

VILLAGE OF COUTTS NEWSLETTER MARCH 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 MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

March is here, and spring is just around the corner!

If you haven't been in the library in while, you need to come in and check out what's new! We have a little area for kids and some new toys. Feel free to come in and work on a puzzle and browse our top reads section or check out one of our new books.

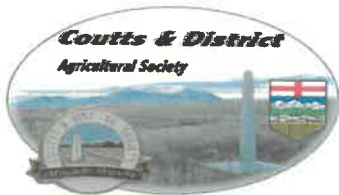
Book Club is at a NEW TIME, March 12th at 3:00pm everyone is welcome! Bring your favourite books, share titles and recommended reads.

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

Happy St. Patrick's Day, and Welcome to Spring. The Border Rascals Social Club's meeting in March is on the 12th at 10am. Planning for upcoming events takes place at this time. Our potluck for March is on the 26th. 5pm the doors open, dinner is at 5.30pm. Games to follow. We welcome all adults. Hopefully we have received your \$5.00 membership fee. If not there is a \$5.00 fee for dinner. We welcome all newcomers. Please join us with your ideas, fellowship, and laughs.



The Coutts and District Ag Society

Next Meeting is Tuesday March 3, 2026

5:30 PM—Coutts Civic Centre

Everyone Welcome!

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

MILK RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

March will be a busy month for the museum.

We are going to be creating new displays and revamping some of the old ones.

If you want to be a part of this adventure, please come out to our next meeting on **March 19, 2026 at 7:00 P.M.**

If you would like a tour to see what we have going now, contact William King @ 403-647-3428

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



ATTENTION NEW DATE

Outdoorsmen 11th Annual Swap Meet & Gun Show - March 7, 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR: Scott MacCumber

Milk River Health Professionals Attraction & Retention Committee: Dr. Truong has completed his Practice Ready Assessment, and it is expected that he will be in Milk River sometime between mid-March and the end of March. We will post the exact date on Facebook when it is nailed down.

Mayors & Reeves – There was a lot of discussion on the new Police Funding Model, which will substantially increase municipal costs for the RCMP over the next five years. In 2026, we will have to pay about \$16,600 and by 2030, our costs are expected to be a little over \$54,000. What I hear is that all municipalities are questioning these increases. The alternative to the RCMP is a provincial police model, but those costs are undetermined. I'll keep you posted on the progress in this area.

Southwest Regional Advisory Council – This council is not a council committee, but I have been named to it by the Minister of Primary and Preventative Health Services. The purpose of this council is to make recommendations to the Minister on how to improve our local healthcare system. More information on our local council can be found at: <https://www.alberta.ca/southwest-regional-advisory-council>. Our council is looking for community input in order that we can highlight our local priorities and draft recommendations. So, here is my question to you: **“What recommendations do you have for improving the healthcare system in our area – specifically, changes you believe are necessary but are not currently being implemented?”** If you have an answer to that question, please send me an email at smaccumber24@gmail.com.

Thank you!

February Committee Highlights – Councillor Steve Pain

Coutts Fire and Rescue

Lucas 3.1 compression machine online training is essentially complete, company representative in-person training for staff scheduled for March 3rd.

The Department has obtained all necessary hardware to install the new pump which will bring the second brush truck back into service; Loaned Sunburst unit to be returned.

The drywall collapse on the second bay ceiling, caused by water damage, is being repaired. Ross will install new 5/8" drywall, tape, mud and prime. Mould repair in the N/W corner of the main floor will require outside concrete work to correct the drainage problem: will be performed this spring.

Chief Johnson has completed his 60 EMR credits required for the year

Deputy-Chief Sean is researching the machine that would enable the department to maintain its Scott BA's in lieu of sending units elsewhere for mandatory pressure testing and maintenance

Heritage Handibus Association

January riders totalled 74; a 45% increase over January 2025. The median age of clients is 74.5 with 35% at 80+, 34% at 70+, 22% at 60+ and 9% registered are under the age of 60

Healthy Aging Alberta operating grant renewal and budget submitted in January was successful and insures a vital portion of operation funding through to March 2028. Municipal support from our four participating partners plus rider pass sales, charter income and fund raising will continue to enable the association to provide safe, reliable and affordable transit service to senior residents.

Results on application sent to Provincial Community Initiatives Program not known until June.

All weekly bookings and charter service will now be coordinated through Dorothy Fraser.

Reminder that rate changes took place March 1st; local passage \$10; out-of-town passage \$20

Coutts and District Library

The Library Board reviewed and approved our librarian's annual report to be submitted to the Alberta Public Library Services Branch. The treasurer's statement is awaiting the annual audit

Your library has 9,371 items in its physical collection plus access to Chinook Regional collection



The board has decided to purchase a memorial plaque honouring librarian Sharon Wollersheim's years of dedication to this library; Secretary, Pat will get cost estimate from a Milk River Supplier
The Donation book rack located at library entrance will be dedicated to Sharon.
FCSS has agreed to consider the library as a venue for possible community activities.
Kari, Sue and Pat have been busy cleaning and reorganizing display shelves; looks wonderful; come enjoy the libraries "New Look"; better access to collection; new displays.
March 18th Potluck and Silent Auction at Rec Center. Funds raised will be applied to purchase of a new smart TV which will enable access to programming through Chinook's "Canopy" App.
Your Library Board is pleased to announce that Kari Hall is now Head Librarian. Congratulations
Respectfully, Councillor Steve Pain

Committee highlights from Megan Payne - Councillor

Feb 4 I attended FCSS meeting via zoom

~ The 2025 Joint Health & Safety Committee gave their report. Actions items were:

- Professional Development
- Staff communication
- Committee tasks

Planned action items for 2026 are:

- Training
- To amend their terms of reference

~Cheers to Volunteers 2026 awards have been awarded & recognition for past winners as well.

~The Family Resource Network has been successful in getting funding since 2020, & is set to end in June 2026 after a 3 month extension. An application to receive further funding is being prepared to be submitted. It is based on the number of children living in the area.

~FCSS opened their new location in Vauxhall at the town office!

~We are in need of another youth counsellor, review of financials to determine capacity.

~2025 Professional Development report was presented. They gave us a breakdown of what the organization is doing & showed the up-to-date training.

~FCSSA spring regional meeting is June 3rd in Lethbridge at City Hall.

Feb 19 I attended the Ridge Country Housing meeting in Raymond.

~Allen Tollestrup gave the bookkeeping report. We are in good standings; he sees no present issues. Less vacancy at The Prairie Rose Lodge can be attributed to some increases.

~A few emergency maintenance bills were paid out of pocket but expected to be replaced by emergency funding as requested.

~Prairie Rose Lodge received 5 new furnaces to replace the old, outdated ones, which will be covered by Capital Maintenance Funding.

~Prairie Rose Lodge has had a decrease in vacancies, making 14 rooms available, of which includes the small rooms.

~2 vacancies in housing are expected to be filled shortly.

~Ridge View Lodge is at full capacity with 58 on the waiting list.

~Housing is full with 28 on the waiting list.

~Both Lodges have enjoyed some outdoor activities with the warm winter we have been having. among other events such as shuffle board tournaments, Valentines Day parties, & activities with FCSS.

~A policy committee has been formed for revision of policies.

~Ridge View Lodge is now hosting Catholic Mass, the public is welcome to join.

~ASCHA convention is set for April 13-15, will members from our board & administration attending.

You're invited to the 1st annual

Coutts Library Spring Fling Potluck and Silent Auction

Fundraiser for a new smart TV for the Library.
Come support your local library.

Where: Coutts Rec Hall

When: March 18 2026

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



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 unit/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 taken

(2 punches on pass ticket)

Please book your medical appointments for 10am to 2pm

Pass Tickets/Registration available at Village and Town Offices

Bookings for all charter and weekly handibus service

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

Weekly Pre-booking is promoted and encouraged

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.

CHEERS TO VOLUNTEERS AWARDS

Nominate an **individual, youth, or group** who has made a significant positive impact in your community

For one of THREE

 **Outstanding Volunteer Awards!** 

Nomination Deadline: Friday, March 13th.

ELIGIBILITY

- ✓ Live and volunteer within the FCSS service area, including the communities within the MD of Taber, County of Warner, and Lethbridge County.
 - Please note that *City of Lethbridge residents are not eligible to receive this award.*
- ✓ Exemplify a spirit of volunteerism and the ability to inspire others.

INFORMATION

Cindy Lauwen
403-915-7063 (call/text)
volunteerservices@fcss.ca



SUBMIT NOMINATION
SCAN
ME





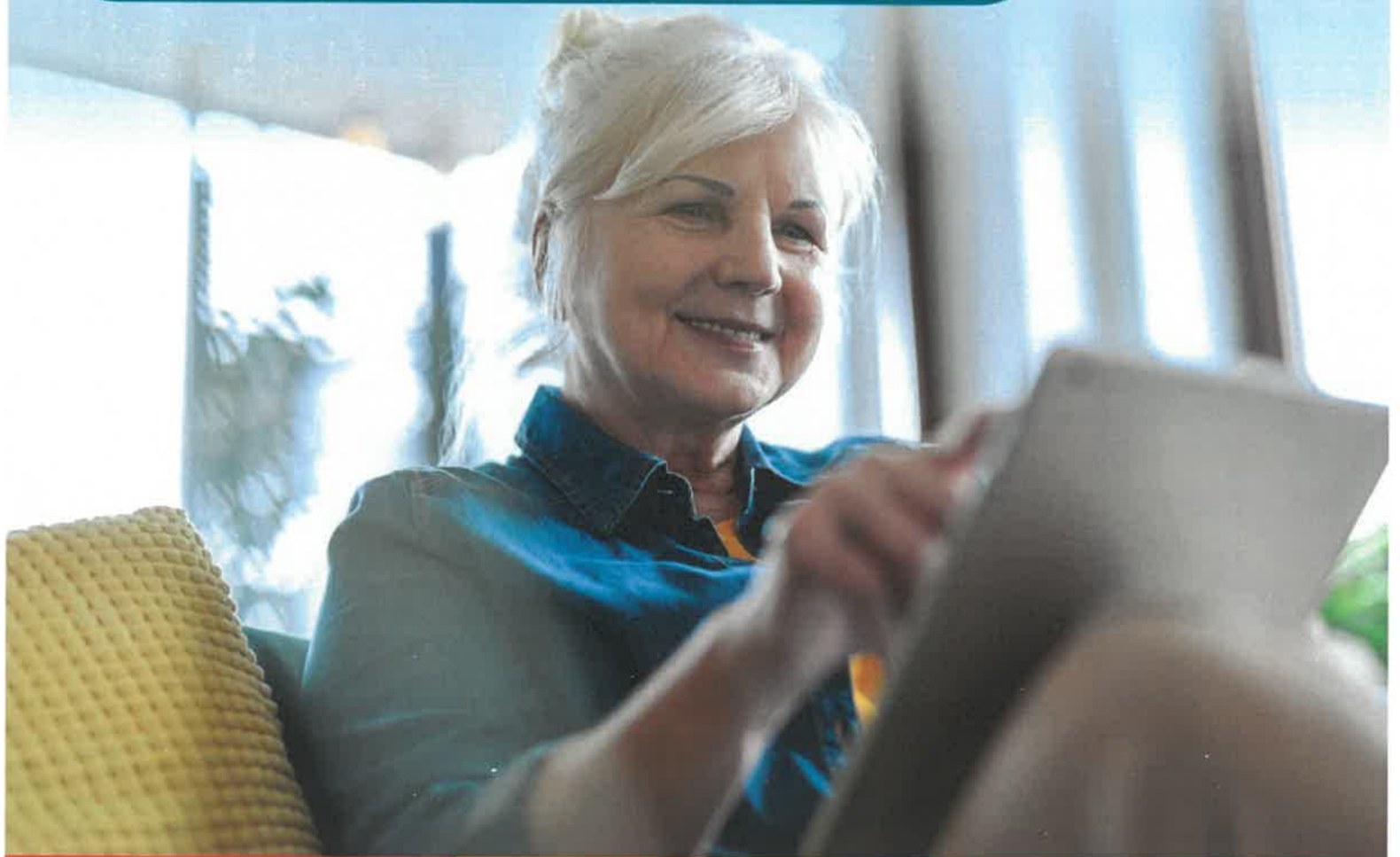
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PROPERTY MAINTENANCE,
CALL JAKE
CELL: 403-635-2013**

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

SEASON TO SEASON



MARKET EVENTS

Spring Fling 2026

Saturday, April 25

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