

CENTRAL ALBERTA PROFILE

WOODY NOOK CRC

Overview

Central Alberta is a wonderful place to live. It is the fastest growing area in Canada, and combines the best parts of urban and rural living. Green spaces abound, along with shopping, entertainment, and activity options. In this profile, we hope to answer some of your questions and give you an idea of what this region is about.

Where is Central Alberta? How many people live there?

Central Alberta is a vibrant, growing region of multiple towns, small cities and surrounding rural communities. About 150,000 people live within 50km of Woody Nook. The larger centers of Edmonton and Calgary, both with populations over 1 million, are about 90 minutes from Woody Nook. The towns of Banff and Canmore in the beautiful Rocky Mountains are about 3 hours away.

What about schooling?

There are many opportunities for Christian schooling in Central Alberta. There are Christian schools in Lacombe, Red Deer, Ponoka and Rimbey. Lacombe Christian School serves more than 300 students from Kindergarten - Grade 9 and Gateway Christian School in Red Deer serves more than 700 students from Kindergarten - Grade 12. Central Alberta Christian High School also operates in Lacombe and serves almost 100 students in grade 10-12. There are two universities in Central Alberta. Red Deer University has over 100 program options and 7,500 students. Burman University is an independent publicly funded university located in Lacombe, and sponsored by the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Burman offers a variety of concerts, speakers and events that are open to the public throughout the year. The King's University, which is supported by the Christian Reformed Church, is located in Edmonton.

What kinds of activities are available?

The communities of Central Alberta are active and vibrant. Each year Red Deer hosts YC, Canada's largest Christian Youth Conference as well as the Canadian Finals Rodeo. Red Deer hosted the 2019 Canada Winter Games and will host the World Junior Hockey Championships in the winter of 2021/22. Children's sports opportunities are endless including minor hockey, soccer, lacrosse, ringette. Gymnastics, swim clubs, archery, volleyball, basketball and other sports are also available through the community and the schools. There are adult sports as well, including volleyball, golf, swim, cycle and running clubs, ball hockey, and ice hockey. The Wolf Creek Golf Resort is listed as one of the best courses in Alberta. The Lacombe Music Teachers' Association offers a variety of music lessons including piano, voice and strings. There are a variety of orchestras, bands and choirs open to youth and adults in Lacombe and Red Deer. Farmers Markets operate in every town, along with unique shops and restaurants. There is never a shortage of fun and interesting activities to try in Central Alberta!

Are there other churches in Central Alberta?

Central Alberta is home to a number of Christian Reformed Churches that have good relationships with each other. Lacombe is also home to a number of other denominations. The Lacombe ministerial meets monthly for prayer and encouragement.

What is the weather like?

Central Alberta experiences four distinct seasons. Spring and fall are shoulder seasons with many warm, sunny days, and the excitement of seeing tractors and planting equipment in the surrounding fields. Summer is beautiful with lots of sunshine and warm weather. People love to spend time at our many lakes and beaches including Gull, Sylvan and Buffalo lakes. Opportunities for camping and RVing abound in the Rocky Mountains and nearby provincial parks. Winter is not as cold as you might think! While we do have cold days, most winter days have brilliant blue sunshine and mild temperatures. We enjoy a variety of winter sports including indoor and outdoor skating, sledding, cross-country skiing and downhill skiing at the Red Deer ski hill and the many resorts in the Rocky Mountains.

What else influences the community culture?

There is a First Nations Reserve about 45 minutes north of Lacombe. Maskwecis is home to four nations, with a population of about 8,000. Over the last number of years, Woody Nook has intentionally been building a relationship with the Louis Bull Church, located in Maskwecis. Central Alberta also has many foreign workers who find employment in the agricultural businesses in the area.