

TOWN OF GRANDE CACHE



March 2010

Community Economic Profile

Majestic vistas of mountain peaks and valleys encircle a small town sitting high in the front ranges and foothills of the Canadian Rockies. Grande Cache is a growing community with a wealth of opportunity in tourism, residential and resource industry development.

For More Information visit: www.grandecache.ca

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Town of Grande Cache

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC PROFILE

LOCATION

The Town of Grande Cache, Alberta is an undiscovered gem! Nestled midway between Grande Prairie and Hinton on Highway 40, the scenic route to Alaska, the town is just under a two hour drive from Jasper National Park.

Distances From:	
Edmonton	440 kms
Hinton	140 kms
Grande Prairie	180 kms

Modern living is balanced with mountain wilderness, affordability, and a genuine small-town atmosphere. Built on a mountain plateau, the town faces south towards the Continental Divide and the pristine Willmore Wilderness Park. An elevation of 4200 feet gives a panoramic view of 21 mountain peaks and 2 river valleys.

CLIMATE

The weather is moderate. Winters are tempered by warm Chinook winds. Summers are mild with temperatures ranging between 15 to 25 degrees Celsius. The town's northern location gives it more than 17 hours of daylight on a summer day.

POPULATION

Due to the change in Grande Cache's economy, the make-up of the town's population has definitely changed since 2001. While the 2006 Census indicates that the current population in Grande Cache is 3,783, the Town is confident that this number has now risen over 4,000 and the estimated population of Grande Cache is closer to 4,200.

There are six aboriginal Co-ops within the area with a total of over 330 residents. A number of work camps exist within the trading area, although these tend to be more transient based, therefore it is difficult to calculate actual population.

Many of our industries are growing, which will affect our population in the near future with additional families being recruited to the community.

ECONOMIC BASE

The Town of Grande Cache was established in the early seventies to accommodate the development of a coal mine. Throughout its short history, Grande Cache's economy has been strongly affected by the ever-changing world markets for natural resources.

Grande Cache offers endless opportunities for outdoor recreation and adventure, a relaxed lifestyle and ever expanding investment potential. Economic growth has been strong over the last several years and is anticipated to continue into the foreseeable future. Significant growth in all sectors of the economy is creating new employment opportunities in Grande Cache.

KEY INDUSTRIES

In response to booms and recessions, the community strove for economic diversification, and successfully expanded into different industries. Today, the key industries in Grande Cache are oil & gas exploration and development, forestry, coal production, tourism, thermal-electricity generation, and a federal correctional institution. There is a varied retail sector servicing residents & visitors, and a growing service sector supporting expanding resource industries in the area.

Oil & Gas Exploration & Development

There has been a rapid expansion of oil and gas development in the area. Corporations including EnCana, Conoco Phillips, Paramount Resources, Tourmaline Oil Corp, Husky Energy, and Suncor Energy employ around 120 employees and contract operators in the area.

Coal Production

Grande Cache Coal Corporation currently employs over 500 people with plans to expand operations to meet the global demand for metallurgical coal. Milner Power received approvals to proceed with mining operations at #14 Mine, which will require a peak volume of 200 workers during the one year construction. 75 new full time employees will be required to operate the new mine.

Thermal- Electricity Generation

Milner Power's power plant currently employs 70 people, and uses coal to produce electricity. Operation expansions include a new \$1.4 billion dollar power plant. On average, 450 workers will be required with a peak force of 800 workers over the duration of the three year construction period. Up to 40 new positions will be required for operations.

Forestry

Forestry continues through timber harvesting and the opening of a value-added lumber mill by Foothills Forest Products, which employs 200 people. There are plans to expand the wood pellet production, as well as potential expansion for power generation and the value-added forest products operation.

Federal Correctional Institution Tourism

The Grande Cache Institution is immediately adjacent to the town, and moved from minimum to medium security in 2009. They currently employ 268 staff, and plan on recruiting 30 additional employees by the end of 2010.

The tourism economy continues to grow to help diversify our economic base, with increasing tourism products and services. Currently we have 1 Whitewater Rafting company, 3 Horseback Riding outfitters, 1 Interpretive Hiking outfitter, 3 day spas, and one store offering Outdoor Sport & Recreation Equipment Rentals

DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

Looking at long-term development, Grande Cache is seeking developers and investors with tourism, recreation, and residential products to help realize the potential of the area. A strong core group of business owners, working with the community, are dedicated to the future.

Private developers have purchased commercial mixed-use and industrial land immediately east of the Town Centre across Highway #40 at both the north and south ends of town. Both areas are seeking investors and offer development opportunities.

The Town of Grande Cache is currently in the process of acquiring approximately 2,400 acres of land from the Province south of the community towards the Sulphur River to provide for additional residential, commercial, and recreational developments.

Total Building Permit Values	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Building Permits Value, Commercial	\$5,153,000	\$7,995,000	\$ 734,500	\$ 8,865,000	\$ 161,500
Building Permits Value, Industrial	\$0	\$3,234,000	\$1,025,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 0
Building Permits Value, Institutional	\$0	\$ 800,000	\$1,447,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 20,097,000
Building Permits Value, Residential	\$17,199,938	\$15,749,000	\$4,303,000	\$ 7,499,000	\$ 2,299,200
Building Permits Value, Total	\$22,653,938	\$27,778,051	\$7,509,513	\$17,014,008	\$ 22,557,705
Total Housing Starts	112	51 + 40 condo units	13	8 + 58 condo units	5

Town of Grande Cache Statistics

TAXATION

2009	Residential	Non-Residential
Municipal Tax Rate	6.665	17.329
Education (ASFF)	1.805	3.812
Seniors Accommodation	0.131	0.131
Total Mill Rate	8.6	21.271

TRANSPORTATION

Air Service Grande Cache Municipal Aerodrome is located 24 kms from town, has a 5,000-foot runway and is operated on a 24-hour basis. The airport handles charter and emergency flight transportation. Major Airports are located in Grande Prairie, Hinton/Jasper, and Edmonton.

Rail Service Alberta Rail-Net serves Grande Cache under contractual arrangements. Passenger service is provided by Canadian National Railways to Hinton, which is the closest depot.

Highways Grande Cache is connected to Hinton to the south, and Grande Prairie to the north, via Highway 40, the Bighorn Highway.

Trucking Services 5 carriers

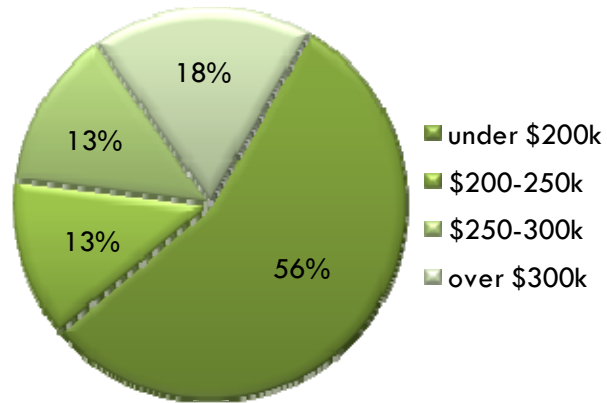
Couriers & Delivery Services 3 carriers

Taxis 1 carrier

HOUSING

The average sale price of homes is approximately \$220,000.00.

Current prices of single family homes on the market today



Rental vacancy in the community is low. Rents range throughout the town from about \$700.00/month for a one bedroom to as much as \$3,000.00/month for fully furnished homes. The average for a rental home is approximately \$1,200 - 1,400/month.

EDUCATION

Grande Cache is part of the Grande Yellowhead Public School Division #35, headquartered in Edson, and all levels of public education are available in the community.

Public schools and organizations offering educational services:

Sheldon Coates Elementary School	Kindergarten to Grade 3
Summitview Middle School	Grades 4 to 8
Grande Cache Community High School	Grades 9 to 12
SonRise Christian School	Kindergarten to Grade 8
Susa Creek School	Kindergarten to Grade 8 <i>Located in Susa Creek</i>

Post-secondary educational services available in Grande Cache:

Yellowhead Regional Educational Consortium (Y.R.E.C)	Academic courses and upgrading for ages 18 and up. Also provides courses from various educational institutions through distance learning (<i>University of Alberta and Athabasca, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology [NAIT], Grant MacEwan Community College and Grande Prairie Regional College</i>).
Community Adult Learning Council (C.A.L.C)	Offers adult education and community learning programs
Grade Expectations	An off-campus education center, providing correspondence courses

UTILITIES & SERVICES

Electricity: **Direct Energy**
1-866-420-3174
www.DirectEnergyRegulatedServices.com

Natural Gas: **Alta Gas Utilities**
1-866-222-2067
www.altagasutilities.com/contract.htm

Telephone Services: **Telus** **Rogers Communications**
310-2255 1-888-764-3771
www.telus.ca www.rogers.ca

Internet Services: **Telus**
310-2255
www.telus.ca

Cable & Satellite Television: **Northern Cablevision** **Bell ExpressView & Star Choice**
1-800-661-1904 available at The Source
www.northerncablevision.ab.ca 780-827-3939

Water: **Town of Grande Cache**
780-827-3610

The Town's water supply comes from Victor Lake and Grande Cache Lake. The water is filtered and chlorinated, then distributed through a modern piping system.

Waste Management: **Town of Grande Cache**
780-827-3362

Sewage treatment provided by a secondary wastewater treatment plant. The facility has the capacity for twice the current load.

Garbage Collection: **Town of Grande Cache Landfill**
780-827-3610

Residential refuse is collected weekly and businesses are serviced 3 times a week. A modified landfill facility is located 1.5 km from town off Highway 40 north.

Recycling: **Grande Cache Landfill**
780-827-3610

Car batteries, wood, all metal, computers, TV & electronics, tires, wrecked vehicles

Town Administration Office
(10001 Hoppe Ave) 780-827-3362
Ink cartridges

Public Works
(9706 Shand Ave) 780-827-3610
Used oil, oil filters, plastic oil jugs, oil pails, recyclable batteries

Recycle Depot
(Located on the ball diamonds road) 780-827-3610
Clear & coloured glass, newspaper, office paper, envelopes, flyers & catalogues, tin cans, # 2, # 4, # 5 plastics, milk cartons, cardboard

Grande Cache Bottle Depot
(10014 97th St) 780-827-5690

HEALTH CARE

Grande Cache Community Health Complex has 10 acute care beds, 5 physicians, an Aboriginal Health Liaison, Palliative/Pediatric/Pastoral care, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, X-ray facilities and laboratory. The Public Health Centre maintains an office in the Provincial Building. Health services available through the Grande Cache Public Health Centre include Public Health Nursing, Seniors' Wellness Clinic, Home Care, Mental Health Clinic, Nutrition Counseling, and Speech Therapy.

Other medical services include a medical clinic, chiropractor, and one dentist. An optometrist visits Grande Cache once a week.

Veterinary services are available one day per week; full time services are located in Hinton and Grande Prairie.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Emergency 9-1-1 service provides easy access to Police, Fire, and Ambulance services in Grande Cache.

Fire Protection	Grande Cache is served by a 35-member volunteer fire department, providing 24 hour service. They have a fully equipped fire hall and a complete line of rescue vehicles including two pumpers and two rescue trucks.
Police Services	Grande Cache is served by a local detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).
Ambulance Services	Local Emergency Medical Services are run through Alberta Health Services EMS. They have a full-time Basic Life Support ambulance service with 5 full time EMS Technicians and 2 ambulances.

TOURISM & RECREATION

Grande Cache is the gateway to the Willmore Wilderness Park, 4,464 square km of pure unspoiled mountain wilderness. Motorized vehicles are not allowed in the park. A network of trails provides access to the backcountry. Fast-flowing rivers and streams with waterfalls are found throughout the park.

The area around the town is easily accessed by a marked trail network. The town trails are traveled by hikers, bikers and ATV's. For those who love the water, the area is home to many rivers and lakes for fishing, canoeing and kayaking. In the winter, the outdoors can be enjoyed on snowmobiles, snow-shoes, cross-country skis.

The Akasaka Recreation Center has a 25-meter heated pool, curling rink, indoor ice arena and fitness center. Outside the center is a soccer/football field and skateboard park. The redevelopment of the Akasaka Recreation Centre commenced in the fall of 2009, with a new aquatic facility one of the main highlights.

Within town limits are several baseball diamonds with dug-outs, a small BMX track, and a stunning 9-hole golf course and driving range. There are numerous parks and playgrounds throughout the community including a water spray park and Labyrinth Park.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Events in Grande Cache	
North Face Canadian Death Race	A 125 kilometre extreme running race. The trail includes three mountain summits and over 17,000 feet of elevation change, as well as the crossing of a major river at our spectacular Sulphur Gates canyon at the confluence of the Smoky and Sulphur Rivers. This race is held every August long weekend.
Deathfest	During the Death Race Grande Cache's largest community festival takes place. This family festival runs every August long weekend and features great Canadian musical acts during the Saturday & Sunday night <i>Killer Concerts</i> , and a variety of other entertainment for all ages, all weekend long.
Passport to the Peaks	This unique hiking program celebrates the beauty of the 21 mountain peaks that surround Grande Cache. Each mountain is rated as either Bronze, Silver or Gold depending upon the level of difficulty. On each summit is a Cairn Box with an embossing Summit Stamp mounted inside, particular to that mountain.
Wild River Rendezvous	With some of the best white water rapids in Alberta, Grande Cache hosts an annual weekend of kayaking the first weekend of June. Paddlers of all skill levels can join local paddles and enjoy kayaking our different rivers.

ACCOMMODATIONS

A variety of accommodations exist in Grande Cache, including 7 hotels, motels, and inns with over 440 rooms. There are also bed and breakfasts, lodges, cabins, and campgrounds.

Nearby campgrounds include Grande Cache Municipal Campground, Hide-A-Way Camp, Blue Bridge Campground, Pierre Greys Lake Campground, and Mason Creek Day use area, with over 200 campsites.

Ten full service restaurants, 5 lounges, and 3 take-out restaurants service the town.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The community provides for everyday needs through a varied retail sector. All the basics are covered, including groceries, clothing, automotive, hardware and building supplies. The town center is home to a variety of shops and restaurants. Professional services are also available, such as real estate, insurance, financial, and legal services.

Faiths, Special Interest Groups and Organizations:	
Churches	Cornerstone Mountain Assembly, Grande Cache United Church, Holy Cross Roman Catholic Parish, Kingdom Hall, Pineview Alliance Church, Mount Carmel Lutheran Church.
Health Assistant Groups	Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Centre (AADAC), Alcoholics Anonymous, Transition House Society, Victim Services Unit.
Financial/Employment Services	Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH), A Food Bank, Aseniwuche Winewak Nation Job Corps, Job Start Employment Centre.
Aboriginal / Metis Services	Aseniwuche Winewak Nation (AWN), Metis Local #1994, Metis Employment Services