

## **Opening ceremony hosted for East Balzac water treatment plant and reservoir**

**Rocky View County, Alberta** – On September 12, 2011, Rocky View County celebrated the grand opening of the East Balzac water treatment plant and reservoir with a ribbon cutting ceremony and tours of the facility and reservoir.

Construction of the facility began in the fall of 2009 and became operational in December 2010, and water delivery began in February 2011. The East Balzac water supply system, located 20 kilometres east of Balzac, consists of a raw water reservoir, water treatment plant, transmission main, a storage reservoir and pump station and a distribution system.

The total cost of the project was \$36 million, partially funded by an \$8 million grant from Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development. The remaining project cost of \$28 million will be recouped through developer's contributions. Developer contributions vary depending on the type of development and the expected amount of water usage.

"The East Balzac water project is an enormous asset to the community," says Reeve Rolly Ashdown. "We will be better able to service residents and developments in the area enabling the County to enjoy some of the best economic advantages in Western Canada."

The plant provides an average of 2,500 cubic metres of water per day. This is equivalent to 250 water trucks per day. The Water Treatment Plant's building and treatment process have the capacity to be expanded as the need for additional water increases.

Approximately 30 visitors enjoyed refreshments provided by project partners, MPE Engineering Ltd. Following the ribbon cutting ceremony, visitors had the opportunity to tour the facility and man-made reservoir and get a closer look at the equipment needed to treat water and make it drinkable for the consumption of Balzac residents and the surrounding businesses.

"This project has been a tremendous undertaking and required a great deal of team work over the past few years," says Byron Riemann, Infrastructure and Operations Director. "We are very proud of the outstanding efforts made by our staff and partners to ensure the success of this project."

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