenities needed for cooking for a group. There are five different cabins with built in bunk beds and vinyl covered mattresses and each cabin will sleep 6 to 8 campers. The cabins have electricity. There is space for tents and room for a few self-contained RVs. Bathroom facilities are rustic as well.

The lake is a stop for many migratory birds and a great place to see different waterfowl in the spring and fall as they pass through. The setting provides many opportunities to learn about the local ecosystem. There are no

fishable fish in the lake and no motorboats permitted on the lake. The waterfront includes a dock, a canoe and kayak launch and a campfire area where you can enjoy the sights and sounds of nature. Whether it's paddling around the lake or hiking the lakeside trail, there will be a surprise or two about to be discovered.

The camp has seen many different gatherings. Of course there were many kids summer camps but it has hosted everything from weddings to gold panning competitions, from bush craft workshops to mushroom forays, from family gatherings to church retreats.

The facility is totally operated by volunteers and members of the Surprise Lake Society who refer to themselves as FOSLS (Friends Of the Surprise Lake Society)

You can check out the Society website at [surpriselake.ca](http://surpriselake.ca) or on Facebook at Surprised Lake Camp, Alberta. Contact can be made by email at [hello@surpriselake.ca](mailto:hello@surpriselake.ca) or phone 974-9557.





# Pump Tracks

## Bike Parks & Trails!



The Hamlets of Evansburg, Wildwood, Peers, Niton, Brule, and Marlboro are each home to unique Pump Tracks designed for bikes, skateboards, and scooters. Each track consists of a circuit of banked turns and moguls designed to be ridden completely by a rider's "pumping" action.

With six amazing Pump Tracks in Yellowhead County, these tracks make an exciting day trip visiting one or several of the nearby tracks. Other extensive trails and bike parks include Edson's Willmore Park, Hinton Park Bike Park, Bighorn Trail near Hinton, and Jasper which has what may well be the best bike trail system in the world! There are so many places to ride, you'll want to ride these areas all summer long.





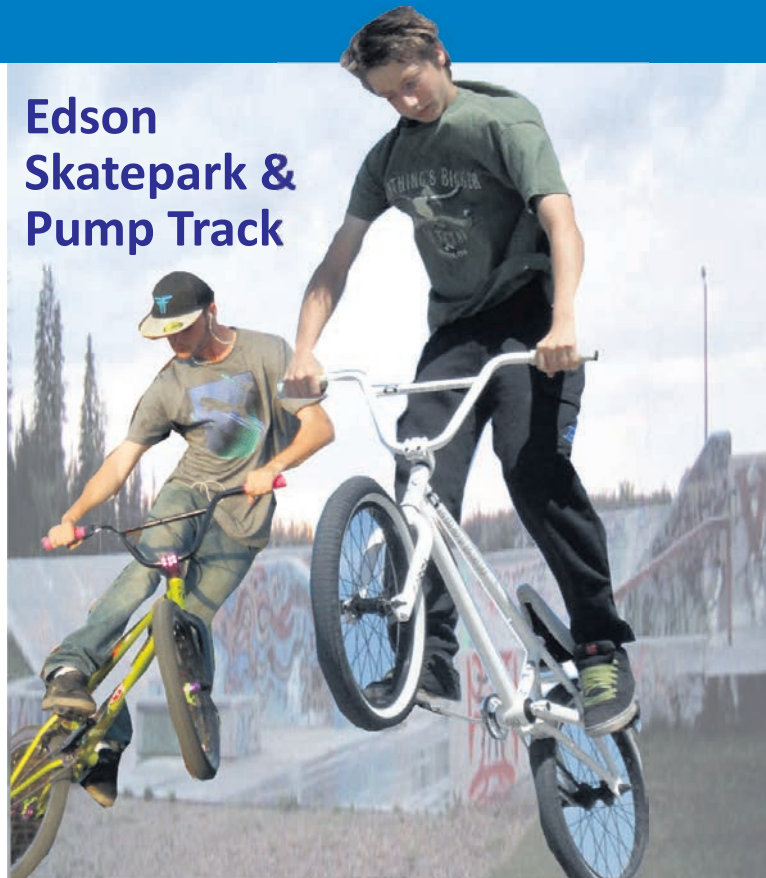
# Fun for everyone!



The Edson and District Leisure Centre features an indoor swimming pool with a water slide, a hot tub and sauna, five swimming lanes, and a hospitality room. The Centre also has two ice surfaces for both hockey and public skating from September to April. It's a great facility to stop and take a break with the kids! The Town of Edson and Yellowhead County are also excited to continue moving forward with regional collaboration on a new multi-million dollar Multi-Use Facility Project!

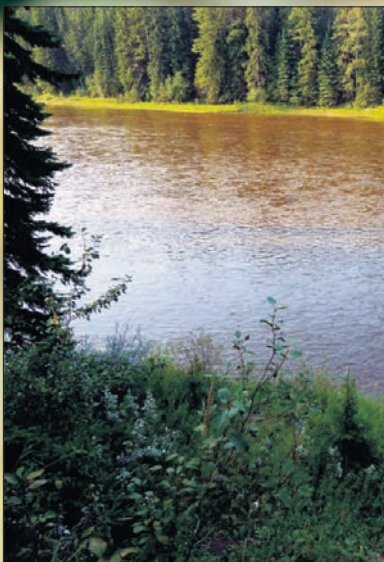


## Edson Skatepark & Pump Track



This park is challenge for even the most experienced bike riders and boarders, as well as designs for beginners. The park is located on the north side of Highway 16 west bound, across from Centennial Park on 54 Street in Edson.

# Willmore Park



Willmore Park is located south of Edson on the McLeod River. When traveling west through town turn left onto 63 Street, cross the eastbound highway and continue south 4 km along the gravel secondary road (RR174). Turn left on Twp. Rd 525A and travel two kilometers to the Willmore Park gate. When traveling east into town along Highway 16, look for the brown Willmore Park sign.

Willmore Park is a gem to the Town of Edson and local area, and a wonderful destination or stop over for those traveling through the Yellowhead Region.

Willmore Park offers an extensive multiple use trail system including hiking, walking, a Bike Skills Park, and extensive, well maintained mountain biking trails. It also boasts swimming and tubing in the McLeod River, scenic views, day use, group use, overnight and back country camping facilities, tobogganing hill, and boat launch.





# A piece of history

## Red Brick Arts Centre and Museum



Construction began on the sturdy Red Brick in 1913 and since then has had thousands of people through its doors serving the community in a wide variety of forms. The school was in use until 1967 when it became a bus barn for the Yellowhead School Division.

The Red Brick faced demolition in 1984 when the maintenance department moved to a new facility. A group of concerned citizens formed a committee -ECHO- Edson Cultural Heritage Organization to save the fine community heirloom. They became responsible for the renovations and operations of the building and continue to serve the Red Brick. In 1986, the Red Brick became a registered historic resource with the province of Alberta. Today, the Red Brick houses a 141 seat theatre, an art gallery, school-room museum, Family and Community Support Services, resident dance company Essence Dance and various other organizations.



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## Family and pet fun



*Make a splash!*



### Edson's Spray Park

The Edson Spray Park is an interactive outdoor playground located at Kinsmen Park (7 Avenue and 48 Street). The Spray Park is open from 10am to 8pm daily from late May/early June to September, dependent on the weather. It's a great place to bring the kids on a hot summer day to cool down. With washroom facilities on site, plenty of green space, picnic tables, fire pits and both a dry and wet playground you can really make a full day out of it!

## Fun for best friends



**OFF-LEASH  
DOG PARKS**

The two parks are located in Edson, one at Griffiths Park and one just south of the railway tracks on the west side of 54th Street.

They are fenced and allow dogs the opportunity to socialize and go for a run. Rules are posted and waste bags are available.





# FIND SASKY! CONTEST!

FIND IT CLEAN  
#LEAVE IT PRISTINE

**FIND ALL THE SASQUATCH HIDING IN THIS  
VISITOR GUIDE AND GET ENTERED TO WIN A PRIZE!**

Go to @SaskyDaSasquatch on Facebook and list all the places you've found Sasky the Sasquatch hiding in this guide to enter to win some great prizes! And find out about our Yellowhead County Summer Explorer Passport contest on the Yellowhead County Facebook page.

[www.exploreyellowhead.ca](http://www.exploreyellowhead.ca)



Explore the lovely riverside beach at Pembina River Provincial Park. Hike through scenic forests of spruce, poplar, and willow overlooking the gorge. Pembina River is only an hour's drive from Edmonton and offers fun leisure activities. The campground offers 132 individual campsites located in both forested and open environments. Other popular amenities include a group campground, open air shelter, picnic areas, and a playground.



# Welcome to YELLOWHEAD COUNTY

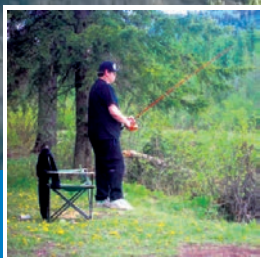
The active outdoors person has plenty of opportunity for touring, hiking, biking, camping, fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, ATVing, swimming – as well as taking part in community festivals, markets, and events.

Evansburg, Wildwood, Niton, Peers, and Marlboro are also home to some amazing new Pump Tracks for bikes, skateboards, and scooters. It's fun for the whole family and a great way to get outside. More tracks and recreational opportunities are being developed by Yellowhead County each year.

Don't just visit during the summer months. This area is a wonderland during the winter season with spectacular cross-country skiing and snowmobile areas made for outdoor winter fun for the whole family.







## Some of the best camping & recreational areas around!

**Bear Lake:** 35 km NE of Edson on Hwy 748 East 780-693-2479 (Fishing, Swimming, Pump Water, Day Use, Playground, Outhouse, Boat Launch, Firewood)

**Beta Lake:** Off Hwy 16 on Hwy 751, 15 km North 780-868-0109 (Fishing, Swimming, Pump Water, Day Use, Outhouse, Boat Launch, Firewood, Wheelchair Accessible.)

**Cougar Creek Cabins and Campground:** Only 35 minutes from Edson, 10 minutes to Hinton, 18 minutes to Jasper Park Gates, 50 minutes to Jasper. 780-865-4481 (Group Camping, Water, Playground, Sani, Picnic Area, Showers)

**Pinnacle Trails Resort:** 8 km east of Edson on Highway 16 Range Road 162. 1-877-651-4320. Trails, Playground, Firewood, Showers, Picnic Area)

**Edson Lions Park Campground:** East entrance to Edson on Highway 16. 780-723-3169 (Fishing, Firewood, Showers, Water, Trails, Sani, Picnic Area)

**Emerson Lakes Campground:** 35 km NE of Edson on Hwy 748 East 780-693-2479 (Pump Water, Day Use, Outhouse, Firewood)

**Fickle Lake Provincial Recreation Area:** 39 km southwest of Edson off Hwy. 47. 780-723-0738 (Picnic Area, Fishing, Trails, Firewood)

**Hornbeck Creek Provincial Recreation Area:** 15 km west of Edson on Highway 16. 780-797-4154 (Trails, Picnic Area)

**Jerry Vanderwell Memorial Park:** 14 km N of Hwy 16 on Hwy 31 and 1.5 km West 780-693-2479 (Pump Water, Day Use, Playground, Outhouse, Firewood, Biking, Hiking)

**Long Lake Campground:** 30 km NE of Edson on Hwy 748, turn on access road and follow for 15 km 780-693-2479. (Fishing, Pump Water, Day Use, Playground, Outhouse, Boat Launch, Firewood, Canoeing, Hiking, Biking)

**McLeod River Provincial Rec Area:** South of Hwy 47, west on RR232A 780-865-2154. (Fishing, Pump Water, Day Use, Outhouse, Firewood, Canoeing, Hiking, Biking)

**McLeod Valley Group Camp:** North of Peers on Hwy 32 780-725-2550 (Pump Water, Playground, Outhouse, Biking)

**Minnow Lake Provincial Recreation Area:** 20 km east of Edson on Highway 16, then 20 km south on Wolf Lake Road. 780-797-4154 (Boat Launch, Picnic Area, Fishing, Firewood)

**Moose Meadows RV Park:** 1.7 km down Golf Course Road 780-712-3455 (Flush toilets, Shower, Laundry, Tap Water, Sewer, Power)

**Niton Junction:** Hidden Grove Campground & RV Park 44 km E of Edson on Hwy 16, N 1 km on RR 130 (Trails, Picnic Area, Showers, Sani, Wheelchair)

**Nojack:** Diamond Wood R.V. Resort RR 121 & Hwy 16, On Hwy 16, 1.5 hours W of Edm. then North on RR 121 for one block. (Picnic Area, Playground, Sani, Showers, Swimming)

**Northwood Acres RV Campgrounds:** 5 minutes from Edson off Highway 16N RR171 crossing Hwy 748. 10 sites year-round camping Daily, Weekly,

Monthly Rates 780-728-0413 (Coin laundry, Hook-ups, Wifi, Showers, Trails, Picnic Area, Firewood, Water)

**Obed Lake Provincial Park:** 55 km west of Edson off Highway 16. 780-865-8395. (Boat Launch, Fishing, Picnic Area, Firewood)

**Outback Camping and Cabins:** 8 km south of Hwy 16 on Hwy 47 780-723-3064 (Fishing, Pump Water, Day Use, Playground, Shower, Outhouse, Laundry, Firewood, Power)

**Entwistle:** Pembina River Provincial Park (Fishing, Trails, Playground, Swimming, Showers, Firewood, Sani)

**Rangeton Park:** Off Hwy 22 between Hwy 16 and 43 rangetonpark.ca (Fishing, Swimming, Playground, Firewood)

**Shiningbank Cabins & RV:** NE of Edson on Hwy 748 780-693-2403 (Flush toilets, Outhouse, Boat Launch, Wheelchair, Canoeing)

**Shiningbank Campground:** 24 km north of Peers on Hwy 31, 7 km W on access Road 780-693-2150 (Fishing, Swimming, Pump Water, Day Use, Playground, Outhouse, Boat Launch, Firewood, Canoeing, Biking)

**Sundance Provincial Park:** Home of the Emerson Lakes and Wild Sculpture Trail, Sundance Provincial Park features old-growth forest, spectacular sandstone cliffs, steep valleys, and a wetland complex. Camping is available from May 1 through September 30 at a cost of \$10 per night. Call 780-865-2154.

**Watson Creek:** North of Cadomin on Hwy 47 780-865-2154 (Pump Water, Outhouse, Firewood)

**Weald Group Campground:** South of Hwy 47 780-723-0738 Fishing, Swimming, Pump Water, Playground, Outhouse, Firewood, Canoeing, Hiking, Biking)

**Whitehorse Creek:** South from Cadomin on Grave Flats Road 780-865-2154 (Fishing, Pump Water, Outhouse, Firewood, Hiking)

**Wildwood:** Chip Lake Park 9 km N & 10.5 km W of Wildwood. 780-325-2460. (Boat Launch, Fishing, Picnic Area, Playground, Firewood, Wheelchair)

**Willmore Recreation Park:** 6 km south of Edson on 63 Street. (Rge. Rd 174) (Boat Launch Fishing, Trails, Playground, Picnic Area, Firewood)

**Wolf Lake West Provincial Recreation Area:** 24 km E of Edson on Highway 16 then 53 km south on Wolf Lake Road. 780-797-4154. (Boat Launch, Firewood, Picnic Area, Fishing)

**William A. Switzer Provincial Park:** 20 kilometres north of Hinton on Highway 40. This park has plenty to offer including 5 lakes, Camping, fishing, and Mountain Biking. Call 780-865-8395.

**For extensive camping opportunities in Jasper go to:**

<https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/ab/jasper/activ/passez-stay>







- City/town/hamlet
- Park or campground
- Unique Sight





# Peers

Peers boasts a community hall and new multiplex centre along with local stores and a post office. The history of the hamlet of Peers goes back many years, a hundred, in fact. In 2011 area residents celebrated the 100th anniversary of Peers.

Early settlers came west to acquire land and make their homes along the McLeod River. Residents made their living on the land with incomes being supplemented by jobs in local lumber mills. Many people worked in the oil patch as well.

Making a living from the land involved working in the post industry, trapping, and for the very industrious, panning for gold.

It was all these historical facts that prompted the current generation to gather and host Peers Gold Dust Daze, thanks to Beth and Charlie Bowd and Sheila Eaton, the original organizers of the event. Events are hosted in the same spirit as the original McLeod River settlers who united the area residents over the years.

A very fitting tribute.



# Niton

Niton Junction is just 30 minutes east of Edson on Highway 16. It's a farming community with a downtown featuring local shops and services, and the Niton Central School.

Recreational activities include hunting, fishing, and camping.

There is also an outdoor swimming pool with a wading area for the kids, a pump track, and an outdoor skating rink that compliments the area.

Three miles north of Niton, by the CNR tracks, is the Old Niton School, circa 1928. It is now the Niton and District Memorial & Historical site and here you'll find memorabilia of the school districts from Leaman to Peers. Trace the history with old school pictures and check out the school registers of the district schools to find your ancestors and friends. A CNR caboose is also on site and the facility is open from June to September.





# Evansburg Entwistle

Evansburg is located approximately 100 km west of Edmonton on Highway 16 along the Pembina River Valley. It is the largest hamlet within the County and is slated to grow larger with a recently developed subdivision.

Evansburg has a thriving small business centre catering to the surrounding agricultural community. There is a pump track, museum, Tipple Park, a grocery store, clothing store, restaurants, bakery, hairdressers and other small businesses. And the hamlet is only a few minutes away from Pembina River Provincial Park with a large campground, swimming and recreational opportunities.

Evansburg's mascot is the "Grouch" and in August, as part of the Pembina Valley Daze, the community chooses a new "Grouch" to represent the community. The tradition began in 1961 when local artist John Lauer was commissioned to create a new welcome sign and he listed the population as "603 people, 29 dogs, 41 cats and one grouch. Each year a new grouch is elected and the title comes with real responsibilities.

**ENTWISTLE:** Founded by James Entwistle, an employee of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, the hamlet of Entwistle is located at the Yellowhead Highway's intersection with Highway 22/Highway 16A, approximately 95 kilometres (59 mi) west of Edmonton. Entwistle sits on the east banks of the beautiful Pembina River near the halfway point between Edmonton and Edson. The hamlet is famous for its annual rodeo, the Pembina River Provincial Park, and being the Diamond Capital of Canada. Entwistle will also be home to a new \$9.3 million Outdoor Pool and Community Hub currently being constructed.



# Wildwood

Wildwood is a community of thriving businesses and services, and now boasts a new fire hall. One of the main attractions is picturesque Chip Lake Park. The lake has excellent ice fishing in the winter and has potential for bird watching and canoeing in the summer.

A hamlet with proud roots, Wildwood has a rich history, and a volunteer base exceeded by none.

During the early 1900's, Wildwood was called Jarawa. When the Grand Trunk Pacific Railroad went through, the name of the community was changed to Junkins as the letter 'J' was the next letter in line to be used in the naming system. It was one of the many little communities that began along the tracks.

Between 1905 and 1912, well over 1,000 African-Americans crossed the border and helped forge many of Alberta's early prairie communities. Most came from Oklahoma, fleeing the Jim Crow laws which stripped them of their rights when Oklahoma became a state in 1907.

Amber Valley, 160 km north of Edmonton, was the best known of their farm colonies. But there were also communities in Wildwood; Campsie, west of Barrhead; Breton, 95 km southwest of Edmonton; and Gibbons, 37 km northeast of Edmonton.

Unfortunately, when drought and Great Depression hit, many of the homesteaders had to leave their farming communities and moved to Edmonton.

There are top-notch facilities in Gunner Rehn Ball Park, a pump track, curling facility, a community hall, an active Seniors' Centre, and the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #149.

The local Agricultural Society celebrates it's annual fair, and there is a Farmer's Market during the summer with special Easter and Christmas markets. The Bronc Bustin' Committee successfully hosts the annual Wildwood Bronc Bustin' Rodeo. The alternative farming practices of raising elk, alpacas and buffalo have bloomed in Wildwood.





# Robb & Cadomin



## Robb offers breathtaking scenery, hunting and fishing



With a population of about 70, Robb is located 60 km southwest of Edson in the "Coal Branch" along the Embarras River. The Hamlet is associated with forestry and coal mining.

With the re-emergence of a demand for coal, several mines reopened in the 1970s and prospects for increased development were good. Over time, Robb has become home to those who remain working in the Coal Branch and those who wish to enjoy the rustic environment of the hamlet, either seasonally or throughout the year.

As another old mining town in the Coal Branch, many of the old mine buildings from the town of Robb, and other communities along the Coal Branch, are still located in the hamlet. This beautiful little hamlet is settled comfortably among the hills and trees with a strong sense of community support and pride from its residents.

There is plenty of basic camping in the surrounding area.

## Spectacular Cadomin

With a population of 40, Cadomin is also located in the area of Yellowhead County known as the Coal Branch. It is approximately 50 km south of Hinton and 100 km southwest of Edson and sits picturesquely between Lelland Mountain and Cadomin Mountain.

With its spectacular scenery, Cadomin is now a great destination area for outdoor tourism including hiking, biking, camping, ATV trails, big game hunting, fishing, and other outdoor adventures. With its stunning mountain scenery it also makes a great day trip for picnics and exploring.

When it was established in the early 1900's, Cadomin was a bustling mining town, until 1952 when the mine shut down causing a slow decline in population. It once had an RCMP detachment, government liquor store, drug store, a Bank of Nova Scotia, and a population of 1,700 back in 1931.

Currently in Cadomin there is food, lodging, and propane -but no gas station. You will have to gas up in Hinton or Edson. Located near Cadomin are the historical remains of the mines, Mountain Park Cemetery, and Cadomin Caves (currently closed by Alberta Environment for the protection of the local bat population), the McLeod River and Campgrounds. Southwest of Cadomin is the Whitehorse Wildland Provincial Park and the Cardinal Divide.



# Breathtaking Parks in Yellowhead County

## Pembina River Provincial Park

Pembina River Provincial Park is a provincial park located between the towns of Entwistle and Evansburg, a short distance from the Yellowhead Highway. The short 16A Highway spur crosses the southern edge of the park, which is developed along the gorges of the Pembina River. The gorges cut in sandstone reach 62m in height, and were formed during the glaciation.

Here you'll find an abundance of wildlife, including coyote, mule deer, moose, red squirrel, muskrat, and the odd black bear. Here outdoor enthusiasts can camp, fish, canoe and kayak, hike maintained trails, mountain bike, swim, and more.

Pembina River Campground has a total of 132 campsites nicely suited for both RVs and tents. Amenities include group camping, handicap spots, canoeing & kayaking, hiking, mountain biking, play grounds, picnic shelters, showers, water, power, picnic tables, amphitheater, sani dump and fish cleaning stations. Firewood is available for sale.

## Shiningbank Lake

Nestled within a quiet Aspen grove, Shiningbank offers a wide variety of family camping activities. Playground facilities, sandy beach, and the roped swimming area remain quite popular on warm summer days.

Boaters enjoy the excellent launching and docking facilities provided by the County while touring one of the area's largest lakes.

Location: 48 km north off Highway 16 on Highway 32

Campground: 36 campsites; including 3 tenting sites, 6 Seasonal sites are available.

Amenities include 5 day use sites, playground, sandy beach, boat launch, and boat docks.

## Bear Lake Park

Situated just 30 km northeast of Edson, Bear Lake has something for everyone. From fishing to water-skiing, to relaxing on the beach, the campground is a definite local favourite. You cannot beat this unique mix of tranquillity and activity.

Bear Lake Park remains one of Yellowhead County's most popular Parks for water-based recreation. The sandy beach, clean water, and playground facilities continue to be very popular with the younger members of the family while the boat launch and docking areas play host to the more adventuresome water enthusiasts.

During the summer months, Bear Lake hosts a wide variety of interpretive events and activities for everyone in the family. A concession is available.

There are 32 Campsites including 6 Pull-Through Sites (no hook-ups) and 3 Tenting Sites, 8 Day Use Sites, a Sandy Beach, Playground, Boat Launch, and 2 Boat and swimming docks.

## Chip Lake Park

Chip Lake Park is managed by the Ravine Community Association. It is situated on Chip Lake, a large shallow lake well known as a bird sanctuary. With 35 unserviced campsites, Chip Lake Park is popular locally and to visitors in the area. There is great fishing for Northern Pike, Ling, and Perch. A park caretaker is available. The lake is home to 127 recorded bird species including Whooping Cranes and Osprey. Prime time for bird watching is the spring and fall.

The Ravine Association hosts a Music Festival that is held at the Ravine Community Hall, usually in late May or early June.

35 unserviced campsites; Playground;

Day Use Area; 2 Group Area sites

Gazebo; Boat Launch; Free Firewood

Location: North off Hwy 16 on Green Court Road (Range Road 92) to TwnShp Road 544 and then 5 miles west. All roads are signed.



# Hinton

## The gateway to the Rockies

Welcome to Hinton, the Gateway to the Alberta Northern Rockies.

Hinton has a load of outdoor adventures awaiting you. Visit nearby Jasper National Park. Check out our backyard opportunities for hiking, biking, hunting, fishing and quadding. There is rock climbing, white water rafting, canoeing and kayaking all within an easy drive of Hinton.

Hinton has a number of excellent outdoor recreational facilities and attractions, including the Rotary Play & Spray Park, the Beaver Broadwalk - Canada's longest freshwater boardwalk - a mountain bike park, excellent skateboard park, tennis courts, campground, rodeo grounds, golf course and an indoor recreational facility.

### ANNUAL EVENTS INCLUDE

MS Society Mountain Bike  
Hinton Föhn Festival  
Wild Mountain Music Festival  
Alberta Parks Day  
Johnson MS Bike Tour

*\*Please confirm event details with organizers  
before making plans.*







A Historical Perspective:

# Pocahontas

by Stuart Taylor

The mining town of Pocahontas used to be just inside Jasper National Park near the turn-off to Miette Hot Springs, where the Pocahontas Bungalows are located today. It was named after a coal town in Virginia, which had, in turn, been named after the Indian princess.

The first coal claim in the area was filed in 1908. By 1910, work had started on the mine, with supplies packed over the Old Jasper Trail. That same year, the Grand Trunk Pacific laid track up the valley. The Pocahontas coal was too crumbly to burn in locomotives, but it was suitable for powering ships during World War I. It burned with very little smoke.

The Pocahontas post office opened in 1911 and closed in 1937. The earliest postmaster was a fellow named Chadwick. The last postmaster was Robert Stone.

Pocahontas had an upper town and a lower town. In the upper town, you could find the homes—about seventy of them. In the lower town, you could find a tippie for loading coal cars, a power house, a mine and post office, and a playing field.

The town also had a church, a school, a

telegraph office, and an RCMP post. Workers used to walk up and down a covered stairway that reached from the upper town to Punchbowl Falls.

At one time, Pocahontas had as many as 300 people. There were water taps in the street and modern electric lights. Some people kept a few cows and chickens.

In the evenings, the miners and their families would sit on their porches or visit in the street. Punchbowl Falls was a favourite place. Many would go by horseback or walk up the Fiddle Valley to soak at the hot springs.

The town even had soccer and baseball teams that travelled to Jasper and Brule to compete. The train that carried them ran between Jasper and Pocahontas, and was known as “The Bed Bug Flyer.”

In the early 1920s, the mine closed due to low market prices and poor-quality coal. Since then, no further mining has ever been allowed in Jasper National Park. The original mine entrance has been sealed, but can still be identified.

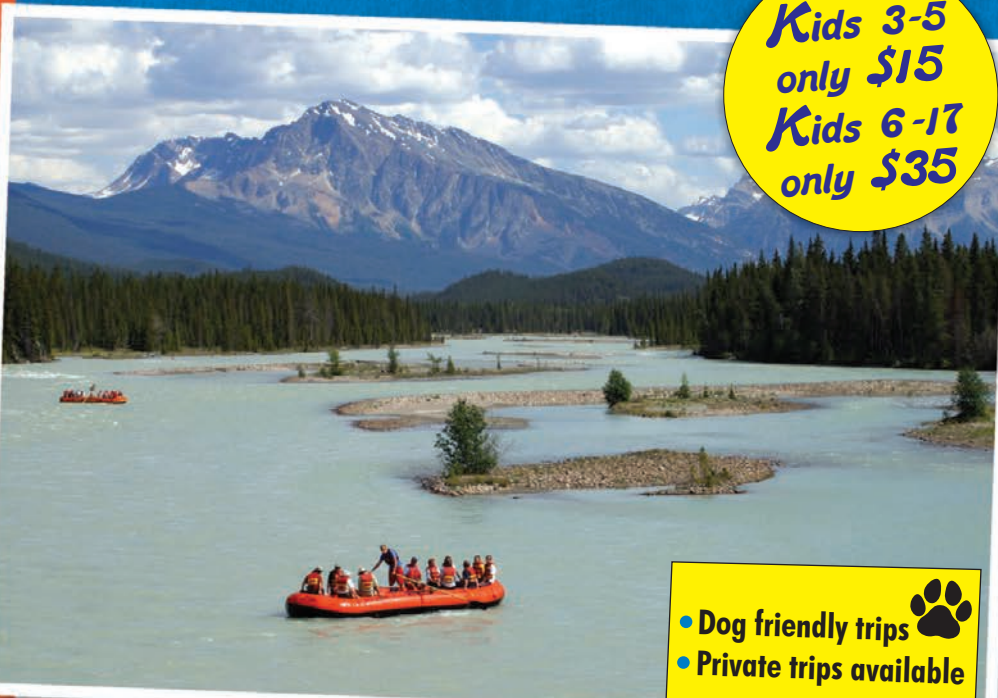
If you walk the Coal Mine Trail today, you'll find some old buildings and a few abandoned concrete foundations.



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### A Historical Perspective:

## Small towns battle for supremacy in the early Canadian West

by Stuart Taylor

A lot of the once-thriving towns of the Canadian West are gone today. In our province, some of these include Alderson, Amber Valley, and Battle Bend. In some cases, there may be a lonely cemetery where these towns used to be. In others, finding even an abandoned foundation would be an undertaking.

Lucerne is one of these long lost, abandoned Alberta towns. It was once located just inside the British Columbia border about 22 miles from Jasper on the south side of Yellowhead Lake, which was known back then as Buffalo Dung Lake. Named for Lucerne, Switzerland, the town's birth coincided with the arrival of the Canadian Northern Railway.

Today, two people with a connection to the old town are Harry Home of Jasper and his sister Jean. Their mother and father worked and lived in Lucerne when it was still a thriving community.

According to Harry, there was a coal loading facility and a railway marshalling yard at Lucerne. There was also a railroad roundhouse with five stalls, a shed for a rotary snow plow, a machine shop, a boiler room, and a 75-foot turntable for rail cars.

The town also had an icehouse where large blocks of ice, cut from the lake in winter, were stored. (The ice was covered with sawdust so it would keep through the summer. The railway used it on passenger trains and in refrigerator cars.)

Lucerne also had a general store, a school, a town doctor, a police force, a restaurant, a poolroom, a barbershop, and a community hall known as "The Railroad Club," which hosted dances and community

events. During the dances, mothers would put their babies up on the stage so they could keep an eye on them while swinging around the dance floor.

It was the railroad that determined Lucerne's fate. In the early 1920s, the Canadian National Railway (CNR) took over all railroad operations in the region. As part of that change, the CNR's management had to decide between Lucerne and Jasper as the divisional rail point. Both towns were well established. Both had choice locations and similar populations. But in the end, the railway chose Jasper.

Almost immediately, Lucerne began to shrivel. Based on historic voting records, there were once 300 people in the community, not counting the women and children. By 1924, most of the townsfolk had relocated to Jasper. By 1925, Lucerne's population was down to only twenty.

The railway station, which had been every bit as big as the Jasper station, was eventually dismantled. Even the rails at Lucerne's marshalling yard were pulled up and moved. Effectively, the town ceased to exist, though it continued on as a railway whistle stop. Today, most of the once-bustling town site has gone back to nature. All that remains is an old house and the cemetery.



# Jasper

Jasper, which reopened to visitors in September 2024 after recovery efforts from the summer wildfire, is welcoming back tourists. While some areas are still being restored, many businesses, accommodations, and park attractions are open and inviting guests to explore the stunning beauty of the region.

The economy of Jasper, a town of roughly 5,000 people surrounded by the Rocky Mountains, relies heavily on tourism. Parks Canada annual reports show more than two million people visited Jasper National Park almost every year for the past decade—a fraction of whom are there for camping.

The reopening of the major visitor experience areas within Jasper National Park ensures that Jasper residents, Canadians, and international visitors alike can make plans to enjoy this iconic destination.

Visitors are encouraged to plan their trip in advance. Jasper National Park has launched an interactive map of what's open to simplify trip planning (<https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/ab/jasper/visit/ouvert-fermee-open-closed>). While in Jasper, visitors can stop by the Jasper National Park Visitor Information Centre in the heart of downtown for advice and recommendations on making the most of their Parks Canada experience.

The town of Jasper is a quaint but trendy mountain community where you always feel welcome. You will find creature comforts from luxury accommodations and dining to charming rustic cabins and backcountry experiences awaiting you.

Activities include: White water rafting, back country horseback riding, biking, hiking, helicopter tours, boating and paddling, playing golf on one of Canada's best courses, enjoy Miette Hot Springs, or a cable car ride to the top of a towering mountain peak. Jasper also has a lively nightlife with many pubs hosting live entertainment.

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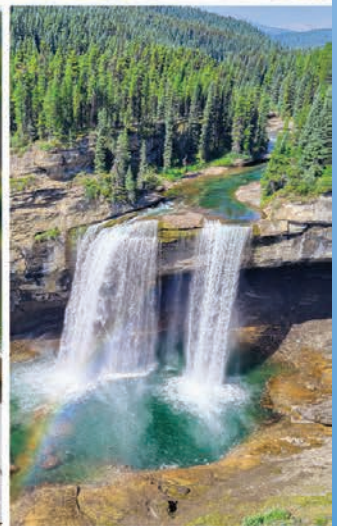
Buckshaw Ridge Trail, Grande Cache



Sulphur Gates



Grovedale Fish Pond



Kakwa Falls

**FOR MORE INFO:**

- 📍 9701-100 Street (Hwy 40), Grande Cache, AB
- ☎ 1-888-827-3790
- ✉ [tourism.grandecache@mdgreenview.ab.ca](mailto:tourism.grandecache@mdgreenview.ab.ca)
- 📱 Greenview Tourism



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# Grande Cache



Photo: Antoinette Struwig of Ant Creative Photography

## Grande Cache Lake



Photo: Antoinette Struwig of Ant Creative Photography

## Labyrinth



Photo: Antoinette Struwig of Ant Creative Photography

## Blue Bridge

## Your guide to adventure!

Grande Cache is located in the northern part of the Rocky Mountains, in western Alberta, along Highway 40, also known as the Bighorn Highway or Scenic Route to Alaska.

This is the shortest and most scenic route to Alaska from the United States.

Escape into a land of sparkling lakes, rushing rivers, green valleys, and windswept peaks! Grande Cache is surrounded by panoramic views of 21 mountain peaks and 2 river valleys.

Grande Cache is located 183 km south of Grande Prairie and 143 km north of Hinton. Jasper is 210 km south of Grande Cache and Edmonton is 450 km east of Grande Cache.

This small mountain hamlet is adjacent to unspoiled Willmore Wilderness Park. Willmore Wilderness Park has an abundance of trails, big game, alpine flowers and spectacular waterways.

Grande Cache has an excellent choice of shops, campgrounds, accommodations, restaurants and endless multi-use trails.

Built on a mountain plateau, the town faces south towards the Continental Divide and the pristine Willmore Wilderness Park. An elevation of 4200 feet gives a panoramic view of 21 mountain peaks and 2 river valleys. Grande Cache offers outstanding outdoor adventure, and a relaxed lifestyle.

There is something for everyone; photographers, artists, golfers, rafters, kayakers, hikers, bikers, paddlers, horseback riders, cross-country skiers, fishermen and hunters alike.

Willmore Wilderness Park is the largest mountain wilderness area in Alberta. The pristine area is surrounded by vast tracts of wilderness, with a trail, river or lake in every direction.

Hikers, bikers, hunting and fishing enthusiasts all enjoy the easy access of the Grande Cache area. Camping areas abound, and nearby Pierre Grey Lakes Provincial Recreation area, with five lakes and developed camping spots, is a popular weekend destination.



[www.exploreyellowhead.ca](http://www.exploreyellowhead.ca)

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# Yellowhead County

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resident Sasquatch, and enjoy the outdoors with  
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*Yellowhead  
County*

**FIND IT CLEAN  
#LEAVE IT PRISTINE**

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