

BATTLE RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE



20 Years of Watershed Stewardship



2025-2026 Annual Report





Battle River Watershed Alliance is a not-for-profit organization and designated Watershed Planning and Advisory Council under *Water for Life: Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability*. With a focus on the Battle River and Sounding Creek Watershed, our role is to convene & collaborate with community partners for state of the watershed reporting and watershed management planning. We also provide watershed education programming to enhance watershed literacy and stewardship.

VISION: We exist to have a watershed that sustains all life by using sound knowledge, wisdom, and wise actions to preserve our watershed for future generations.

MISSION: We achieve our vision by providing relevant science, social science, policies, and education for a diverse community of people to create solutions to our watershed's challenges.

ACKNOWLEDGING PEOPLE & LANDS

The Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds have been the home, meeting ground and travelling route for many Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial. We gratefully acknowledge the ancestral territory and ongoing presence of Indigenous Peoples and Nations within these watersheds. Their experiences, teachings, knowledge and wisdom inform and enrich our collective efforts to care for the land and water of this region. These watersheds are located in Treaty 6 and 7 territory, and the Métis Homeland. Fulfilling the spirit and intent of these treaties is an ongoing process, and the Battle River Watershed Alliance is committed to building strong and respectful relationships with the Indigenous Peoples of this land, with all living beings, and with the land and water on which we all depend.





Message from the Board

” *The success of the BRWA will depend upon the people who live and work within the watershed. I invite you to become a member of the alliance. There is no cost except for your time and commitment to making a difference within our watershed.*



Jeremy Enarson, Chair in 2007, BRWA's first Annual Report

The Board of Directors reflects with pride on two decades of stewardship, collaboration, and leadership in support of watershed sustainability and water security. As an independent organization, BRWA now has more than 2,000 members, and together with the long-standing representation of community partners on the Board and Land & Water Committee, brings diverse voices together to build consensus and advance watershed management that balances social, economic, and environmental priorities.

Over the years, the work of the Board, committees, and staff has taken many forms, from raising awareness over a slice of Saskatoon pie and bringing communities together to establish a watershed management framework, to delivering award-winning engagement and education programs, as well as providing municipalities with practical tools such as Riparian Health Assessments and Land Use Planning Guidelines. Guided by passionate leadership and dedicated governance, BRWA has grown significantly over the past 20 years, expanding its reach, impact, and ability to foster a culture of stewardship in communities across the watershed.



CHAIRS / CO-CHAIRS

Jeremy Enarson, 2006-2011 from the Bigstone subwatershed
 Hugh Sanders, 2011 - 2017, Bigstone
 Barb Bosh, 2017 - 2021, Paintearth
 Al Corbett & Ryley Andersen, 2021 - 2026, Bigstone & Blackfoot





Message from the Executive Director



Behind every partnership and initiative are people who care deeply about the Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds and the communities connected to this land. Over the past 20 years, BRWA's dedicated staff, including seasonal team members who bring energy and passion to outreach and youth education, emerging STEM leaders, and expert consultants, share their knowledge and research to help us understand the state of the watershed so our community leaders can make sustainable land management decisions for a safe secure water supply and strong economy.



Contract Team

Special recognition goes to Susanna Bruneau, Sheila Logelin, Sarah Skinner, and past Executive Director David Samm for their strong connection to place and longstanding commitment to the sustainability of our community, each contributing 15 or more years of service.



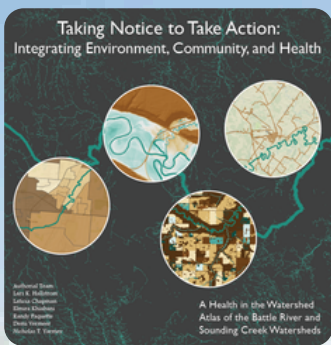
State of the Watershed

Battle River & Sounding Creek Watersheds



Characterizing the current state of one's watershed, its problems, and the pressures upon it can provide the basis for developing effective management strategies that will contribute to the achievement of the goals of Water for Life.

Handbook for State of the Watershed Report, Government of Alberta



BRWA compiled comprehensive State of the Watershed Reports in 2011 and 2022. The data identifies significant areas of concern that require conservation and restoration efforts to protect water supplies, ecosystems, and biodiversity, supporting resilient communities and a sustainable economy.

Assessments, Monitoring & Engagement

Partner organizations contribute key data, including Government of Alberta water quality and flow information and the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute's Human Footprint Inventory. BRWA also shares this information with decision-makers and the public while working to address data gaps.

- 2007** Battle River Fish-based Index of Biological Integrity
- 2008** Aerial Videography Riparian Assessment of the Battle River
- 2010** Battle River Basin Socio-Economic Profile
- 2011** Economic Activity and Ecosystem Services in the Battle River Basin Report
- 2015-2025** Important Bird Areas Monitoring Initiated
- 2017** ECHO Network, focus on community & public health data in SOW Reporting
- 2019-2025** Landcover Dataset & Shoreline and Riparian Condition Assessments
- 2020** Winter LakeKeepers Monitoring, Battle Lake (Headwaters of Battle River)
- 2021** LakeWatch Monitoring, Battle Lake (Headwaters of Battle River)
- 2021** Riparian Web Portal & training sessions
- 2023** Sounding Creek Riparian Area Assessment Report
- 2024** BRWA Citizen Science Monitoring Program Initiated

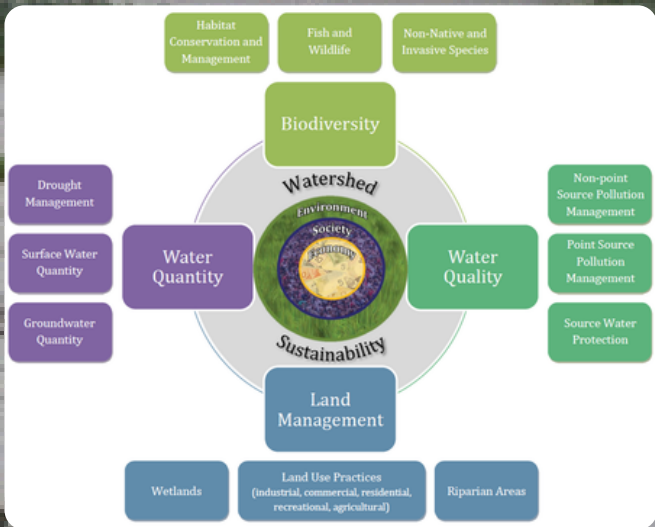
In 2026, State of the Watershed Information Sheets and Data Walk were completed with funding from the Battle River Community Foundation. Check out our website.



HWY 855, County of Paintearth No. 18
by Preston Weran



Watershed Management



Success Stories

- Framework for Watershed Management Planning (above)
- Approved Water Management Plan for the Battle River Basin, GOA
- Camrose Source Water Protection Plan
- Guide to Watershed Management in Land Use Planning for Local Governments in the Battle River and Sounding Creek Watersheds



Moving Communities to Action

In 2012, a Watershed Management Planning Steering Committee was established to guide the planning process including consultation with local businesses, industry, government, Indigenous Nations and land-holders to develop an adaptive management planning framework with four areas of focus - water quality, water quantity, land management and biodiversity. This set the stage for research, policy advice, and guidelines for watershed management to move communities to action.

Watershed Management Guidelines are tools for decision-makers to support a healthy ecosystem, biodiversity, and safe secure water supply.

Visit our website for guidelines on: Wetlands, Riparian Areas, Source Water Protection, Drought Adaptation and Management, Non-native and Invasive Species Management, and Non-point Source Pollution Management





Watershed Management

BRWA Land & Water Committee

Established in 2023, the BRWA Land & Water Committee is a multi-sector advisory group that supports state of the watershed reporting, watershed management planning and implementation.

Committee Representation: Augustana Campus (University of Alberta), Beaver County, Camrose County, City of Camrose, County of Paintearth, County of Vermilion River, Drainage Council, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Flagstaff County, Government of Alberta, Lacombe County, Montana First Nation, Otipemisiwak Métis Government, Pigeon Lake Watershed Association, Samson Cree Nation, Town of Wainwright, and BRWA Board members

Funded By: Camrose County, Battle River Community Foundation, the Grattidge Family Fund, the Ken and Irif Drever 50th Anniversary Fund, and the Ralph and Kaye Rud Fund.

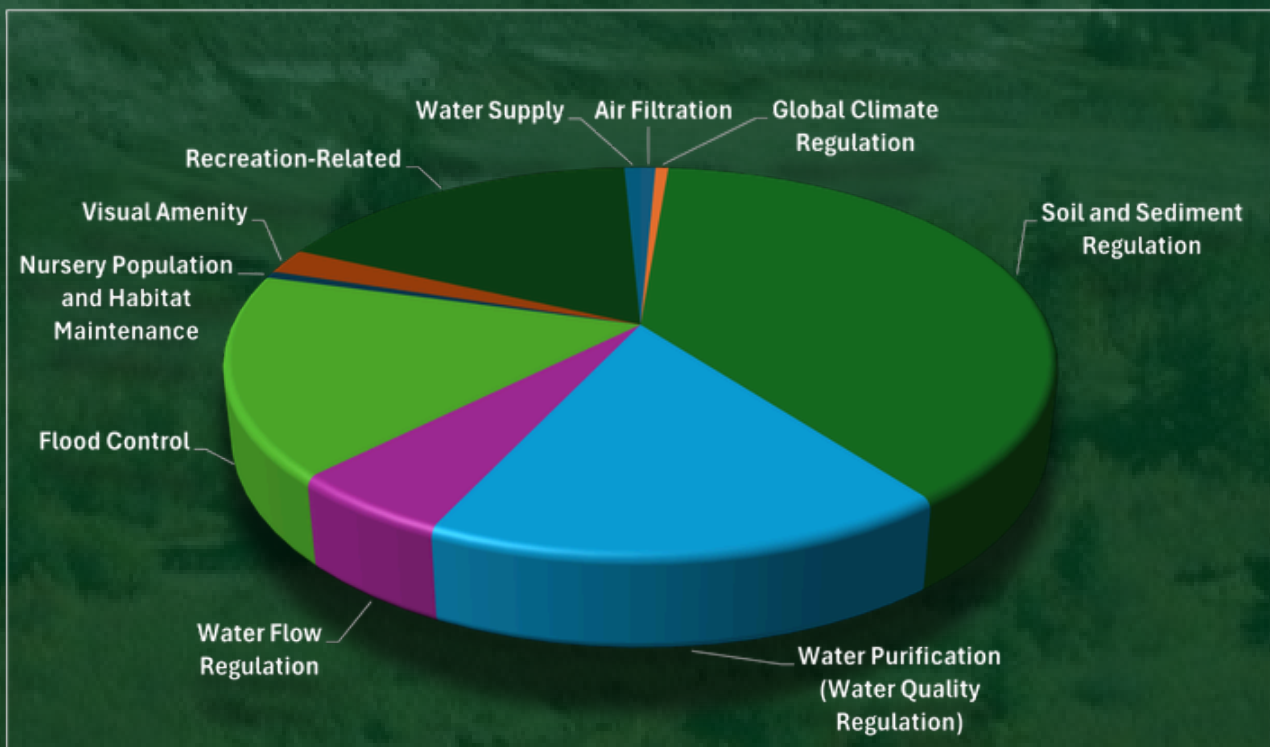


»»»» Riparian Stewardship Projects »»»» 2012-2025, 650 Acres

Investment **\$850,000**

Annual Ecosystem Services Value **\$33,275,917**

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES VALUE BY TYPE



Oldman Watershed Council's Ecosystem Value Calculator, created with support from Government of Alberta

FUNDING CONTRIBUTIONS

Federal-Provincial Growing Forward 2 & Agricultural Watershed Enhancement Program, Provincial Watershed Resiliency & Restoration Program, & Land-holders Battle River Watershed Alliance

COLLABORATORS

Agroforestry & Woodlot Extension Society | Cows and Fish Riparian Management Society | Iron Creek Watershed Improvement Society | Flagstaff County ALUS
Pipestone Creek School | Montana First Nation





Outstanding In Stewardship

OTIS Awards, 50+ Recipients across 30 Communities

2025 RECIPIENTS



Agriculture

Erin & Casey
Murphy-
Thompson
Thompson WP
Farms, Grassland
Stewardship



Organization

Louis Bull Tribe
Climate Risk &
Resilience
Assessment



Individual

Anjah Howard,
Camrose County
Planning Leadership
for Watershed
Management



Youth

Laurie Phillips,
Terrace Ridge
School
Future Stewards

2012-2024 RECIPIENTS

Darcy & Candace Goodrich
Carol Wilson
Kaitlin Lomas, Katie & Vicki Wyering, Melissa Gartner
Lacombe County
Mike Black
Maven Boddy and Golden Prairie 4H
County of Vermilion River
Blue Dot Camrose
Roy and Judy Louis
Brooklyn Green and Mina Shin
Chinook Applied Research Association
Susan Ellis
Lougheed Colony School
MSW Farms
Buffalo Lake Nature Club
Tom Tomasweski
Katelyn Cook
Nica's Hair Salon
Tin Forest Farms
Don and Marie Ruzicka
Wainwright Girl Guides
Brenda Bohmer
City of Wetaskiwin
Pres Winter
Grove Grizzlies
Camrose Energy
Millet & District Museum and Archives
Glen Hvenegaard
Hughenden Public School
Dan and Harriet Liddle
Wainwright Wildlife Society
Lorne Ferguson
Round Hill Renaissance Agriculture Foundation
Michael & Clara Hampson
Robert Gibbs
Ecoplast Solutions Inc.
Altario School
Darrel Fipke
Rebecca King
Scandia Roadside Native Prairie Restoration Project
Nipisihkopahk Wellness, Samson Cree Nation
Terry & Peggy Vockeroth
Ian Rawlinson
Belle Dodds



Nominations for
2026 open
July 1st.



Education & Literacy

BRWA EDUCATION PROGRAMS

NO. OF YEARS

Waste in Our Watershed Tour (Gr. 4)	10
Discover Your Wetland (Gr. 5)	15
Weather Watchers in the Watershed (Gr. 5)	1
Habitat Tour (Gr. 6)	3
X-Stream Science (Gr. 7-12)	10
Caring For Our Watersheds (Gr. 7-12)	19



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- In 2025, the Recycling Council of Alberta, R's of Excellence Award was given to the Waste in Our Watershed partners: Centra Cam Vocational Training Association, City of Camrose, GFL Environmental Inc., City of Wetaskiwin, and Aquatera Utilities.
- Weather Watchers in Our Watershed was developed with guidance from the Maskwacis Elder Advisory Committee.





Education & Literacy

” *Students who may struggle to engage in a traditional classroom setting often thrive outdoors. I have seen students step into leadership roles, ask thoughtful questions, and demonstrate confidence and curiosity in ways I might not otherwise witness. Many students develop a genuine connection to nature through this experience, gaining a deeper respect for the environment and an understanding of how humans and wildlife coexist within shared spaces.* **Taren Lindstrand, Junior High Teacher, Round Hill**

14,000 Youth Participants over 20 years



COMMUNITY PARTNERS BRINGING CLASSROOM CURRICULUM TO LIFE
BATTLE RIVER COMMUNITY FOUNDATION | CAMROSE ENERGY | CARGILL
CAF AMERICA | ENBRIDGE | HEARTLAND GENERATION | NUTRIEN



Mirror Lake, City of Camrose



Convening and Collaborating

2025-26 ENGAGEMENT: TAKING ACTION IN YOUR WATERSHED

Bringing people together to inspire stewardship and community action, BRWA connected many groups to deliver hands-on learning and engagement opportunities, including:

Caring for Our Watersheds Alberta Contest (19th year), sponsored by Nutrien, 11 teachers at 9 schools engaging 267 students.

Watershed 101 Webinar for Elected Officials featuring municipal leadership perspectives from Ponoka County and the City of Camrose.

Winter LakeKeepers Monitoring with Alberta Lake Management Society, Augustana Community Service-Learning students, and local volunteers.

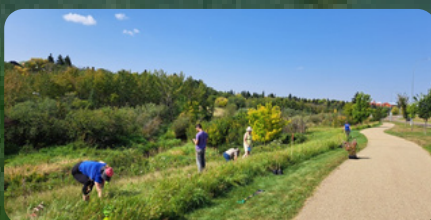
Nature Science + Sports Skills Camp in partnership with Augustana Campus, University of Alberta and Camrose and District Fish and Game Association.



Piping Plover Monitoring with Alberta Conservation Association and volunteers.

Great Divide Tree Planting and Pipe Ceremony at Beaver Hills Biosphere with Miquelon Lake Watershed Stewardship Committee and North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance.

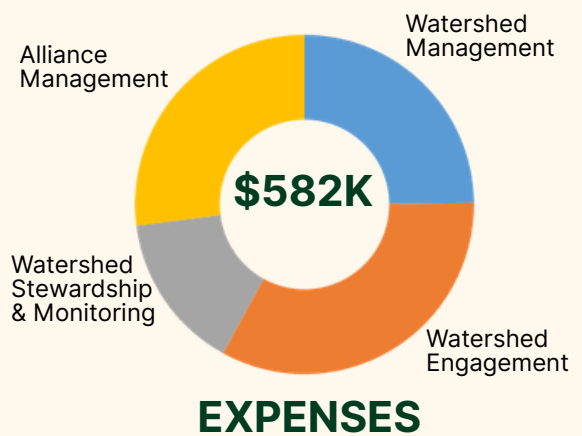
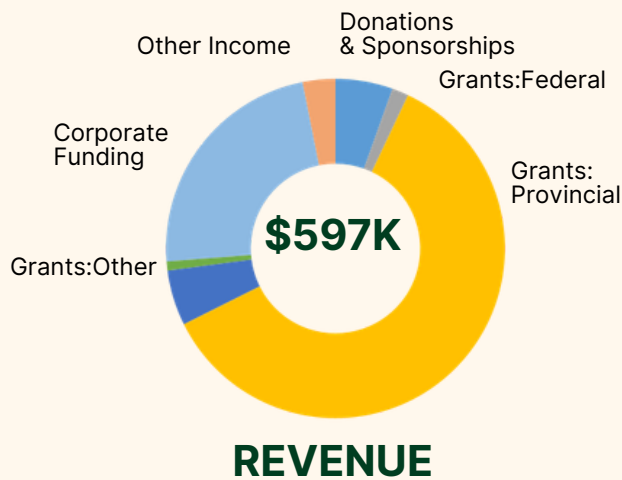
Stoney Creek Riparian Restoration with support from Camrose Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee, Agroforestry & Woodlot Extension Society, Cows and Fish Riparian Management Society.





Financials

With a significant goal of sustainability for our watershed and water security, the organization launched in 2006 with a modest operating budget of \$100k. With support from community partners this budget has grown to as high as \$800k annually.



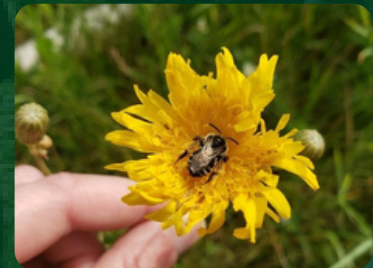


Financial Contributions & In-Kind Sponsors

We gratefully acknowledge the generous financial and in-kind support of our sponsors over the past 20 years, whose partnership helps advance watershed stewardship, healthy ecosystems, biodiversity, and long-term water security for our communities.

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
Agriculture Financial Services Corporation
Agrium Inc
Agroforestry & Woodlot Extension Society
Alberta Beef
Alberta Beef Producers
Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities
Alberta Citizen Science Community of Practice
Alberta Community Bat Program (Wildlife Conservation Society Canada)
Alberta Community Partnership grant partners (Camrose County, Flagstaff County, Lacombe County)
Alberta Conservation Association
Alberta Council for Environmental Education
Alberta Ecotrust Foundation
Alberta Lake Management Society
Alberta Real Estate Foundation
Alberta Trappers Association
Alberta Wilderness Association
ALUS County of Vermilion River
ALUS Lacombe-Red Deer
ALUS Wetaskiwin-Leduc
Andrukow Group Solutions
Anglican Church
Aquatera
Association for Life-Wide Living of Alberta (ALL)
ATCO Power
Battle Lake Natural Area Preservation Society
Battle Lake Watershed Synergy Group
Battle River Alliance for Economic Development
Battle River Community Foundation
Battle River Implements
Battle River Research Group
Beaver County
Beaver Hills Biosphere Interpretive Community of Practice
Bouma Meats
Buffalo Lake Nature Club
Bunge Canada
Camrose & District Horticultural Society
Camrose & District Support Services
Camrose and District Fish and Game Association
Camrose Arts Society
Camrose County
Camrose Energy
Camrose Open Door Association
Camrose Rotary Club
Camrose Wildlife Stewardship Society
Canadian Agricultural Partnership
Canadian Forces Base Wainwright

Canadian Institutes of Health Research
Canadian Wildlife Federation
Capital Power
Cargill
CAF America
Centre for Race & Culture
Change for Climate Edmonton
Chinook Applied Research Association
City of Camrose
City of Edmonton
City of Lacombe
Conoco Phillips
Country Accent
County of Paintearth
County of Stettler
County of Vermilion River
County of Wetaskiwin
Cows & Fish Riparian Management Society
Dalton Seed Farm: Pioneer Seed
Diplomat Mine Historical Society
Don & Marie Ruzicka
Drainage Council
Ducks Unlimited Canada
EastAlta Co-op
ECHO Collective
ECHO Network
ECO Canada
Edmonton and Area Land Trust
Enbridge
Encana
Enerplus
Erminskin Cree Nation
Everest Trucking
Evergreen
Farm Credit Canada
Government of Alberta
Government of Canada
Flagstaff County
Forestburg Fitness Institute
Friends of Little Beaver Lake
Gaylene Halter
George Poruchnek
Girl Guides of Canada Wolf Willow District
Glenys Smith - Donation
Government of Alberta
Government of Alberta - Agriculture and Irrigation
Government of Alberta - Environment and Protected Areas



Financial Contributions & In-Kind Sponsors, Continued

Government of Canada
 Heartland Generation
 Henry & Judy Fenton – Donation
 Hugh & Marg Sanders
 Inside Education
 Ireland Farm Equipment
 Iron Creek Watershed Improvement Society
 Janet McGreer
 Jean Malcolm-McDonald (Plant Expertise)
 Lacombe County
 Lake Winnipeg Basin Program
 Lakeland College
 Land Stewardship Centre
 Leduc County
 Louis Bull Tribe
 M.D. of Wainwright
 Maskwacis Cree Tribal Council
 M.D. of Provost
 Montana First Nation
 Muldoon Trucking
 Myron Badrey
 Nature Alberta
 Nature Canada
 Nature Conservancy of Canada
 North American Waterfowl Management Plan
 North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance
 Nu Edge Construction
 Nutrien
 Owl Link Media Corporation
 Paintearth Economic Partnership Society
 Parkland Airshed Management Zone
 Peaceful Valley Advisory Committee
 Penn West Exploration
 Pigeon Lake Watershed Association
 Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan
 Steering Committee
 Ponoka County
 Ponoka Fish & Game Association
 Populus Community Planning Inc.
 Prairie Mines & Royalty ULC
 Prairie Mines & Royalty ULC.
 Prentice Institute for Global Population and Economy (University of Lethbridge)
 Project Learning Tree
 Real Canadian Superstore
 Recycle with Centra Cam
 Red Deer River Watershed Alliance
 RED The Agency
 Regenerative Agriculture Lab (Rural Routes to Climate Solutions)
 Rotary Club of Camrose
 Samson Cree Nation
 2nd Floor Computers
 Special Areas Board
 Stafford Plumbing
 Strathcona Raptor Center
 Summer Village of Argentia Beach
 Summer Village of Crystal Springs
 Summer Village of Golden Days
 Summer Village of Grandview
 Summer Village of Itaska Beach
 Summer Village of Ma-Me-O Beach
 Summer Village of Norris Beach
 Summer Village of Paradise Valley
 Summer Village of Poplar Bay
 Summer Village of Silver Beach
 Town of Blackfalds
 Town of Hardisty
 Town of Killam
 Town of Lacombe
 Town of Ponoka
 Town of Sedgewick
 Town of Viking
 Town of Wainwright
 UFA
 United Nations
 University of Alberta, Augustana Campus
 Vernon Malone Fund
 Village of Alliance
 Village of Bawlf
 Village of Bittern Lake
 Village of Botha
 Village of Chauvin
 Village of Consort
 Village of Donalda
 Village of Edberg
 Village of Edgerton
 Village of Ferintosh
 Village of Forestburg
 Village of Gadsby
 Village of Halkik
 Village of Hay Lakes
 Village of Loughheed
 Village of Rosalind
 Village of Strome
 Vision Credit Union
 Volunteer Alberta
 Wainwright Wildlife Society
 WaterSmart
 Xylem Inc.



