

Bow Island

<http://www.bowisland.com>

Welcome

Pinto Macbean and the residents of Bow Island welcome you to the Town of Bow Island and invite you to learn about the great attributes we have to offer you as prospective residents or entrepreneurs.

Bow Island is the "Bean Capital of the West" and is proud to be centered in an agricultural based area. The Bow Island area is recognized as having the Province's best climate for warm weather crop production. We enjoy long warm summers, the highest number of heat units, long sunlight hours and long frost-free periods. These attributes, coupled with over 110,000 acres of highly developed irrigation, mean that "Bow Island is the place to be for agri-processing". We are thankful for the commitment that agri-processing companies have made to our community and our thrust is to attract more industry of this nature. We are receptive to discussing special incentives to attract new business/industry.

Now move forward through this information package and thank you in advance for taking the time to look at the fine amenities Bow Island has to offer you!

Area Overview

Bow Island is surrounded by 110,000 acres of highly developed irrigated land and this, coupled with the greatest number of frost free days and the longest growing season in Alberta, provides the area with the ability to grow a wide variety of crops.

Bow Island is a community of 1,868 persons with an additional population draw of 2,500 persons in the immediate surrounding area. The key advantages to living and doing business in Bow Island include: the quality of life; the attitude of welcoming new business enterprises; the town's entrepreneurial spirit; and the overall warmer weather than most areas of Alberta [long, warm summers and relatively shorter winters by virtue of the Chinook winds].

Bow Island enjoys long an average of 2500 hours of sunlight annually. the area averages 2400 plus heat units, calculated on the basis of temperatures above 50F in the day time and 40F at night time. The last killing frost is April 28th and the first killing frost is September 29th.



Welcome to Bow Island!

Location

The Town of Bow Island is located in Southeastern Alberta, approximately 100 km from the USA Border, 60km west City of Medicine Hat along Highway #3 and 320 km southwest of the City of Calgary. It is an agricultural service centre for a large diversified farming area, which includes dryland farming and extensive irrigation.

Economic Base

The economic base is predominately agriculture, with a wide variety of crops being grown. The dry edible bean industry alone injects about 8-10 million dollars per year into the economy of Southern Alberta. Other major products include sunflower seeds, processed snack foods and essential oils. The area is also a key location for grain production in the Province. The P & H elevator located here are the Province's highest receiving points year in and year out.

The oil and gas industry is also important to the Bow Island area. A large field is located north of the South Saskatchewan River, about 16 km from Bow Island.

Economic Facts

There is a significant processed food industry in the Bow Island area. One local processing plant receives, cleans, packages and markets area-grown beans to markets worldwide. The acreage of beans planted in the area is over 40,000. Another local company processes and markets sunflower seeds throughout Canada, and in the United States. Another third group of local companies utilizes crops such as spearmint, peppermint and dill, etc., to produce a variety of essential oils. The companies markets their products in Canada, the United States and abroad.

Areas of potential industry include waste recycling, hydroponic greenhouses, agri-pulp and agri-board production.

Major Businesses Products/Services

Dale Thacker Specialty Crops
 Hiebert Cabinets & Fine Furniture
 Imperial Oil Fuel & Fertilizer
 Lynn Thacker Ag Crop
 P & H Grain Elevator Agriculture

Polycore Tubular Linings
SPITZ
St. Mary River Irrigation District Water Supply
TRU-CO Structures Inc.
UFA Card Lock
VITERRA (grain division)
VITERRA Bow Island Bean Plant Agriculture

Financial Institutions

Servus Credit Union
ATB Financial
Western Financial Group

Utilities

Electrical Power

EPCOR

Customer Service
Tel: 403-310-0000
www.epcor.ca

FORTIS Alberta Inc.

Power Outages / Customer Service
Toll Free Tel: 310-WIRE / 310-9473
www.fortis.ca

Natural Gas

ATCO Gas

102 5Th Avenue E
Bow Island, Alberta
Tel: 403-545-2946
www.atcogas.com

Telephone

Telus

Tel: 403-310-2255
www.telus.com

Water Supply

The water supply is owned and operated by the Town of Bow Island. The raw water supply is from the St. Mary River Irrigation District. The town has on-site raw water storage in excess of 150 million gallons.

Garbage Collection

Garbage is collected on weekly basis.
All disposals are at the North Forty Mile Regional Landfill site.

Waste Management

Sewage is disposed through a lagoon system, which provides for 300 days of retention. Engineering studies are underway for expansion to the water treatment plant.

Chemical can disposal is undertaken at the North Forty Mile Regional Land Fill site that is located 3 miles north of Bow Island.

Taxation

	<u>Residential/Farmland</u>	<u>Non-Residential</u>
2005		
Municipal Tax Rate	11.2661	13.1133
Education - Alberta School Foundation Fund Tax Rate	2.1383	3.9579
Seniors Lodge Accommodation Tax Rate	2.7230	2.7230

Transportation

Air

A local airport provides use of a 3,000 foot paved, illuminated airstrip. Tie down facilities are available.

Regional airlines are available in either Medicine Hat [30 minutes east] or Lethbridge [60 minutes west]. Air Canada serving Medicine Hat and Air Canada Jazz and Integra Air serving Lethbridge.

International airlines can be accessed at Calgary (www.calgaryairport.com) or Great Falls (www.gtfairport.com), Montana [both are located 200 miles from Bow Island].

Rail Service

Bow Island is located on the main rail line of the Canadian Pacific Railway (www.cpr.ca) Spur trackage is available.

Highways

Bow Island is situated on Provincial Highway No.3 [the southern route to the west coast]. It has a load limit of 72,000 pounds and is never banned. Highway No. 3 is referred to as the Crownsnest Pass.

Secondary Highway No. 879 has a load limit of 59,000 pounds and experiences seasonal bans.

Trucking Firms

Two trucking firms supply east and west transport service on a daily basis. Smaller trucking firms provide individual service to business and industry.

Bus Services

Greyhound Bus Lines no longer provide daily east-west bus service, arrangements must be made prior to having the bus stop by calling Greyhound Bus Lines.

www.greyhound.ca

1-800-661-8747

Couriers and Taxis

Two couriers are available to residents in Bow Island that travel from Medicine Hat through to Lethbridge.

Taxis are also available by reservation from Medicine Hat.

Community Lifestyle

Recreation

The residents of Bow Island are pleased to welcome visitors to our town. We are proud of the many recreational amenities we have to offer you during your stay. There is much to keep everyone entertained. There are 3 local parks: Jubilee Park, Funshine Park and Centennial Park. Jubilee Park and Centennial Park both have play grounds and Funshine Park has an enclosed gazebo. Centennial Park is a beautiful, 14-acre, tree lined park with camping available.

You can self-register at the gate. Fees are \$20.00 per day for full power and water. There is also a group camp area available with a large gazebo and charcoal barbecue. (Great for reunions, picnics, weddings, etc.) To book the group camp area call the town office at 403-545-2522. (The cost is \$30.00 per day plus \$10.00 per each camper.) The park has a paved walking path from the group camp to the washroom / shower facility and playground area. The playground has something for everyone and is handicap accessible. Anyone out to enjoy the park, for the day or the weekend; can use the beach volleyball court. Equipment is available at the town office and can be booked ahead Monday - Friday by calling 403-545-2522.

Bow Island Golf Course

"The World's Largest Putter" can be found in Bow Island, just off Highway 3 pointing you right to one of Alberta's best 9 hole golf courses. Not only is some of the best golfing available but you can stop by the club house and enjoy a variety of choices from the restaurant menu. There is also a pro shop for your shopping convenience. It is well stocked with a great variety to suit any golfer's needs or a souvenir of your visit. If you would like to make a reservation for a tee time you can call 403-545-2718 or book on line by going to the Bow Island Golf Club web site at www.bowislandgolf.ca/ and choose Book Tee Time. We hope you will stop in and enjoy a game of golf on the beautiful greens or take a break from your driving and have a coffee and piece of pie, lunch or even dinner in the restaurant. We know you will enjoy the time you spend visiting the Bow Island Golf Club.

BOW ISLAND ARENA/CURLING RINK

Bow Island's curling rink and skating rink had a unique beginning. In the nineteen fifties there was a worldwide over production of wheat and grain companies who could not move it to market. We have to give one person credit for the Bow Island arena and curling rink that we have today. His name was Harper Perry, who was the manager for junior hockey in Western Canada. He conceived the idea of building an arena and curling rink for the community of Barons and filling them with grain. This wheat was overflow storage from the Barons elevators. The Canadian Wheat Board paid storage fees on every bushel of grain they could put into these buildings. If the grain stayed in them for about three years, the buildings would be paid for. Gus Bonette, Mayor of Bow Island at the time, discussed the possibility of duplicating the Barons project with Alfred Egan, and they contacted Harper Perry to see if we could do the same in Bow Island. Harper Perry met with them and told them that they would have to get the community behind the project. To make it feasible, the buildings would have to be built with volunteer labor to keep costs down. A public meeting was held with Madeline Whitney, Gus Bonette, Alfred Egan, Elmer Bergh and George Thacker elected to the newly formed building committee. A great deal of planning had to be done and financing arranged. The outcome was that the buildings were erected with volunteer labor, and grain was stored in these buildings for a considerable length of time. The grain was removed from the arena portion and the building was split in half with a high plywood fence so that the curling could take place on one side, and public skating and hockey on the other side. The curling rink was eventually emptied of grain and curling could then be undertaken in their building and public skating and hockey were able to have the whole ice surface for their use. The operation of the arena / curling club was placed in the hands of the Community Club Organization. They operated the buildings for many years but financing was always a problem. The Bow Island Lions Club operated the concession booth in the arena for many years and donated the profits back to the operation of the ice plant etc. In later years the concession was operated by the Bow Island Minor Baseball and Hockey Association in an effort to make money for promoting Minor Sports in the community.

ARENA

Hockey

Currently the arena is a very busy place and you can come out and find a tournament most weekends once the season is underway. We depend heavily on our local volunteer coaches to keep minor hockey alive here in town. Our hockey moms and dads keep hockey alive in Bow Island by encouraging their children to learn to love the game of hockey at very early age and the Bow Island Rebels girls or boys teams do their very best to bring home the winning banners from Provincials hockey tournaments.

One of our claims to fame over the years was the successful hockey career of Troy Loney. Troy played junior hockey in the N.H.L. for twelve years and earned two Stanley Cup Rings. During his career he played for Pittsburgh Penguins. During his career he played for the Pittsburgh Penguins, New York Islanders, the New York Rangers, and was the first captain of the Anaheim Mighty Ducks.

The community was soon to outgrow the arena and more space was needed. In 1998/99 a committee was formed to

build dressing rooms onto the west side of the building and netting was added to the spectator area of the ice viewing area. In 1993 a committee took on the remarkable task of expanding the ice surface and running lines underneath for ice making. The surface was also increased at this time to allow for further expansion should the need arise.

Figure Skating

Once there was ice available to the community, it wasn't long before figure skating became a popular activity at the "rink". Lessons followed by the annual spring community figure skating carnival. The annual carnival continues to this day and is a very popular community event.

Community Organizations

Bow Island and District Health Foundation
Chamber of Commerce
Lions
Lionesses
Royal Canadian Legion
Knights of Columbus
Fish & Game Association
Riding and Roping Club
Women's Institute
C.W.L.
U.C.W.
Golden Age Club
Elks
Hospital Auxiliary
4H Clubs
Minor Baseball & Hockey Association
Bow Island & District Agricultural Society

Religious Services

Bow Island Church of God in Christ Mennonite Brethren
708 Centre Street
Bow Island, Ab
T0K 0G0
403-545-6424

Bow Island Community Bible Church
708 Centre Street
Bow Island, Ab
T0K 0G0
403-545-6757

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
309 8th Street West
Bow Island, Ab
T0K 0G0
403-545-2973

Evangelical Free Church
214 4th Avenue West
Bow Island, Ab
T0K 0G0
403-545-2274

St. Andrew's United Church
139 2nd Avenue West
Bow Island, Ab
T0K 0G0
403-545-2085

St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church
139 2nd Avenue West
Bow Island, Ab
T0K 0G0
403-545-2023

Zion Lutheran Church
104 2nd Avenue West
Bow Island, Ab
T0K 0G0
403-545-2247

Special Annual Events/Attractions

Bow Island Children's Festival
Bow Island Bean Festival and
Bow Island Pivot Country Annual Fair
North 40 Mile 4-H Beef Club Annual Achievement Day

Hospitality

Accommodation
Silver Sage Motel
Golden Bell Lodge

Restaurants

Bobby's Bar & Restaurant
113 5th Avenue East
Bow Island, Ab
T0K 0G0
403-545-6262

Bow Thai Cafe & Restaurant
301 7th Avenue East
Bow Island, Ab
T0K 0G0
403-545-6900

Bow Island Golf Course Restaurant and Lounge
1133 4th Street Southeast
Bow Island, Ab
T0K 0G0
403-545-2066

Island Inn Restaurant
120 5th Avenue West
Bow Island, Ab
T0K 0G0
403-545-2881

Jimmy's Drive Inn
202 7th Avenue East
Bow Island, Ab
T0K 0G0
403-545-6665

Road House Bar & Grill
503 Centre Street
Bow Island, Ab
T0K 0G0
403-545-1500

Rolling Pin Bakery
125 5th Avenue West
Bow Island, Ab
T0K 0G0
403-545-2434

Roxy's Grill
604 Centre Street
Bow Island, Ab
T0K 0G0
403-545-6244

Peter's Family Restaurant
801 6th Street East
Bow Island, Ab
T0K 0G0
403-545-2598

Education

Bow Island is part of the Prairie Rose Regional School Division #8, headquartered in Dunmore

[Tel: 403-527-5516]

www.prrdweb.com

and the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education #20, headquartered in Medicine Hat

[Tel: 403-527-2292]

www.mhcb.e.ab.ca

Public

Schools in Bow Island include Bow Island Elementary [K-3] and

[Tel: 403-545-2488]

<http://bowislandelementary.com/>

Senator Gershaw School [4-12]

www.senatorgershaw.ca

[Tel: 403:545:6822]

Separate

St. Michael's School [K-12]

www.stmichaelschool.ca

Private

Cherry Coulee Christian Academy [K-9]
Sun Country Christian School
[Tel: 403-545-2646]
www.cherrycoulee.ca

Post Secondary

Post-secondary schooling is offered at area colleges which link universities in Medicine Hat and Lethbridge.

Health Care

Bow Island Health Centre
938 Centre Street
403-545-3200

<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/>

The Bow Island Health Centre is a 30 bed fully accredited Acute/Continuing Care hospital under the Alberta Health Services Board which provides health care for residents in the southeastern part of Alberta. Two medical doctors provide service to the area within the County of 40 Mile as well as the Town of Bow Island, Village of Foremost and Hamlets of Burdett, Etzikom and Manyberries. Medical clinics are located in the Town of Bow Island as well as Foremost.

Homecare and Community Health services are also provided for this area. Offices for these services as well as those for mental health services and addictions counseling are located in the Provincial Building.

Twenty four hour/7 days a week health advice and information about local area services can be accessed by calling the Healthlink number @ 1-866-408-5465 (LINK)

The Alfred Egan Home is for people with developmental disabilities and provides care for 30-33 individuals. This facility is connected to the Bow Island Health Centre and is fully accredited with medical and nursing service provided for the residents.

A fully equipped dental clinic operates two days each week in an office downtown Bow Island.

Emergency Services

Fire Protection

Bow Island employs a full-time Emergency Services staff member that acts as Fire Chief and Ambulance coordinator. There is a contingent of 24 volunteer staff members that operate the Fire Department and Ambulance services for Bow Island and District
[Tel: 403-545-2400] or 911.

Police Services

Bow Island/Foremost is served by a 5-member regional detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police [RCMP] [Tel: 403-545-2100] or 911.

Ambulance Services

Local ambulance service is provided by the Emergency Services staff
[Tel: 403-545-2400].
[Fax: 403-545-2627]

Community Services

Municipal**Town of Bow Island**

P.O. Box 100
Bow Island, Alberta
T0K 0G0

Tel: 403-545-2522
Fax: 403-545-6642
email townoffice@bowisland.com

Forty Mile Regional Family and Communiy and Support Services (FCSS)

P.O. Box 100
506 - Centre Street
Bow Island, Alberta
T0K 0G0
Tel: 403-545-2200
Fax:403-545-6642
email: fcss40ml@bowisland.com
website: www.fcss40ml.ca

Bow Island Municipal Library

510 Centre Street
Bow Island, Alberta
T0K 0G0
Tel: 403-545-2828
Fax:403-545-6642
email: bowlib@shortgrass.ca
website: <http://www.shortgrass-lib.ab.ca/bowisland/>

Public Works

502- Centre Street
Bow Island, Alberta
T0K 0G0
Tel: 403-545-2522
email: townoffice@bowisland.com
website:www.bowisland.com

Provincial

Medical Examiner-Coroner
Agriculture Irrigation Division

Federal

Canada Post Office
Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Key Contacts

MUNICIPAL

Town of Bow Island

Box 100
502 Centre Street
Bow Island, Alberta
T0K 0G0
Tel: 403-545-2522
email: townoffice@bowisland.com

Alan Hyland, Mayor
Tel: 403-545-2522
Fax:403-545-6642
email: mayor@bowisland.com

Anna-Marie Bridge, Town Manager
 Tel: 403-545-2522
 Fax: 403-545-6642
 email: anna-marie@bowisland.com

Economic Development Committee

Bruce Corraini, Chairperson
 Alan Hyland
 Gordon Reynolds

Alberta Economic Development

109 Provincial Building
 346 - 3 Street S.E.
 Medicine Hat, Alberta
 T1A 0G7
 Tel: 403-529-3630
 Fax: 403-529-3140

Elvira Smid
 Regional Manager
elvira.smid@gov.ab.ca

Member of Parliament

LaVar Payne
 Constituency Address
 112 - 1310 Kingsway Avenue SE
 Medicine Hat, Alberta
 T1A 2Y4
 Telephone: (403) 528-4698
 Fax: (403) 528- 4365

Google Map

Bow Island, Alberta, Canada



Statistics

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