VILLAGE OF COUTTS NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2026



MUNICIPAL NEWS

Organizational Meeting—At the Organizational Meeting of Council on October 13th, all positions remained the same. Scott MacCumber as Mayor and Tanya Smith as Deputy Mayor. The only portfolio to change is Darren Hall has now been appointed to the Coutts Library Board as Steve has stepped down.

Remembrance Day Service—The Remembrance Day Service will be as usual, at the Civic Centre at 11am Nov 11th. We appreciate everyone that steps up to help with the Service each year. See poster.

Festival of Lights– Festival of Lights is Dec 21. Please light up your homes and businesses for a change to win a cash prize. Bring a potluck item for all to share and wear your favorite Christmas shirt.

Vehicles—Now is the time to remove trailers, vehicles that are not used, etc off the streets. Snow is Coming. There is nothing more frustrating than getting calls complaining that the streets are not cleared when the reason is because trailers etc are blocking the curbs. Please help us make our job easier, and the streets less icy by moving anything off the street that you do not use throughout the winter. Thank you!

COUTTS LIBRARY NEWS

Rita Mae Brown: "When I got my library card, that was when my life began."

The library is happy to host a FCSS wood working/painting class (3 Christmas décor option's to pick from) on November 17th 6pm-8pm. Have a look at the Country of Warner website or The Coutts Municipal Library Facebook page for details.

On November 24th the library is happy to have Nikki's Knacks come and teach a painting class! Nikki will join us from 5:30-7:30pm and guide us through painting a beautiful winter barn scene. All your needs for the painting will be supplied. The cost is $40 per person. Please sign up with Kari Hall at the library by Friday Nov 20th or call/text 403-492-0055.

There are some new changes regarding internet use here at the library. All children using the internet below the age of 11 MUST have an adult with them to browse the internet. Youth aged 12-15 MUST have a signed permission form by a parent to use the internet. If this is you, or your child, please come in and have one signed as soon as possible.

Come in and browse our new titles and current top reads shelf!

We look forward to seeing you!

Message from the Mayor: Scott MacCumber

Our annual Remembrance Day ceremony will be held at the Civic Centre / Cenotaph Park starting at 10:00 am. Our ceremony is always well attended and a big thank you to everyone who makes it happen. See the poster in the newsletter for more information.

The Festival of Lights will take place on Monday, December 21st with a Potluck Supper starting at 5:30 pm at the Civic Centre. See the poster in the newsletter for more information.

Mini-Golf – the course is always open, but we will be removing "Red" (the M&M character) for safekeeping over the colder months. When using the course, please ensure that the cabinet doors stay closed and the gate is shut when you leave. We have been receiving positive comments about the course and we will be building new hazards over the winter to make it bigger and better next spring.

Milk River Health Professionals Attraction & Retention Committee Update – We currently have stability in our Physician/PA/NP staffing right now. We have two physicians one PA and two part-time NP's all working together to provide us with the best possible healthcare service. Dr. Truong is still taking on new patients so if you are without a primary care doctor, you can call the Milk River Medical Clinic at 403-647-3599 to make an appointment. AHS is conducting interviews for a permanent site manager at the Health Centre, so we should have an update on that soon. And if you are at the clinic you may be seen by a student Physician Assistant as PA Mark Simons will working with a number of students over the next few months. And while we don't anticipate many shifts that a doctor/PA/NP will not be physically present in the Milk River Emergency Room, the Health Centre does have access to other doctors virtually, so that will help maintain its open status.

Mayors & Reeves – We received an update on Alberta's Aquatic Invasive Species Program. At the Dunmore station they are using Dip Tank technology which is the first of its kind in Canada. The stationary system is large enough to completely submerge trailered boats. Water is heated above 40 degrees Celsius and is flushed through the boats internal systems. The high heat rapidly kills the mussels and invasive organisms. The province is working with UBC to develop mobile stations to help in the fight against these very invasive and destructive mussels.

Southern Alberta Medical Program (SAMP) – I met with the Director of Clerkship, Parveen Boora, who came down to Milk River for a presentation and a tour of our facilities. The program currently has 20 students, and it is expected to have 30 more in July 2027, and the goal is to put through 50 students a year after that. The overall goal is to recruit and train students who are looking to pursue a rural medicine practice.

That's my news for this month……Scott

Coutts Fire and Rescue

Your volunteer Fire Department handled 2 fire calls in this period; one residential alarm and 1 mutual aid hay fire. The Department is also responsible for conducting the transfer station burns as required. The Department has 18 members currently. Members are urged to attend weekly fire practices and scheduled monthly meetings. Chief Jan Johnson is proposing an attendance list for members. As well an application form for new members will be created to meet required safety criteria. The department now has rural fire release forms which are signed by property owners re liability protection.

Chief Jan Johnson and Deputy Chief Sean Butler presented a wonderful and well received presentation on the many aspects of fire safety, fire prevention and emergency medical preparedness in the home at the October Border Rascals Thanksgiving Potluck. Coutts Fire and Rescue remains one of the true volunteer fire departments in the province.

The joint MFR update for the South and Central Division Partners zoom meeting was on October 26th. One important announcement was that rural ambulance crews will only be required to attend to the highest acuity response (Tier one) calls if in metro areas with a goal of returning rural crews to their home base faster. EHS has a goal of achieving hospital offload times at 45 minutes to aid in faster turn around times. Our chief and deputy chief will address the village council at the November council meeting.

REMINDER: Now is a great time to check your Smoke/Co alarm and change batteries as required.

Heritage Handibus Association

Total riders from January to the end of September totaled 676 compared with 599 for the same period in 2025. Registrations are currently 86; well above the 75 projected in the 2026 budget presented to Healthy Aging Alberta in March. The service continues to build on core riders that regularly use the handibus as their transit option; both locally and abroad. There were no charters in September but that service is expected to increase with the arrival of fall into the winter season.

We welcome Betty back into her driver position after completing her harvest commitments. Kudo's to Robbi and Mel for their efforts in maintaining service in Betty's absence. The association welcomes Derek Hacke as a regular driver in the rotation; once again providing the availability of three weekly drivers.

The Association received a most welcome surprise in early October with official notification from the Ministry that the Community Initiatives Program grant that had been applied for earlier this year was approved. These funds combined with reserve funds will be utilized in the purchase of a new transit vehicle. The association welcomes local sponsors that wish to participate in this most needed vehicle purchase.

Coutts and District Library

Councillor Darren Hall became the new village representative to the library board at the village organizational meeting in October. It has been a pleasure to serve on this board for the past five years.

Respectfully, Steve Pain

COUTTS BORDER RASCALS

Welcome November. Our Thanksgiving potluck on October 22nd was a great success. So much food to enjoy, thank you to all for efforts. We also had the wonderful pleasure of welcoming some new members to our Border Rascals and to our village.

We also wish to extend our thanks to Jan Johnson our Fire chief, and Deputy Fire Chief Sean Butler. A presentation full of information needed as we age, and also safety factors for our homes. It was all perfect timing as we end Fire Prevention in October.

Our November planning meeting is on Thursday the 12th at 10am, at the Rec Center. All are welcome.

Our November potluck will be on the 25th Doors open at 5pm, supper starts at 5.30pm at the Rec Center. All dishes to be shared with everyone. Bailey and Ross will be returning in November to bring us Christmas themed songs, to take your best guess at, prizes for winners.

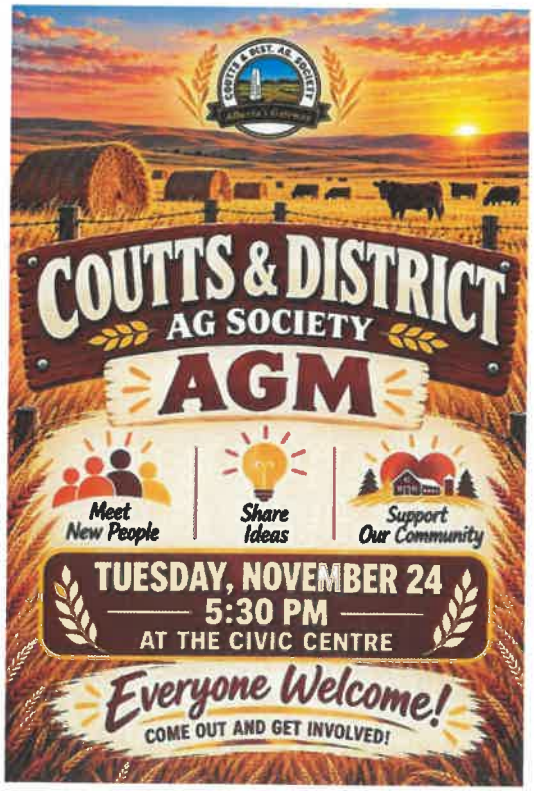
A reminder for members who be attending November's curtain call, with the return of your ticket stub at the following potluck, we refund half your money. Dates for play are November 25th to the 28th. The Savanna Sipping Society, is the presentation.

FCSS is sponsoring a Gnome making project at the Prairie Rose Lodge on November 19th at 1pm. The cost is $5. Please contact Debbie at 403-603-8578, if wishing to attend, to ensure supplies are available

We are also attempting to put together a trip on the Handibus on December 5th. We would be going to Lethbridge for their Glow Festival and Mkt at the exhibition grounds. This is an indoor event. Dinner will be on the agenda after this, then returning home. Please also contact Debbie Pain at 403-603-8578, as soon as possible, to be on list.

Also a heads up for our December potluck, taking place on December 17th. This will be our annual Christmas gift exchange.

Enjoy the cooler months. Hope to see everyone.



Milk River and District Agricultural Society

It takes many hands to run a successful event. The Milk River & District Agricultural Society would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who contributed in any way to make Oktoberfest 2026, a fantastic family event. To our cooperate donors, our community volunteers and group volunteers, the businesses and individuals who made donations to the silent auction, and to everyone who showed up on Saturday to be part of the event, your support was greatly appreciated. Finally, thank you to the organizing committee for your work to make this event a reality. See you next year.

ST PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH THANK YOU!

St Peter's Catholic Church would like to thank the community and surrounding area for the support of our annual Fall Roast Beef Dinner, on October 6th at the Milk River Civic Centre. The afternoon was filled with lots of laughter and good conversation. It is wonderful to be part of such a supportive and generous community and surrounding areas.



MILK RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Come join us for the Milk River Businessmen's Customer Appreciation Day on November 20, 2026

The Museum will be open for viewing from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M.

BRING IN YOUR GINGERBREAD HOUSE FOR THE COMPETITION

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 12 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 9th.

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.

Thank you to everyone who participates in these wonderful programs.



NEWS FROM THE COUTTS POST OFFICE

The Coutts Post Office is happy to announce that we will once again host as a drop off location for the Tri-Community Pantry Christmas Baskets. Please bring your non-perishable food donations to the Coutts Post Office prior to December 11 and the staff will deliver to Milk River for the Christmas Hamper Program that serves all 3 of our Southern Communities.

Last year was an overwhelming success and we appreciate you all for reaching out to care in this wonderful season of Christmas!





REMEMBRANCE DAY

Lest We Forget

COUTTS CIVIC CENTRE / CENOTAPH PARK

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2026

10 AM

EVERYONE WELCOME

THANK YOU TO THE ORGANIZERS, ALL THE PARTICIPANTS THAT GIVE TALKS OR PLAY MUSIC, AND TO THE WOMEN'S INSTITUE FOR SERVING THE REFRESHMENTS THAT WERE PROVIDED BY LOCAL LADIES.

The Poppy Campaign begins on October 24 and runs through November 11.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Monday December 21st

COUTTS CIVIC CENTRE

POTLUCK SUPPER AT 5:30pm

KIDS MUSIC

SANTA

WEAR YOUR BEST CHRISTMAS SWEATER



DECORATED HOME/BUSINESS CONTEST

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

1st - $100 2nd - $75 3rd - $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.

SOUTHERN ALBERTA OUTDOORSMEN

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fishing day- **December 27th 2026, 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 2nd 2027, 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 11th Annual Swap Meet & Gun Show - March 6, 2027, 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 14, 2027 – 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 4th , 5th , 6th 2027 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

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 ***

Book of 4 Passes $40, 6 Passes $60, 10 Passes $100

Local passenger service:

Warner, Milk River and Coutts $10 return service (1 pass)
Local ride service of 3 hours maximum

Out of town passenger service:

Lethbridge, Raymond, Coaldale, Taber: $20 per trip taken (2 passes)
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.

Vehicle Sponsor Interest: Contact any Municipal Office, Committee Member or our chairman Marvin Bohne


OPEN GYM NIGHTS
LOCATION: MILK RIVER CIVIC CENTRE
ALL SKILLS WELCOME
NOVEMBER 6
JANUARY 15
FEBRUARY 5
MARCH 19
APRIL 9
$2.00 ENTRY
CONCESSION AVAILABLE:
POPCORN
HOT DOGS
POP
WATER
TIME:
7:00 - 9:00 PM
ENTRY FEE: $2.00
LOCATION:
MAIN GYM

Season to Season Market Events presents

Mistletoe Market

Saturday, December 5, 2026

Milk River Civic Centre

321 3rd Ave NE

10:00am to 4:00pm



over 40 vendors



kids craft corner



entertainment



photo opportunities



concession

contact Laurie at 403-642-7500

Family Violence Prevention Month

FCSS Family & Community Support Services
www.fcss.ca

November is Family Violence Prevention Month (FVPM), a time to raise awareness, start meaningful conversations, and work together to prevent family and domestic violence. Family violence can affect anyone and includes various forms of abuse, neglect, coercion, or controlling behaviours experienced within families or intimate relationships.

Family Violence in Alberta: Key Facts

- Family violence can affect anyone, including children, adults, seniors, and families from all backgrounds.
- Alberta domestic violence shelters answered more than 59,000 calls for help in 2022–2023, the highest number in a decade.
- Nearly half of the individuals supported by Alberta shelters were children.

Family Violence is Preventable

- Family violence is preventable. By recognizing warning signs, supporting healthy relationships, and connecting individuals to local resources, communities can play an important role in prevention by promoting healthy relationships, recognizing warning signs, and connecting people to support services.

How You Can Help

- Learn the signs of family violence.
- Check in with friends, family members, or neighbours who may need support.
- Share local resources and helpline information.
- Promote healthy, respectful relationships in your home and community.

How to reach out for support:

- 24-hour Family Violence Info Line: Call/text 310-1818 (toll free)
- If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, please call 911.
- FCSS Counselling Services: (587) 370-3728 or counsellingservices@fcss.ca



Michael Fedunec
Counselling Intake Supervisor

SERVING:

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