

VILLAGE OF COUTTS NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2025



MUNICIPAL ELECTION—2025

Please refer to the information attached in this newsletter. Nomination Day is Sept 22, 2025. Nomination papers must be handed into the office by noon on Sept 22, 2025, no later. Please refer to the attached information. If you have any questions, please call the office.

SKUNKS

We are still catching skunks. If you insist on feeding your cats outside, please bring in the leftovers ASAP! Skunks carry disease, dig holes, are a nuisance, and smell.

GARBAGE RATES

Due to an increase in garbage pick up rates from the Town of Milk River, on the September bill you will notice a slight increase in the garbage rate. Rates have increased \$6/billing period, (\$3/month). If you have more than one garbage bin, you will also be billed an additional \$6/billing period (\$3/month).

REGISTER TO VOTE: <https://www.voterlink.ab.ca/>

The Municipal Election is on Monday, October 20, 2025

Changes in provincial legislation require municipalities to now develop a "Register of Electors". You must be on the Register in order to vote. The easiest way to ensure you are on the Voter Register is to check now if you are on the list and if not, add yourself before **September 15th**.

You will be able to register on voting day, but you will be required to fill out a form, provide photo ID and proof of residence (eg: Utility Bill)

COUTTS BORDER RASCALS - SEPTEMBER

As we see the changes of Fall, and the busyness of summer coming towards a close, we welcome everyone back to the Border Rascals for another season of gatherings and fellowship. We would like to welcome anyone to join us. We share ideas, plans, games, potluck, and hopefully a trip or two, over the course of the year. In June we were able to travel to Coaldale, as a group, on the Handibus. In the morning we visited The Gem of the West Museum. A lovely lunch was had by all at Franco's Restaurant. Afternoon found us at the Birds of Prey, where we had a personalized tour of all the different birds. (Hawks, Owls, and Eagle's), plus a free flight by Eagle. Many got individual pictures. Our first planning meeting is September 11th, at 10am. Our monthly potluck is September 25th, at 5.30pm, doors open at 5pm. Please bring a dish to share. 50/50, available. Games, after supper. Annual membership is still a bargain at \$5.00. Looking forward to seeing everyone.



NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Fall is calling, the school bells are ringing, the days are getting shorter and the evenings cooler so I guess it is time to get back to our normal routines.

In September we will be going back to our regular hours - Tuesday and Thursday 2:00 – 7:00 pm and Wednesday 10:30 am – 1:30 pm.

Book Club will resume once again on Thursday September 11th at 2:00 pm here at the library. We welcome anyone who loves to read to join us to chat about books we have read and authors that we love to read. Hope to see a good number of you out this month, there should be lots to talk about as we haven't met for a few months.

If you are new to town come by and get a library card, there is no charge for a card at our library and you will have access to so many things including all the libraries that make up Chinook Arch Regional System.

We continue to get new books, movies, and jigsaw puzzles for your enjoyment, so come in and CHECK US OUT!

MILK RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On behalf of the Historical Society Committee, we would like to thank everyone for their support over the summer months. Another year is winding down and our last day open will be September 4, 2025, from 1:00 to 4:00. However, if you would like to go through the museum at another time please call William King at 403-647-3428 and he will gladly give you a tour.

Our next meeting will be held on September 18, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. We are always looking for volunteers to help us in preserving the history of Milk River and area. Thank you!!

****Hear the Church Bells Ringing****

Latter Day Saints	Sundays 10:00 am	Courtts
Catholic Church Mass	Saturdays 5:00pm Saint Peter's	Milk River
	Sundays 9:00am Saint Isidore's	Allertston
	Sundays 11:00am Saint Peter's	Milk River
<i>*For the month of August 11:00 ONLY at St. Peter's MilkRiver</i>		
Lutheran Church	2nd and 4th Sundays 11:00 In Pastor	Milk River
	1st; 3rd; 5th Sundays 11:00 Virtual	Milk River
River of Life	Sundays 10:00	Milk River
	Sundays 3:00	Warner Senior's Centre
United Church	Sundays 1030	Milk River
<i>*Call 403 647 3983 for Summer Schedule Updates</i>		

ALL ARE WELCOME

SO YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT **RUNNING** **FOR COUNCIL?**



**A practical guide to understanding
elected roles in local government.**

Voices from Alberta Councils



I ran because I saw opportunities to build a better future for our community. My background in small business gave me useful skills, but what really mattered was simply caring about my town and wanting to be part of its growth. – Alberta councillor, small municipality

The most rewarding aspect of serving on council is seeing projects come to fruition that improve residents' quality of life. When you help solve a long-standing problem or bring a new amenity to your community, the sense of accomplishment is incredible. – Alberta councillor, rural municipality

What Municipal Councillors Do

Municipal councils are responsible for:

- Setting the direction and future vision for your community
- Establishing policies and bylaws to set the quality and level of local services
- Approving annual budgets and determining tax rates
- Making land use, zoning, and development decisions
- Providing oversight of the municipality through the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
- Engaging with the community to understand their needs and concerns

Typical Monthly Duties

- 2-3 Council meetings per month
- Committee meetings (hours dependent on the community)
- Reading reports and preparing for meetings (6-10 hours per month)
- Public events and resident interactions
- Email and phone correspondence with constituents

**The workload often increases during budget season and important public hearings.*

Understanding Local Jurisdiction

One of the most important aspects of municipal governance is understanding what falls within local jurisdiction:

Within municipal authority:

- Local roads and transportation
- Water, wastewater, and waste management
- Parks, recreation, and community facilities
- Fire services, peace officers, and bylaw enforcement
- Land use planning and development permits
- Property taxation
- Local economic development

Outside municipal authority:

- Healthcare system and hospitals (Provincial)
- Education and school curriculums (Provincial)
- Highways (Provincial)
- Social services (Provincial/Federal, with municipal partnerships)
- Criminal code and justice system (Federal)
- Income tax and GST (Federal)

Working effectively within your jurisdiction means focusing on what you can control while advocating for your community's interests with other levels of government when needed.

Working With Administration

Council sets policies, and municipal administration implements them. Understanding this relationship is crucial:

- Council works as a collective body (individual councillors have no direct authority)
- The CAO is Council's only employee
- Staff report to the CAO, not to individual councillors
- Respecting administrative expertise improves governance outcomes

Common Misconceptions vs. Reality

- ✗ Councillors run day-to-day operations
- ✓ Council provides direction; staff handles operations
- ✗ You need specific qualifications
- ✓ Your willingness to learn and a commitment to serve all members of your community matters most
- ✗ Being a councillor is a full-time job
- ✓ For most councillors outside of large cities, it's a part-time role you can balance with other commitments
- ✗ You'll make decisions alone
- ✓ Council decisions require a majority vote
- ✗ You should know everything going in
- ✓ You'll learn through orientation and experience

Practical Skills That Help

While there are no formal qualifications required to serve on municipal Council, the following skills will help you to be an effective councillor:

- Strong communication and listening abilities
- Ability to understand budgets and financial documents (training provided)
- Critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Ability to work collaboratively with diverse perspectives
- Time management and organizational skills

Challenges and Rewards

Challenges you might face:

- Balancing diverse community interests, dealing with public scrutiny
- Managing time between various commitments
- Learning municipal processes and legislation

Rewards you'll experience:

- Making real improvements in your community
- Building meaningful relationships
- Being part of critical decisions creating a legacy for future generations

Ready to Learn More?

Join our webinar series:

At [Events](#) | [Alberta Municipalities](#), [RMA's Webinar Calendar](#)

Additional resources:

- Explore online resources about the Municipal Government Act
- Visit [ABmunis'](#) and [RMA's](#) Running for Municipal Office webpages

Contact us with questions:

Karrina Jung, ABmunis Policy Analyst | Karrina@abmunis.ca

Jared Shaigec, RMA Policy Advisor | Jared@rmalberta.com



**LONEWOLF
HANDYMAN
SERVICES**



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

Mowing and Hedges

CELL: 403-635-2013

Yes I do Small Jobs

SCREEN TEST

Mobile Mammography Screening is coming to:

Milk River

September 19 & 20, 2025
Prairie Rose Lodge



Photo courtesy of the Alberta Cancer Foundation

Call toll free to book an appointment:

1-800-667-0604

To learn more visit: screeningforlife.ca/breast

If you're 45 to 74 years of age, have a mammogram every 2 years or as decided by you and your healthcare provider. No referral needed.



**Primary Care
Alberta**



Screen Test

Post until: September 20, 2025

St. Peter's Catholic Church

ROAST BEEF DINNER

Sunday, October 5, 2025

Milk River Civic Centre

Buffet meal served at 1:00 p.m.

Adults \$20.00 Children (6 to 13) \$10.00 (5 & under) Free

Take out Available

Bake Table, Fishpond for Kids, 50/50, Silent Auction, Religious Gift Store

Everyone Welcome



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**SEPTEMBER 25, 2025 @ 6PM
WARNER CIVIC CENTRE**

EVERYONE WELCOME!



MILK RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL CANADA COMMUNITY APPRECIATION FORUM

Please join us as we celebrate the unique aspects of the Milk River watershed and 20 years of growing community involvement in managing the areas that are important to all of us!

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- PRESENTATIONS
- COMMUNITY AWARDS
- FREE DINNER
- LIVE MUSIC
- SILENT AUCTION AND MORE!

AGENDA:

- 4:00PM- 6:00PM
 1. Stories of the MRWCC significant events
 2. Keynote speaker: The St. Mary siphon and diversion and dam project
 3. Community awards: Share success stories of local stewards within the watershed
- 6:00PM- 8:00PM
 - Free delicious dinner followed by silent auction/raffles and the Decadent Phase live band

The Decadent Phase band is a local rock and roll band, so be sure to show up and bring you dancing shoes!

OCTOBER 8TH, 2025
MILK RIVER CIVIC CENTER

REGISTRATION AND MORE INFORMATION:

✉ MARY@MRWCC.CA

☎ (403) 647-3808

🌐 WWW.MRWCC.CA

Oktoberfest 2025 Fundraiser



MILK RIVER CIVIC CENTRE

321 3rd Ave NE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

Hospitality Hour 5-6

Silent Auction 5 - 10:30

Schnitzel Dinner 6-7

(Gluten Free Option)

Entertainment 7 - 7:30

Live Music starts at 8

Purchase Tickets by October 10

Mane Street Hair Styles

Smart Alice

JT Wine & Spirits

Ticket Includes Dinner & Dance

Adults \$30.00

Youth \$20.00 (7-12)

Six & Under Free

Dance Only Tickets Available at Door



*This is the Ag Society's yearly
fundraiser to help keep the Civic Centre
operational*

A Family Fun Evening

COMMUNITY PASSENGER VAN SERVICE

Seniors 55+ and Disabled Persons

Serving Coutts, Milk River and Village of Warner

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 ***

Non-Expiry Book of Six Passes \$42

Current trip rate of \$7 per ride in effect until Aug 30/25

Rates Effective Sept 1/25:

In town passenger service:

Warner, Milk River and Coutts \$7 trip rate

Out of town passenger service:

Lethbridge, Raymond, Coaldale, Taber: \$14 trip rate

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 grateful for the continuing financial, operational support from the municipalities of the Village of Coutts, the Town of Milk River, the Village of Warner and the County of Warner.

SENIORS' EXPO

Learn, connect, and celebrate healthy aging together!

FREE!

WHAT

Join us to meet and chat with service providers to explore a variety of helpful resources.

Presentations:

- 1:30pm
 - Alberta Health Advocates
Learn practical strategies to make informed decisions about your health.
- 1:30pm & 2:30pm
 - Therapeutic Drumming.
Boost your mood while learning fun and simple rhythms.

WHEN

Thursday, October 2
1:00-4:00 pm

Light
Refreshments

WHERE

Coalhurst Community Centre
527 50 Ave, Coalhurst

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Renee
587-370-8518
Renee.White@fcss.ca

Door
Prizes!

Programs *at a glance*

Mondays

DROP IN PLAY at Warner FCSS - 210 3rd Ave

9:30-11:00 am

Start Date: September 22nd

Wednesdays

STAY & PLAY at the Milk River Civic Center - Agora room

9:30-11:00 am

Start Date: September 17th

General Interest Classes

PAPER CRAFTING - MINI WALLET FOLIO at Milk River Civic Center

12:30 - 3:30 pm

Wednesday September 24th

PAINT NIGHT WITH CHERYL at Coutts Civic Center

6:30-9:00 pm

Friday October 3rd

ART & CHAT at Coutts Rec Hall - 10:00 - 11:30 am

At Warner FCSS - 2:00-3:30 pm

From October 7th to November 18th

PAPER CRAFTING - EASY WATERFALL FOLIO at Milk River Civic Center

12:30 - 3:30 pm

Wednesday October 8th

BAKING CLASS—QUICK BREADS at Milk River Civic Center

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Wednesday October 8th

PAINT WITH JEN at the Warner Memorial Library

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Thursday October 16th

YOUTH HOW TO DRAW at Milk River Civic Center

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Wednesday October 22nd

DIY YOGURT & CHEESE at the Milk River Civic Center

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Wednesday October 22nd

PAPER CRAFTING - EASY WATERFALL FOLIO at Milk River Civic Center

12:30 - 3:30 pm

Wednesday October 29th

FOR MORE DETAILS & REGISTRATION: www.fcss.ca