

Swan Hills

www.townofswanhills.com

Welcome

Swan Hills Alberta

In 1967 with a population of 850, Swan Hills was the first centennial town in Canada to be incorporated. This community began as a camp for the new oil discovery in the Swan Hills. Through ups and downs, a small community of less than 100 became a thriving town of over 1800.

At an elevation of close to 4000 feet, overlooking hectare after hectare of forest, with several lakes and an ecological reserve in our "backyard," we consider our community a **Wilderness Playground**. Our spectacular outdoor recreation opportunities are complemented by our indoor facilities, including a salt water indoor swimming pool with hot tub and steam room, modern community center with a professional catering kitchen , 3-sheet curling rink, and ice area for hockey, figure skating and ice skating.

Originally sited to serve the extensive oilfield activity in the region, Swan Hills continues to thrive as a service centre to regional oil and gas exploration and production. The forestry industry and Canada's first fully integrated special waste treatment centre are also served by our community whose population now exceeds 1800 people.

On behalf of the residents of Swan Hills, we welcome your interest and look forward to assisting with your inquiries.

Gary Pollock
Mayor of Swan Hills



Area Overview

Native legend describes giant swans whose thundering wings can often be heard in the hilly forested terrain in west-central Alberta. The steep hills, dense forest and muskeg were deterrents to homesteaders; leaving the Swan Hills to the animals and the occasional trapper. The Swan Hills was an area that remained in isolation until the discovery of oil.

The Town of Swan Hills was named after the area in which it is found. The Town of Swan Hills was incorporated in 1967: approximately 10 years after oil deposits were first discovered. The town site was intended to serve the surrounding industry activity and today continues to thrive in the predominantly resource-based economy. Business activity reflects the economy with a number of service-to-industry companies. The downtown sector is active with retail, hospitality and financial services. Its unique setting on a hillside almost 4000 feet high, adds an extra feature to doing business in "*the Hills*".

Climate

The economic base of the region is oil and gas. All told, the Swan Hills area has nearly 2,000 oil and gas wells which have, in recent years, been yielding a total of 260,000 barrels of oil and 250 million cubic feet of gas daily. The tourism industry and Canada's first fully integrated special waste management centre also provide a strong economic base for the area.

Community Lifestyle

Recreation in Swan Hills.

The Town of Swan Hills maintains 6 campgrounds within a 25 km radius of town. Trapper Leas' Campground is a historical site, that allows the camper to access ATV and Snowmobile trails directly from the campground. More adventurous campers will winter camp and snowmobile from the campground to the town for lunch.

Edith Lake and Chrystina are peaceful spots that are more rustic. You will not find a water pump there but you will find a beautiful view and solitude.

The Krause Lake Recreation Area is located just minutes south of Town off Hwy 32, adjacent to the Swan Hills Golf Course. Group camping is available. The Swan Hills area is tremendous country for cross-country skiing, snowmobiling and quadding. Countless miles of cleared cutlines lead to fascinating wilderness splendor amid tall pines and spruce. Also, year round, the unique flora and fauna of the nearby Goose Mountain Ecological Reserve is a natural wonder home to over 16 plants that are rare in Alberta.

In town recreational amenities in Swan Hills include an indoor swimming pool with hot tub, arena [renovated in 1998], a new 3-sheet curling rink (1999), community centre [400 person capacity – a professional catering kitchen], a lighted toboggan hill, 4 ball diamonds (1 baseball, 3 slow pitch). The Swan Hills Dirt Riders maintain a motocross track giving all riders young and old a chance to try their skill. Each year the club hosts a sanctioned race drawing riders from a crossed Alberta.

Camp right in Town at the Four Seasons Campground or at any of the following nearby campgrounds: Chrystina Lake, Edith Lake, Freeman River, Freeman Lake, Trapper Lea's Recreation Area.

Municipal

Town of Swan Hills
5536 Main Street, P.O. Box 149
Swan Hills, Alberta
T0G 2C0
Tel: 780-333-4477
Fax: 780-333-4547

Municipal Library 780-333-4505
Public Works 780-333-2815
FCSS 780-333-7099
YES 780-333-4404
SHARE 780-333-2855

Provincial

Fish & Wildlife
Forest District Office
Provincial Court
Transportation and Utilities

Federal

Canada Post Office 780-333-2691
Royal Canadian Mounted Police 780-333-4459

Economic Base

The provincial special waste treatment centre just north of Swan Hills is North America's first comprehensive special waste treatment facility. The \$50 million centre has the capacity to treat 15,000 tons of waste per year.

Major Businesses Products/Services

- Devon Canada Corporation, Oil and Gas
- Apache Canada Ltd., Oil and Gas
- Conoco Canada Resources Ltd., Oil and Gas
- Pengrowth Gas Corporation, Oil and Gas
- Pembina Pipeline Corp. Oil and Gas
- Penn West Petroleum Oil and Gas

Financial Institutions

- Alberta Treasury Branch

Economic Facts

Hospitality

Accommodation

- Derrick Motor Inn
- Grizzly Motel
- Hillcrest Motel
- Swan Hills Hotel

Restaurants

- Sammy's Restaurant
- The Burger Baron
- Swan Palace Restaurant
- Swan Hills Hotel Family Restaurant

Education

Swan Hills is part of the Pembina Hills Regional School Division #7, headquartered in Barrhead [Tel: 780-674-8500].

Nursery Schools

Swan Hills Nursery School

Public Schools

Swan Hills School provides education services for Grades K to 12.

Emergency Services

Fire Protection

Swan Hills is served by a 20 member volunteer fire department. These personnel although volunteers are well disciplined and well trained. [Administration Office 780-333-4811 EMERGENCY #780-333-2255 or 911].

Police Services

Swan Hills is served by a 3 member local detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police [RCMP] [Tel: 780-333-4459].

Ambulance Services

Ambulance services (land and air) are available [Administration No. 780-333-4811; EMERGENCY NO. 780-333-2255 or 911].

Health Care

Swan Hills Health Care Centre has 24 hospital beds. Other medical services include the Aspen Health Unit, a dental clinic, a medical clinic, and other medical support services.

Key Contacts for Business Development

Municipal

Town of Swan Hills
Town Manager, Hilda Price
5536 Main Street, P.O. Box 149
Swan Hills, Alberta
T0G 2C0
Tel: 780-333-4477
Fax: 780-333-4547
manager@townofswanhills.com

Economic Development Officer, Joan Kuntz
Tel: 780-333-4477
PO Box 149
Swan Hills, AB
T0G 2C0
town@townofswanhills.com

Gary Pollock
Mayor
5536 Main Street, P.O. Box 149
Swan Hills, Alberta
T0G 2C0
Tel: 780-333-4477
Fax: 780-333-4547

Swan Hills Chamber of Commerce
Tel: 780-333-4477

Provincial (Updated May 2006)

Alberta Economic Development
Cathy Goulet, Regional Director
cathy.goulet@gov.ab.ca
Christine Lockhart, Information Officer
chris.lockhart@gov.ab.ca

111 Provincial Building
111 - 54 Street

Edson, Alberta
T7E 1T2
Tel: 780-723-8229
Fax: 780-723-8240

Ken Kowalski
Member of the Legislative Assembly [MLA]
Barrhead-Westlock Constituency

Constituency Office
5110 - 50 Avenue
Barrhead
T7N 1A4
Phone: (780) 674-3225
Fax: (780) 674-6183
barrheadmorinvillewestlock@assembly.ab.ca

Legislature Office
#325 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton
T5K 2B6
Phone: (780) 427-2464
Fax: (780) 422-9553

Federal (Updated May 2006)

Robert Merrifield
Member of Parliament [MP]
Yellowhead Constituency

Parliamentary Address
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
Telephone: (613) 992-1653
Fax: (613) 992-3459
E-Mail: Merrifield.R@parl.gc.ca

Constituency Address
119 - 50th Street, PO Box 7887
Edson, Alberta
T7E 1V9
Telephone: (780) 723-6068 1-800-268-7117
Fax: (780) 723-5060
TTY:
E-Mail:
5023 - 50 Avenue, P.O. Box 1495
Whitecourt, Alberta
T7S 1P3
Telephone: (780) 706-2067
Fax: (780) 706-2085
TTY:
E-Mail:

Location

The Town of Swan Hills is located in Improvement District #17, at the junction of Highways 32 and 33. It is 72 km north of Whitecourt, 209 km northwest of Edmonton, and 503 km northwest of Calgary.

The Town Of Swan Hills Is The Closest Community To The Geographical Center Of Alberta.



Post Secondary Education

The Swan Hills campus of Northern Lakes College offers a variety of educational opportunities. The Swan Hills campus is a Communication Access Point (CAP) site with fully integrated video conference courses available with seven Alberta Universities and Colleges. Northern Lakes has recently partnered with [Education 2 Go](#) to bring more choices to students. You know can take an online class and work toward the degree you always wanted. Set aside some time to check out the courses.

Taxation

	<u>Residential/Farmland</u>	<u>Non-Residential</u>
2005		
Municipal Tax Rate	16.2327	20.4312
Education - Alberta School Foundation Fund Tax Rate	4.6173	6.9349

Mill Rates [2000]

Residential - Public 29.31
Residential - Separate N/A
Non-Residential - Public 28.93
Non-Residential - Separate N/A

Transportation

Air Service

M.D. of Big Lakes
Box 239
High Prairie, AB
T0G 1E0
Phone: 780-523-5955

Swan Hills Airport has all-weather facilities and a 5,000 foot lighted, asphalt landing strip. The nearest commercial and air freight service is available at Edmonton International Airport, 209 km southeast of town.

Rail Service

The nearest spur is at Whitecourt [Canadian National Railways].

Highways

Connecting highways are Highway 32, which connects with Whitecourt going south and Highway 33 to Slave Lake via Highway 2 going north. Highway 33 [Grizzly Trail] connects with Barrhead going south.

[Trucking Firms](#)

Bus Services

Greyhound Bus Lines provides regularly scheduled inter-community service. Courier services can be found at [Couriers and Taxis](#)

The local taxi service is provided by Twilight Taxi.

Utilities

Electrical Power

Direct Energy (electric)
Plaza Avenue
Swan Hills, Alberta
Tel: 780-333-4345

Natural Gas

Direct Energy (natural gas)
Plaza Avenue
Swan Hills, Alberta
Tel: 780-333-2664

Telephone

Telus Communications Ltd.
Swan Hills, Alberta
Tel: 780-333-4500

Water Supply

Town of Swan Hills
Swan Hills, Alberta
Tel: 780-333-4477

The source of water is the Freeman Lake. The reservoir capacity, measured in treated substance, is 800,000 gallons.

Waste Management

Town of Swan Hills

Swan Hills, Alberta

Tel: 780-333-4477

Sewage treatment is provided by 4 anaerobic ponds, 1 facultative pond and 5 storage ponds.

Residential garbage is collected weekly by the Town of Swan Hills, while commercial and industrial garbage is also collected weekly or as required by independent contractors.

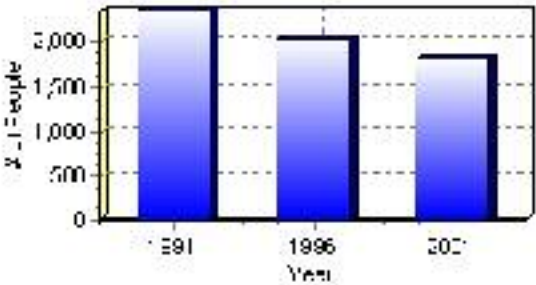
Population

Total Population

Population 2004*	1,807
Population 2003*	1,807
Population 2002*	1,807
Population 2001**	1,805
Population 2000*	2,030
Population 1996**	2,030
Population 1991**	2,348
Population % change 1991-1996	-15.67%
Population % change 1996-2001	-12.34%

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

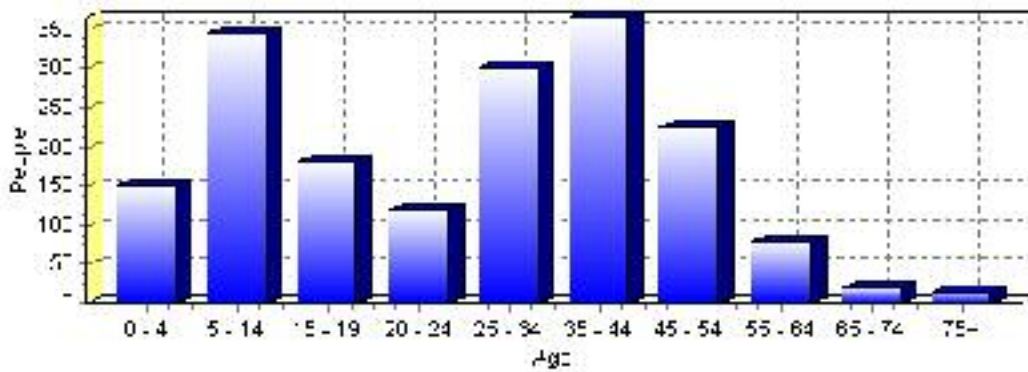
Total Population 1991-2001



Population by Age and Gender	1996 Male	1996 Female	1996 Total	2001 Male	2001 Female	2001 Total
Age 0 - 4	105	95	200	75	75	150
Age 5 - 14	230	225	455	180	165	345
Age 15 - 19	75	70	145	90	90	180
Age 20 - 24	75	50	125	70	50	120
Age 25 - 34	225	200	425	155	145	300
Age 35 - 44	230	190	420	200	165	365
Age 45 - 54	105	85	190	120	105	225
Age 55 - 64	30	15	45	50	30	80
Age 65 - 74	5	5	10	10	10	20
Age 75 and older	5	0	5	5	10	15
Total All Persons	1,085	945	2,030	960	845	1,805

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

Swan Hills Population by Age Group (2001)

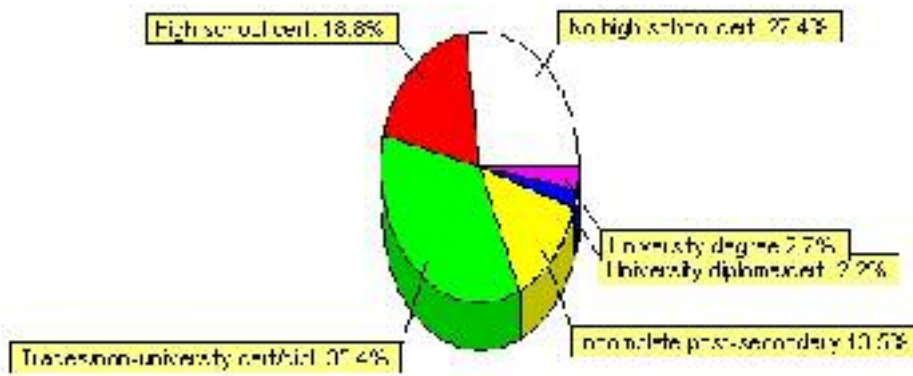


Education Statistics

Highest level of schooling for Population 20yrs and older	2001	%
People without high school certificates	305	27.35%
People with high school certificates	210	18.83%
People with trades or non-university certificate or diploma	395	35.43%
People with post-secondary education (not completed)	150	13.45%
People with university diploma/certificate	25	2.24%
People with university degree	30	2.69%
Total Population 20 years and older	1,115	100.00%

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

Swan Hills Highest Level of Schooling 2001



Population with Post Secondary Qualifications	1996	%	2001	%
Agriculture and biological sciences	35	6.31%	10	2.17%
Commerce, management and business administration	140	25.23%	95	20.65%
Educational, recreational and counseling services	65	11.71%	30	6.52%
Engineering and applied science tech. and trades	220	39.64%	205	44.57%
Engineering and applied sciences	20	3.60%	0	0.00%
Fine and applied arts	10	1.80%	0	0.00%
Health professionals, science and technologies	20	3.60%	50	10.87%
Humanities and related fields	10	1.80%	0	0.00%
Mathematics and physical sciences	10	1.80%	15	3.26%
Social sciences and related fields	10	1.80%	15	3.26%
Other and/or no specialization	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Total people with post secondary qualifications	555	100.00%	460	100.00%
Females with post-secondary qualifications	230	41.44%	185	40.22%
Males with post-secondary qualifications	325	58.56%	275	59.78%

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	1,090	1,025
Not in the labour force, both sexes	280	280
Total population 15 and over	1,370	1,310
Employed, both sexes	1,045	970
Unemployed, both sexes	40	60
Participation rate, both sexes	79.00%	78.00%
Unemployment rate, both sexes	3.00%	6.00%

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	10	0.93%	10	0.98%
Mining	325	30.09%	325	31.71%
Manufacturing	15	1.39%	20	1.95%
Construction	40	3.70%	80	7.80%
Transportation. & Utilities	230	21.30%	105	10.24%
Retail and Wholesale	120	11.11%	120	11.71%
Finance	35	3.24%	30	2.93%
Business & Community Services	250	23.15%	335	32.68%
Public Administration	20	1.85%	25	2.44%
Total All Industries	1,080	100.00%	1,025	100.00%

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

Swan Hills Labour Force By Industry - 2001



Labour Force by Major Occupational Groups	1996	%	2001	%
Management occupations	80	7.41%	115	11.22%
Business, Finances and administrative occupations	135	12.50%	125	12.20%
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	65	6.02%	55	5.37%
Health occupations	10	0.93%	20	1.95%
Occupations in social science; education; government and religion	60	5.56%	15	1.46%
Occupations in art; culture; recreation and sport	10	0.93%	10	0.98%

Sales and service occupations	230	21.30%	205	20.00%
Trades; transport; equipment operators and related occupations	165	15.28%	235	22.93%
Occupations unique to primary industry	120	11.11%	185	18.05%
Occupations unique to processing; manufacturing and utilities	195	18.06%	70	6.83%
Occupations not elsewhere classified	10	0.93%	10	0.98%
Total - All Occupations (major groups)	1,080	100.00%	1,025	100.00%
Females - All Occupations	400	37.04%	400	39.02%
Males - All Occupations	680	62.96%	625	60.98%

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	40	8.16%	65	16.88%
\$20,000 - \$39,999	60	12.24%	80	20.78%
\$40,000 - \$59,999	120	24.49%	100	25.97%
\$60,000 and over	270	55.10%	185	48.05%
Total number of families	490	100.00%	430	111.69%
Average family income	\$61,503		\$65,765	
Median family income	\$62,740		\$62,848	

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	50	7.46%	55	8.80%
\$20,000 - \$39,999	130	19.40%	125	20.00%
\$40,000 - \$59,999	195	29.10%	145	23.20%
\$60,000 and over	105	15.67%	290	46.40%
Total number of households	670	100.00%	625	100.00%
Average household income	\$56,343		\$65,049	
Median household income	\$56,559		\$59,235	

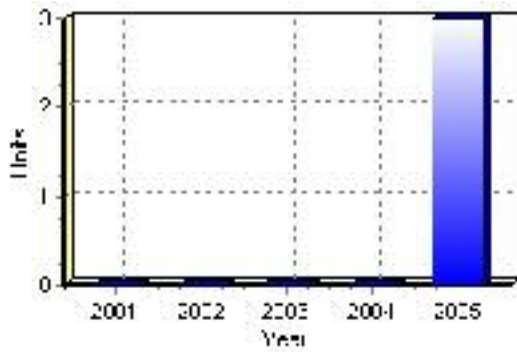
Source: Statistics Canada 1996 & 2001 Census (numbers may not add up due to rounding)

Building Permits

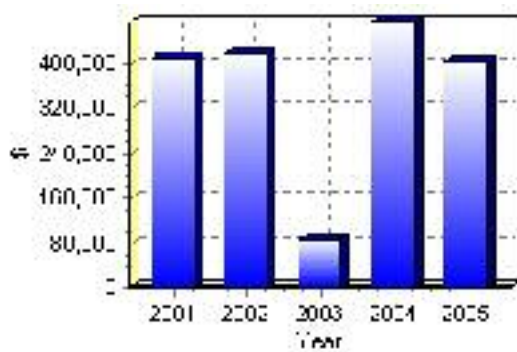
Total Building Permit Values	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Building Permits Value, Commercial	\$5,000	\$363,000	\$20,000	\$155,000	\$40,000
Building Permits Value, Industrial	\$253,000	\$0	\$30,000	\$225,000	\$0
Building Permits Value, Institutional	\$118,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$85,000	\$0
Building Permits Value, Residential	\$33,000	\$54,000	\$35,000	\$9,000	\$362,000
Building Permits Value, Total	\$409,000	\$417,000	\$87,000	\$474,000	\$402,000
Total Housing Starts	0	0	0	0	3

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	50	7.46%	50	8.00%
Detached Duplexes	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Movable Dwellings	175	26.12%	20	3.20%
Other single attached house	0	0.00%	5	0.80%
Row and semi-detached house	65	9.70%	65	10.40%
Single-detached house	380	56.72%	490	78.40%
Total number of occupied private dwellings	670	100.00%	625	100.00%
Private dwellings, owned	325	48.51%	400	64.00%
Private Dwellings, rented	345	51.49%	230	36.80%

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	10	1.61%
Period of construction, 1946 - 1960	0	0.00%
Period of construction, 1961 - 1970	105	16.94%
Period of construction, 1971 - 1980	255	41.13%
Period of construction, 1981 - 1990	220	35.48%
Period of construction, 1991 - 2001	30	4.84%
Total number of private dwellings constructed	620	100.00%

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

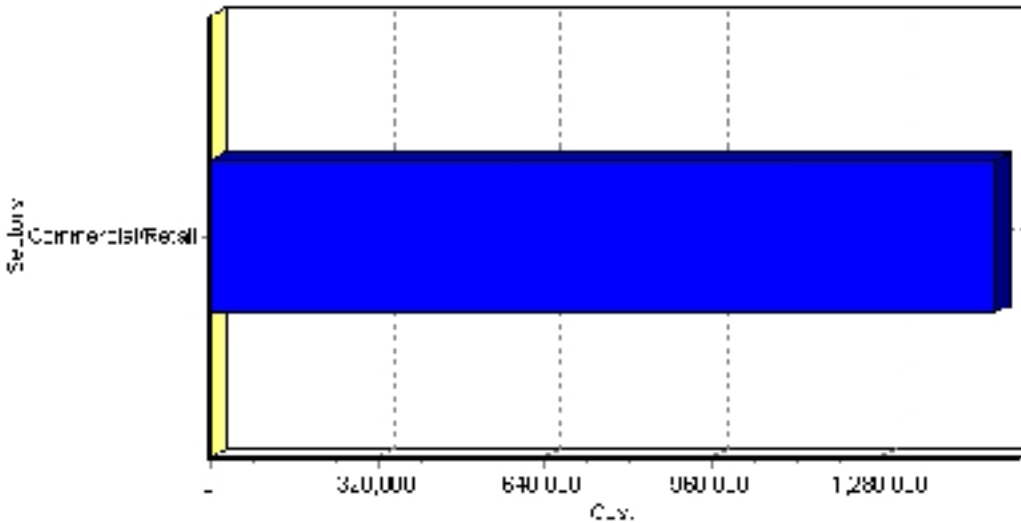
Projects

Summary of Projects in Swan Hills as of September 2006

Project Sector	Number of Projects	Project Cost
Commercial/Retail	3	\$1,500,000
Total	3	\$1,500,000

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
Under Construction	3	\$1,500,000
Total	3	\$1,500,000

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 Swan Hills as of September 2006

Company Name	Project Description	Project Location	Project Cost	Construction Schedule	Status
Norstar Glass	CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW OILFIELD SUPPLY AND SERVICE STORE	Swan Hills	\$500,000	2006-2007	Under Construction
Syros Restaurant	CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW MOTEL AND RV PARK	Swan Hills	\$500,000	2006-2007	Under Construction
TJM Oilfeild Services	CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW RETAIL TIRE SHOP	Swan Hills	\$500,000	2006-2007	Under Construction

Disclaimer: Information in this profile has been provided from a variety of external sources. Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy, currency and reliability of the content and data, AlbertaFirst.com Ltd. accepts no responsibility in this regard.

© AlbertaFirst.com Ltd., 2006.