

VILLAGE OF COUTTS NEWSLETTER APRIL 2026



Municipal News

DOGS - Pet owners are responsible to clean up after their pets. It is evident that over the winter people are neglecting picking up after their pets. Peace Officers will ticket owners when they see them not picking up. If you have not purchased a license for your pet, please do so. Fees are \$5 for spade or neutered. \$30 for non fixed. Dogs MUST always be on a leash when walking around town. This is also a chargeable offence.

COUTTS RECREATION AND ARTS—CASINO WORKERS

CRAS is looking for volunteers to fill night shifts for the upcoming Casino on June 28 & 29. Shift times are 8pm-4am.

The funds from working this casino are what keeps the old school building operational. If you value having a library and a place to work out, etc, now would be the time to help. Without the funds from the casino, these services would not be in operation, which would mean closure of the library.

If you are interested, and have the time, please reach out to Tracy at the Post Office during office hours 8am-5pm at 403-344-3788. All meals throughout the shift are paid for. Thank you!

COUTTS BORDER RASCALS

As we welcome warmer temperatures and sunshine, may you all have a happy Easter. As Easter is early this year, we have already had our Easter potluck in March. It was a great success and we were very pleased to have some new members join us. Our planning meeting is on Friday April 10th, at 10am, for this month only.

Our April potluck is on April 23rd. Doors open at 5pm, with supper being at 5.30pm. Please bring a dish for sharing. We continue to remind everyone that this is NOT a senior group, but is a SOCIAL CLUB, open to all ADULTS.

We continue to play cards each week in our homes. Anyone interested in joining us, even for occasional times, please call Deb Pain at 403-603-8578.

Tickets are available for a Rock and Roll, concert, featuring The Popovicks. April 14th, at 7pm, at the Seniors Centre in Warner. Tickets available through Rodger, 780 876 7008.

Coutts and District AG Society

Next Meeting is Tuesday April 7, 2026

Everyone welcome

Email us at : coutts.ag.society@gmail.com



Coutts Municipal Library News

Spring has Sprung!

Coutts Municipal Library would like to thank everyone for your more than generous donations at our Silent Auction. The funds raised will be used for a wonderful tv upgrade here at the library. Stay tuned for Movie night's we are excited to plan!

Book Club is at a NEW TIME, April 9th at 3:00pm everyone is welcome! Bring your favourite books, share titles and recommended reads.

We have a monthly Book Genre challenge going on with Chinook Arch. Come in and get your bingo sheet and mark off boxes completed for a chance to win a \$50 indigo gift card.

As always, we offer library cards at no charge! Come in and check out our new titles and top read shelves or pick from many puzzles, or just say "Hi"

See you soon!

Kari Hall

Coutts Municipal Library

Print your own photo on a water bottle!

April 14th 4pm
At the Coutts Library!
\$20 (additional water bottle \$12)

Submit photo to Kari at the library before April 10 to have the template made.

8.7 inch
2.5 inch

Rubber Base
Non-slip and silent, better protect the bottom

ppg free
12 B

The advertisement features a central image of a silver water bottle with a black lid. To the left of the bottle are three circular icons: a leaf with 'ppg free', a wave, and a recycling symbol with '12 B'. A vertical dimension line indicates the bottle's height as 8.7 inches, and a horizontal dimension line at the base indicates a diameter of 2.5 inches. Below the bottle, there are two circular images showing the bottom of the bottle with a dark, circular rubber base. To the right of the bottle, there are two circular images showing a black and white photo printed on a water bottle. The background is a colorful geometric pattern of triangles in shades of blue, green, and red.

The Milk River Medical Clinic

and Dr. Theresa Akewe

Are excited to announce: that as of March 16, 2026 we have a new doctor joining the clinic and the Health Centre –

Dr. Huy Truong.

Dr. Truong is now accepting patients. You can call the clinic to make appointments

403-647-3599.

Dr. Theresa Akewe, Mark Simons (CCPA) and Dr. Huy Truong would like to

Thank the Communities for their continued support.

QUALITY END OF LIFE CARE

Speaker: Renault Guimond (Chaplain at Saint Michael's Hospital in Lethbridge)

Mr. Guimond will be giving a presentation/discussion on the very important topic of Quality End of Life Care. This is an ecumenical event and all are welcome to attend.

April 28, 2026—2:30 PM

St. Peter's Church Hall

321 Main Street, Milk River, AB

Everyone Welcome

Coffee and Snacks to follow

Sponsored by Saint Isidore's CWL Allerston



SOUTHERN ALBERTA OUTDOORSMEN

UPCOMING EVENTS



Family Fishing Weekend and Camp Out – June 5th, 6th and 7th 2026 at Goldsprings Park. Please book your own reservations if you plan to camp! Saturday, as usual, will be the main event with SAO supplying dogs and drinks.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

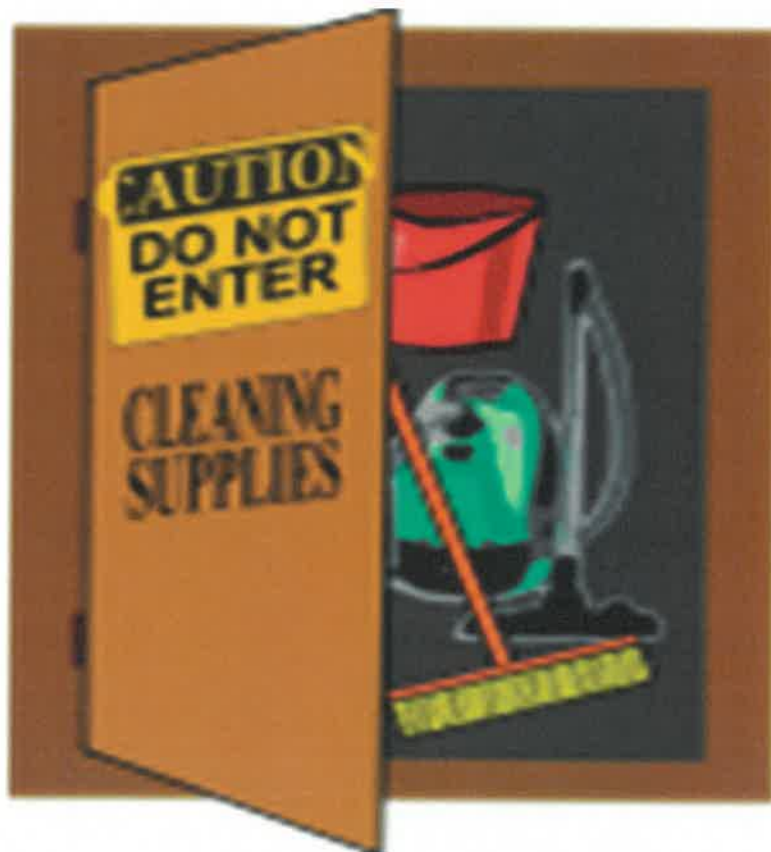
**APPROXIMATELY 10 HOURS/MONTH—WILL VARY WITH
NEED.**

**CLEANING OF THE COUTTS CIVIC CENTRE
AND**

RECREATION HALL

**PLEASE CONTACT THE VILLAGE OFFICE
VILCOUTT@TELUS.NET OR 403-344-3848**

POSITION TO BEGIN APRIL 13TH.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR: Scott MacCumber

Southwest Mayors & Reeves – Minister Grant Hunter was in attendance and here are some highlights of his monthly report:

- Alberta led Canada's job growth with 41,800 full time jobs added in January 2026.
- Alberta's unemployment rate dropped to 6.4% in Alberta, which is 0.1% lower than the national rate.
- Investment of \$8.6 billion to build and renovate more than 130 schools.
- The gov't has launched the new Assisted Living Navigation Portal, to make it easy to locate, learn about and access the assisted living options across the province.
<https://alnavigator.alberta.ca/find-your-care>
- Many snowpack levels surveyed are above or well above normal. The forecast is for normal river volumes for the Milk River basin.
- Spending on Alberta physicians will rise to \$7.7 billion in 2026-27, the largest investment in doctors in the province's history.

Milk River Health Professionals Attraction & Retention Committee

- Dr. Truong started working in Milk River on March 16th. He is accepting new patients, so if you don't have a doctor or you are thinking about switching, please call the Clinic at 403-647-3599 to book an appointment. If you do not have an existing medical issue, you can simply book a meet and greet. Dr. Truong is a great addition to the team in Milk River.
- Our AGM is set for Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 5:30 in the Milk River Town Hall Council Chambers. Everyone is welcome.
- Our committee Facebook page is "Milk River Health Professionals Committee". Please follow us to keep informed and what is happening in our local healthcare area.

Milk River Watershed Council of Canada

- Jacquelyn Cameron has been hired as the Office Administrator.
- The Council will be hiring 2 summer students this year to assist with ongoing projects and educational programs.
- Youth Range Days will take place July 14-16, 2026, at Writing on Stone Park. Registration is now open. More information at the website: mrwcc.ca.
- The Council's AGM is set for May 28, 2026, in the Warner.

Southwest Regional Advisory Council

- Our next meeting is set for April 20, 2026. So, if you have any ideas on how to improve our local healthcare system, I would like to hear from you so I can present them at that meeting. You can email me at smaccumber24@gmail.com.

March Committee Highlights

Coutts Fire and Rescue

After completion of the online Lucas 3.1 training modules a mandatory in house training session was held March 3rd at the firehall. A Stryker company instructor, from Edmonton, conducted the hands-on training exercise. All Department members participated in the use, setup and positioning of the Lucas system. The Lucas unit was officially put into service by Chief Johnson on March 4th.

Ross has completed the ceiling repairs in the firehall. New LED lights have been approved by Village Council to replace the failing Fluorescent lights in the main bays of the firehall. An estimate for painting the firehall main floor ceilings is to be forwarded to Village Council.

The 36th annual Emergency Service Appreciation Night sponsored by the County of Warner #5 was held in Warner on March 20th. Congratulations to Doug Smith for being awarded his 35 year service award.

Heritage Handibus Association

Riders for 2026 to the end of February totalled 148 compared to 97 for the same period in 2025; representing a 52% increase. Member registrations now stand at 70. A total of 150 different individuals have or are using the handibus service.

The Association continues to show an operating deficit; mainly due to ramp repairs conducted on the Toyota van in the fall of 2025. The Healthy Aging Alberta operating grant will commence again in April with funds amounting to approximately 45% of transit costs. The challenge remains to maintain safe, reliable, accountable public transit service that is affordable to users and sustainable financially. Support from our four municipal partners remains the core foundation of the handibus operation.

New rates; \$10 local transit, \$20 out-of-town transit; Pass Books: \$40 and \$60, available at Village Office

Coutts and District Library

The Library potluck and silent auction held on March 18th was well attended and successful. Thanks to generous community support your library board will be able to purchase a suitable smart television which will permit streaming of Chinook Arch "Canopy" programming which is PPR approved for use in the Public Library System. Kari will obtain quotes on units prior to our next board meeting to be held on April 21st at 4:30 in the library. Residents are always welcome to attend.

Your library has new tables. Quotes for new chairs will be reviewed at the April board meeting and a decision made on their purchase. Friends of the Coutts Library has shown an interest in funding of this purchase. The plaque honouring librarian Sharon Wollersheim's years of dedication to this library is fittingly mounted over the donation book rack that she started.

Respectfully, Councillor Steve Pain

On March 4 I attended FCSS meeting by zoom:

- ~Reviewed our strategic planning, of which was emailed out to all municipalities
- ~96% IN PERSON services are reported for client identity changes & additions
- ~ Reviewed the Goals outlined in last month's meeting.
 - Talked about programs that we have that help with Social Isolation
 - there have been 812 service visits & 1371 service hours around Cultural Programming
 - talked about entry points for support being programs like these.(The point in which a client makes the connection to receive information to receive the help they may need). The team has provided 522 entry point support. 67% of clients seek support related to food insecurity
 - Information & referrals are provided around Community & Programming
- ~Received & reviewed counselling testimonials & discussed the impact counselling can have & the importance of prevention.
- ~1040 Volunteer hours this year.
- ~We have a few staff updates! 2 new employees, 1 being a practicum student starting
- ~Our financial category alignments have been completed.

March 10 I attended our regular Village of Coutts council meeting. And on March 12 I attended the Quad Council meeting, hosted by The Village of Coutts!

March 19 I attended our Ridge Country Housing meeting In Milk River at the Prairie Rose Lodge:

- ~Bruce read the bookkeeping report on Allen's behalf. We are in good standings at this time. The yearly audit will be complete for review at our next meeting.
- ~Prairie Rose Lodge has had a shuffle of residents with some moving to further care. We have 14 vacancies, of which includes the small rooms we are still working to have decommissioned.
- ~Ridge View Lodge has one room being filled right away, with a long waiting list.
- ~Ridge View Lodge hosted a talent show evening which was a lot of fun for both participants & their guests!
- ~A standards audit has been completed with a few adjustments to be completed.
- ~Changes to biweekly pay are still in progress & working with adjustments with the new benefits pkg. Looking into a phone app to aid in keeping track.
- ~Transfer of files complete at Ridge View, working on Prairie Rose.
- ~ASCHA convention is April 13-15, we are sending a few councilors & our CAO
- ~We are working on creating a new employee handbook, as well as a new resident handbook.
- ~There is a new intake form for scoring new residents, set up by the government, & loaded to their site. Scoring is based on many different things & not always about how long one has been on the waiting list to get into the Lodge.
- ~Report from Ridge View Auxiliary & overview on what the auxiliary does.
- ~Received a development proposal that we discussed.
- ~Discussion on upgrades for the manors. There is no funding as of right now. Donations are accepted at our Village offices to go towards upgrades for the Coutts Wheatland Manor or the Warner Dryland manor.

Thank you
Megan Payne

Canada's Western Gateway

- We said farewell to Brady Schnell on Friday as he accepted a new position with the Government of Alberta. We all wish him the best of luck in this new chapter!
- Brady served as Cluster Development Manager for Canada's Western Gateway
- For those of you who do not know what this initiative is, it's a "trade and transportation corridor that plans to support and enhance the economic opportunities in Southern Alberta. They are working to create a high performance corridor that is essential for moving goods through road, rail and air transportation".
- I am excited to help contribute to this initiative and will provide updates on what they are doing as I am made aware.

Southgrow

- "SouthGrow is a partnership of towns, villages, and counties in southern Alberta. These communities work together because some challenges are bigger than any one town. By sharing ideas, research, and resources, they can do more together than they could alone."
- We meet quarterly to go over new and existing business and our next meeting is April 23
- I have also signed up for a course Southgrow is hosting on May 8th called **Economic Development for Elected Officials**. This course is an introduction to the world of Economic Development with instruction led by Trevor Lewington of the EDA (Economic Developers Alberta) Institute. Topics to be covered include:
 - the role of government in economic development
 - economic strategies to meet your community goals
 - securing partnerships and funding
 - fostering community economic resilience.

Until next time Coutts!

Darren Hall

Coutts and District AG Society

Souper Bowl Fund Raiser

Saturday April 11,
11 am to 2 pm
In the Civic Centre

\$10 for adults,
\$5 for children 10 and under

4 Fantastic Soups including gluten free,
with buns, crackers, coffee, juice, and dessert

Come out, have lunch, and help support your local AG
Society



VILLAGE OF COUTTS COMMUNITY
GARAGE SALE
SATURDAY MAY 30
9AM – 3PM

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO THE
MAP OF LOCATIONS, PLEASE NOTIFY THE
VILLAGE OFFICE PRIOR TO MAY 26TH.**

**The Seniors will have lunch available for
purchase at the Rec Hall.**



COMMUNITY TRANSIT SERVICE

Seniors 55+ and Disabled Persons

Residents of Coutts, Milk River, Village of Warner, Warner County

Transit Service available Monday through Friday

Local daily service dependent on van/driver availability

Out of Town service: Lethbridge (medical and non-medical)

Raymond, Coaldale & Taber (medical)

*** Handibus Always Available for Charters ***

EFFECTIVE March 1/26: Book of 4 Passes \$40, 6 Passes \$60

Local passenger service:

Warner, Milk River and Coutts \$10 return service

(1 punch on pass ticket)

Local ride service of 3 hours maximum

Out of town passenger service:

Lethbridge, Raymond, Coaldale, Taber: \$20 per trip

(2 punches on pass ticket)

Please book your medical appointments for 10am to 2pm

Tickets and registration at local municipal offices

Weekly Pre-booking is promoted and encouraged

Pre-Booking: Milk River Town Office (403-647-3773)

Monday to Thursday, 9am - 12 noon, 1pm - 4pm

Inquiries for van availability during the service week

Please call our co-ordinator D.S. Fraser @ 403-492-7821

General Information: Steve @ 403-603-8578

The Heritage Handibus Association remains committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable transit to our clients within the limitations of available funding. We thank our municipal partners and Healthy Aging Alberta for continued support.



**LONEWOLF
HANDYMAN
SERVICES
INC.**

**SPECIALIZING IN:
EAVESTROUGH CLEANING
AND REPAIR, DECKS,
LANDINGS, FENCING,
OTHER CARPENTRY, PAINTING,
ROOFING,
PROPERTY CLEAN UPS,
DUMP RUNS,
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE,
LAWN MOWING**

CALL JAKE

CELL: 403-635-2013



Saturday, May 23 will be the Community Wide garage sale in WARNER. The hours are from 9 am to 3pm. People choosing to participate will clearly mark their properties with signs, ballons and /or streamers. A map of the properties will be created. Some people chose not to put their properties on the map. These will be clearly marked. Just look around the village.

If you should run short of cash, cash is available at the **Warner Food Store and The Warner Hotel.**

Copies of the map will be available that day at the **Warner Food Store**



Milk River Community Garage Sale

Saturday, May 30, 2026,

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MILK RIVER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ATTRACTION & RETENTION COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2026 AT 5:30 P.M.

MILK RIVER TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS



This committee is made up of residents and elected officials from the County of Warner, County of Forty Mile, Warner, Milk River and Coutts. Our main objective is to attract, retain, and support all of our local healthcare professionals. If you would like to be part of this team, please come to the Annual General Meeting.

Everyone is welcome. Stay informed and get involved.





**Milk River Minor Baseball
Concession Operator
Wanted
for 2026 Season!**

.....
*Weekday Afternoons/Evenings
(depending on schedule)... April to Mid-June*
.....

Contact Lance Schamber for more information!
403-647-4399



Spring Fling 2026

NEW DATE - Saturday, May 2

Milk River Civic Center (321 3rd Ave)

10am – 4pm

Over 40 vendors

Concession

Kid's Craft Corner

Photo Opps

Contact Laurie 403-642-7500 for information

Everyone Welcome

Statistics Canada is hiring for the 2026 Census!

APPLY NOW:

census.gc.ca/jobs 



TAX CLINIC

WHAT

FREE drop-in tax support for basic, non-complex tax returns. **No appointment necessary.**

WHEN

Thursday

- March 19 & 26
- April 2 & 9

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

WHERE

Milk River

Town Office - 240 Main St NW

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Renee

587-370-8518

renee.white@fcss.ca

