

PLACE NAMES OF THE FOOTHILLS



The foothills of Foothills County.

Foothills County

Foothills County is the rural municipality that represents rural and hamlet residents in a 3,600-km area excluding the urban municipalities of Okotoks, High River, Black Diamond, Turner Valley and the Village of Longview.

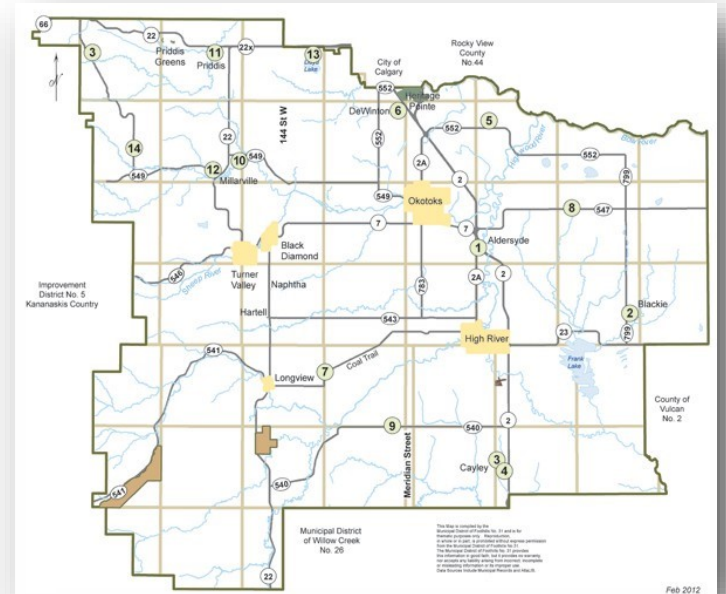
From 1954 until 2018, it was known as the Municipal District of Foothills. The MD of Foothills formed following the merger of several small individual municipal districts that had been established as early as the late 1880s. These included the MD of Sheep Creek near Okotoks, MD of Dinton, MD of Blackie and MD of Marquis to the east, MD of Highwood near High River, MD of Stockland near Millarville, and MD of Turner Valley, among others.

Discussions to amalgamate all into one began in 1953 and the new district was temporarily called 'Coterminous Boundaries Area No. 189'. It was given the name 'Municipal District of Sheep River No. 31' by Alberta Municipal Affairs on Jan. 1, 1954. On March 2, 1954 elections for this large, new district were held. One of the first orders of business was to change the name and councillors voted unanimously to change the name to Municipal District of Foothills No. 31.

It remained that name for six decades. In 2014, MD council polled residents regarding a name change with results split down the middle — 2,011 for Foothills County and 2,014 wanting MD of Foothills. Council opted to stay the course.

In 2018, council voted to rename it Foothills County as it felt 'county' was more recognizable as a rural municipality. Two-thirds of the rural municipalities in Alberta are known as counties. The name change took affect Jan. 1, 2019.

The 2016 federal census indicates that 22,766 people live in Foothills County. Sources: Foothills County; Okotoks Review, and Gladys-Dinton through the Years.



Farm near Millarville.

Asks Change of Name from Sheep River to Foothills

The first meeting of the new council of Sheep River M.D. was held on March 17 at the municipal office in High River. A matter which came up early in the meeting was a proposed change of name from Sheep River to Foothills M.D. All approved the suggestion of Foothills M.D. and the request for change of name will go forward to the provincial Dept of Municipal Affairs.

The returning officer W. S. Morrison was present to administer oath of office to the councillors of the new municipal district. John Cowling was elected reeve, and J. H. Sutherland deputy reeve for the next six months. The committees for the various departments will be named later.

L. C. VanTighem was appointed secretary-treasurer and the future meetings which will be held in the municipal office at High River were set for the second Thursday of each month.

N. S. Kennedy from the department of Municipal Affairs who has been administrator during the re-organization period, gave his report covering the positions of the former municipal districts of Turner Valley and Highwood, and what had been done in administrative lines since the union on January 1.

A meeting will be held shortly with the board of Foothills School division.

Okotoks
Review,
March 26,
1954