

Newell No. 4, County of

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Welcome

WELCOME TO THE COUNTY OF NEWELL NO. 4



Area Overview

COUNTY OF NEWELL NO. 4 HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS AS A COUNTY IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA IN 2003

ADMINISTRATION

The land in the Province of Alberta known as the County of Newell has come a long way since settlers began settling the area at the turn of the century. Many people have worked very hard over the years to make it the prosperous area that we all enjoy today.

Before the area known as the County of Newell became a County, many municipal organizations and re-organizations took place. Until 1935, the County of Newell area was comprised of 8 small Improvement Districts. In 1935, the Province of Alberta Municipal Affairs amalgamated the 8 small Improvement Districts to form a single Improvement District called Improvement District No. 123, with Mr. G. Anderson as the Municipal Inspector. Just over 3 years later, another change was made by Municipal Affairs that saw I.D. No. 123 change to I.D. No. 28. The history books do not record why the I.D. number was changed from 123 to 28.

In 1952, the Eastern Irrigation District School Division No. 44 and Improvement District No. 28 joined forces and made application to the Province of Alberta Municipal Affairs to amalgamate the two governing bodies and incorporate them to become what we now know as the County of Newell No. 4. on January 1, 1953. The newly formed County of Newell No. 4 was then responsible for Education, Agriculture and Public Works. The first elections as a County took place in 1953.

In the first election of Councillors for the County of Newell No. 4, there were 9 Councillors elected to represent 9 Electoral Divisions within the County. By 1987, the population in the County made it necessary for changes in the Electoral Divisions to facilitate a 10th Division.

The County of Newell No. 4 continued to operate the rural school system complete with a School Board from 1953 until 1988. In

1988 the Province of Alberta changed the education system and amalgamated several school districts across the Province. The County of Newell No. 4 School District and the Brooks School District were then combined to form what is now called the Grasslands Regional School Division No.6.

With the growth and expansion of the County has come a greater responsibility to members of Council who now control a budget that has grown from \$773,000 in 1953 to over \$22 million in 2003.

Many changes took place at the end of the 80's and the start of the 90's. Probably most visible to County residents is the equipment being used by County Staff to maintain County roads and control weeds.

Growing up in the County, many of us made fun of the age of the County equipment as it passed by our rural homes.

It was well known that the equipment was old and could stand to be replaced. Old equipment is no longer the case at the County of Newell. During the past decade, all of the old roadwork equipment has been replaced with state-of-the-art road building and maintenance machines. It was determined that it would cost County tax payers a lot less to operate new equipment than it would be to maintain old decrepit machinery. Public Works operates a full service shop where mechanics maintain County equipment.

With the ushering in of the Information Age during the 80's and 90's, forward thinking Members of Council began funding technology in the County which has effected every department of the County of Newell No.4 including Administration, Agricultural Services and Public Works. Administration has moved from manual bookkeeping to a state-of-the-art digital computer accounting system, a digital file storage system, and an internet web site complete with e-mail communications. Public Works & Agricultural Service Board are linked to a County operated Global Information System at the Administration Building that records live data from graders, spray trucks, mowers and most County vehicles to enable maps to be produced that make maintaining the County a lot more efficient. A quick glance at a computer screen is now all that is needed to instantly know where County equipment is located and what job it is performing. These maps enable Public Works and A.S.B. to draw up budgets for upcoming years.

PUBLIC WORKS

With the formation of one large Improvement District from the smaller 8 Districts, construction on improved roads began in earnest. By the end of 1952, the District was able to boast several miles of what, at the time, were considered "high quality graveled roads".

It is hard for most of us to imagine what it would have been like to be there the day the original prairie sod was turned to begin building the first road in the area. The equipment used in those days is primitive by today's standards. Most of the original roads were built using two horse slips and four horse fresnos. The equipment was horse drawn and the operators were forced to stand on metal that sometimes reached temperatures that would easily fry an egg. Unlike today's \$300,000 plus graders that have a comfortable cab and all the power the operator requires to groom a road, road grader operators of the past used a contraption constructed of 3 pieces of heavy duty angle iron, bolted together, with a plywood plank over top where the operator would stand. With this machine, the operator would do his best to groom the roads that were often little more than prairie trails. The angle iron contraption was later replaced with what was called a "horse drawn road maintainer". The road maintainer was the first piece of equipment used to care for roads and it began to take the shape of what we now know as a road grader. Even with the purchase of the newer horse drawn maintainers, roads still continued to be rough at best with very few roads being graveled and wooden culverts only being installed in the areas that had the most problems with drainage.

As road building technology improved, so did the roads in the County of Newell No.4. Between 1953 and 1981, many roads had been improved substantially. In 1981 the total roads that had hard surface amounted to 61 km, hard surface overlay 72 km, oil treated roads 146 km, graveled roads 443 km and improved dirt roads accounted for 131 km. In 1981 there were 1,200 plus kilometers of roads in the County of Newell No. 4.

During the same time frame, 261 km of roadside drainage were also constructed. The drainage system was required to reduce damage to roads during the natural spring run-off. The drainage canals were then linked to the E.I.D.'s irrigation canal system and the Bow River so that the run-off water could be used to irrigate more lands in the County.

By the County's 50th Anniversary, the amount of pavement covering the roads in the County has increased to 469 km with an additional 1,907 km of graveled and oil base roads.

The 80's era saw several changes take place to the roads in the County of Newell No.4. During the 80's, the County and the Province funded the construction of at least one paved road to every community located within County of Newell boundaries. The Provincial Government had also paved Highway 36 that runs north/south through the centre of the County. Having the TransCanada Highway, Highway 36 and a paved road to each community, transportation within the County had finally reached a satisfactory level

to handle the volumes of high tech vehicles of the new millennium.

In 2001 more changes were in store for the County Road System. In 2001 the Province of Alberta took over the maintenance and operation of all paved and non-paved Secondary roads in the Province. However, this did not mean that the County of Newell No. 4 would not be getting any more pavement, instead, it meant that the County could then concentrate on paving roads in the County that would not normally be covered under a Provincial paving program. In 2002, the County of Newell paved large portions of One Tree Road, Antelope Creek Road and the service road that runs from Lakeside Farms to Cassils Road.

In 2003 the County of Newell No. 4 Council implemented a paving tax that would garner monies for future paving projects throughout all 10 County Divisions.

As the County develops, it is certain that Public Works will keep pace with the need for road construction and upgrades.

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD

During the past 50 years, the Agricultural Service Board has supported the agricultural industry throughout the County of Newell. Many of the services offered by the A.S.B. have remained the same with the exception of a few new programs, however the technology and equipment they deliver those services with have changed monumentally.

In the early days, the A.S.B. sprayed for weeds like they do today. The difference is, now the A.S.B. is equipped with several pieces of equipment that make the job a lot more efficient. A.S.B. staff use everything from portable spray back-packs, quad mounted sprayers, and diesel powered spray trucks that have portable weather stations and computers on-board. The computers on the spray equipment are in constant contact with a computer at the Administration Building that records where the trucks have been and what chemicals were applied. Detailed maps are then printed making the tracking and record keeping of spray activity totally automatic.

The A.S.B. of the new millennium uses hand-held G.P.S. devices to digitally record the location of noxious weeds that are then plotted on a map which makes it easier to track the spread of the weed.

Although the equipment used to spray for weeds has changed since 1953, the reasons for spraying remain the same to this day. Without the spraying program, weeds would overtake the roadsides and quickly spread to farmers fields.

Along with spraying, the A.S.B. also cuts the grass along the roadsides. The cutting and spraying combined reduces the amount of snow that can accumulate in the ditches and also tends to help beautify the County. Other duties that have been introduced to the Agricultural Service Board over the years including the Predator Control Program that controls the coyote and gopher populations.

The A.S.B. continues to oversee the planting of thousands of trees each year in the County of Newell. These trees are a key factor in preventing erosion through the use of shelter belts.

A very successful part of the County's Agricultural Service Board is the rental of well-maintained newer equipment that ranges from magpie traps to 20 foot no-till drills. By offering this equipment for rent to local ranchers and farmers, it helps free up capital that they can invest in other areas of their operation.

OVERVIEW

A drive around the County of Newell No. 4 quickly proves that the County has prospered in the past 50 years and continues to do so today.

A majority of the County residents continue to make their primary living from the land. A strong agricultural backbone was the reason many of our ancestors chose the County of Newell to call their home and the reason we continue to do the same today.

As we continue to live in the County, and as others move in, let us never forget the responsibility we have to our ancestors who came from all over the world, to lay the groundwork for what we proudly call home: the County of Newell No. 4.



Administration



Agr. Services



Public Works

County of Newell Administration, Agricultural Services & Public Works

Community Lifestyle

Parks and Recreation

The County of Newell is home to some of the best golfing in southern Alberta. There are a total of 4 courses that include a 9 hole course in Duchess, an 18 hole course in Bassano, a 9 hole course in Rolling Hills, a Par 3 course in Cassils, and a world class 18 hole course on the eastern edge of Brooks. Golfing in the County of Newell is made more enjoyable by the dry prairie air and the intense sunshine coupled with never-ending panoramic views of the Alberta prairies.

The County of Newell is home to the Brooks Aqueduct that is now designated a National / Provincial Historic Site. Built by the early Pioneers to the area of 80 years ago, the concrete structure was a vital link to carry water to farmers and ranchers in the eastern areas of the County of Newell.

The concrete aqueduct has been replaced by an earthen structure but the original structure still remains, standing as is, now a major tourist attraction for the area. The Aqueduct Interpretive Centre serves tourists throughout the summer tourist season giving them a brief glimpse of what life was like in the County of Newell long before it became a County in 1953.

The County of Newell also plays host to the United Nations declared World Heritage Site of Dinosaur Provincial Park. A total of 73 square kilometers have been set aside by the Provincial Government because of the spectacular scenery and one of the richest fossils beds in North America.

Dinosaur Provincial Park is home to the field station of the Royal Tyrell Museum in Drumheller, Alberta. Each year staff from the Royal Tyrell converge upon Dinosaur Provincial Park to begin an annual nine week dig that often uncovers exciting fossils from the past. As recent as 1993, three complete dinosaur skeletons were excavated in the park.

As far back as 75 million years ago, the County of Newell was the place of choice to live and continues to remain the same today.



Economic Base

The County of Newell's main economic base is agriculture and oil and gas.

There are well over 30,000 oil and gas wells within the County of Newell boundaries. The strong activity in the oil & gas sectors provides a large tax base to the County that makes taxes more affordable for ranch, farm and acreage owners in the County.

There are approximately 930,000 acres of native pasture within the County of Newell. Another 282,000 acres is served by the Eastern Irrigation District through a system of canals and pipelines that are fed by water diverted from the Bow River at the Bassano Dam located West of Bassano.

The County of Newell is also home to one of Canada's largest beef packing and processing plants. With over 2500 employees, Lakeside Packers processes just under 1 million cattle a year that are shipped to markets in Western Canada and the United States of America.

The County of Newell continues to be a hotbed of economic diversification. There are currently plans on the drawing table to construct a 1000 megawatt power generation station on the edge of Kitsim Reservoir. The power generation station will be coal fired and supplied with coal from the Bow City Coal Mines that Fording Coal plans to re-open in conjunction with construction of the new power station. The Eastern Irrigation District has plans to build a \$20 million power generation station on the Bassano Dam. The construction project will see the EID make an investment of over \$2 million dollars more than the dam originally cost back in 1912.

Agriculture, Oil & Gas, and Power Generation hold great promise for the continued prosperity of the County of Newell and its residents.

Agriculture Research

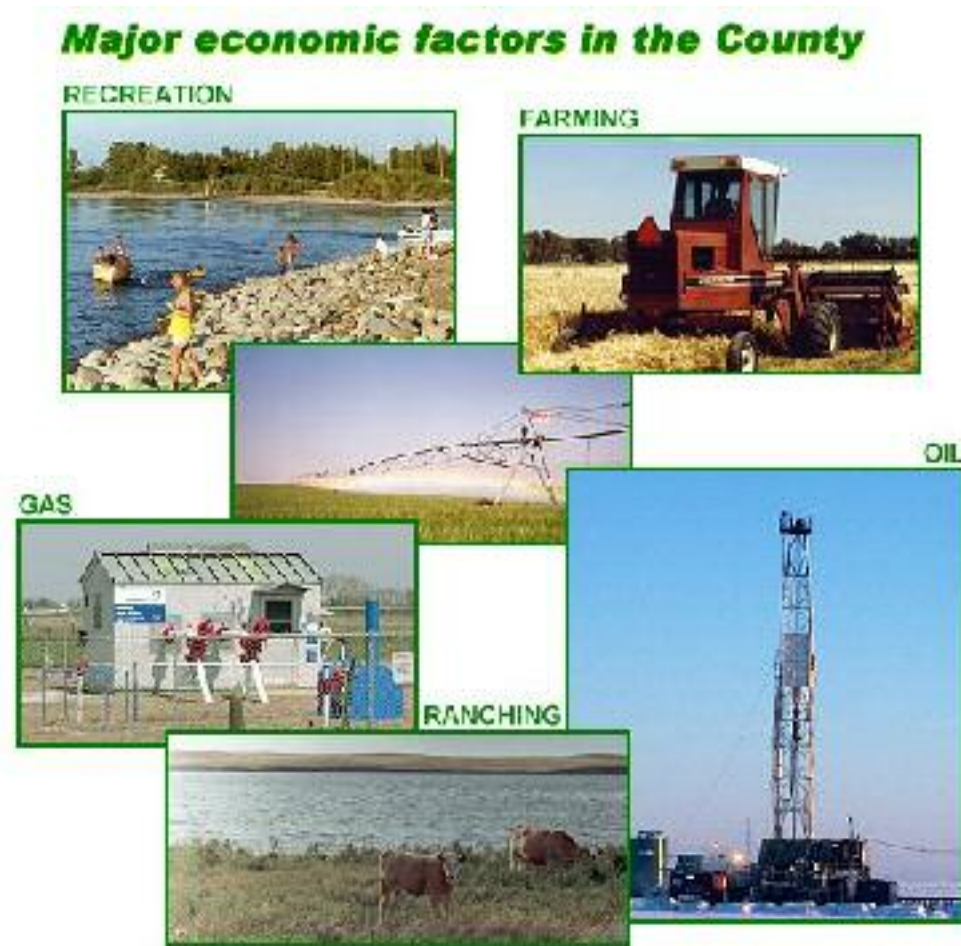
The County of Newell is home to a state-of-the-art agriculture research facility. The Crop Diversification Centre is operated by the

Province of Alberta. The CDC has been instrumental in research that has developed several strains of crops for production in all areas of the Province and the whole of Canada.

The CDC currently operates a full plant genetics laboratory conducting research into new varieties of crops that either are, or potentially could be, grown in the County of Newell No. 4.

The Crop Diversification Centre also offers facilities for families or organizations to hold outdoor functions in a true park-like setting. One of the main attractions at the centre open for public viewing is the Rose Garden. Hundreds of different varieties of roses are grown in the garden, many of which can be found growing wild through-out the County of Newell.

The CDC conducts research into such crops as sunflower seeds, fruits, especially apples, corn, potatoes and many other crops grown in the County of Newell.



Education

The County of Newell is served by the Grasslands School Division #6 with main offices based in Brooks, Alberta. Public schools are located in Bassano, Gem, Rosemary, Duchess, Rolling Hills, Rainier, Tilley and Brooks.

Post-secondary education is provided at the Medicine Hat College Brooks Campus. The campus boasts a state-of-the-art facility as well as brand new on-campus student housing.

Brooks Campus - MHC



Education

Gem School



Tilley School



Emergency Services

Policing in the County of Newell No. 4

Police services in the County of Newell are provided by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. There are two detachments located within the County boundaries. One is located in the Town of Bassano and the other is located in the Town of Brooks.

County of Newell bylaws are enforced by the County's own bylaw enforcement officer.

Fire Protection

The County of Newell is served by a total of 10 volunteer fire departments. The departments are located in the communities throughout the County.

A reciprocal agreement exists between the County of Newell and the Town of Brooks that covers Divisions 5 and 10 that surround Brooks. In the event of a large fire, the Town of Brooks will assist County Fire Departments in suppressing the fire.

The fire departments are funded through a tax requisition.

Brooks Rural Fire Department



Rolling Hills Fire Department



New Rosemary Fire Truck

There are more than 50 firefighters trained and ready for action in 9 fire departments located throughout the County of Newell No. 4

Health Care

The County of Newell is covered by the Palliser Health Authority. The County of Newell is served by two hospitals: the Bassano

Health Centre and the Brooks Health Centre

The Town of Brooks is served by a full scale hospital facility and emergency ward. A total of 4 ambulances staffed by both Paramedics and EMT's operate from the Brooks Health Centre. The Brooks Health Centre also has a helipad for take off and landings of the STARS Air Ambulance for swift transfer of patients needing emergency critical care that is not available at the Health Centre.

The Town of Bassano recently had their hospital facility renovated. In addition, a helipad was added and improvements made to the extended care facilities at the hospital. The Town of Bassano operates an ambulance service that serves residents in the Bassano area.

Key Contacts for Business Development

Municipal

County of Newell No. 4

Box 130

Brooks AB T1R 1B2

Tel:(403)362-3266

FAX:(403)362-8681

WEBSITE: <http://www.countyofnewell.ab.ca>

Reeve

Ms. Molly Douglass

administration@countyofnewell.ab.ca

Administrator

Mr. Alan Martens

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Provincial (December 2004)

Alberta Economic Development

109 Provincial Building

346 - 3rd Street S.E.

Medicine Hat, Alberta

T1A 0G7

Tel: (403)529-3630

Fax: (403)529-3140

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Gloria Filgas, Client Service Rep.

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Hon. Lyle Oberg

Minister of Learning

Member of the Legislative Assembly

Strathmore-Brooks Constituency

204, 10800 - 97 Avenue

Edmonton, AB

T5K 2B6

Tel: (780)427-2025

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Federal (Updated May 2001)

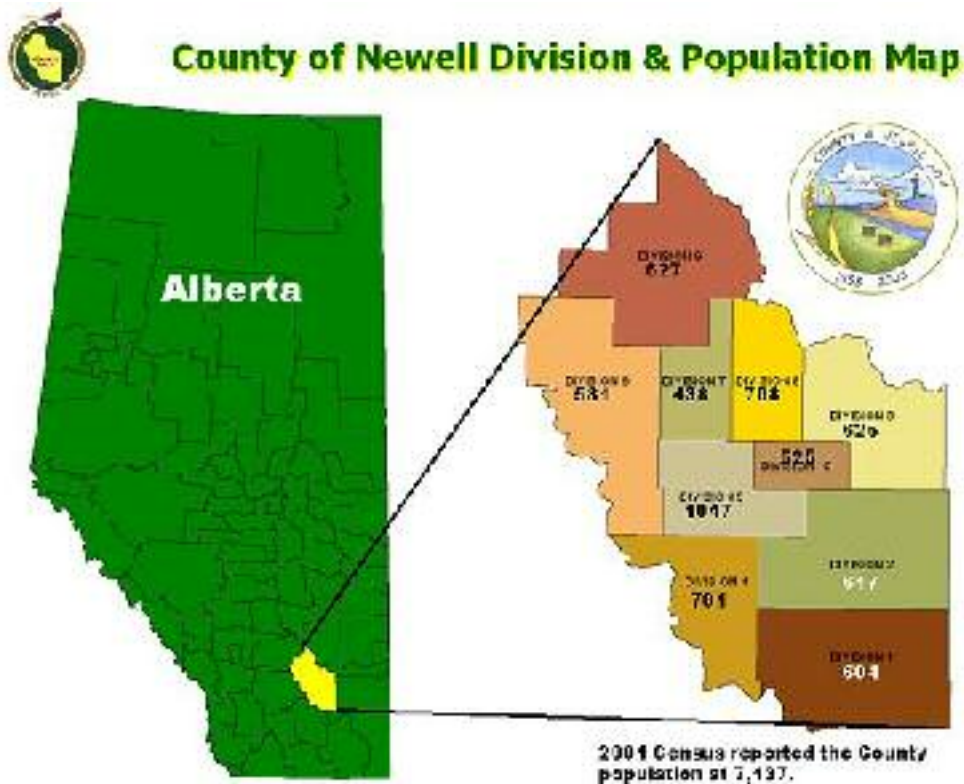
Monty Solberg
Member of Parliament
Medicine Hat Constituency
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
Tel: (613)992-4516

Constituency Office:
P.O. Box 640
Brooks, Alberta
T1R 1B6

Location

The County of Newell is located west of Calgary on the Trans Canada Highway half way to Medicine Hat.

The Trans Canada Highway runs through the middle of the county east and west and the #36 highway, which is an extension of US interstate 15, runs through the middle of the county north and south. They intersect in the centre of the county 10 miles west of Brooks."



Taxation

| | <u>Residential/Farmland</u> | <u>Non-Residential</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>2004</u> | | |
| Municipal Tax Rate | 4.3461 | 5.6098 |

| | | |
|---|--------|--------|
| Education - Alberta School Foundation Fund Tax Rate | 4.7481 | 6.5191 |
| Education Opted Out Tax Rate | 4.7481 | 6.5191 |
| Seniors Lodge Accommodation Tax Rate | .1413 | .1413 |

Transportation

Transportation plays a key role in the economic success of the County of Newell No. 4. Both the TransCanada Highway #1 and the Canadian Pacific Railway mainline pass through the centre of the County. The County of Newell is also served by Highway #36 that is the north-south transportation artery.



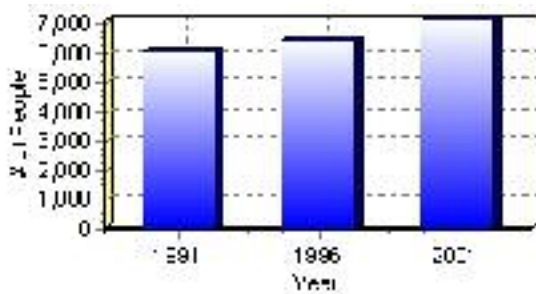
Population

Total Population

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Population 2004* | 7,137 |
| Population 2003* | 7,137 |
| Population 2002* | 7,137 |
| Population 2001** | 7,140 |
| Population 2000* | 6,421 |
| Population 1996** | 6,421 |
| Population 1991** | 6,014 |
| Population % change 1991-1996 | 6.34% |
| Population % change 1996-2001 | 10.03% |

* Source: Official Population List, Alberta Municipal Affairs
** Source: Statistics Canada 1991, 1996, & 2001 Census

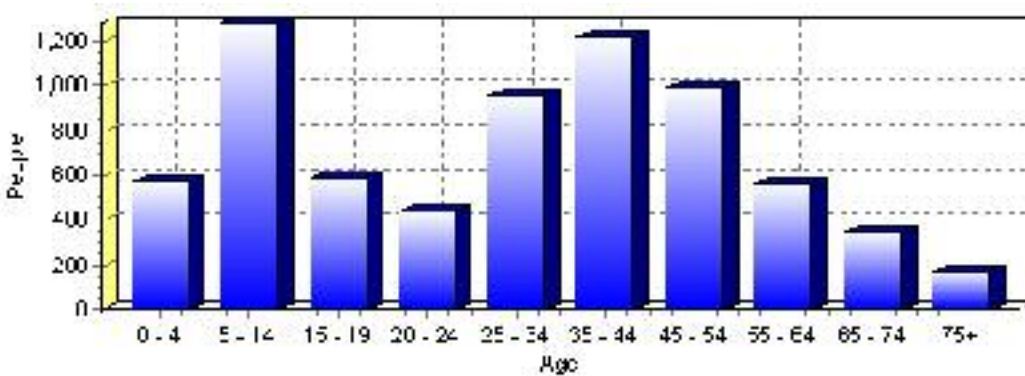
Total Population 1991-2001



| Population by Age and Gender | 1996 Male | 1996 Female | 1996 Total | 2001 Male | 2001 Female | 2001 Total |
|------------------------------|-----------|-------------|------------|-----------|-------------|------------|
| Age 0 - 4 | 300 | 265 | 565 | 320 | 250 | 570 |
| Age 5 - 14 | 575 | 585 | 1,160 | 645 | 635 | 1,280 |
| Age 15 - 19 | 270 | 250 | 520 | 300 | 290 | 590 |
| Age 20 - 24 | 235 | 170 | 405 | 230 | 205 | 435 |
| Age 25 - 34 | 475 | 445 | 920 | 485 | 475 | 960 |
| Age 35 - 44 | 590 | 545 | 1,135 | 635 | 580 | 1,215 |
| Age 45 - 54 | 385 | 350 | 735 | 535 | 460 | 995 |
| Age 55 - 64 | 265 | 220 | 485 | 290 | 275 | 565 |
| Age 65 - 74 | 185 | 160 | 345 | 190 | 160 | 350 |
| Age 75 and older | 85 | 65 | 150 | 95 | 75 | 170 |
| Total All Persons | 3,375 | 3,045 | 6,420 | 3,735 | 3,410 | 7,145 |

Source: Statistics Canada 1996 & 2001 Census (numbers may not add up due to rounding)

Newell No. 4, County of Population by Age Group (2001)

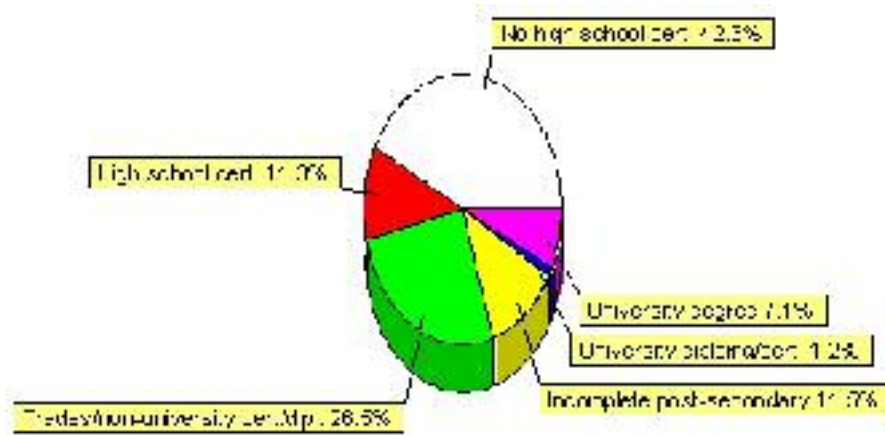


Education Statistics

| Highest level of schooling for Population 20yrs and older | 2001 | % |
|---|-------|---------|
| People without high school certificates | 1,985 | 42.28% |
| People with high school certificates | 530 | 11.29% |
| People with trades or non-university certificate or diploma | 1,245 | 26.52% |
| People with post-secondary education (not completed) | 540 | 11.50% |
| People with university diploma/certificate | 55 | 1.17% |
| People with university degree | 335 | 7.14% |
| Total Population 20 years and older | 4,695 | 100.00% |

Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Census (numbers may not add up due to rounding)

Newell No. 4, County of Highest Level of Schooling 2001



| Population with Post Secondary Qualifications | 1996 | % | 2001 | % |
|---|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| Agriculture and biological sciences | 190 | 13.01% | 245 | 14.85% |
| Commerce, management and business administration | 270 | 18.49% | 270 | 16.36% |
| Educational, recreational and counseling services | 145 | 9.93% | 165 | 10.00% |
| Engineering and applied science tech. and trades | 445 | 30.48% | 580 | 35.15% |
| Engineering and applied sciences | 10 | 0.68% | 20 | 1.21% |
| Fine and applied arts | 30 | 2.05% | 50 | 3.03% |
| Health professionals, science and technologies | 245 | 16.78% | 170 | 10.30% |
| Humanities and related fields | 45 | 3.08% | 55 | 3.33% |
| Mathematics and physical sciences | 10 | 0.68% | 10 | 0.61% |
| Social sciences and related fields | 50 | 3.42% | 70 | 4.24% |
| Other and/or no specialization | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0.00% |
| Total people with post secondary qualifications | 1,460 | 100.00% | 1,650 | 100.00% |
| Females with post-secondary qualifications | 755 | 51.71% | 790 | 47.88% |
| Males with post-secondary qualifications | 705 | 48.29% | 860 | 52.12% |

Source: Statistics Canada 1996 & 2001 Census (numbers may not add up due to rounding)

Labour Force

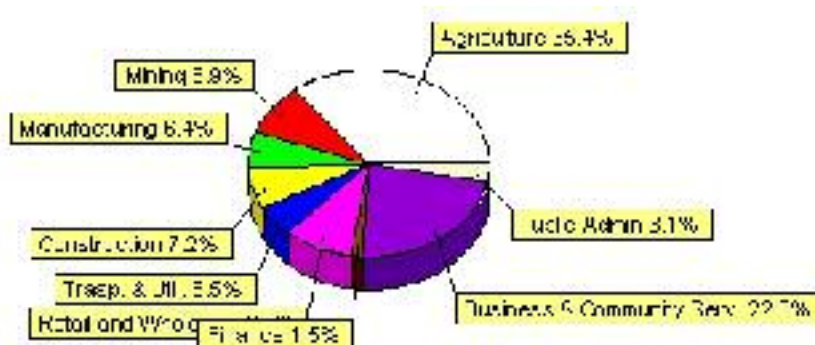
| Labour force by activity | 1996 | 2001 |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| In the labour force, both sexes | 3,845 | 4,025 |
| Not in the labour force, both sexes | 855 | 1,285 |
| Total population 15 and over | 4,700 | 5,310 |
| Employed, both sexes | 3,730 | 3,870 |
| Unemployed, both sexes | 120 | 155 |
| Participation rate, both sexes | 81.00% | 76.00% |
| Unemployment rate, both sexes | 3.00% | 4.00% |

Source: Statistics Canada 1996 & 2001 Census (numbers may not add up due to rounding)

| Labour Force by Industry Division | 1996 | % of total | 2001 | % of total |
|-----------------------------------|-------|------------|-------|------------|
| Agriculture | 1,540 | 40.47% | 1,410 | 35.38% |
| Mining | 335 | 8.80% | 355 | 8.91% |
| Manufacturing | 180 | 4.73% | 255 | 6.40% |
| Construction | 225 | 5.91% | 285 | 7.15% |
| Transportation. & Utilities | 180 | 4.73% | 220 | 5.52% |
| Retail and Wholesale | 340 | 8.94% | 365 | 9.16% |
| Finance | 95 | 2.50% | 60 | 1.51% |
| Business & Community Services | 705 | 18.53% | 910 | 22.84% |
| Public Administration | 100 | 2.63% | 125 | 3.14% |
| Total All Industries | 3,805 | 100.00% | 3,985 | 100.00% |

Source: Statistics Canada 1996 & 2001 Census (numbers may not add up due to rounding)

Newell No. 4, County of Labour Force By Industry - 2001



| Labour Force by Major Occupational Groups | 1996 | % | 2001 | % |
|---|------|--------|------|--------|
| Management occupations | 205 | 5.38% | 205 | 5.14% |
| Business, Finances and administrative occupations | 410 | 10.76% | 460 | 11.54% |
| Natural and applied sciences and related occupations | 80 | 2.10% | 120 | 3.01% |
| Health occupations | 140 | 3.67% | 115 | 2.89% |
| Occupations in social science; education; government and religion | 120 | 3.15% | 140 | 3.51% |
| Occupations in art; culture; recreation and sport | 30 | 0.79% | 10 | 0.25% |

| | | | | |
|--|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| Sales and service occupations | 520 | 13.65% | 510 | 12.80% |
| Trades; transport; equipment operators and related occupations | 505 | 13.25% | 690 | 17.31% |
| Occupations unique to primary industry | 1,595 | 41.86% | 1,525 | 38.27% |
| Occupations unique to processing; manufacturing and utilities | 195 | 5.12% | 210 | 5.27% |
| Occupations not elsewhere classified | 35 | 0.92% | 40 | 1.00% |
| Total - All Occupations (major groups) | 3,810 | 100.00% | 3,985 | 100.00% |
| Females - All Occupations | 1,600 | 41.99% | 1,620 | 40.65% |
| Males - All Occupations | 2,210 | 58.01% | 2,365 | 59.35% |

Source: Statistics Canada 1996 & 2001 Census (numbers may not add up due to rounding)

Income

| Family Income (Number of Families) | 1996 | % | 2001 | % |
|---|-------------|----------|-------------|----------|
| less than \$19,999 | 190 | 12.06% | 130 | 8.10% |
| \$20,000 - \$39,999 | 430 | 27.30% | 420 | 26.17% |
| \$40,000 - \$59,999 | 515 | 32.70% | 415 | 25.86% |
| \$60,000 and over | 440 | 27.94% | 615 | 38.32% |
| Total number of families | 1,575 | 100.00% | 1,580 | 98.44% |
| Average family income | \$52,991 | | \$67,458 | |
| Median family income | \$44,828 | | \$57,293 | |

Source: Statistics Canada 1996 & 2001 Census (numbers may not add up due to rounding)

| Household Income (Number of Households) | 1996 | % | 2001 | % |
|--|-------------|----------|-------------|----------|
| less than \$19,999 | 290 | 15.10% | 265 | 11.96% |
| \$20,000 - \$39,999 | 540 | 28.13% | 475 | 21.44% |
| \$40,000 - \$59,999 | 550 | 28.65% | 485 | 21.90% |
| \$60,000 and over | 165 | 8.59% | 980 | 44.24% |
| Total number of households | 1,920 | 100.00% | 2,215 | 100.00% |
| Average household income | \$50,878 | | \$63,621 | |
| Median household income | \$43,162 | | \$52,912 | |

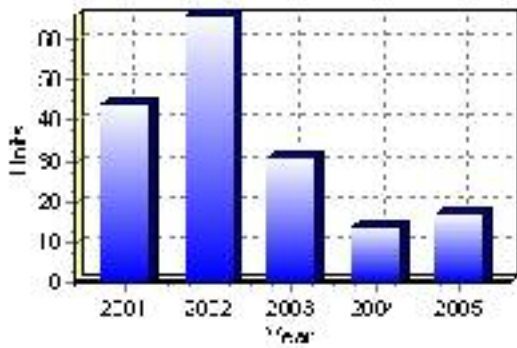
Source: Statistics Canada 1996 & 2001 Census (numbers may not add up due to rounding)

Building Permits

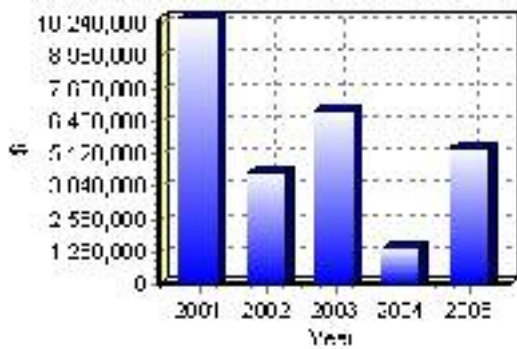
| Total Building Permit Values | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Building Permits Value, Commercial | \$2,295,000 | \$210,000 | \$1,710,000 | \$150,000 | \$1,950,000 |
| Building Permits Value, Industrial | \$1,558,000 | \$240,000 | \$590,000 | \$210,000 | \$415,000 |
| Building Permits Value, Institutional | \$0 | \$40,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Building Permits Value, Residential | \$6,641,000 | \$3,901,000 | \$4,549,000 | \$1,046,000 | \$3,012,000 |
| Building Permits Value, Total | \$10,494,000 | \$4,391,000 | \$6,849,000 | \$1,406,000 | \$5,377,000 |
| Total Housing Starts | 44 | 66 | 31 | 14 | 17 |

Source: Statistics Canada 2000-2004 Building Permits (numbers may not add up due to rounding)

Total Housing Starts



Value of Building Permits



Dwellings

| Occupied Private Dwellings by Type | 1996 | % of total | 2001 | % of total |
|--|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Apartments | 10 | 0.52% | 0 | 0.00% |
| Detached Duplexes | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0.00% |
| Movable Dwellings | 265 | 13.84% | 360 | 16.25% |
| Other single attached house | 10 | 0.52% | 5 | 0.23% |
| Row and semi-detached house | 10 | 0.52% | 5 | 0.23% |
| Single-detached house | 1,640 | 85.64% | 1,840 | 83.07% |
| Total number of occupied private dwellings | 1,915 | 100.00% | 2,215 | 100.00% |
| Private dwellings, owned | 1,540 | 80.42% | 1,740 | 78.56% |
| Private Dwellings, rented | 380 | 19.84% | 475 | 21.44% |

Source: Statistics Canada 1996 & 2001 Census (numbers may not add up due to rounding)

| Private Dwellings by Period of Construction | # of Dwellings | % of total |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Period of construction, before 1946 | 305 | 13.77% |
| Period of construction, 1946 - 1960 | 305 | 13.77% |
| Period of construction, 1961 - 1970 | 240 | 10.84% |
| Period of construction, 1971 - 1980 | 515 | 23.25% |
| Period of construction, 1981 - 1990 | 315 | 14.22% |
| Period of construction, 1991 - 2001 | 535 | 24.15% |
| Total number of private dwellings constructed | 2,215 | 100.00% |

Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Census (numbers may not add up due to rounding)

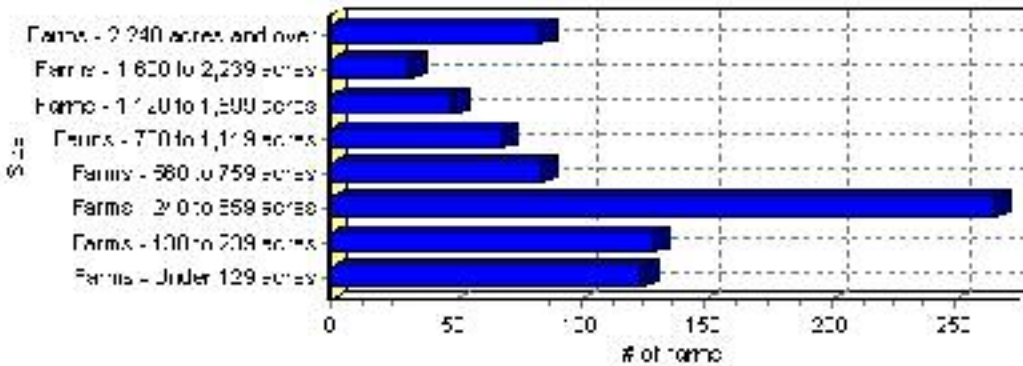
Farming

Newell No. 4, County of Total Farm Area : 840 acres

| Farms by Total Farm Area (2001) | # of Farms | % of total |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Farms - Under 129 acres | 125 | 14.88% |
| Farms - 130 to 239 acres | 130 | 15.48% |
| Farms - 240 to 559 acres | 266 | 31.67% |
| Farms - 560 to 759 acres | 85 | 10.12% |
| Farms - 760 to 1,119 acres | 69 | 8.21% |
| Farms - 1,120 to 1,599 acres | 49 | 5.83% |
| Farms - 1,600 to 2,239 acres | 32 | 3.81% |
| Farms - 2,240 acres and over | 84 | 10.00% |
| Total number of farms reporting | 840 | 100.00% |

Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Census of Agriculture(numbers may not add up due to rounding)

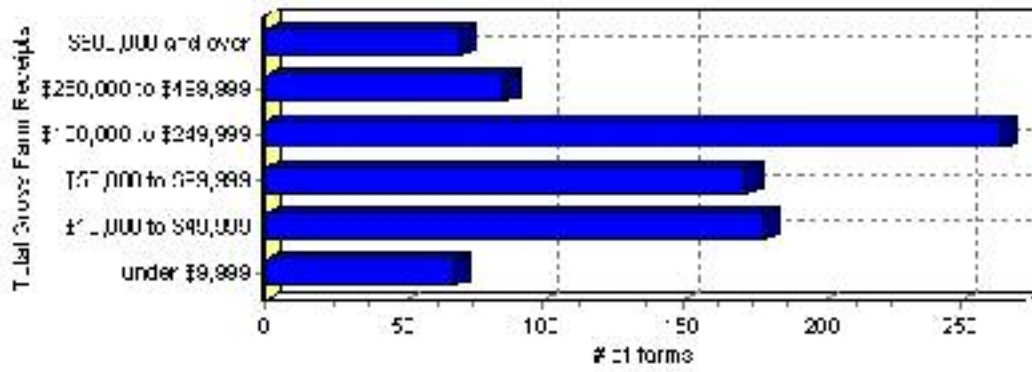
of Farms by Total Farm Area



| Farms by Total Gross Farm Receipts - 2001 | # of Farms | % of total |
|--|------------|------------|
| Farms gross farm receipts - under \$9,999 | 68 | 8.10% |
| Farms gross farm receipts - \$10,000 to \$49,999 | 179 | 21.31% |
| Farms gross farm receipts - \$50,000 to \$99,999 | 173 | 20.60% |
| Farms gross farm receipts - \$100,000 to \$249,999 | 264 | 31.43% |
| Farms gross farm receipts - \$250,000 to \$499,999 | 86 | 10.24% |
| Farms gross farm receipts - \$500,000 and over | 70 | 8.33% |
| Total number of farms reporting | 840 | 100.00% |

Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Census of Agriculture(numbers may not add up due to rounding)

Total Gross Farm Receipts

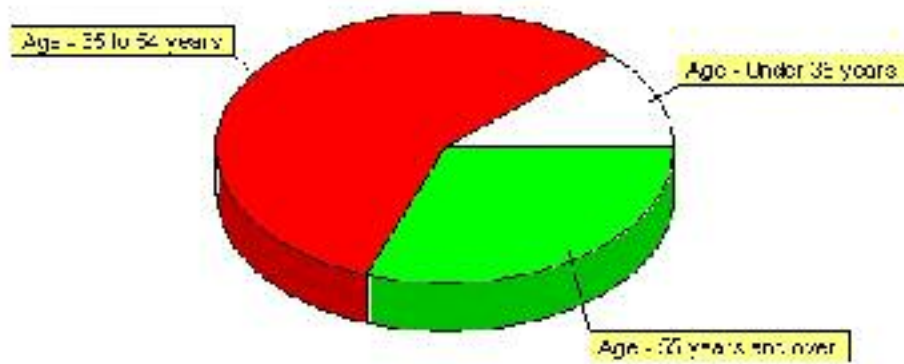


Farming, Continued

| Characteristics of Farm Operators | # | % |
|-------------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Age - Under 35 years | 145 | 12.13% |
| Age - 35 to 54 years | 685 | 57.32% |
| Age - 55 years and over | 365 | 30.54% |
| Average age of operators | 49 | |
| Number of operators - Female | 335 | 28.03% |
| Number of operators - Male | 850 | 71.13% |
| Total number of operators reporting | 1,195 | 100.00% |

Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Census of Agriculture(numbers may not add up due to rounding)

Age of Farm Operators



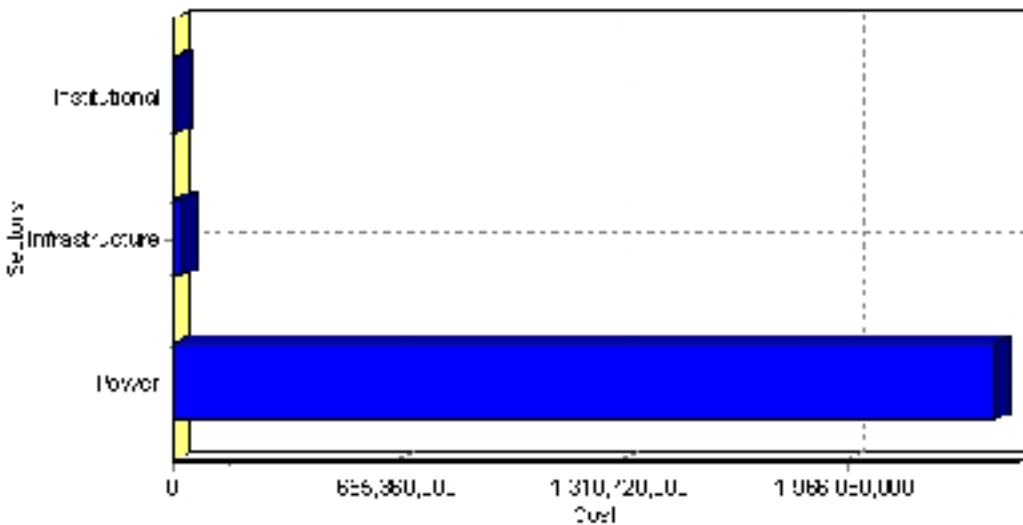
Projects

Summary of Projects in Newell No. 4, County of as of September 2006

| Project Sector | Number of Projects | Project Cost |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Power | 1 | \$2,400,000,000 |
| Infrastructure | 2 | \$22,000,000 |
| Institutional | 1 | \$4,400,000 |
| Total | 4 | \$2,426,400,000 |

This inventory lists projects in Alberta that have recently been completed, are under construction, or are proposed to start construction. Not all projects are listed due to reasons of confidentiality and/or due to information not being available at the time of printing. Project data is obtained from public information sources, where possible, this data has been verified with the project proponent/developer, users of the Inventory may wish to confirm project data with the proponent/developer. The inventory does not breakdown project expenditures by any given year. The cost of a project is the value of expenditures expected over all phases of project construction, which may span over two or more years. Cost of projects listed in the Inventory are estimated values only. Source: Alberta Economic Development, 2004.

Value of Projects by Sector (as of September 2006)



| Project Status | Number of Projects | Project Cost |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Completed | 1 | \$5,500,000 |
| Nearing Completion | 1 | \$16,500,000 |
| Proposed | 2 | \$2,404,400,000 |
| Total | 4 | \$2,426,400,000 |

This inventory lists projects in Alberta that have recently been completed, are under construction, or are proposed to start construction. Not all projects are listed due to reasons of confidentiality and/or due to information not being available at the time of printing. Project data is obtained from public information sources, where possible, this data has been verified with the project proponent/developer, users of the Inventory may wish to confirm project data with the proponent/developer. The inventory does not breakdown project expenditures by any given year. The cost of a project is the value of expenditures expected over all phases of project construction, which may span over two or more years. Cost of projects listed in the Inventory are estimated values only. Source: Alberta Economic Development, 2004.

Largest Projects in Newell No. 4, County of as of September 2006

| Company Name | Project Description | Project Location | Project Cost | Construction Schedule | Status |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Sherritt International (previously listed as Luscar Ltd.) | Bow City Power Project (1,000MW) phases 1 and 2 | Newell County (SW of Brooks) | \$2,400,000,000 | - | Proposed |
| Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation | SH 876 Grade, Base and Pave and Intersection Improvements jct SH876 and SH544 | Newell County (SH544 N to Red Deer R) | \$16,500,000 | 2006-2006 | Nearing Completion |
| Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation | HIGHWAY 1 GRADE, BASE AND PAVE | Newell County (jct Hwy 36) | \$5,500,000 | 2006-2006 | Completed |
| Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation* | Upgrades / Expansion | Newell County (Duchess) | \$4,400,000 | - | Proposed |

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