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# Table of Contents

<b>Message From TNRD Director for Wells Gray Country Electoral Area</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Community Overview</b>	<b>3</b>
Geographic Location	3
Climate	4
Trading Area	4
History	5
<b>Economic Base</b>	<b>6</b>
Important Economic Activities	6
<b>Demographic Profile</b>	<b>8</b>
Population Characteristics	8
Income Characteristics	9
Employment Characteristics	9
Education Characteristics	10
Construction and Housing Characteristics	11
<b>Employment Services</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>The Business Community</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Community Infrastructure</b>	<b>14</b>
Transportation Infrastructure	14
Communications Infrastructure	15
Political/Government Infrastructure	16
Utilities	17
Taxation	18
Education	19
<b>Community Services</b>	<b>21</b>
Financial	21
Health Care	21
Emergency Services	21
Police Protection	22
Legal Services	22
Court Services	22
<b>Community Lifestyle</b>	<b>23</b>
Clubs/Groups/Organizations	23
Sports/Recreation/Fitness Clubs	24
Churches	24
Cultural Facilities	24
Recreational Facilities	25
<b>Key Contacts</b>	<b>26</b>

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## **Message From the TNRD Director for Wells Gray Country Electoral Area**

Clearwater is the main business, service and social community within “Wells Gray Country.” Being an unincorporated community, local government is provided by the TNRD from Kamloops as well as Wells Gray Country Services Committee.

Wells Gray Country Services Committee administers local services by way of a nine person committee and a full time service co-ordinator. The main services provided in the Clearwater area are Sportsplex Arena, Community Parks, Cemeteries, Television Re-broadcasting, Tourism and Economic Development. The committee is dedicated to maintaining an attractive community in the areas of social programs, service provision and business enhancement.

Bert Walker  
TNRD Director

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# Community Overview

“A report written in 1862 by French fur traders shows the Clearwater River as “Fourche L’eau Clair” (Fourche because it was considered a fork of the Thompson River). This is the earliest mention of the words “Clear Water” to describe the pristine river that flows through volcanic rock, having left its silt in the settling ponds of the big three lakes upstream.”

...from research by local authority: Muriel Dunford

Clearwater, the “Gateway to Wells Gray Provincial Park”, is situated in the North Thompson Valley, 134 kilometres north of Kamloops on Yellowhead Highway #5.

As a gateway to Wells Gray, Clearwater serves as centre providing amenities to both its own residents and the travelling public. Clearwater is a thriving community with an economy based in forestry and tourism, with tourism experiencing significant growth as travelers from around the world flock to the wilderness that surrounds the community.

Clearwater features residential, commercial and industrial properties available for development and more importantly, a community prepared to attract new business enterprise. The community is self-sustaining and offers a successful retail and service industry that is capable of providing for the entire region.

Clearwater’s relaxing lifestyle and low cost of living is well suited for seniors and young working families. The community offers a safe and peaceful environment that includes all the amenities of a sustainable community including education, health care and recreational opportunities. Education is available from kindergarten to grade 12 with post-secondary opportunities also available. The community has its own hospital and medial clinic that services the surrounding area. Emergency services include a fire department, police detachment and a search and rescue operation. Recreational opportunities abound in the area with up to date facilities and some of the most spectacular scenery and wilderness in the world. Current infrastructure, which includes a newly constructed sewage and water system, is capable of serving an ever-increasing population. Other services include financial, legal and realty offices, and over 300 other businesses.

## Geographic Location

Clearwater is situated on Highway 5 en route to Edmonton or Vancouver. It is in the North Thompson Valley in the Shuswap Highlands of the Interior Plateau, the dominant geographical feature of Central British Columbia. The Cariboo Mountains define the western side of the valley while the Monashee Mountains form the eastern boundary. Both ranges rise over 3,300 metres above sea level.

City	KM	Miles	Travel Time
Calgary	635	424	7 ¾
Edmonton	623	415	7
Kamloops	134	89	1 ¾
Kelowna	277	184	3 ¾
Prince George	409	273	6
Vancouver	417	278	5
Seattle	597	398	6 ½

Clearwater sits at an elevation of 406 metres above sea level. Its latitude and longitude coordinates are: 51°59’ north by 119°91’ west.

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## Climate

Clearwater boasts a moderate climate. In the summer, days are warm with cool evenings. Winters are moderate with periodic cold snaps. Moderate snow falls in the valley and large accumulations in the Mountains are normal.

Climate Statistics	
Annual Mean	6.5
July Mean	19.0
January Mean	-7.0
Rainfall (mm)	118.0
Snowfall (mm)	580.4

## Trading Area

Clearwater has a trading area that encompasses Avola, Birch Island, Blue River, Little Fort and Vavenby. The estimated population of the trading area exceeds 5,700.

### Avola

Avola is located 65 kilometres north of Clearwater on Yellowhead Highway #5. The community relies on the forest industry as its primary industry with area lumber mills being the major employers. Businesses in Avola include a restaurant, service station, motel and pub. Many residents are self-employed and their services cater almost exclusively to area mills.

### Birch Island

Birch Island is located eight kilometres north of Clearwater. Originally, it was the largest community on the northern stretch of the Yellowhead Highway and was home to a railway station and large hotel. Today, Birch Island is a small farming and logging community that supports a church and store. With most of its residents commuting to Clearwater and Vavenby for work, the community's principal role is as a residential satellite.

### Blue River

Blue River, “Jewel of the Yellowhead”, is situated at the northern extremity of the North Thompson Valley, 105 kilometres north of Clearwater. Made famous by Mike Wiegele’s Skiing Resort, Blue River has grown to become a thriving tourism and forestry based community. The forest industry in the area revolves around independent logging contractors and the two saw mills located just south in Vavenby. The community has a healthy service and retail sector with a majority of local businesses catering to tourism traffic. Blue River has one of the few airstrips in the North Thompson Valley and is also home to an internationally known luge hill, considered one of the best in North America. The community has one elementary school and regional government representation is found through the Blue River Improvement District that provides a volunteer fire department, street lighting and garbage pickup.

### Little Fort

Little Fort, known as the “Hub of the North Thompson”, is situated at the junction of Highway #24 and the Yellowhead Highway #5. It lies 34 kilometres south of Clearwater and serves as a support centre for local hunting and fishing activities. The storied Cariboo is connected by Highway #24 that runs west from Little Fort to 93 Mile House. Unlike many smaller North Thompson communities, Little Fort does not have a major employer. The economy consists of traditional agriculture operations such as hay and cattle farms and service based businesses.

Businesses rely heavily on highway traffic and tourists, and the community has seen an increase in the number of businesses and it's residential population over the past few years.

## **Vavenby**

The community of Vavenby is located 27 kilometres northeast of Clearwater on Yellowhead Highway #5. Forestry is the primary industry with a large portion of its approximately 600 residents working for Slocan Lumber Mill located in the community. Many residents also commute to Clearwater for work. The community is host to a Post Office, general store, thrift shop, Petro Canada Bulk Plant and a tire repair and sales shop. A multitude of home based businesses can also be found throughout the area. There is one elementary school and the Vavenby Improvement District provides fire protection and operates a water system.

## **History**

Clearwater was originally named “Raft River” by the founder of the settlement, a prospector by the name of John Smith. The fur trade brought the earliest non-native settlers through the area. Hudson's Bay Journals of the time reveal a vast commerce in furs and wood through the North Thompson in the 1850's.

The next wave of European visitors to the valley began in the 1860's. Prospectors in search of gold in the Cariboo and Fraser Valley passed through the area along their journey. The major First Nations tribe settled in the area at that time were the Okelhs. They were defeated, along with the neighbouring Canim Tribe, by the Chilcotins in 1870.

Europeans first settled the valley shortly before the turn of the century. Dutch Lake, situated in the heart of present day Clearwater, was settled around 1900. Clearwater soon became a central service centre for the entire North Thompson Valley. Steamboats traveled as far north as Vavenby until 1914 when CN Rail's main line was established through the entire valley, becoming the dominant form of long-distance transportation.

During the first third of the century, Clearwater and area experienced little or no growth. It was not until the early 1930's when families began to homestead the area and a road to Kamloops was completed. A bus service was inaugurated between Kamloops and Clearwater in 1932. The population continued to grow as a result of new access to the region and this resulted in the first school being built in 1939. The first church was established in 1953, which also marked the construction of the Trans-Mountain Pipeline through Clearwater.

By the early 1960's, the Yellowhead Highway's construction was well underway. It opened in 1970 despite many of the bridges not being finished. The new highway fueled yet another influx of residents and businesses that is still being felt today. The settlement of Clearwater was incorporated under the Water Act as an Improvement District in 1968.

# **Economic Base**

Forestry, tourism and agriculture form a strong, diversified economic base for the Clearwater area. Though the dominant industry is forestry, tourism is a significant economic contributor and the fastest growing industry in the region. The phenomenal growth of tourism is characterized by the continuous increase in tourists into Wells Gray Park and popularity of white water rafting on the Clearwater River. Agriculture is small in scale with most pursuits directed towards local consumption. Various government entities also provide employment that boosts the local economy.

The film industry is a budding economic sector for Clearwater and the entire region. Numerous movie and television productions have been shot in the region and the number will continue to grow as the TNRD's Film Commission continues to actively market the area as ideal for production.

## **Important Economic Activities**

### **Forestry**

Approximately 75% of the area's labour force is either directly or indirectly dependent on the forest industry. Fortunately, area mills have shown vision and foresight to ensure the sustainability of the industry in the area.

The predominant timber source in the North Thompson Valley consists of softwoods: spruce, fir, pine and cedar. The timber supplies two major mills in the area: Slocan Forest Products and Weyerhaeuser Canada, both located in Vavenby.

There are potential business opportunities for value-added products. Currently, locally produced wood and wood by-products represent excellent opportunities for furniture making, wood pellet production, wood trim and other novelty items.

### **Tourism**

Tourism is quickly becoming a significant industry for Clearwater. The potential for growth is enormous given the community's proximity to Wells Gray Provincial Park, white water rafting on the Clearwater River and the popularity of eco-tourism.

Clearwater provides direct access to Wells Gray Provincial Park, a vast unspoiled wilderness immersed in the Cariboo Mountains. Forged by volcanoes, sculpted by glaciers, and eroded by rivers, Wells Gray is British Columbia's land of fire, ice and water. The park is one of the largest wilderness reserves in the province, encompassing 522,000 hectares and home to over 200 species of birds and 56 mammals. In fact, most of the park is beyond the reach of motorized vehicles, traversable only by canoe or foot. Helmcken falls is the showpiece of Wells Gray Park and one of the most photographed sights in British Columbia. At 141 metres in height, it is the 4th tallest waterfall in Canada; three times the height of Niagara Falls. Wells Gray is also home to five major lakes, two large river systems, numerous other spectacular water falls and countless prominent topographical features. Provincial Park camping includes roadside, backcountry and marine sites. Private campgrounds are available outside the park. Other accommodations include an abundance of bed & breakfasts, motels, hotels, lodges, cottages, resorts and mountain chalets.

Clearwater abounds with summer activities. Although primarily known for Wells Gray Park, Clearwater is beginning to gain recognition as a destination for white water rafting enthusiasts. Tours take you up to the outlet of Clearwater Lake in Wells Gray Provincial Park and lead you on an adventure into superb white water. Beautiful scenery, wildlife and close-up views of Mother Nature's violent creation of the park greet you around every corner. White water kayaking is another activity that is gaining in popularity throughout the area. It is not uncommon to see people engaging in the sport on local rivers.

Fishing for rainbow and Kamloops trout is prevalent on local lakes. Resorts are common and provide lodgings, rental of boats and gear, and the sale of fishing licenses. The preservation of this resource is taken seriously in the area with some area lakes banning the use of motorized boats to prevent pollution and disturbing wildlife. The largest of these is Murtle Lake, the largest non-motorized lake in North America. Other summer activities include canoeing, mountain biking, hiking, photography, horseback riding and golfing.

Golfing is a popular activity with a backdrop that includes the Cariboo and Monashee Mountains. Golfers can enjoy either the Wells Gray Golf Course, situated 35 kilometres off Highway #5 north of Clearwater, or the Lacarya Golf Course, situated 8.5 kilometres west of Clearwater on Yellowhead Highway #5. Both courses offer adjoining RV parks and welcome tournaments and family reunions.

Clearwater and Wells Gray Park are also winter playgrounds. Cross-country skiing is offered at three different locations. Candle Creek, North Thompson Provincial Park and Wells Gray Park, all provide groomed trails for people of all abilities. Backcountry skiing is also available through tours in Wells Gray and will lead you deep into the park and witness scenery few others have the opportunity to see. Snowmobiling is a popular activity with local companies offering tours and rentals. The local snowmobile club, Snow-Drifters, manage and maintain groomed trails in two areas, Raft Mountain and Harp Mountain. They offers information on local trails and snow conditions. Other winter recreation opportunities include dog sledding, snowshoeing and curling.

## **Agriculture**

The scarcity of flat, arable land and a short frost-free period limits the agricultural activities in the Clearwater area. Only a small amount of agricultural activity is concentrated north of Clearwater. The soil there is at a lower elevation and is acceptable for producing a small amount of vegetables. The area does, however, host one of the province's largest sheep farms. Cattle raising and berry production are also pursued in small quantities throughout the area.

## **Government Employers**

The government sector is an important employer for the community. Three Federal and eleven Provincial Government offices operate within the community of Clearwater providing employment to area residents.

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## Film Commission

In 1988, the Thompson-Nicola Regional District established a Film Commission whose mandate was to promote the region as a location to the film and television industry. In 1998, a re constituted Film Commission Board was established to better position itself and to take advantage of film industry opportunities.

Numerous feature films, movies of the week, television episodes and commercials have filmed been in the area. The feature film, “The Pledge”, directed by Sean Penn and starring Jack Nicholson and Robyn White conducted principle photography in the year 2000.

### Other projects shot in this area include:

- The Sweet Here After
- Christmas in Calico
- Hard Core Logo
- Cadence
- Jack Rabbit Patrol
- Deepwater
- X-Files
- America’s Most Wanted
- Eyes of a Cowboy
- 5th Estate - Cattle Drive
- Bird on a Wire

Also, numerous commercials have been shot for clients such as Toyota, Ford, Kodak, Miller Beer, Nescafe, Yamaha, Canadian Tire and Chivas Regal to name a few. These projects provide a boost to the local economy with large production crews taking advantage of the services offered in the community and local residents obtaining parts as extras during filming.

# Demographic Profile

*The following information is based on Statistics Canada’s 2001 Census, unless otherwise stated.*

## Population Characteristics

The 25-44 age group represents the largest percentage of the population at 28.9%, compared to 30.1% provincially. The population of Clearwater represents 3.7% of the regional population of 119,222.

Age Distribution				
Age Group	Male	Female	Total	BC
0-14	465	450	910	706,065
15-24	315	255	565	514,340
25-44	635	635	1,270	1,174,775
45-64	625	565	1,195	979,455
65+	230	225	450	533,085
All Ages	2,270	2,125	4,395	3,907,704

Source: Statistics Canada



The average family size is the same as the regional and provincial average of 3.0.

Average Family Size			
Family Size	Approx. #	Community	BC
2-Person	794	47.4%	47.2%
3-Person	310	18.9%	20.7%
4-Person	331	20.2%	21.6%
5-Person	205	12.5%	10.5%

Source: Statistics Canada

## Income Characteristics

Since 1996, the community has seen a 18% increase in annual male income and a 3.7% increase in annual female income.

Average Annual Income		
Income	Community	BC
Average	\$27,235	\$31,544
Medium	\$19,769	\$22,095

Source: Statistics Canada

Employment represents the largest source of income for Clearwater residents at 76.9%.

Income Source		
Source	Community	BC
Earning	76.9%	75.8%
Government Transfers	14.8%	11.8%
Other Money	8.4%	12.4%

Source: Statistics Canada

## Employment Characteristics

Unemployment Rates				
Rates	Male	Female	Total	BC
Unemployment	19.0%	17.0%	18.1%	8.5%
Participation	75.1%	62.4%	68.8%	65.2%

Source: Statistics Canada

Currently the largest employing industry is Manufacturing and Construction employing 27% of the total experienced work force.

Labour Force By Industry		
Industry	Community	BC
Total Experienced Labour Force	2,275	2,014,600
Agriculture and Other Resource-based Industries	17%	5%
Manufacturing and Construction Industries	27%	16%
Wholesale and Retail Trade	8%	16%
Finance and Real Estate	1%	6%
Health and Education	11%	17%
Business Services	13%	20%
Other Services	23%	21%

Source: Statistics Canada

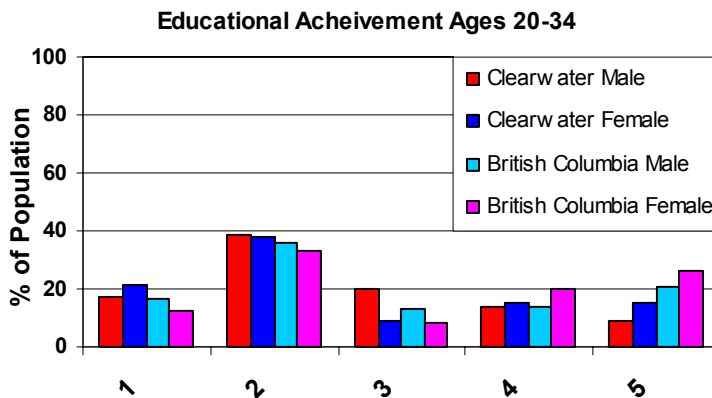
1996 BC statistics show Clearwater's self-employment rate for males at 22.1% and 17.3% for females. The 2001 BC Census shows a 28.5% decrease for males and a female increase of 60.0%. Provincially, since 1996, self-employment declined 40.3% for males and an 8.8% for females.

Employment vs. Self-Employment		
Gender & Status	Community	BC
MALES		
Paid Employees	695	742,050
Self-Employed	110	80,285
FEMALES		
Paid Employees	635	747,790
Self-Employed	175	91,105

Source: Statistics Canada

## Education Characteristics

School District #73 currently enrolls 16,467 students while the schools in Clearwater currently have a student body of 856.



- |   |  |   |                                |
|---|--|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Less than High School Graduation Diploma | 4 | College Certificate or Diploma |
| 2 | High School Graduation Diploma           | 5 | University Degree or Masters   |
| 3 | Trades Certificate or Diploma            |   |                                |

Source: Stats Canada

## Construction & Housing Characteristics

The average cost of rent in Clearwater is 12.0% less than the provincial average of \$751. The same can also be said for the average value of homes that are 44.2% less than the provincial average of \$230,645.

Dwelling Characteristics		
Characteristics	Community	BC
Dwellings Owned	1,385	1,017,490
Avg. Major Payment	\$637.00	\$904.00
Dwellings Rented	350	512,635
Avg. Rent	\$661.00	\$751.00
Avg. Value of Dwelling	\$128,717	\$230,645

Source: Statistics Canada

Building permit activity is current as of December 2002. Over the past five years there has been an average of 27 permits issued at an average yearly value of \$1,429,400.

Building Permit Activity										
	Residential		Commercial		Industrial		Remaining		Total	
Year	#	Value(\$)	#	Value(\$)	#	Value(\$)	#	Value(\$)	#	Value(\$)
2002	2	245,000	3	50,000	0	-	13	374,000	20	669,000
2001	7	679,000	3	42,000	0	0	11	7,250,000	21	7,971,000
2000	4	331,000	3	263,000	0	-	21	437,000	28	1,031,000
1999	11	1,120,000	4	698,000	1	12,000	24	430,000	40	2,260,000
1998	13	1,118,000	9	853,000	0	-	30	276,000	52	2,247,000
Totals	37	3,493,000	22	1,906,000	1	12,000	99	965,000	161	14,178,000

Source: Thompson-Nicola Regional District

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

- Royal Le Page
- Century 21

Phone: (1 - 888) 374-3022  
 Cell: (250) 319-6597  
 Phone: (250) 674-3999

# Employment Services

Clearwater Employment Services (CES) is sponsored by the Clearwater & District Chamber of Commerce, and funded by Human Resources Development Canada. The office is an employment and information service to meet employee and employer needs and provide access to federal government programs.

**Employee information and services provided include:**

- local, regional and national job listings
- casual work registry
- self-employment assistance
- local business directory
- college and training courses information and catalogues
- retraining and upgrading information
- workshops and employment counseling
- resume writing/interview preparation assistance
- job skills readiness programs
- market/job search
- career planning
- wage subsidy programs
- funding for skills enhancement

**Employer information and services provided include:**

- access to skilled labour including full time, part time and casual
- registration of job orders such as hiring, employment standards, etc.
- posting job orders to the 24 hour job board, web page, the internet and local newspaper
- wage subsidy program information
- human resources information on subjects

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Clearwater Employment Services

Phone: (250) 674-2928  
E-mail: [ces@ntskills.com](mailto:ces@ntskills.com)

Fax: (250) 674-2938

# The Business Community

There are in excess of 300 businesses currently operating in Clearwater. Over the past ten years, the number has steadily increased partly fueled by the recent establishment of home-based businesses throughout the area. For more information contact the Clearwater and District Chamber of Commerce.

Number of Businesses by Type			
Categories	#	Categories	#
Automotive	9	Newspapers	2
Bank	2	Pharmacy	1
Beauty	4	Photography	7
Bed and Breakfast	15	Professional	6
Campgrounds	10	Propane	4
Chalets/Cabins	14	Real Estate	1
Clothing	2	Recreation	13
Computers	2	Restaurants	11
Contractors/Consultants	3	Retail	7
Crafts	3	Service Stations	5
Forestry/Sawmills/Logging	4	Services	21
Gardening	2	Sporting Goods	1
Gifts	11	Tours	4
Grocery	1	Training	4
Hardware	2	Video Rentals	1
Home-Based	7	Wood Work	1
Horses	1	Other	7
Hotels/Motels	11		

Source: Clearwater Chamber of Commerce

# Community Infrastructure

## Transportation Infrastructure

All roads are the responsibility of the B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Highways due to the area being an unincorporated electoral area of the Thompson Nicola Regional District.

### Major Highways

Clearwater is located 125 kilometres north of Kamloops on the Yellowhead Highway #5, the main north-south artery of the North Thompson region. Highway #24 lies 34 kilometres south of Clearwater and connects Little Fort with Highway #97 and the Cariboo Chilcotin region. Yellowhead Highway #16 lies 212 kilometres north of Clearwater at Tete Jaune Cache and connects the region to Alberta and the West Coast of BC.

### Rail Services

The Jasper-Kamloops-Vancouver link of the Canadian National Railway's (CNR) mainline runs through Clearwater. There are no rail passenger services available in Clearwater.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

CNR

Phone: 1-888-888-5909

Web: [www.cn.ca](http://www.cn.ca)

### Air Services

The closest scheduled air services are provided at the Kamloops Airport.

The Kamloops airport accommodates two scheduled airline companies that provide flights to Vancouver, Calgary and Prince George. There is an average of more than 75 scheduled flights in and out of the airport every week. The runway and the navigation system allow for the landing of modern commercial jets and turbo-prop aircraft.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kamloops Airport

Phone: (250) 376-3613

Chartered flights are available in the area through Wells Gray Air Services Ltd.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Wells Gray Air Services

Phone: (250) 674-3115

Helicopter service is also available in Clearwater. Yellowhead Helicopters Ltd. provides charter, air ambulance, tour and contract services.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Yellowhead Helicopters

Phone: (250) 674-3600

## **Bus Services**

Greyhound Bus Lines serve Clearwater with a regularly scheduled service.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Greyhound Bus Lines

Phone: (250) 674-3100

Web: [www.greyhound.ca](http://www.greyhound.ca)

## **Trucking Services**

Trucking services are available in Clearwater. For more information contact the Clearwater and District Chamber of Commerce.

## **Taxi Services**

Taxi services are available in Clearwater.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

North Thompson Taxi Service

Phone: (250) 674-0239

Taxi services are also available through Clearwater and Area Transit Service. They provide regular and door to door service for people with disabilities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Clearwater & Area Transit Service

Phone: (250) 674-3935

# **Communications Infrastructure**

## **Newspaper**

- North Thompson The Times
- North Thompson Star Journal
- The Chronicle
- The Bulletin Board
- Kamloops Daily News

Phone: (250) 674-3343

Phone: (250) 674-3411

Phone: (250) 674-2103

Phone: (250) 674-0077

Phone: (250) 372-2331

Fax: (250) 674-3777

Fax: (250) 674-3410

Fax: (250) 374-3884

## **Radio**

- CKRV 101.2 (cable only)
- BUZZ 102.9 FM
- CIFM 92.7 FM

• NL 1400 AM

• CBC 104.9 AM

## Television

### Off-Air:

Knowledge Network channel 4  
BCTV channel 10  
CFJC (CBC affiliate) channel 2

### Cable:

With ANMOG and Digital Cable over 150 channels are available in Clearwater.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Clearwater Cable                      Phone: (250) 674-2555

## Telephone Services

TELUS provides telephone services to Clearwater and area via three exchanges in the area: 674, 587 and 676. Cellular service is also available from TELUS Mobility.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

TELUS                                      Phone: (250) 372-4264                      Web: www.telus.com  
Toll Free: 1-888-811-2323

## Internet Services

High speed cable, dialup and wireless internet service is available in Clearwater.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

- Clearwater Answering Service                      Phone: (250) 674-3400
- Mercury Spped.com                                      Phone: (250) 674-3950

## Political/Government Infrastructure

Clearwater and the surrounding area are within Wells Gray Country Electoral Area of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD), which is advised by a nine member services committee. Clearwater was first incorporated under the Water Act as an Improvement District in 1968. Seven trustees manage the Clearwater Improvement District (CID), covering an area of 60 square kilometres, each serving an overlapping three-year term.

### The services provided by the Clearwater Improvement District include:

- ball park and playground
- cemeteries (within CID)
- dyke building & maintenance
- fire protection
- ICBC insurance
- motor license office
- sewage treatment
- street lighting
- waterworks system

Clearwater and area residents are levied taxes by the Provincial Government for general municipal services provided by the TNRD and for capital costs of hospital facilities provided through the Thompson-Nicola Regional Hospital District. Residents are also levied taxes by the Clearwater Improvement District for general administration, water and sewer.



For more information contact the Clearwater Improvement District.

The TNRD, covering an area of 45,279 square kilometres, was incorporated in 1967. A Regional Board of Directors that consists of ten elected rural directors and twelve appointed municipal council members manages it. An elected director represents Wells Gray Country Electoral Area that encompasses Clearwater and area.

**As Regional Government, the TNRD provides the following functions and services:**

- Administration Building and Site
- Building Inspection
- Cemeteries (areas A&B)
- Community & Regional Parks
- Economic Development Commission
- Film Commission
- Fire Protection
- Fireworks Regulation
- Hospital & Diagnostic & Treatment Centre
- Capital Financing
- Mosquito Control
- Noxious Weed Control
- Public Library Services
- Recreational & Community Services Grants-in-Aid
- Recreational Facilities and Community Halls
- Regional & Community Planning/Subdivision & Zoning
- Solid Waste Management/Refuse Disposal
- Street Lighting (Blackpool & Vavenby)
- Television Re-Broadcasting
- Untidy & Unsightly Premises
- Emergency Services

For more information contact the TNRD at (1- 877) 377-8673 or (250) 674-3530 in Clearwater.

**In addition, the Provincial Government maintains a number of offices in Clearwater:**

- |                                   |                       |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Ministry of Forests             | Phone: (250) 587-6700 |
| • Parks - BC                      | Phone: (250) 587-6150 |
| • Liquor Distribution Branch      | Phone: (250) 674-3622 |
| • Conservation Officer            | Phone: (250) 674-3722 |
| • Ministry of Transportation Hwys | Phone: (250) 674-3374 |
| • Provincial Ambulance Service    | Phone: (250) 674-3344 |
| • South Central Health Unit       | Phone: (250) 674-3141 |
| • Ministry of Children & Families | Phone: (250) 674-4100 |
| • Provincial Court Registry       | Phone: (250) 674-2113 |
| • Driver Licensing                | Phone: (250) 674-2257 |
| • Adult Probation                 | Phone: (250) 674-2414 |

**The Federal Government operates:**

- |                                      |                       |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Clearwater Post Office             | Phone: (250) 674-3711 |
| • Clearwater R.C.M.P. Detachment     | Phone: (250) 674-2237 |
| • Department of Fisheries and Oceans | Phone: (250) 674-2633 |

## **Utilities**

### **Propane**

Propane can be purchased for recreational purposes from a number of suppliers in the Clearwater area, and purchased in bulk from providers in Kamloops. For more information contact the Clearwater and District Chamber of Commerce.

## **Electricity**

The area is serviced by B.C. Hydro's provincial grid system.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

B.C. Hydro

Phone: 1-800-BCHYDRO (224-9376)

Web: [www.bchydro.bc.ca](http://www.bchydro.bc.ca)

For more information on the following utility infrastructure contact the Clearwater Improvement District. It should be noted that both the water and sewage system capacities are increased in phases as city expansion dictates.

## **Water System**

Clearwater obtains its water supply from Hasheak, Russel and McDoudall Creeks, via a gravity system. The system, first constructed in 1972, now includes 28 kilometres of water mains and a capacity of up to 3,500 people. In 1981, a well and pump house located adjacent to the Clearwater River was constructed as an alternate source of supply. Residents not connected to the water system have little trouble obtaining adequate supplies and quality from private wells. The water easily complies with Canadian Drinking Water Standards without chlorination. In fact, water quality has improved since 1991 as a result of reduced logging operations in the watersheds.

## **Sewage System**

Clearwater uses a two-cell facultative lagoon system constructed in 1970 by Weyerhaeuser Canada. The system has since been expanded and can service up to 500 people with an approved plan to increase capacity to service up to 2,000. Households not on the sewer system use septic tanks and can receive service on their tanks locally.

## **Garbage Collection**

Garbage collection is available but is not offered by the Improvement District. Pickup is available through private contractors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

• BJ Sanitation

Phone: (250) 674-2913

• Raymav Enterprises

Phone: (250) 674-3086

## Taxation

Taxes are not collected locally. The Provincial Surveyor of Taxes is responsible for collecting school, provincial and local taxes.

Tax Rates		
	2003	2002
Residential	2.1849	2.1678
Utilities	7.6472	7.5873
Unmanaged Forestry	8.7396	8.6712
Major Industry	7.4287	7.3705
Light Industry	7.4287	7.3705
Business/Other	5.353	5.3111
Managed Forestry	6.5547	6.5034
Recreation/Non-Profit	2.1849	2.1678
Farm	2.1849	2.1678

Source: Ministry of Provincial Revenue – Property Taxation Branch (Area A Thompson-Nicola Regional District)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Government Agent's Office

Phone: (250) 828-4540

## Education

Clearwater is located in School District #73, administered in Kamloops.

### Primary:

- Raft River Elementary

Phone: (250) 674-2218

Fax: (250) 674-2318

### Secondary:

- Clearwater Secondary

Phone: (250) 674-3328

Fax: (250) 674-2162

For more information on either primary or secondary education within the area contact:

School District #73

Phone: (250) 374-0679

Fax: (250) 372-1183

## Post Secondary:

There are a number of post-secondary and continuing education opportunities available in Clearwater and Kamloops, including:

- University College of the Cariboo  
Phone: (250) 828-5000  
Web: [www.cariboo.bc.ca](http://www.cariboo.bc.ca)
- The Open Learning Institute  
Phone: 1-800-663-1663  
Web: [www.ola.bc.ca](http://www.ola.bc.ca)
- Native Indian Teacher Education Program  
Phone: (250) 828-9780  
Fax: (250) 828-9780
- Community Futures Development Corporation of Thompson Country  
Phone: (250) 828-8772  
Fax: (250) 828-6861  
Web: [www.cfdctc.bc.ca](http://www.cfdctc.bc.ca)

Clearwater is home to its own skills centre. The North Thompson Community Skills Centre (NTCSC), in conjunction with the University College of the Cariboo, offers a wide range of credit and general interest courses. Many courses currently offered at Cariboo College are available locally with qualified instructors. Competent tutors are also available to work with students on an individual basis. Some of the courses currently available are:

- computer confidence
- internet basics
- simply accounting
- bartending
- technical writing
- CORE
- French
- intro to bookkeeping
- transportation endorsement
- transportation of dangerous goods
- GED study program
- food safe level 1
- traffic control
- welding
- WHMIS
- and many more

NTCSC now offers a Pre Self Employment Program that is one of their newest, biggest and most innovative projects.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

- North Thompson Community Skills Centre  
Phone: (250) 674-3530  
Fax: (250) 674-3540  
Web: [www.ntskills.com](http://www.ntskills.com)

Clearwater is also home to the P.A.S.S. Star Lake program operating out of Clearwater Secondary School. The school was started in 1989 and its objective is to provide an opportunity for adults to complete their secondary school graduation requirements and to provide upgrading for adults wishing to continue to post-secondary levels.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

- Star Lake Campus  
Phone: (250) 587-6337  
Fax: (250) 587-6326

# Community Services

## Financial

Clearwater has two financial institutions that serve the residents of Clearwater and outlying areas.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

- Royal Bank  
Phone: (250) 674-2231  
Fax: (250) 674-2551  
Web: [www.royalbank.com](http://www.royalbank.com)
- Thompson Valley Savings Credit Union  
Phone: (250) 674-3111  
Web: [www.tvscu.com](http://www.tvscu.com)

## Health Care

- Dr. Helmcken Memorial Hospital  
Phone: (250) 674-2244

Health care is also provided in Clearwater through the Community Health Centre that sits adjacent to the hospital. It houses the following:

- South Central Health Unit  
Phone: (250) 674-3141
- Clearwater Home Support Service  
Phone: (250) 674-3141
- Wells Gray Community Resources Society  
Phone: (250) 674-2600

Clearwater is also home to a Medical Centre with five doctors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

- Clearwater Medical Centre  
Phone: (250) 674-3319

The major referral hospital in the region is Royal Inland Hospital in Kamloops.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

- Royal Inland Hospital  
Phone: (250) 374-5111

## Emergency Services

Clearwater is serviced by the 911 emergency response service. For local offices the numbers are provided below.

- B.C. Ambulance Service  
Phone: (250) 674-3344
- Clearwater Fire Department  
Phone: (250) 674-2257
- Clearwater Search & Rescue  
Phone: (250) 674-0110
- Provincial Emergency Program (P.E.P.)  
Phone: 1-800-663-3456

## **Police Protection**

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (R.C.M.P.) provide police protection from a local detachment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

R.C.M.P.

Phone: (250) 674-2237 (office)

## **Legal Services**

Legal Services are available in Clearwater.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

• John Kurta

Phone: (250) 674-2126

Fax: (250) 674-3493

• Mair Jensen Blair

Phone: (250) 674-2255

• Lawyer Referral Service

Phone: 1-800-663-1919

## **Court Services**

Provincial Court Services are available in Clearwater.

### **Provincial:**

- Criminal • Small Claims
- Youth Offenders
- Family

- Family Counseling
- Traffic
- Probation

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Clearwater Court House

Phone: (250) 674-2113

Supreme Court Services are available in Kamloops.

### **Supreme:**

- Court of Appeals
- Adult Criminal
- Divorce

- Small Claims
- Adoptions
- Probate

The courthouse also provides settlement conferences and masters chambers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kamloops Court House

Phone: (250) 828-4344

# Community Lifestyle

## Clubs/Groups/Organizations

Clearwater boasts a very active citizenry. A myriad of clubs, organizations and associations are active in the community. For more information contact the Clearwater and District Chamber of Commerce.

- 4H Club
- Alcoholic Anonymous
- Beavers, Cubs, Scouts
- Beta Sigma Phi
- Birch Island Women's Institute
- BPOE Elks #499 Club
- Brain Injury/Care Giver
- Brownies, Girl Guides
- Cancer Society
- Central North Thompson Lions Club
- Challengers Group
- Clearwater & District Chamber of Commerce
- Clearwater & District Food Bank Society
- Clearwater & District Highway Rescue Society
- Clearwater Alzheimer's Support Group
- Clearwater Arts Club
- Clearwater Garden Circle
- Clearwater Home Support Association
- Clearwater Hospice Society
- Clearwater Library
- North Thompson Silviculture Association
- North Thompson Woodworkers Guild
- Order of the Royal Purple
- Rotary Club
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch #259
- Rural Crime Watch
- Salvage Loggers Association
- Seniors Outreach Services
- Star Lake Women's Institute
- Clearwater Play School
- Clearwater Puppet Club
- Clearwater Quilters Club
- Clearwater Search and Rescue
- Clearwater Support Play Group
- Clearwater Volunteer Fire Department
- Clearwater/North Thompson Food Bank Society
- Community Health Advisory
- Counter Attack and Traffic Safety
- Crime Stoppers Tip Line
- Dr. Helmcken Memorial Hospital Auxiliary
- Drug & Alcohol Task Force
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Emergency Women's Shelter
- Emotions Anonymous
- Friendly Club O.A.P.O.
- Friends of Well Gray Park
- Learning Disabilities Association
- Mastectomy Counseling
- North Thompson Cancer Unit
- The Alexandra Themis Society
- Thompson Valley Quilters
- TOPS
- Vavenby Royal Canadian Legion
- Weight Watchers' Club
- Wells Gray Botanical Association
- Wells Gray Community Resource Society
- Yellowhead Ecological Association

## **Sports/Recreation/Fitness Clubs**

- Central North Thompson Rod & Gun Club
- Clearwater Badminton Club
- Clearwater Bridge Club
- Clearwater Camera Club
- Clearwater Chito Kai Karate
- Clearwater Karate Club
- Clearwater Minor Ball Club
- Shadowfax Track & Field
- Shuffling Shoes Square Dancing
- Sno-drifters Snowmobile Club
- Wells Gray Amateur Radio Club
- Clearwater Minor Hockey Association
- Clearwater Recreation Association
- Clearwater Swimming Club
- Grizzly Anglers Club
- Raft Mountain Skating Club
- Raft River Riding Club
- Rod & Custom Car Club
- Wells Gray Curling Club
- Wells Gray Outdoor Club
- Wells Gray Wrestling Club

## **Churches**

- Catholic Church of St. James
- Clearwater Christian Fellowship
- Clearwater New Life Assembly
- Clearwater United Church
- Clearwater Evangelical Church
- Guru Tegh Bahadur Sikh Temple
- Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses

## **Cultural Facilities**

### **Library**

The Thompson-Nicola Regional Library System operates the Clearwater Library.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Clearwater Library

Phone: (250) 674-2543

### **Museum**

The Yellowhead Museum houses, and has preserved, numerous artifacts from the area for all to enjoy. The museum is privately owned and operated and an appointment must be made to view.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Yellowhead Museum

Phone: (250) 674-3660



## **Recreational Facilities**

### **North Thompson Sportsplex**

The Sportsplex provides a facility for organized activities. It is a fully utilized sports facility with year round activities being able to take advantage of the complex. Winter activities include hockey, curling, figure skating, public skating and broomball. The summer months see hockey and figure skating schools being held indoors, while softball, soccer and baseball leagues are held outdoors on the fields. The facility is owned, operated and funded by the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD).

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

North Thompson Sportsplex  
Wells Gray Country Services Coordinator

Phone: (250) 674-2143 or  
Phone: (250) 674-3530

### **Clearwater Ski Hill**

Clearwater boasts a community ski hill. The ski hill has 900 vertical feet, a T-bar, beginners handle tow, six runs and a rental shop. A new lodge, with year round facilities, has recently been built and is a great addition to the community's recreational infrastructure.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Clearwater Ski Hill

Phone: (250) 674-3848

### **Wells Gray Golf Course**

The course is a regulation length nine-hole golf course that encompasses over 3,100 yards. Water and trees present challenges on the scenic, "walk in the park", course.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Wells Gray Golf Course

Phone: (250) 674-0009

### **Lacarya Golf Course**

Lacarya is a picturesque nine-hole course encompassing over 2,677 yards. The course lies in a short valley with tree lined mountains rising on all sides.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lacarya Golf Course

Phone: (250) 587-6100

# Key Contacts

## **Blue River Improvement District**

5th Avenue  
Blue River, BC V0E 1J0  
Tel: (250) 673-8255

## **Clearwater & District Chamber of Commerce**

P.O. Box 1988, R.R. #1  
425 E Yellowhead Hwy  
Clearwater, BC V0E 1N0  
Tel: (250) 674-2646 • Fax: (250) 674-3693

## **Clearwater Improvement District**

Box 157  
Clearwater, BC V0E 1N0  
Tel: (250) 674-2257 • Fax: (250) 674-2173

## **Community Futures Development Corporation of Thompson Country**

Suite 101-286 St. Paul Street  
Kamloops, BC V2C 6G4  
Tel: (250) 828-8772 • Fax: (250) 828-6861  
Toll Free: 1-877-335-2950 • Web: [www.cfdctc.bc.ca](http://www.cfdctc.bc.ca) • E-mail: [info@cfcdctc.bc.ca](mailto:info@cfcdctc.bc.ca)

## **Community Futures can also be contacted through Clearwater Employment Services**

Tel: (250) 674-2928 • Fax: (250) 674-2938  
E-mail: [ces@ntskills.com](mailto:ces@ntskills.com)

## **Thompson-Nicola Regional District**

300-465 Victoria Street  
Kamloops, BC V2C 2A9  
Tel: (250) 377-8673 • Toll Free: 1-877-377-8673 • Fax: (250) 372-5048 • Web: [www.tnrd.bc.ca](http://www.tnrd.bc.ca)

## **Wells Gray Country Services Committee**

(Located in North Thompson Community Skills Centre)  
Box 1107, RR #1  
Clearwater, B.C.  
Tel: (250) 674-3530 • Fax: (250) 674-3540

## **Vavenby Improvement District**

142 Vavenby Bridge  
Vavenby, BC V0E 3A0  
Tel: (250) 676-9616 • Fax: (250) 676-9617

## **Venture Kamloops**

#2 - 510 Lorne Street  
Kamloops, BC V2V 1W3  
Tel: (250) 828-6818 • Toll Free: 1-888-KAMLOOPS (1-888-526-5667) • Fax: (250) 828-7184  
Web: [www.venturekamloops.com](http://www.venturekamloops.com) • Email: [inquiry@venturekamloops.com](mailto:inquiry@venturekamloops.com)