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TOWN OF BEAVERLODGE

(REVISED JUNE, 1958)

1. LOCATION:

Section 2-72-10-W6 in Census Division No. 16. This location is at mile 435.7 on the Edmonton, Grande Prairie and Dawson Creek line of the Northern Alberta Railway; 312 miles by highway northwest of Edmonton; and 28 miles west of Grande Prairie on Highway No. 2.

2.	ALTITUDE:	LATITUDE:	LONGITUDE:
	2,354.2 feet	55/13	119/27

3. TEMPERATURE:

Average	summer	$54^{\circ}\mathrm{F}$
Average	winter	$22^{\circ}\mathrm{F}$
Average	annual	35°F

4. RAINFALL:

Average annual rainfall	10.18''
Average annual snowfall	70.1"
Average annual total precipitation	17.19''
The foregoing averages cover a period	of 31 years.

5. GEOGOLOGY:

The bedrock underlying the glacial drift at Beaverlodge is of the Edmonton formation which is Upper Cretaceous in age. This horizon is a series of sandy shales and loose to well-consolidated sandstone. Coal is mined from this horizon in many areas.

6. SOIL:

There are two soil zones at Beaverlodge—Transition and Gray Wooded, which are described as follows:

Transition - Profile

Generally quite mixed, ranging from nearly black to gray. The surface horizon consists of a thin layer of semi-decomposed litter (A0) which may be absent in burned over areas, underlain by a mineral horizon that can usually be divided into two parts. The upper (A1) part may be black, gray black or dark brown. The lower part (A2) is frequently somewhat leached of organic matter and considerably grayer than A1. The total depth of these surface horizons averages about 10 to 12 inches. The B horizons are generally dark brown in color and lime is found at depths of about 30 to 40 inches.

Gray Wooded - Profile

These soils have developed under humic soil moisture conditions. The surface horizon consists of a semi-decomposed leaf mold layer, A0, that may be absent if the area has been burned over; a thin (sometimes absent) A1 horizon that may be gray black, brown or gray brown, and a severely leached and platy, grayish A2 horizon, whose depth will average about 6 to 8 inches. The B horizons are heavier textured, compact, and often darker in color than the A. The depth to lime is quite variable, often ranging from 30 to 50 inches.

Transition - Fertility

These soils are usually not as rich as those of the black zone. Leaching of the surface horizons has resulted in the loss of some plant foods.

Gray Wooded - Fertility

Soils in this zone are relatively less fertile because of leaching; the deeper the leached layer, the less fertile. However, patches of transition soils are found within the zone.

Transition - Vegetation

Mainly woodland in which the tree growth is frequently denser and has more evergreens than in the black zone.

Gray Wooded - Vegetation

A mixed deciduous and evergreen woodland in which peats and muskegs frequently occur.

Transition - Land Use

A system of mixed farming that includes legumes in the crop rotation, supplemented with applications of fertilizer when required, should be practised for best results.

Gray Wooded - Land Use

This is a mixed farming area in which legumes, hays and coarse grains are the most desirable crops. Rotations including legumes and supplemented with fertilizers, where needed, have given the most satisfactory results.

7. HISTORY:

The first white men to stay for any length of time in the vicinity of Beaverlodge were two trappers, Jim Brooks and George McLeod. They had a trap line along the Wapiti River, but their winter camp site was near the Beaverlodge River about 4 miles west of the Dominion Agricultural Experimental Station. It was at this camp in the winter of 1898, that a dozen stranded, scurvy-bitten Klondykers were gathered in and nursed through a terrible experience, until they could be taken to Spirit River in the spring and restored by a vegetable diet. One of the Klondykers died and was buried at the camp site. His grave and remains of the old log cabin are still visible.

The first permanent settlers arrived prior to the township survey; they squatted in the Beaverlodge Valley. It was in the spring of 1908 that Rede Stone and family, along with O. H. Johnson and Robert Stone with his son Archie, squatted on land near the present townsite.

The next year a group of 31 settlers arrived from Ontario. They were members of a sect called the Christian Association, who claimed they received "God's word to go west". Settlers throughout the country named them the "Bull Outfit", because they used 18 teams of oxen for transporting the party and their effects. They left Toronto March 16, 1909, and travelled by train to Edmonton; thence by ox teams and boat via Athabasca, Lesser Slave River, Grouard, Peace River Crossing, Dunvegan, Spirit River, Saddle Mountains, Birch Hills, Lake Saskatoon and finally arrived at Beaverlodge on July 14, 1909, where they filed on homesteads.

The first post office was established in 1910. It was in the home of $R.\ C.\ Lossing$ near the site of the original hamlet. Mr. Lossing was the

first postmaster. The office was first named Redlow, because the name Beaverlodge had already been given to the office at Lake Saskatoon. The name was subsequently changed from Redlow to Beaverlodge.

The town is named after the Beaverlodge River, which flows within one and a half miles west and south of the town and enters the Wapiti at a point 18 miles southeast. The name Beaverlodge, is derived from the Lodge, or temporary dwelling occupied by the Beaver Indians.

Land around Beaverlodge was surveyed for homesteads in 1909, by W. G. McFarlane, D.L.S. whose crew from Claremont, Ontario, nearly all stayed to homestead in the area. The present townsite, located on the west half of D. C. Cranston's script, was surveyed in 1928.

On January 3, 1910, twelve settlers held a meeting in the home of R. C. Lossing to discuss ways and means for getting a school established. A committee was appointed to visit Edmonton and interview the necessary officials.

It was decided to engage a teacher and start school immediately. Mrs. Wilkie, then Mrs. Drake, was the first teacher. School was opened in the script shack of Garnet Truax. Paul Flint made the first desks. The first pupils were Rede Stone, Jr., Pauline, Anna, Ruth and Johnny Johnson; Effie Flint and Albert Miller. Clarence Lossing, Cliff and Fred Miller enroled later.

It was then decided to build a school house, which was completed in June 1911. The work was done by voluntary labor, excepting part time of the foreman, W. J. Johnson, on a corner of whose quarter the school was built.

When high school classes were started about 1927, the original log school house was loaned by the church during week days for high school classes. The first high school teacher was Miss Monica McGinn.



Wide program of events and activities are carried out in the Community Centre

Beaverlodge School District No. 2341 was erected December 24, 1910; it was absorbed as a unit of Grande Prairie School Division No. 14 in August 1946, and incorporated within Grande Prairie County No. 1 on January 1, 1951.

The arrival of the railway in 1928 created a new townsite about one mile northwest of the original hamlet. On this site a brick veneer school was built and officially opened on November 29, 1929. In order to accommodate the growing school population, an \$85,000 eight-room school was built during 1950-51. In 1956 six-rooms and auditorium costing \$156,000 were added.

When the railway arrived in 1928, about 100 buildings were moved from the old to the new townsite. Located in the original hamlet prior to the exodus were I. E. Gaudin, general store; J. A. Beaudet, general store and hotel; Allen and Davis, hardware; Anderson and Hume, garage; Hans Brudwold, blacksmiith; Lossing and Cranston, J. Allan and W. S. Davis, implement agents; Mrs. H. Halliday, restaurant; R. Watson and H. Clarke, real estate and insurance; E. A. Smith and Ryan Bros., livery; "Colonel" Hogg, auctioneer; Bank of Commerce, manager J. L. Kerr; Land office and post office operated by Walter Bond, and telegraph office operated by J. H. Murphy. There were also two churches—Anglican and United, along with a Christian Association Hall, and a community hall built by Clarence Lossing.

The Anglican church opened for service on October 6, 1912.

I. E. Gaudin began building the first store in 1913. He had previously operated a store on his homestead, near the Dominion Experimental Station, half a mile east.

The first hospital was a small cottage in the old hamlet, replaced by a new 10 bed hospital in the village, built in 1938 and operated as a subhospital to the Grande Prairie Municipal Hospital, until it was erected as Beaverlodge Municipal Hospital District No. 32, on January 26, 1944. A fully modern 20 bed hospital was built in 1956. The former building was remodelled into a nurses' home.

A central water and sewage system was installed in 1952.

Electric light and power was first supplied by Canadian Utilities Ltd. in July, 1930.

The early history of Beaverlodge would not be complete without referring to the Dominion Experimental Station located on Highway No. 2, one half mile east of the original townsite, which played such an important part in the life and development of Beaverlodge, and the whole Peace River country.

The originator of this Agricultural Experimental Station was W. D. Albright, a graduate of Guelph Agricultural College and for five years managing editor of the Farmer's Advocate, London, Ontario. He arrived at Beaverlodge to take up farming in October 1913, and for a hobby started a few experimental plots on his farm in 1914, without any thought of remuneration.

In 1915 the Federal authorities recognized his efforts and designated his farm as a sub-station. In 1940 his land was taken over by the Federal authorities, given the status of a Dominion Agricultural Station, and many new buildings added. Since 1940 the scope of this station has increased until its land holdings now total 640 acres, as a fully equipped experimental farm.

8. LIVING CONDITIONS:

Beaverlodge stands on the eastern slope of the Beaverlodge Valley, 27 miles west of Grande Prairie on Highway No. 2. The scenery is superb with its broad landscapes, backed by the snow-white peaks of the Rockies, plainly visible on a clear day. The valley is broad and shallow with patches of woodland threaded by the Beaverlodge River which empties into the Wapiti at a point 18 miles southeast. The town is on the east side of the Northern Alberta Railway and slopes upward to the northeast. Trees line the streets and provide shade for many of the homes. Residents are proud of their gardens, which produce many varieties of small fruits.

There is good hunting for ducks, geese and upland game birds; and there are game fish in the surrounding creeks and rivers. In the southwest there is a good hunting for big game, such as bear, deer, moose and elk.

There is transportation by rail, bus and truck; and communications by mail, telephone and telegraph.

Health services include one medical doctor, one dentist, a drug store and a modern 20 bed hospital.

There are excellent schools that teach grades 1-12; bus transportation is provided for rural students.

Five churches serve the spiritual needs of the community; and a very fine community centre, seating 1,000 includes a modern theatre, dance hall, club rooms, library and well equipped craft centre.

There is a central water and sewerage system and three phase 60 cycle electric light and power.



Broad Main Street is attractively lined with trees

Coal and wood are used for heating. There are ample supplies of liquid fuels, such as gasoline, propane and diesel oil.

Financial facilities consist of one bank and a government treasury branch sub-agency. One twenty-room hotel provides accommodation for the traveller.

There are fraternal societies, service clubs, a public library and sports facilities, that provide spare time activities and an outlet for public service. Sports facilities include a covered curling rink with four sheets of natural ice, a skating and hockey rink and a 25 acre sports ground with excellent ball park and campsite for travellers.

The 1958 census shows the population to be 1007; about 90 per cent are from the British Isles, Eastern Canada and the United States. The remaining 10 per cent are Scandinavians.

A five room cottage rents for around \$40 to \$85 per month. More than 90 per cent of the homes are owner-occupied.

Building permits:

1955	_	\$230,000 value
1956		263,700 value
1957		93,000 value
1958		over \$100,000 value

9. ADMINISTRATION:

The town is governed by a mayor elected for a two year term and six councillors, two elected each year for a three year term. The secretary-treasurer carries out the policies set by the council.

10. LAW ENFORCEMENT:

The town is policed by a town constable. Rural area and highway policed by $\ensuremath{\mathsf{RCMP}}.$

Justice of the Peace.

Visiting Police Magistrate from Grande Prairie.

Building Regulations

Plans for new building, repairs to buildings or removal of buildings must be approved by the council after which a permit is issued by them.

Electrical installations must comply with the requirements of the Alberta Electrical Protection Act.

Sanitary installations must comply with the Provincial Health Regulations.

11. FIRE PROTECTION:

There is an 18 member volunteer fire brigade and fire chief. The Civil Defence unit consists of 33 auxiliary firemen who also assist during fires.

Equipment

American Marsh Triple Combination Pumper rated at 420 gallon per minute at 120 pounds pressure. This unit is mounted on a GMC chassis which is equipped with a 2 stage centrifugal pump and 500 gallon water tank, 650 feet of 2½ inch hose, 600 feet 1½ inch hose, 200 feet 1 inch booster hose, roof ladder, extension ladder, fog nozzles, axes, asbestos suits, etc.

There are 6 fire hydrants conveniently located throughout the town. A 50,000 gallon concrete reservoir and a 3 h.p. electric siren.

12. TAX STRUCTURE:

	1958 Assessment
Land, 100 per cent of value	\$ 99,350
Improvements, 100 per cent of fair value	657,550
Power	46,500
Total Assessment	\$803,400

Mill Rate 1958

Municipal	School	Hospital	Total
21	30	9	60 mills

13. AREAS:

Total area of town	269.25 acres
Streets and lanes	40.54 acres
Parks and playgrounds	25.14 acres

Roads, Streets and Lane Mileage

	Asphalt	Gravel	Unpaved	Total
Provincial Main	. 1			1
Roads and Streets		3.69	1	4.29
Lanes and Alleys		.5	2	2.5
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				7.79 miles

There are 3 miles of concrete sidewalk.

14. SEWER AND WATER MAIN MILEAGE:

Storm Sewers	Nil
Sanitary Sewers	3.8 miles
Water Mains	3.8 miles

15. POWER:

Three phase 60 cycle power is supplied by Canadian Utilities Ltd. from their Grande Prairie, diesel-electric plant, at the following rates:

Residential

First 10 KWH or less used per month — \$1.50. Next 25 KWH used per month — 6c net per KWH. Next 100 KWH used per month — 4c net per KWH. All additional energy used per month 3c net per KWH. Minimum monthly bill — \$1.50 per month per meter.

The above net rate applies only when bills are paid within 15 days from the date thereof. When not so paid the gross rate being the above net rate, plus 5 per cent applies.

Commercial

Demand Charge:

75c net per month for first 1000 watts, or fraction thereof, of connected load.

50c net per month for each additional 1000 watts, or part thereof, of connected load.

Energy Charge:

First 50 KWH used per month — 8c net per KWH. Next 200 KWH used per month — 7c net per KWH.

All additional energy used per month — 3c net per KWH.

Minimum monthly bill — the demand charge portion of the above but not less than \$1.50 per meter. The above net rate applies only when bills are paid within 15 days, from the date thereof. When not so paid the gross rate being the above net rate plus 5 per cent applies.

Power

Demand Charge:

\$1.00 net per month per connected H.P.

Energy Charge:

First 25 KWH used per month per H.P. connected — 7c net per KWH. Next 25 KWH used per month per H.P. connected — 5c net per KWH. Next 50 KWH used per month per H.P. connected — 4c net per KWH. All additional energy used per month — 3c net per KWH

Minimum monthly bill — shall be \$1.00 per connected H.P. or fraction thereof, but not less than \$2.00 per month.

The above rate applies only when bills are paid within 15 days from date thereof. When not so paid the gross rate being the above net rate plus 5 per cent applies.

16. WATER:

Water is obtained from wells within the town. Soft water is obtained about 160 feet below the surface. Two $10^{\prime\prime}$ wells have been drilled to supply the central water system.

Water Analysis

	Parts per million
Total solids	1402
Ignition loss	100
Hardness	205
Sulphates	338
Chlorides	7
Alkalinity	750
Nature of alkalinity: Bicarbonate of soda and	a small amount of lime
and magnesium.	
Flourine	.07 natural
Nitrates	nil
Nitrites	nil
Iron	nil
Remarks: This is a water of low hardness 4	grains per gallon and

Remarks: This is a water of low hardness, 4 grains per gallon and containing 40.9 grains per gallon of carbonate of soda.

Rates

First 2000 gallons per month — \$2.50 plus \$1.50 sewerage charge. All additional water at \$1.20 per M gallons.

17. NATURAL GAS:

The town is planning for the installation of natural gas in the near future.

18. PROPANE:

Heat value — 2521 b.t.u. per cu. ft. at 60°F. 100 lb. cylinders — \$7.00. Bulk — 22c per gallon. Storage capacity — 3000 gallons.

19. DIESEL FUEL:

Heat value — 135,000 to 140,000 b.t.u. per gallon at 60° F. Winter grade — 23.4c per gallon. Summer grade — 22.3c per gallon. Storage capacity — 24,000 gallons.

20. COAL:

Mine location	B.T.U.'s per lb.	Nut	Egg	Lump
Drumheller	11,000	12.50	11.50	18.50
Foothills	12,500	14.00	17.00	19.00
Edmonton	9,600		12.30	16.00
Red Willow R	iver (local strip mine)	\$10.50	mine run	delivered



Surrounded by excellent farmland, grain elevators dominate the skyline

21. RESOURCES:

Wheat and coarse grains
Horses, cattle, sheep, hogs
Dairy products
Poultry products
Forage crops, and various grass seeds
Honey
Lumber — spruce and poplar
Sand - common
Gravel

22. GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND SERVICES:

Federal

Post Office; Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment, corporal and constable; Agricultural Experimental Farm; U.S.A.F. Pinetree base.

Provincial

Alberta Government Telephone; Treasury Branch (Sub Agency).

Municipal

New Town Hall housing — Committee rooms, Secretary-Treasurer, Fire Hall, Town Police.

23. HEALTH SERVICES:

Beaverlodge Municipal Hospital District No. 32 has 20 beds and 10 bassinets and is staffed by a matron, 4 graduate nurses, 4 nurses aides, dietitian, x-ray technician, kitchen and maintenance staff.

Public ward rate for Canadian residents \$1.60; non-residents \$11.50.

Other Facilities

1 doctor; 1 dentist; 1 drug store; the Grande Prairie Health Unit calls monthly.

24. PROFESSIONAL AND SKILLED PERSONAL SERVICES:

(Excluding Health Services)

Barristers	1
Barber Shops	1
Watch Repair	1
Shoe Repair	1

25. TRANSPORTATION:

Northern Alberta Railway — one train each way daily except Sundays, between Edmonton and Dawson Creek via Beaverlodge.

Canadian Coachways Ltd. — Two buses each way daily except Sundays, between Edmonton and Dawson Creek via Beaverlodge.

Local truck hauling to Grande Prairie and Edmonton.

26. NEWSPAPERS:

Beaverlodge Advertiser.

27. COMMUNICATION:

Alberta Government Telephones Northern Alberta Railway Telegraphs Post Office Nearest Radio Station — Grande Prairie CFGP, 27 miles east; Dawson Creek CJDC, 50 miles northwest.

28. FINANCIAL FACILITIES:

Alberta Government Treasury Branch (sub-agency) Canadian Bank of Commerce

29. HOTELS:

	No.	Rooms	Single	Rate	Beer	Licence
Donald		20	\$2.00	up	yes	3

30. TOURIST CAMPS:

Free campsite with water and other facilities in town park.

31. CHURCHES:

Anglican, Roman Catholic, United, Christian Missionary Alliance, Jehovah Witnesses.

32. FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS:

Masonic Lodge at Hythe

33. SERVICE CLUBS:

Chamber of Commerce, Lions, Elks, Canadian Legion, Ladies' Auxiliary Canadian Legion, I.O.D.E., Royal Purple.

34. SOCIETIES:

Community Players (Drama), Handicraft Association, Home and School Association, Church Women's Group, Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen, Horticultural Society.

35. SCHOOLS:

The Beaverlodge School District No. 2341 is part of the Grande Prairie County No. 1. Grades 1 to 12 are taught along with the following optional subjects — typing, art, home economics, shop. There are 251 students and 11 teachers in the elementary school, 102 pupils and 3 teachers in junior high, 75 pupils and 4 teachers in the high school. Five buses transport the rural children to school. There is also a new four room separate school.

36. THEATRES AND HALLS:

	Сарасиу	Stage	Piano
Community Centre	1000	yes	yes
Theatre in Community Hall	380	yes	yes

37. CULTURAL ACTIVITIES:

The Beaverlodge I.O.D.E. Library is supported by the town, Legion, Elks, I.O.D.E. and a government grant under the Libraries Act. The library is open Wednesday and Friday from 12 to 1 p.m. and Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. There are 2,117 books in the library.

The handicraft club is located in the Community Centre. Classes in ceramics, weaving, leather, copper tooling and woodworking are well attended and great interest is shown by the community in this class of hobby.

There are two five piece orchestras and a 25 piece brass band.

38. YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

Boys		Girls
Cubs		Majorettes
Army Cadets		C.G.I.T.
4-H Club		Explorers
	Te	en Age Club
Camp Red Willow for boys and	girls near town	4-H Club

39. SPORTS:

Baseball, senior and junior; Hockey; Softball, men and women, Basketball; Badminton; Curling.

Facilities include a covered curling rink with 4 sheet natural ice. Arena for hockey and skating will be completed shortly. School grounds and sports field.

40. FAIRS:

May 24th, annual sports day.

41. HISTORIC SITES:

Camp site of Jim Brooks and George McLeod, where twelve sick and stranded Klondykers were housed and nursed during the winter of 1898.

42. CO-OPERATIVES:

Alberta Wheat Pool Community Centre Co-op Seed Growers United Grain Growers Maple Leaf Co-op Oil Distribution

43. INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS:

Type of Industry or Business	Number of Establishments Producer or Manufacturer Wholesale Retail	Type of Industry or Business	Number of Establishments Producer or Manufacturer Wholesale Retail
Banks	2 — — —	Implements Farm	6 — — 6
Barber Shops	1	Insurance	2 — — —
Books & Stationery S	ee Drug Store	Jewellers	1 — — 1
Building Contractor	3 — — —	Law Offices	1
Cartage Delivery	2 — — —	Lumber Yards	1 — 1 1
Clothing		Oil Distributors	4 — 4 —
(Ladies & Children)	1 1	Painters & Decorators	1 — — —
Clothing (men's)	1 — — 1	Photo Studio	1 1 1 1
Coal Dealers	1 — — 1	Planing Mill	
Cold Storage Locker	1 1	Plumber	
Dentists	1	Pool Room	
Doctors M.D.		Printing & Duplicating	
		Propane Gas Distributors	
Drugs		Restaurants	
Electrician	1 — — —	Real Estate	1 — — —
Electrical Appliances	see utilities and	Seed Cleaning	1 — — —
	10 10	Shoe Repairs	1 — — 1
Garage & Service Stations		Sportings Goods see h	ardware & gen.
General Stores		Theatres	1
Grain Elevators(Total capacity 520,00	6 — — — bu.)	Trucking	
Groceries	2 — — 2	Utilities	1
Hardware	1 — — 1	Variety Store	1
Hotels	1	Welding & Machine Shop	1 1 1 1

44. SITES:

Residential and industrial sites adjacent to trackage and highway are available from the town and private owners at reasonable prices.

45. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT:

The Beaverlodge Experimental Farm has done a lot for the district. The annual payroll is over \$500,000. Grains and fruit trees are planted and tested for the best varieties. Cattle raising is important in the organization of farms in the Beaverlodge area. In 1950 cattle sales provided 45 per cent of farm cash income while grain receipts accounted for 23 per cent, hogs 14 per cent, dairying 10 per cent and miscellaneous items 8 per cent.

46. TRADING AREA:

On the north 20 miles; on the west 25 miles; on the south 25 miles; on the east 8 miles.

47. POPULATION:

Trading area population, 1956 census — 4,658.

Town population, 1956 census — 768.

Town population, Dec. 31, 1957 — 1007 est.

Suburban — 300 est. (Dec. 31, 1957)







