

# VILLAGE OF COUTTS NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2025



## **YARD WASTE BAGS**

Yard waste pick up will continue Monday mornings. Yard clippings must be in paper yard waste bags. Branches must be tied together in no more than 5' long bundles.

If you are cutting lots of bushes etc, and require the trailer, each residence is entitled to one free trailer load per year. Please call the office to book the trailer. You will be responsible for loading it. We will park it and haul it to the landfill.

## **LOCAL SCAM CALLS**

The office has had a couple reports of SCAM calls. The callers have local numbers to look like they are legit. Please be aware of who is calling you and never give banking information, or other personal information over the phone. If you get a call from someone claiming to be your bank, hang up and call your bank to confirm. There is also one that claims you have unpaid parking tickets that come as a text message. These are also scams.

## **MUNICIPAL ELECTION—2025**

Please refer to the information attached in this newsletter. 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—Heads Up**

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, to be determined at the next meeting. This will ensure we remain in a cost recovery position. It is important to note that the garbage rate has not changed in 20+ years on your basic charges. There will be an additional \$6/extra bin charge as well. One bin is included in the base rate.

## **NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY**

Soon we are into our second month of summer. Hope your's has been wonderful so far, it sure was nice to see moisture this month as well.

If you have a summer bingo sheet this is your reminder that it must be turned at the library by August 8<sup>th</sup> to get submitted for the prize draws.

Remember we are closed on Wednesday's in August as well, back to regular schedule in September as well as book club. We have lots of free books on our hall shelf for you to pick up if you are travelling as well, you don't even have to worry about returning them!

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

## ***\*Hear the Church Bells Ringing\****

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

## ***ALL ARE WELCOME***

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### **5-Day Club/VBS Free**

Children 5 - 12 years old

Presenting Truth Lab

Uncovering God's Ultimate Formula

Bible Stories and Missionary Adventure

Prizes, Games and Snack

Where? 316 1st Ave S, Coutts,

When? August 11-15, 2025

Time? 10:30 am - 12 pm.

Register [Ichizek@telus.net](mailto:Ichizek@telus.net)

# 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](mailto:Karrina@abmunis.ca)

Jared Shaigec, RMA Policy Advisor | [Jared@rmalberta.com](mailto:Jared@rmalberta.com)



## **ALBIN "AL" GUSTAV KALAU**

**JUNE 13, 1933 – JULY 18, 2025**

The family of the late Al Kalau would like to thank everyone for all the thoughts, prayers, and phone calls during our tie of recent loss. Thank you to all who brought food, helped set up at the Civic Centre, and helped prepare the luncheon. Thank you to all that attended the Celebration of Life. It is wonderful to belong to the supportive communities of Coutts and Milk River

Thank you all again,

Shirley Heather-Kalau  
Barb and Rob Hoytos and Family  
Pam Heather and Gimmy Abriotti and Family  
Sharon Kalau and Family

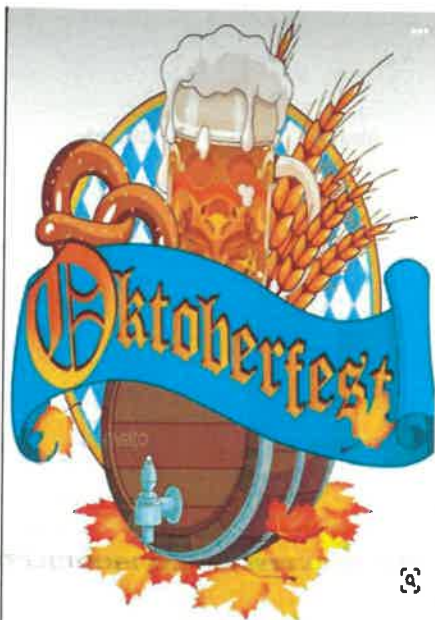
Shirley Kalau and Family  
Debbie and Thor Stonkeck and Family  
Martin Kalau

## **MILK RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

We had our AGM on July 17th, the following is our new executive; President: William King, Vice President: Linda Robutka, Secretary: Sharla Nelson, Treasurer: Leslie Cody, Directors: Bob Bogle, Herb Joyce and Colynn Kerr.

Reminder that the museum will be open on the Bonanza Day weekend, hours of opening are; Friday, August 1st 1:00pm to 4:00pm, Saturday, August 2nd (Bonanza Day) 10:00am to 4:00pm and Sunday, August 3rd 1:00pm to 4:00pm. For any other time to tour the museum please call William King at 403-647-3428.

There will not be a meeting in August, our next meeting will be on September 18th, hope to see you all there!



## **Save the Date**

**Milk River & District Agricultural Society  
is gearing up to bring the feel of German  
Culture to our community during its  
4<sup>th</sup> Annual Oktoberfest Evening,  
Saturday, October 18, 2025.**

**This family focused event promises to have something  
for everyone. Watch for more details in your  
September and October community newsletter.**

# **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.**

# Community Member Survey

**If you are a resident of one of the 16 municipalities in the Barons-Eureka-Warner region and 18 years of age or older, you are invited to participate in a research study.**

Research Study Title:  
Prevention priorities and municipal action in southern Alberta  
Principal Investigator: Lars Hallström

In the survey, we ask about community assets, satisfaction with local services, and if there are any service gaps in need of attention.

The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete.  
You can find more information about this study & the survey below:



**<https://bit.ly/bewsurvey>**

## WHAT IS THE STUDY'S PURPOSE?

The purpose of this project is to support the 16 municipalities in the Barons-Eureka-Warner Family and Community Support Services (BEW-FCSS) region to make informed decisions about how they invest in their communities and address challenges related to:

- homelessness and housing insecurity;
- mental health and addictions;
- employment;
- family and sexual violence across the lifespan;
- aging well in the community.

## WHO IS THIS FOR?

This is a project for the people who live in the BEW region (Barnwell, Barons, Coaldale, Coalhurst, County of Warner, Coutts, Lethbridge County, Milk River, M.D. of Taber, Nobleford, Picture Butte, Raymond, Stirling, Taber, Vauxhall, and Warner).

## WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Until March 2026, researchers from the Prentice Institute are conducting a community needs assessment study in the BEW-FCSS region.

Starting in the summer of 2025, we are reaching out to community members (18 years and older) to ask for their perspectives. At the end of the project, we will put together a report that will be shared with each of the local councils in the region and the FCSS team.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions, please get in touch with Lars Hallström (Director, Prentice Institute) at [prentice@uleth.ca](mailto:prentice@uleth.ca) or (403) 380-1814 and/or Zakk Morrison (Executive Director, FCSS) at [zakk.morrison@fcsc.ca](mailto:zakk.morrison@fcsc.ca) or (403) 715-2260.

UofA Ethics ID (Pro00141131), Version Date: June 9, 2025

# Duty Free

**Locals Can Purchase  
Items Without Going South!**



**Soda**



**Candy**



**Snacks**



**Souvenirs**

**Slushies**



**\$2.50**

**COME**

**SHOP!**

**\$2.95**

**Ice**







**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*

# August

## *at a glance*

<p><b>Monday</b> <b>Aug 11 &amp; 25</b></p>	<p><b>DROP IN PLAY</b> at <u>Warner FCSS - 210 3rd Ave</u>  <b>9:30-11:30 am</b>            Center will be open for families to play - no snack provided</p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b> <b>Aug 6 &amp; 13</b></p>	<p><b>OPEN PLAY</b> at the <u>Milk River Civic center - Agora room</u>  <b>9:30-11:00 am</b>            Center will be open for families to play - no snack provided</p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b> <b>Aug 6</b></p>	<p><b>SENIORS ICE CREAM SOCIAL</b> at the <u>Warner Senior's Center</u>  <b>2:00-3:00 pm</b>  <b>Please register</b> with Renee: <b>587 370 8515</b> or <b><a href="mailto:renee.white@fcss.ca">renee.white@fcss.ca</a></b></p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b> <b>Aug 20</b></p>	<p><b>PARK &amp; PLAY</b> at the <u>Milk River Ridge School playground</u>  <b>9:30-11:00 am</b>            Parents &amp; caregivers play outside together - activities geared toward children aged 0-7. A small snack will be provided.  <b>**WEATHER PERMITTING**</b></p>

**VIEW FULL PROGRAM SCHEDULE AT: [www.fcss.ca](http://www.fcss.ca)**

# MILK RIVER AG SOCIETY BONANZA DAY

## Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>

8:00 -10:00am     **Pancake Breakfast @ Milk River Civic Centre SW Parking Lot**  
(Sponsored by South Country Tire)

11:00am           **Candy Parade – Theme “Celebrating Canadian Ag”**  
Parade Route – see reverse side  
Line up 10:30 old ball diamond west end of track – no judging of entries

12:00 – 3:00pm   **Fun on the Football Field for Everyone**  
Food Trucks  
In Person Blacksmith Demonstration - Sponsored by Ag Society  
Drug Dog Demonstration (1:30)  
Petland Petting Zoo  
Face Painting  
Bouncy Houses – Sponsored by the Town of Milk River  
Let em’ Loose Archery/FCSS Fun Trailer/Variety of Games  
Music

2:00 – 3:00pm     **Water Fun – Sponsored by Milk River Fire Department**

9:00pm – 2:00am   **Cabaret Civic Centre**

**Additional Activities**     **Rory Russell Memorial Slow-pitch Tournament Aug 1-3**  
                                 **Quilt Display, Farmers Market**  
                                 **1945-1965 ERHS Grad Reunion**

**Volunteers are needed to help make this day possible, call 403-642-7500 to help**

Parade Route confirmed – North up 1<sup>st</sup> St, East on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave (Up past ball diamonds and school), South on County Road, West on Centre Ave (501 @ Medical Centre), North on Main St, East on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, North on 1<sup>st</sup> St back into football field