

VILLAGE OF COUTTS NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2026

Happy Valentine's Day



Municipal News

Taxes - Taxes paid in February will receive a 4% discount based on last years assessment.

COUTTS MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

Happy February!

Lots has been happening at the Coutts Municipal Library! We had a mod podge plate making class on January 22, many enjoyed. Stay tuned for more events!

Come into the Library before February 12th to make and send a card or note to a Veteran for Valentine's Day. All supplies and stamps included!

Book Club February 12th at 2:00pm everyone is welcome! Bring your favourite books, share titles and recommended reads.

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, borrow an internet smart hub, or even get your crafting on with our Brother Scan and Cut 2.

Don't be shy! Pop on in for a visit and grab a hot chocolate! See you soon ☺

COUTTS BORDER RASCALS

Hello from the Border Rascals. Our group welcomes all adults. We are simply a Social Group. No restrictions on age, except being an adult. Our next planning meeting will be February 12th at 10am. Please come and join us with your thoughts and ideas. Even if maybe you would like meetings to be changed to evening meetings.

Our February potluck will be February 26th, doors opening at 5pm. We will be celebrating Valentines, with this being our theme for the potluck. At this time we will also continue to collect membership dues. We will also have our AGM meeting, as this did not happen in January, due to very low attendance. Hope to get this accomplished in February. We look forward to a large participation.

Sandra will be hosting a glass etching class on Saturday, February 28 @ Rec Center @ 1pm, cost \$20



The Coutts and District Ag Society

Next Meeting is Tuesday February 3, 2026

5:30 PM—Coutts Civic Centre

Everyone Welcome!

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

Christmas Hamper and Angel Tree

Another Christmas season has come and gone and once again I just cannot find the words to say thank you to everyone that helped make this program a success. I sit down each year to work on this letter and I honestly am overwhelmed with all the support we receive. I am proud of our communities and what we can accomplish to make 28 Christmases a little brighter!!

My first thank you will be to everyone that donated or bought the packages at Riverside Market and/or took an angel off the tree. That is the heart and soul of these programs and each and every one of you that participated are the real reasons these programs are a success!!! Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Also, a huge thank you to the Village of Coutts for the fantastic donation of food items....small but mighty community!!!

Next I would like to send a huge thank you to Linda Cavanaugh who does such an amazing job organizing the food and getting the hampers ready to go. She truly has a heart of gold and without her the program would not be able to continue. Thank you also to Linda's helper Elaine McCoy and my helper Daria Snow this year...we so appreciate your generous help!

Huge thanks to the Town of Milk River - Kim and Trudi help with the Angel Tree and accept donations and without them none of this would be possible. Thank you also for the use of the Council room to organize - every program needs space and this one is perfect.

Thank you to Riverside Market for your generous support and to the wonderful employees at Coutts CBSA who donate breakfast items for every family!!

Thank you to everyone that helped deliver hampers - RCMP and Town of Milk River Public Works (Sean and Jett Butler). You all made a big job much easier by donating your time....so so so appreciated!!

A special thank you goes out to Tanya and Monti Smith for delivering to Coutts - you are truly amazing!!!

Finally, I just want to say one final thank you to anyone I may have missed. So many people donate extra toys, gift bags, and treats for each family. Please know that each and every one of you is so appreciated for what you do for our community!!!

Darlene Fleming



SOUTHERN ALBERTA OUTDOORSMEN

UPCOMING EVENTS



Outdoorsmen 11th Annual Swap Meet & Gun Show - March 14, 2026, Milk River Civic Center, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Guns, Hunting, Optics, Re-loading and Fishing Gear. \$500.00 door prize, Admittance \$5.00

*Vendor tables \$25.00. Call: Brandyn Hulit 403-647-7979 or James Wills 403-647-6113

Awards Evening - Sunday, March 22, 2026 – Coutts Civic Center, AB. – 4:30 p.m. This year we will be doing a

POT-LUCK SUPPER If you plan to attend, please bring a supper or desert dish. SAO will provide coffee, water and juice. You are welcome to bring your own refreshments as well. The evening will begin with socializing, silent auction, raffles and cocktails. Supper at 6:00 pm

Come on out for a fun night!

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.

UPDATES FROM COUNCIL

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR: Scott MacCumber

At our last council meeting, we decided that we would give monthly updates on our various committees, so that you can stay up to date with what's going on. Some months there's not much, but we will do our best to keep you informed. Here is what's happening with my committees:

Milk River Health Professionals Attraction & Retention Committee – The big news is that we have a second doctor, Dr. Huy Truong, who has signed on with Milk River. He is currently doing his Practice Ready Assessment, in Brooks, and that should be completed mid-February. Then the Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons will complete his evaluation and if all is good, then he will start in Milk River shortly after that. And the other news is that Dr. Theresa Akewe, celebrates her 2-year anniversary in Milk River on January 31st. She works very hard to serve our community, and we are very fortunate to have her in Milk River.

Mayors & Reeves – Each month the Mayors and Reeves of Southwestern Alberta get together to discuss mutual interests. At our last meeting MLA Grant Hunter gave us an update on provincial issues such as going against Ottawa on the firearm buyback program, work on east-west pipelines, the increase in physicians in Alberta (averaging an increase of about 640 each year), and the plan to increase acute care beds by 1000.

Milk River Watershed Council of Canada – The council is advertising for a Watershed Outreach Assistant, and the application deadline is February 13, 2026. The position runs from May 11 to August 26. More information can be found on their Facebook page(Milk River Watershed) or by email Tim Romanow at tim@mrwcc.ca. Youth Range Days is scheduled for July 14-16, 2026, and will be held at Writing-On-Stone Provincial Park. You can call the Council office at 403-647-3808 for more information. For more information on the council check out their website at <https://mrwcc.ca/>

Recreation Board – We will be meeting sometime in the spring to plan this year's activities. So, if you have any ideas, please let me know by emailing me at smaccumber24@gmail.com, or by calling the Village office.

That's it for this month.....thanks.....Scott

January 15 Councillor Megan Payne attended the Ridge Country Housing meeting in Milk River.

~Our bookkeeping report was read by our CAO. We are in good standings at this time & are seeing some increases.
~Our estimated budget is very close to accurate. Reporting between 96% and 99% accuracy.
~Some increases due to LAP grants. As well as an increase in numbers at the Prairie Rose Lodge!
~Prairie Rose Lodge is reporting 13 vacancies of which include the 7 smaller units that we are attempting to make changes on. Vacancies are down!
~Ridge View Lodge is full with a long waiting list.
~Self contained units are full, a few pending upgrades, but expect to be soon.
~Maintenance on furnaces & hot water tanks in a few locations will be underway, approved by funding!
~Both Prairie Rose Lodge & Ridge View Lodge are happy & excited to have new maintenance workers!
~ASCHA convention is April 13-15. We are looking at sending 2 board members along with 2 management staff.
Thanks

Megan Payne

January Meeting Highlights

Coutts Fire and Rescue

Lucas 3.1 compression machine has arrived; online training 50% complete, company representative training for staff in Feb/early March.

One failed brush truck pump unit replaced and operational; New pump to repair second truck failure during grass fire in village ready for installation; Loaned Sunburst unit will be returned
Repairs to fix mould and ceiling damage within Fire Hall have commenced

EMRs require 60 credits yearly to maintain status, Chief Johnson has 2 credits left to complete
Finding a facility to do mandatory pressure testing of aging 12 Scott BA units unsuccessful to date

Heritage Handibus Association

2024 riders totalled 157; 2025 riders totalled 879; December 2025 riders a record 108

Healthy Aging Alberta operating grant renewal and budget submitted January 15/26; new operational grant runs April 1/26 to March 31/28, Active reporting mandatory through PATP
A funding application sent to Provincial Community Initiatives Program; if successful funds would go towards purchase of new 15 passenger transit bus; other sources continue to be explored
Maintenance issues continue on Toyota van; van was heavily used in 2025
Rate changes take place March 1/26; local passage \$10; out-of-town passage \$20

Coutts and District Library

AGM Meeting: Deborah Pain nominated to 3 year term as vice-chair pending Council approval
Plan of Service (2024-2028) reviewed, new replacement chairs and tables remain a priority
Projected 2026 budget was presented and approved, 2025 financials to be sent to auditors
Karri gave detailed library report; foot traffic numbers up, Book Club resumed in January
January Craft session hosted by Sandra Hansen, Annual librarians report to be submitted Feb 28
Donation book rack installed within library, existing library shelves to be better utilized/stocked
FCSS interested in holding activities within library, activities for all age groups possible
Library to hold a Spring Fling Community Potluck in March, details/location etc to follow

Respectfully, Councillor Steve Pain

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.



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HANDYMAN
SERVICES
INC.**

SPECIALIZING IN:
EAVESTROUGH CLEANING
AND REPAIR, DECKS,
LANDINGS, FENCING,
OTHER CARPENTRY, PAINTING,
ROOFING,
PROPERTY CLEAN UPS,
DUMP RUNS,
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE,
CALL JAKE
CELL: 403-635-2013

You're invited to the 1st annual

Coutts Library Spring Fling Potluck and Silent Auction

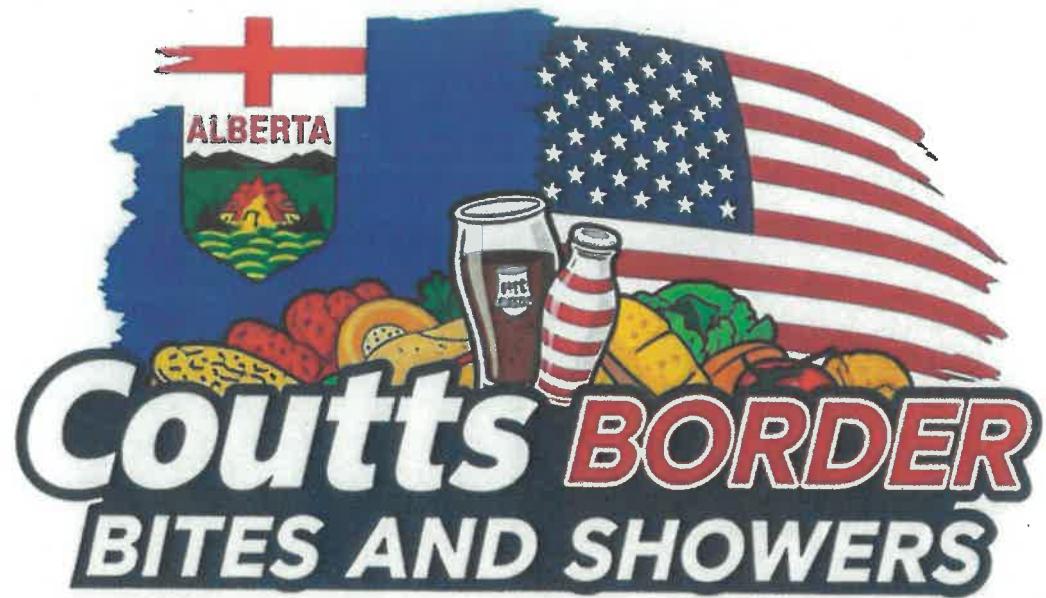
Come support your local library

Where: Coutts Rec Hall

When: March 18 2026

Time: Doors open at 5:00
Dinner at 5:30





WE ARE OPEN!!!

**448 4 St W, Coutts
Next to Hwy Truck Parking**

**Tuesday-Saturday
8am-5pm**

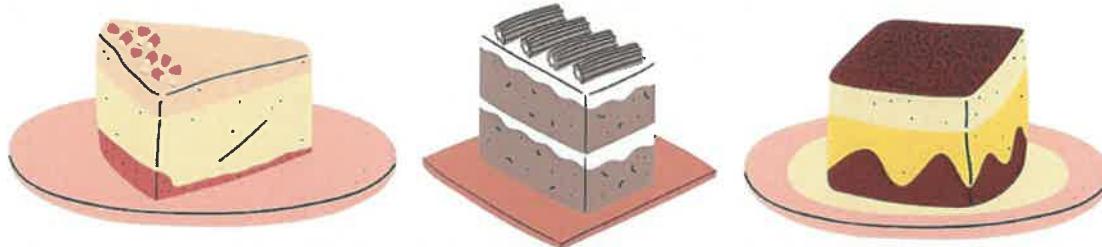
COME ON IN TO:

- Have a morning coffee
- Grab a quick snack
- Take a break (we have tables and chairs!)
- Shoot a pool game or two
- Or just say hi!



TRI COMMUNITY CHILD CARE SOCIETY FUNDRAISER SPAGHETTI SUPPER & CAKE AUCTION

PLEASE JOIN US FEBRAURY 28TH
AT THE MILK RIVER CIVIC CENTRE
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
\$15.00 PER PERSON
\$10.00 FOR KIDS 10 & UNDER



FOR TICKETS CONTACT
MARLA 403.421.0118
RAEANN 403.647.6162
JENA 403.929.4262
DIANE 403.642.7385
CHRISTINE 403.892.3515

EMAIL: TRICOMMUNITYCHILDCARE@GMAIL.COM