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Well & Groundwater





## CARIBOU PATROL GOES TO EDMONTON

Caribou Patrol was thrilled to attend its first outdoor public outreach event since the pandemic. Check out this month's update and learn more about AWN's caribou initiative in their tenth season.

Contributed by Stephanie Leonard

The Caribou Patrol team had a great time at the 2022 Edmonton Deep Freeze Festival on January 15 and 16. The city hadn't been able to host Deep Freeze since January 2020, before the pandemic. It was refreshing to spend the weekend outside meeting lots of new people.

Our loveable caribou mascot Atih was a crowd favourite, helping us draw in 977 people on Saturday and another 698 on Sunday. We were overwhelmed with the interest in our program, and we can't wait to go back again next year.

In other exciting news, we're nearing the finish line for our video capturing the Elders' stories about caribou. This short film debuts in spring, titled *Aseniwuche Elders: Atih Acimowina*.



Nate Medinski (AWN), Stephanie Leonard (AWN), Chantelle Bambrick (fRI) along with volunteers Danielle Hartzel (far left) and Carol DeMong (far right) represented the Caribou Patrol Program at Edmonton's Deep Freeze Festival in January.

Photo credit: Chantelle Bambrick

MIGRATION UPDATE We're still in the lull between fall and spring migrations. This period generally sees the fewest caribou sightings and reports of the entire year as the caribou are bunkered down in their winter habitats. As the days pass and we get closer to spring, more caribou will come out towards Highway 40, so please remember to scan the ditches and report any caribou you see. We also appreciate any reports of caribou away from Highway 40. If you see any caribou in the Willmore or Little Smoky area and wonder if you should report your sighting—please do! Knowing where the caribou are and what they are doing outside of migration is valuable information for us and other caribou researchers. When in doubt, report!

Continued on page 4

## **CONGRATULATIONS,** DESIREE

Contributed by Aimee Couture-Goulding

Earlier this January, ADC enrolled staff member Desiree McDonald in a three-week Dozer Operator Training program at High Velocity Equipment Training in Edmonton. The course combined classroom and field training and taught Desiree the skills and knowledge needed to become a certified dozer operator.

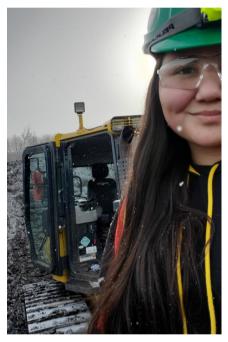
### Congratulations Desiree, we are so proud of you!

While at training, Desiree was chosen out of 6 students to complete some work on a dozer. She was selected because of her demonstrated quality of work and cleanliness. Getting the opportunity to further show what she learned and knowing she was doing a good job was her favourite moment from the program. ADC looks forward to providing Desiree and other labourers with ongoing equipment operation and training opportunities in the future!



Photo credit: Desiree McDonald









The Aseniwuche Development Corporation Automotive Shop is open and ready to provide you with professional and timely automotive services. We have a full-time Journeyman Mechanic and Apprentice on staff to serve vour automotive needs!



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- **Engine repair**
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Find out how what we can create for you!

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## **WE'RE HIRING**

To apply, please send a resume and cover letter (if applicable) to jobs@adcalberta.com View the full job posting at aseniwuche.ca/job-opportunities/

### **TEAM LEAD (SUPERVISOR)**

Reporting to the Operations Manager, the primary purpose of the Team Lead is to oversee the daily supervision of crews and the organization of equipment for safe and effective project completion.



### **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Oversee the recruitment and selection of field workers, ensuring that all safety standards and requirements for each worksite, including safety tickets, PPE and training, are met.
- Determine the most appropriate methods and equipment needed to efficiently complete each project.
- Schedule employees and coordinate movement of equipment as well as the transportation of work crews to each project site.
- Coordinate the purchase of project materials, supplies and fuel in a timely manner.
- Ensure that Health & Safety and Environmental Management policies, procedures and regulations are followed.
- Promote workplace safety and environmental stewardship through employee coaching and active participation in incident investigations.

The duties and responsibilities outlined above are representative but not inclusive. Please review the full job posting before applying.

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

- High school diploma or equivalent.
- A minimum of 5 years experience, including 2 years in a supervisory role
- Working computer knowledge
- Valid driver's licence with a clean Driver's Abstract and negative result on a preemployment drug and alcohol test.
- Must be fully vaccinated as per client COVID Policy requirements.

### **ACCOUNTING CLERK (AR & AP)**

Reporting to the Operations Manager, the Accounting Clerk calculates, prepares and processes incoming and outgoing invoices for accounts receivable and payable. The Accounting Clerk also enters employee timesheets for payroll and job-related data in PJC, as well as maintains a well-organized filing system of all required documents.



### **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Calculates, prepares and issues documents related to accounts such as bills, invoices, account statements and other financial statements using computerized systems.
- Processes, verifies and reconciles transactions such as accounts payable and receivable, purchase orders, cheques, and receipts in the computer system.
- Enters data for the period or cost statements or reports as requested by Accounting Coordinator and/or Payroll & Benefits Coordinator.
- Responds to customer and vendor inquiries, and maintains good customer relations.
- Enters approved daily employee timesheets into PJC then forwards them to the Payroll & Benefits Coordinator for payroll processing.

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

- Post-secondary education or certification in accounting or business administration - or equivalent work experience.
- A minimum of two years' experience in basic bookkeeping, record keeping and accounting systems.
- Excellent knowledge of computer programs including Excel and Word.
- Good communication skills and adherence to confidentiality.

### **ENERGY FIELD SERVICES LEAD HAND**

Reporting to the EFS Team Lead, the EFS Lead Hand is responsible for coordinating the activities of assigned projects and contracts and providing team leadership and support.



### **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Coordinate the activities of assigned projects to ensure tasks are completed in an efficient and effective manner and that all required tools, equipment and vehicle requirements are identified, available and documented.
- Assign and coordinate workers to meet job requirements
- Coach and demonstrate how to complete tasks to new and less experienced employees.

The duties and responsibilities outlined above are representative but not inclusive. Please review the full job posting before applying.

### QUALIFICATIONS

- High school diploma or equivalent.
- A minimum of 2 years of experience in the related field.
- Working knowledge of Outlook.
- Effective communication and interpersonal skills .
- Valid driver's licence, clean Driver's Abstract and negative result on a drug and alcohol test.
- Must be fully vaccinated as per client COVID Policy requirements.

### **WHAT IS CARIBOU PATROL?**

Continued from the front page, contributed by Stephanie Leonard

The Caribou Patrol Program is an Indigenous-led initiative started by Aseniwuche Winewak Nation in partnership with Foothills Landscape Management in 2012. Funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Government of Alberta helped support the early beginning of this now decade-long wildlife conservation and education program.

The Caribou Patrol Program has two primary purposes. First, we conduct road patrols to increase public and animal safety and collect wildlife data that can be used in program reviews and future caribou recovery initiatives. Second, we do a lot of education and outreach to students, industry, and the public to teach people about this iconic species and the importance of their preservation.

When Caribou Patrol Program was still a pilot project, we initially focused on the hunting season. Over the years, we've expanded our operations to cover the migration periods as it was determined that poaching was not the most significant threat for caribou in this area. In addition, the program now focuses on public education and caribouvehicle collisions—a more substantial contributor to caribou mortality. We've recently increased our patrol schedule year-round in response to a higher number of caribou remaining in and around Highway 40 for prolonged periods of time.

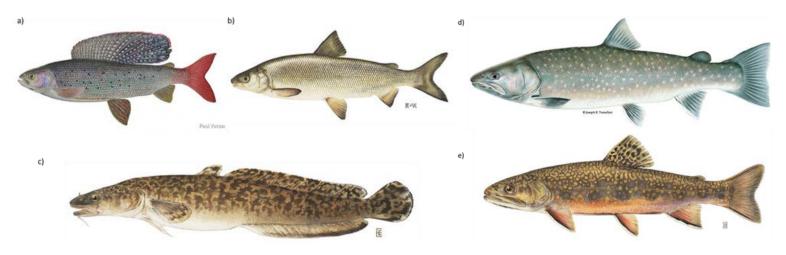


Road patrols involve driving through the Highway 40 Caribou Corridor, a 40 km stretch of highway between the Muskeg and Big Berland Rivers, and occasionally other roads that fall inside caribou ranges, looking for caribou, other wildlife and potential hazards to people or wildlife. All observations are recorded with a GPS location and as detailed as possible for later analysis. Caribou Patrol always considers the safety of the animals, the crew, and road users. Our crew only applies diversion tactics if there is no risk to wildlife or people.

The education and outreach side of the program started in the second year and has grown considerably since then with the creation of four EduKit booklets tailored to public, industry, student and French audiences. Caribou Patrol also sets up educational displays in public spaces, attends large public events and delivers presentations to students, organizations and the general public to spread the word about the program and caribou conservation. If you're interested in a presentation, give us a shout at info@cariboupatrol.ca. Stay safe and #careaboutcaribou!

## AHRF PRESENTS: NAME THAT FISH!

Correctly identify each of the five fish species below for the chance to win a \$25 Co-op gift card! Please send your answers along with your name and phone number to Nate, AWN's Aquatic Habitat Stewardship Coordinator, at ahrf@aseniwuche.com or message us on Facebook! Responses are due February 25, 2022. Anyone can play!



### POSSIBLE RESPONSES (NOT ALL WILL BE USED)

rainbow trout, lake whitefish, yellow perch, burbot, lake trout, bull trout, Arctic grayling, pearl dace, brook trout, slimy sculpin Email your responses by February 25, 2022, to Nate at ahrf@aseniwuche.com or message us on Facebook!

### WIN A \$25 CO-OP GIFT CARD

## Fish movement and stream crossing barriers questionnaire

AWN is working with a multi-stakeholder group to address aquatic habitat problems in the Berland and Wildhay river watersheds. The project's main goal is to investigate how man-made barriers, such as hanging culverts beneath roads or railways, ATV trail crossings and other structures, are limiting fish movement through these watersheds (called "habitat fragmentation") and to prioritize remediation of these structures to restore fish movement.

- 1. What fish species do you think have been most impacted by manmade barriers in the Berland and Wildhay watersheds? Has traditional use of fish changed due to fragmentation (for example, are fish no longer found or in much lower numbers now in the Berland and Wildhay watershed compared to the old days)?
- 2. What types of barriers do you think are causing the most problems for fish movement in the Berland and Wildhay watersheds? Do you have an example where you've seen a man-made barrier out on the land that is preventing fish movement up or downstream (for example, a collapsed bridge, debris jam near a bridge or culvert, ATV/truck trail or hanging culvert)?

If you would like to share your knowledge and thoughts about fish movement barriers within the Traditional Land Use area or would like more information about this project, please contact Nate, AWN's Aquatic Habitat Stewardship Coordinator, at ahrf@aseniwuche.com. Find the survey link on our Facebook page or send us a message, and we'll provide the link! One lucky survey respondent selected at random will win a \$25 Co-op gift card.











Join AWN and PVT for an afternoon on the lake. We'll have hot drinks and snacks to keep you warm. **Everyone is welcome!** 

DATE: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 TIME: 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Please bring your own gear and fishing license





## 10 WAYS TO PROTECT YOUR WELL & GROUNDWATER SUPPLY

Fact sheet provided by the Working Well Program, Government of Alberta

Last summer, Matrix provided in-kind support to AWN to conduct field-verified water well surveys for residents in the Co-ops and Enterprises.

In most cases, Matrix field member Danny and Aseniwuche community member Billy McDonald were able to visit each well and record their visual observations. If you would like to access the information noted for your residence, please contact the office at 780-827-5510.



### 1. Design and build a good well

Use a licensed water well contractor and know what to ask for. See the *Water Well Design and Construction* fact sheet for details.

### 2. Get rid of your well pit

Well pits were installed to provide a frost-free location for the pressure system. Over time, well pits have proven to be a significant source of contamination to water wells so they are no longer permitted for newly constructed wells. If you have a well pit, have a licensed water well

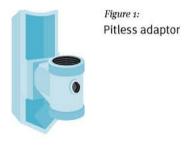


Figure 2:
Potential contamination sources

contractor install a pitless adaptor (Figure 1) on the well casing. This mechanical device provides a frost free, sanitary connection to the distribution line. The well casing can then be extended above ground surface and the well pit can be filled in.

### 3. Plug old wells and holes

Old or unused wells and seismic holes should be plugged from bottom to top with bentonite to prevent surface water from draining into your water supply.

### 4. Understand your water well drilling report

Licensed water well contractors are required to submit all water well drilling reports to Alberta Environment and Parks. This record contains important information that will help you manage and protect your well. Get a copy from your water well contractor or from the Alberta Environment and Parks Groundwater Information Centre at 780–427–2770. Have the legal description of your property ready.

### 5. Manage activities on your land

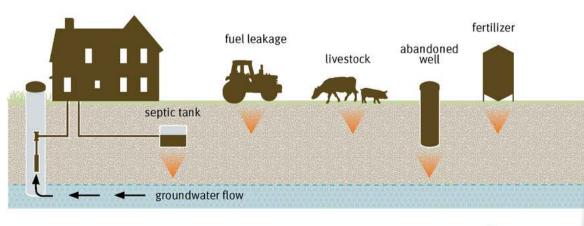
If you are not careful, manure, fertilizers and chemicals can seep into your groundwater, especially if you have sandy or gravely soils or a shallow well (Figure 2). Avoid over-applying these materials.

### 6. Test your well water

Contact your local Community Health Centre (Public Health Unit) for sample bottles and information on how to collect a water sample and transport it to the Health Unit. For a list of local Health Units visit: https://myhealth.alberta.ca.

Do a standard coliform bacteria test twice a year (or more often if your well is less than 50 feet deep). You should also do a routine water chemistry test every two years and test your water if there are any changes in its colour, odour, taste or if you notice any new staining.

Regular shock chlorination will keep bacteria build-up in check. If biofouling is excessive, your well may need to be inspected and cleaned by a licensed water well contractor.





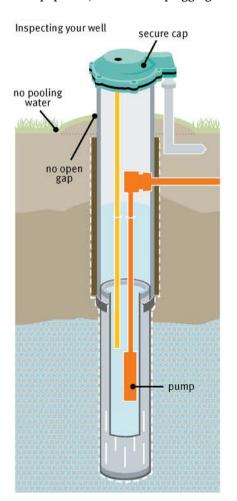


Well maintenance is one of the key ways to sustain the life and quality of your well and well water. The Government of Alberta offers a series of fact sheets with information for homeowners covering a wide variety of topics including how to shock chlorinate your well and how to take water samples. Visit <a href="https://open.alberta.ca/publications/working-well-clean-water-well-protected-2019">https://open.alberta.ca/publications/working-well-clean-water-well-protected-2019</a> to access them or contact AWN if you would like print copies.



### 7. Shock chlorinate your well

If your well tests positive for coliform bacteria, you may have to shock chlorinate. See the Shock Chlorinating Your Well fact sheet for details. Regularly check your toilet tank for slime build-up, which can be a sign of iron or sulphate-reducing bacteria biofouling in your well. These bacteria won't hurt you and will not show up on a standard bacteria test. However, they can affect the taste and smell of your water, and can permanently damage well equipment, or cause well plugging.



### 8. Inspect your well and property

Regularly check the area around your well and your well system (Figure 3) to make sure:

- the well cap is secure and vents are not blocked.
- there are no open gaps around the outside of the well casing.
- there is no ground settling or water pooling around the well casing.
- potential contaminants (e.g., manure storage, septic systems, chemical and fuel storage) are properly managed and far enough away from your well.
- the pump, pressure tank and water treatment system are operating properly.
- your septic system is working properly.

Tanks should be inspected regularly and pumped out when necessary by a qualified sewage hauler.

### 9. Never over-pump your well

Over-pumping your well can cause significant problems. For new wells, make sure your licensed water well contractor does a full pump test and gives you a recommended sustainable pumping rate. Older wells may need a current pump test to determine a safe pumping rate. Be careful with low yielding wells. To avoid putting excessive stress on them, extra storage may be required to meet household needs during peak periods.

### 10. Keep records - build history

Track your well's performance by keeping copies of your water well drilling reports, well inspections, water tests and treatments. Give this information to the new owners if you sell your property.

The Working Well partners are not responsible for any loss, damage or injury resulting from the reader's use of or reliance on the information and methods contained in this document.



### Working Well

www.workingwell.alberta.ca

### Water Wells That Last

https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/716-a10

A comprehensive water well management guide.

#### Alberta Water Well Drilling Association

http://www.awwda.ca/

For a list of licensed water well drillers in your area, visit the Association's website.

### ONTACT US:

### General Questions?

Alberta Environment and Parks Information Centre Phone: 310-3773 toll free

### Technical Questions?

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Ag-Info Centre Phone: 310–FARM (3276) toll free

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