NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026

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Fire Prevention Week

October 4-10

Fire Chief's Message

James Barnhill, Fire Chief, Rainbow Lake Fire Dept.

I would like to thank the dedicated group of volunteers who have worked hard training and preparing to help our friends and neighbors.

We, as a community, must continue to strive to ensure we remain safe. You can do your part by following some fire safety rules. Continue to use CSA rated electrical equipment, replace frayed wires and pay special attention to lit candles and pots on the stove.

Remember to play safe because we want to continue to see you in our community!



TOWN OF RAINBOW LAKE

Many thanks to our Fire Department!



James Barnhill
Fire Chief



Ron Stevens
Deputy Fire Chief



Dereck Pretula
Firefighter



Brett Foldessy
Firefighter



Ashley Howatt
Firefighter



Brendon Emmett
Firefighter



Spenser Foldessy
Firefighter



Melissa Stevens
Firefighter



Myles Simms
Firefighter



Ross Neville
Firefighter



Mackenzie Morrison
Firefighter



Jason Harley
Firefighter



JP Serrano
Firefighter



Kevin Morrison
Firefighter



Luke Perrino
Firefighter

Not Pictured

David Simms
Firefighter

YOUTH CENTRE AGM



OCTOBER 8, 2026

6:30PM AT THE YOUTH CENTRE



REC Rundown

Summer has come to an end, and the flower pots are now bare. Recreation would like to give a big thank you to Jayla who worked hard to maintain the flowers, and made sure they looked stunning and beautiful over the summer months.

With fall upon us, we now prepare for the transition into the winter season and its activities. Pickleball will still be available just moved into the curling rink, as we prepare to put the ice in next month.

– Sherri



Public Works Post

October in Public Works Forecast: 30% Fall, 70% Winter, and 100% Public Works Will Be Keeping Our Eyes on The Weather

Fall is here, and Public Works is hoping that we can eke out some more time before the winter season starts to intrude without an invitation like it usually does. Road grading and maintenance will continue as long as the weather allows us. See a pothole or road issue? Let us know! (780-956-3934) We try to keep an eye on everything, but we can't be everywhere at once. And if it's *that* pothole… don't worry, we've probably already been introduced.

At the Airport, we are getting ready for the seasonal winter closure and securing our facilities until snow season begins. Also, we managed to get something out of Town before the winter started: our electronic waste was collected on September 22nd. TVs, computers, and other electronics have moved to greener pasture, not our Transfer Station. Thank you to all those people who spent time disposing of their electronics properly. It really helps us with our job at the Transfer Station.

Meanwhile, our crew is transitioning from fall maintenance to winter preparations. Snow removal equipment is checked and serviced, because apparently it is not a proper winter maintenance plan to wait until December and hope that it won't snow. As long as Mother Nature does not shut down our fall operations, we will grade, clean and prepare our equipment for whatever will happen in the next few months.

And as always**, please slow down and give Public Works crews and equipment room to maneuver when we are working**. Once the winter season starts, remember that our equipment is large, we have a lot of stopping distance and sometimes visibility is poor. Mother Nature controls our schedule, and we just try to keep up with her.

Enjoy what is left of fall and see you after the first snowfall!

Your Public Works Crew
Grading roads, preparing for snow, and pretending that winter isn't already here

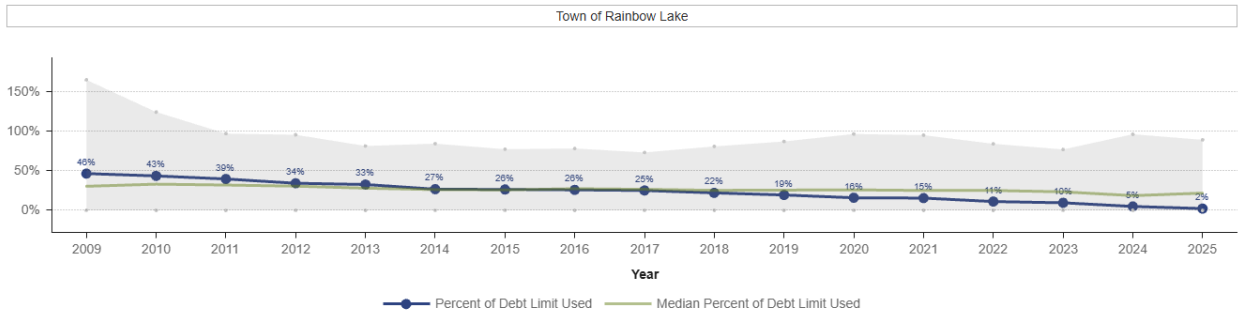
– Joy



CAO Corner

A major town milestone was achieved earlier this year with little to no fanfare. The significance of this achievement cannot be understated as it will provide the municipality with more financial flexibility in the short term.

Back on July 5, 2005, the Town of Rainbow Lake borrowed $1 million from the Alberta Capital Finance Authority to pay for a new water treatment plant. Twenty years later, the debenture has been fully paid. The municipality will save approximately $200,000 annually. I admire the commitment of past councils and administration to take a cautious borrowing approach. The Town has steadily decreased its debt load and carries very little debt.



One of the reasons we have managed to maintain a low debt ratio is that the Town has been aggressive when it comes to applying for provincial and federal grants. Unfortunately, these grants are harder to access and often require the municipality to make upfront financial contributions before the other levels of government contribute. A big part of our success is the work of Dan Fletcher to apply for grant funding. When I speak with government funders, I often hear that Rainbow Lake is a top municipality when it comes to grant reporting. Our grant reputation is solid, and we strive to keep it that way.

cont.

As we continue to inch forward into fall, I am excited to report that the Recreation Centre' ice arena will be opened this year. The ice will be available for public skates as well as those looking for a bit of competitive and fun shinny hockey, too. I am sharpening my blades and getting ready for the October 30th opening. Prior to coming to Rainbow Lake, I had very little knowledge of what it takes to install ice. It is a laborious and time-consuming process. The ice must be patiently built up layer by layer, and any mistakes, like applying layers too fast, poor water quality, and the importance of sealing before adding paint or graphics, can be disastrous It is a credit to our town staff that we have one of the smoothest ice surfaces in the region. Let's make good use of it this season.

– Jason

Water Utility Update

Concerning the manganese levels in the municipal drinking water, Alberta Health has issued a public letter notice to residents of Rainbow Lake on Friday, September 25th explaining the manganese levels have been brought under control, since June 1st. There are no further issues concerning elevated manganese levels in the residential drinking water.

Proceeding forward the manganese control program with weekly process testing will remain in operation for the long term.

We have an excavation in progress on Chinchaga, please exercise caution in this area during this necessary repair period.

Thank you to all our citizens for your support and understanding concerning the manganese issue and on all other fronts, your continued support is valued and appreciated.

– James

Alberta Primary and Preventative Health Services

10025 Jasper Avenue NW
PO Box 1360 Stn Main
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2N3
Canada
www.alberta.ca/primary-and-preventative-health-services

September 25, 2026

To: Residents of Rainbow Lake

Medical Officers of Health within the Government of Alberta's department of Primary and Preventative Health Services (PPHS) in collaboration with Alberta Health Services (AHS) Environmental Public Health are providing an update on the manganese levels in the Town of Rainbow Lake's water supply.

Following elevated manganese levels identified earlier this year, planned corrective actions have been implemented at the water treatment plant. These actions have enabled the local water treatment operator to maintain manganese levels in the drinking water distribution system below the Health Canada maximum acceptable concentration of 0.12 mg/L. Since June 01, 2026, manganese levels in the drinking water distribution system have been below the Health Canada maximum acceptable concentration.

This means that the manganese levels currently measured in the Town's drinking water distribution system are considered safe for use, including for drinking and preparing infant formula. **The previous precautionary recommendation for formula-fed babies, children and pregnant women to use an alternate source of drinking water or additionally treated tap water is no longer required**.

As a reminder, manganese is a naturally occurring element commonly found in groundwater and surface water across Alberta. Water quality monitoring will continue to ensure manganese levels in the distribution system and that drinking water continues to meet Alberta standards. AHS Environmental Public Health will continue to work with Alberta Environment and Protected Areas and the Town of Rainbow Lake to monitor manganese levels and support ongoing water treatment efforts.

If you have questions about manganese levels in the drinking water or have health-related questions, contact your health care provider or Health Link at 811 to speak with a registered nurse.

Please refer to the attached information sheet for more information.

Sincerely,

North Zone Medical Officers of Health

Classification: Protected A

Alberta Primary and Preventative Health Services

Fact Sheet

Elevated Manganese Levels in Town of Rainbow Lake Drinking Water

September 25, 2026

Medical Officers of Health within the Government of Alberta's department of Primary and Preventative Health Services (PPHS) in collaboration with Alberta Health Services (AHS) Environmental Public Health are providing an update on the manganese levels in the Town of Rainbow Lake's water supply.

What is manganese?

- Manganese is a naturally occurring trace metal commonly found in groundwater and surface water supplies across Alberta.
- It enters water through natural weathering of rock and soil, environmental runoff, and seasonal changes in lake conditions.

Is there any risk to my health?

- Manganese Levels in the drinking water distribution system previously exceeded the Health Canada maximum acceptable concentration (MAC) of 0.12 mg/L. Between January and May 2026, exceedances ranging from 0.15–0.33 mg/L had been observed.
    - The overall risk to health during this period was considered low as these levels were well below those expected to cause health impacts for the general population.
- Since June 01, 2026, manganese levels in the drinking water distribution system have ranged from 0.036-0.084 mg/L, which are below the Health Canada MAC. Residents, including vulnerable groups such as children and pregnant women, can use the Town's drinking water as usual, including for preparing infant formula.

How can formula-fed infants, young children, and pregnant women protect their health?

- The previous recommendation to use bottled water or additionally treated tap water for formula-fed infants, young children and pregnant women is no longer required. All residents can use the Town of Rainbow Lake's drinking water as usual, including for drinking and preparing infant formula
- Additional treatment is no longer required because manganese levels in the drinking water distribution system are currently below the Health Canada MAC.
    - As a personal preference, residents can continue to treat tap water using a reverse osmosis filter or similar device should they chose to do so.
- *Please note that boiling water does not remove manganese.*

Are there any other health concerns I should be aware of?

- Low manganese concentration levels that are around 0.02 mg/L may cause staining to pipes, laundry, and fixtures, and may also have a metallic taste, but this is not a health concern.

Classification: Protected A

How can you be sure the risk to my health is considered low? Should I be tested?

- Manganese is an essential nutrient with the majority coming from a normal dietary intake.
- Negative health impacts from manganese in drinking water would not be expected from short term and low-level exceedances, particularly in the general population.
- Since June 01, 2026, manganese levels in the drinking water distribution system have been below the Health Canada MAC.
    - The current recorded manganese levels in the Town of Rainbow Lake's water are not expected to cause health concerns even for higher risk groups such as young children and pregnant women.

Does this impact how I use water for other things (i.e. bathing)?

- There are no additional precautions needed for using water for other activities, such bathing, laundry or watering your plants.

What work has been done to address this issue?

- The Town of Rainbow Lake's water treatment operator implemented corrective actions at the water treatment plant to reduce manganese levels in the drinking water distribution system.
- These actions have been effective in maintaining manganese levels below the Health Canada maximum acceptable concentration (MAC) of 0.12 mg/L since June 01, 2026.
- The Alberta government, AHS Environmental Public Health and the Town of Rainbow Lake will continue to monitor the manganese levels and ensure it remains at acceptable levels as set out in the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality.

When do you anticipate this issue being resolved?

- Manganese levels have shown a decline by late spring 2026, as operational adjustments continue at the water treatment plant.
- While manganese levels in the source water remain elevated, the current treatment process is effectively managing manganese levels in the drinking water supplied to residents.
- Water quality monitoring will continue to ensure manganese levels in the distribution system remain below applicable standards and that drinking water continues to meet regulatory requirements.

Who can I speak to if I have additional questions?

- If you have health questions, contact your health care provider or Health Link at 811 to speak with a registered nurse.

Where can I find more information about the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality?

- For more information, visit:
    - Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines (Government of Canada): www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/environmental-workplace-health/water-quality/drinking-water/canadian-drinking-water-guidelines.html
    - Water Talk- Manganese in drinking water (Government of Canada): www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/environmental-workplace-health/reports-publications/water-quality/water-talk-manganese.html

Classification: Protected A

Sani Station

With cooler temperatures approaching, the sani station will be closed for the season on Friday, October 2, 2026.



Dark Days

As the days continue to get shorter and shorter, we would like to remind motorists to slow down around playgrounds and school zones. Kids are back in school and Halloween is around the corner. Ensure your headlights are on and your attention stays on the road.



The Town Office will be closed on Monday, October 12, 2026 for Thanksgiving.

We hope everyone has a wonderful day!

We will reopen on Tuesday, October 13

TOWN OF RAINBOW LAKE

Town Office (Administration)
Box 149, 65 Imperial Drive
Rainbow Lake, AB T0H 2Y0
780-956-3934

Recreation Complex
(Rec Plex)
1 Atco Road
780-956-3778

Public Works
(Town Shop)
58 Imperial Drive
780-956-3949

Fire Hall
58 Imperial Drive
780-956-3354
(Emergencies, dial 9-1-1)