

**VILLAGE OF  
COUTTS  
NEWSLETTER  
DECEMBER 2025**



**Municipal News**

**Vehicles-** It looks like plowing season is finally knocking on our door. Please move any vehicles/trailers etc that are not in use off the street. This makes plowing easier and prevents ice from building up.

**Taxes -** If you have not paid your 2025 property taxes by the end of December, there will be a 12% penalty applied to your account on Jan 1, 2026. In January 2026 we will once again be offering a 5% discount on any amount paid towards your 2026 property taxes, based on the 2025 tax assessment. If paid in February, the discount will be 4%.

**Utility** prepayments for residential owners will also be offered in January. The prepay amount will be \$445.50. The prepayment is available only in January.

**Christmas Closure -** The village office will be closed from Dec 25-Jan 5. If you have an emergency, please call Lori at 403-642-7429.

**COUTTS MUNICIPAL LIBRARY BOARD—AGM**

**JANUARY 27 @ 4:30 PM**

**@ THE COUTTS LIBRARY**

**ALL WELCOME!**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR RESIDENTS  
WE HOPE YOU HAVE A ENJOYABLE HOLIDAY SEASON AND THAT  
2026 OFFERS EVERYTHING YOU DREAM OF!  
BEST WISHES FROM THE MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF OF THE  
VILLAGE OF COUTTS**



## **COUTTS LIBRARY NEWS**

Once again the cold season is here, along with the snow!

Make sure you come to the library and submit your guess of how many M&M's are in the cup. Closest guess on December 18th wins!

The last day we will be open before Christmas is December 18th, and we will resume regular hours on January 6th. Come in and get a puzzle and some books for your Christmas break.

Book club will resume January 8th at 2:00pm everyone welcome!

We have lots of Christmas books to keep everyone busy, come in and check some out. A reminder a library membership is free, and gives you access to books, movies, puzzles and more, all over southern Alberta through Chinook Arch.

## **BORDER RASCALS SOCIAL CLUB**

The darker days of winter, bring us quieter times in our lives to enjoy family and friends. We hope you will take time in December to join us for our Christmas potluck. Any ideas you wish to share, our planning meeting is on Thursday December 4th at 10am. We will also be decorating the hall after the meeting. Any help or ideas are appreciated.

Our potluck will be on December 15th. Doors will open at 5pm. Dinner will be at 5.30pm. Dinner dishes will be assigned. Extra side dishes and desserts are welcome. We will be having a gift exchange. A minimum of \$20. Please designate bags for gender preference. If you bring a gift, you will receive a ticket to receive a gift. There will be Christmas games involved and stories. We hope you are able to take time from your busy schedule to join us. Any further activities that pop up will be posted at the Post Office board.

**We wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas!.**

## **CHRISTMAS HAMPER AND ANGEL TREE PROGRAMS**

With the holiday season quickly approaching we would like to remind you about the Christmas Hamper and Angel Tree programs.

The Angel Tree will be going up on November 12th at Milk River Town Office. If you would like to participate by purchasing a gift for a child please come down and pick up an Angel on or after that date. Once you have purchased an age appropriate gift for that child please leave the gift unwrapped, attach the Angel tag to the gift, and return it to Milk River Town Office by December 12.

If you have food donations they can be dropped off at Milk River Town Office or Coutts Village Office. Cash donations can be made at Milk River Town Office as well and taxable receipts will be issued.

Finally, if you or someone you know could benefit from one or both of these programs please contact Darlene Fleming at [403-393-3223](tel:403-393-3223).

Thank you to everyone who participates in these wonderful programs.

# FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Wednesday December 17<sup>TH</sup>

*COUTT'S CIVIC CENTRE*

POTLUCK SUPPER AT 5:30pm

*KIDS MUSIC*

*SANTA*



## GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST:

### PRIZES AWARDED IN EACH GROUP: AGES: 6 & UNDER

**7 - 11**

## 12 & OLDER

**Bring your houses to the Civic Centre on the 17<sup>TH</sup> by NOON.**

## DECORATED HOME/BUSINESS CONTEST

Cast your vote for the best decorate home/business at the potluck.

1<sup>st</sup> - \$100

2<sup>nd</sup> - \$75

3<sup>rd</sup> - \$50

Best Business \$50.

*PLEASE LIGHT UP YOUR HOMES FOR ALL TO ENJOY!!*

COME OUT WITH YOUR FAMILY FOR AN EVENING OF  
SOCIALIZING AND CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!

*Prizes sponsored by the Village of Coutts, Coutts Ag Society, and Coutts Community Events.*

## **COUTTS POST OFFICE**

The staff of the Coutts Post Office will be accepting non perishable food items for the Tri-Community Food Bank in Milk River.

You can drop off your items at the Post Office from now until December 15.

Let's help make someone's Christmas a little brighter.

Thank you for your Support! Merry Christmas!



## ***MILK RIVER HOSPITAL LADIES AUXILIARY***

**BID/BUY/BENEFIT**

### ***4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION***

**NOVEMBER 17-DECEMBER 5, 2025**

**TO VIEW ITEMS PLEASE VISIT ATB IN MILK RIVER**

**CONTACT ROBERT MATLOCK AT 403-642-7166**

## **FOR RENT – IN COUTTS**

One bedroom suite with plenty of natural light. Suitable for quiet, mature tenants.

Tenants are responsible for sharing yard work and snow removal.

**NON-SMOKERS ONLY.** Please, No 420 or related. References required.

**\$750/month plus electricity (metered separately) \$750 SD**

Please contact for further details.

Located at 411 1 Ave South, Coutts

Please call/text Rhonda 403-894-2740



# **Coutts ATB Financial**

**Is wishing you all a very  
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!!**

**Thank you for your support, we look  
forward to serving you this coming  
year!!**



**Meg's Shabby Chic & Antiques**

**Seasonal Sale!!**

**Everything is 25% OFF**

**for the month of December!**

# MILK RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Join us for the Milk River Customer Appreciation Day  
on December 5, 2025

We will again be hosting the Gingerbread House contest

The museum will also be on your Stamp Card to win great prizes



Tours are available through William King by  
calling 403-647-3428

Our next meeting will be held  
February 19, 2026



## NIKKI'S KNACKS

221 Main St NW, Milk River  
403-492-9314

niksknack88@gmail.com

Follow us: @niksknacks88

MON 11-5 · WED 11-5 · FRI 12-4 · SAT 3-6

### PICK N' PAINT:

\$3-\$40 · Canvas \$16-\$18

Drop in anytime · All supplies included

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES:

- Kids Craft Hour — Mon 3:30-4:30 (\$10)
- Seniors Tea — Wed 1-3 (\$5)
- Pick n' Paint Afternoon — Wed 3-6
- Little Artists (5 & under) — Fri 9-12 (\$10)

**CLOSED DEC 23-26**

### EVENTS & PROGRAMS:

Paint Nights (Kids \$15 · Family \$65 · Adult \$35)

Birthday Parties \$150-\$200

Art Explorer Kids Pass — \$45

### UPCOMING:

Dec 5 Customer Appreciation (12-10)

Dec 7 Paint Night (2-4:30)

Dec 8 Kids Paint Night (6:30-8)

Dec 13 Mistletoe Market (10-4)

Dec 19 Kids Party (1-4) · Family Paint Night (6-8)



# CONSTRUCTION

## INSTALLATION & UPGRADING UTILITIES

### WORK INFORMATION:

#### Work Locations:

The work will take place between the following areas:

- Village of Coutts

#### Dates:

This work is scheduled to occur between December 9<sup>th</sup> - April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026

#### Work times:

Work will occur between 08:00 AM TO 5:30 PM

### What's happening?

On behalf of **Xplore Inc.**, Newhook Trenching Ltd. will be installing new underground utilities in your area to support future fibre service delivery to your community.

We understand that this work may create some inconveniences, and we thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

We will ensure all remediation is completed by the end of the snow melt of 2026.

### If you have any questions about this program, please contact:

**Michael Ricks**

Project Manager  
Newhook Trenching Ltd.  
Contact: 403-235-6005



**100% Pure fibre,  
the fastest Internet  
technology in the world**  
will soon be available directly  
to your home

### That means:

- Gigabit speeds<sup>1</sup> on both download and upload
- A very reliable fibre optic connection to your door
- Advanced Wi-Fi included
- Professional installation by a local technician

Sign up now to be notified  
on availability and special offers:

**xplore.ca/futurefibre**



Where available, as determined by the installer at your location. Speeds vary based on your technical configuration, traffic, servers, and other factors. © 2025 Xplore Inc. Xplore and Xplore Fibre are trademarks

### What to expect:

- We make every effort to minimize the effect our work has on daily activities, and we follow all applicable standards and bylaws. Below are the things to be aware of related to this program.
- The village of Coutts has provided us approval to work in the utility right of way to install new telecom services on behalf of Xplore Inc.
- Crews will be reaching out to homeowners for any on property work as required.

### During construction:

- Construction barricades and/or safety fencing (if required).
- Noise and/or minor vibrations during construction.

### Road closures, detours, parking, and access:

- Please follow onsite signage. Doing so will limit potential damages to property and protect the safety of the public, contractors, and our crews.

# *Mistletoe Market*



*Saturday, December 13*

**10:00am – 4:00pm**

*Milk River Civic Centre - 321 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave NE*

*Meet many new vendors*

*Concession Available*

*Enjoy this Festive Christmas Market spent  
shopping, eating and visiting.*

*For Information Contact Laura 403-642-7500*





**LONEWOLF  
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**

# **COMMUNITY PASSENGER VAN 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 \***

## **Non-Expiry Book of Six Passes \$42**

**In town passenger service:**

**Warner, Milk River and Coutts \$7 return service**

**(1 punch on pass ticket)**

**Out of town passenger service:**

**Lethbridge, Raymond, Coaldale, Taber: \$14 per trip**

**(2 punches on pass ticket)**

**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 and operational support from the municipalities of the Village of Coutts, the Town of Milk River, the Village of Warner and the County of Warner. Their contributions remain the foundation that enables this service to continue in our respective communities.**

# Mental Health over the Holidays

The holiday season can be a joyful time for many, but it can also be stressful and challenging for others.

Here are some accessible tips to help prioritize your mental health during this time:

- **Make Time for Yourself:** While spending time with loved ones is important, don't forget to carve out moments just for you. Engage in activities that bring you joy and relaxation.
- **Set Realistic Expectations:** The holidays can be overwhelming. Use budgeting, to-do lists, and prioritize tasks to keep things manageable and reduce stress.
- **Establish Boundaries:** Not all relationships are positive. It's okay to set boundaries with family and friends to protect your mental well-being.
- **Limit Alcohol Consumption:** Alcohol can negatively affect your mood. Consider non-alcoholic alternatives like hot chocolate, cider, or mocktails.
- **Maintain Healthy Habits:** Don't neglect self-care. Try to eat nutritious foods, get enough sleep, and stay active to support your mental health.
- **Seek Support:** If you find the holidays particularly tough, reach out to friends, family, or community resources like counselling.
- **Practice Mindfulness:** Focus on the present moment and accept that things may not go as planned. This can help reduce anxiety and improve your overall experience.
- **Be Kind to Yourself and Others:** Responding with kindness can ease tensions and improve interactions during stressful times.

Remember, it's normal to feel a mix of emotions during the holidays. Taking proactive steps can help you navigate this season more comfortably.

FCSS Counsellors can support residents to navigate life's challenges. For more information about FCSS programs and services or to book an appointment, please visit our website at [www.fcss.ca](http://www.fcss.ca) or call (587) 370-3728.



## SERVING:

Barons | Barnwell | Coalhurst | Coaldale | Coutts | County of Warner | Lethbridge County  
MD of Taber | Milk River | Nobleford | Picture Butte | Stirling | Raymond | Taber | Vauxhall | Warner

**Michael Fedunec**  
Counselling Intake Supervisor





**SOUTHERN ALBERTA OUTDOORSMEN**  
**UPCOMING EVENTS**



**Fishing day- December 27<sup>th</sup> 2025, Goldsprings park, 10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.**

Family ice or shore fishing day with lunch and hot drinks provided by the Southern Alberta Outdoorsmen

**Measuring day- January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2026, Milk River Heritage Hall**

Bring your harvest to the Heritage hall between 8:00 am and noon to have it scored or swing by for refreshments and a visit.

**Outdoorsmen 11<sup>th</sup> 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 Hult 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 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