

VILLAGE OF COUTTS NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2026



MUNICIPAL NEWS

BOTTLES/CANS: We are still collecting bottles/cans (return for refund) to help fund fireworks for Coutts Day. They need to be bagged and put in front of the garage behind the Village Office. Please let the office know once you drop them off. Thank you to all that have been doing this, it is appreciated!

RECYCLING—Blue Bin recycling begins on Friday Oct 2, and will continue every other Friday. Please have your bins off the curb at 7am. Posters attached for items that are acceptable, and what you need to do prior to placing them in the bin.

REMEMBRANCE DAY –It's getting to be that time of year to think about the annual Poppy Campaign. This year the campaign will run Friday October 30—November 12. Those of you that have wreaths or crosses can set them out during this time frame.

Also, Raylene has overstock of wreaths and crosses from the Foremost Legion. If you are interested in purchasing one please call her at (403) 666-2260. Stock is limited and prices are reduced.

The Service will be held as usual in the Civic Centre on November 11 at 10 am.

BORDER COMMUNIT WELLNESS FOUNDATION

WELLNESS MOMENT:

HOW TO SURVIVE A HEART ATTACK WHEN ALONE:

Since many people are alone when they suffer a heart attack, this article seemed in order. Without help, the person whose heart stops beating properly and who begins to feel faint, has only about 20 seconds left before losing consciousness.

However, these victims can help themselves by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously. A deep breath should be taken before each cough, and the cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest. A breath and a cough must be repeated about every two seconds without let up until help arrives, or until the heart is beating normally again. Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and coughing movements squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it regain normal rhythm. In this way, heart attack victims can get to a hospital. Tell as many other people as possible about this, it could save their lives!

Border Rascal August Newsletter

Fall is here. Which brings thoughts of Thanksgiving, and our blessings from our harvest.

Our October planning meeting is on the 8th at 10am at the Rec Center.

Our Thanksgiving potluck is on the 22nd. The doors will open at 5pm. The turkey will be provided for the dinner. The sign up sheet that was filled in at last potluck, Jen will be calling everyone with reminders of your dishes. Any extras provided are greatly appreciated.

We are also having a guest speaker for the evening. Our Fire Chief, Jan Johnson, will be joining us. His topic will be Medical Preparedness in our homes. With a time for questions to follow.

We hope to see many community members joining us in October.

Enjoy our lovely Fall weather.

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 van/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

(2 punches on pass ticket)

Please book your medical appointments for 10am to 2pm

Tickets and registration at local municipal offices

Weekly Pre-booking is promoted and encouraged

Call Dorothy Fraser for all rides and charters

Inquiries for van availability during the service week

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

General Information: Steve Pain @ 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.

COUTTS LIBRARY NEWS

Welcome Fall!

Join us Thursday, October 29 from 5:30-7:00pm for our second annual Halloween Party! We will have crafts and candy for all. Don't forget your costume!

Story time! October 13th at 4:30. We will have story time for elementary kids here at the library. Have your listening ears ready!

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!

VILLAGE OF COUTTS—TAX SALE NOTICE—OCTOBER 15, 2026

6:30 PM

CIVIC CENTRE

Showings of the property on October 14, by scheduling an appointment with the Village Office. Walk showings will be scheduled during working hours only. Make your appointment by calling the office at 403-344-3848.

Please refer to the below for requirements if you are interested in bidding.

The reserve bid will be available the morning of October 14.

Village of Coutts

Notice is hereby given that, under the provisions of the Municipal Government Act, the Village of Coutts will offer for sale, by public auction, in the Village of Coutts Office, 105 Centre Avenue, Coutts, Alberta, on Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., the following lands:

Lot	Block	Plan	C. of T.	LINC	Civic Address
1, 2	3	204DB	221108984	0015020431	204 1 Ave N

1. The properties shall be offered for sale on an "as is, where is" basis and the Village of Coutts makes no representation and gives no warranty whatsoever as to the adequacy of services, soil conditions, land use districting, building and development conditions, absence, or presence of environmental contamination, or the developability of the subject land for any intended use by the purchaser. No bid will be accepted where the bidder attempts to attach conditions precedent to the sale of any parcel. No terms and conditions of sale will be considered other than those specified by the Village of Coutts.
2. The properties listed above shall be subject to the tax sale if the total outstanding property tax arrears remain outstanding prior to the tax sale.
3. The properties will be offered for sale by auction, subject to a reserve bid and to certain registrations shown on the existing certificate of title as described in section 423(1) of the *Municipal Government Act*.
4. Final payment by bank draft or lawyer's trust cheque only. The successful bidder must, at the time of sale, make a non-refundable ten percent (10%) deposit, via cash or cheque with the balance of the purchase price due on the closing date.
5. Successful bidders agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of a Sale Agreement in a form and substance acceptable to the Village of Coutts, a copy of which shall be made available to prospective bidders at the Village of Coutts Office prior to the tax sale. Prospective bidders will be required to register in advance of the public auction.
6. Purchasers are responsible for obtaining vacant possession.
7. The Village of Coutts may, after the public auction, become the owner of any parcel of land not sold at the public auction.
8. All sales are subject to current taxes.
9. Redemption may be effected by payment of all arrears of taxes and costs at any time prior to the date of the sale. Properties may be deleted from this sale as the tax arrears and costs are paid.

Dated at Coutts, Alberta, August 19, 2026.

Lori Rolfe, Chief Administrative Officer.

GAME DAY IN THE PARK

NEW DATE FRIDAY OCTOBER 9TH—4PM

COUTTS MINI PUTT AREA

\$5/PERSON—2 PEOPLE PER TEAM

CATEGORY AGES

12 AND UNDER

13-20

20 AND UP

PRIZES FOR 1ST AND 2ND IN EACH EVENT

**RED NECK BOWLING, CORN HOLE, MINI GOLF AND AXE
THROWING**

**BRING YOUR GAME FACE, LAWN CHAIRS AND POM
POMS.**



HAMBURGER/CHIPS/POP

\$5.00

CHRISTMAS HAMPER AND ANGEL TREE PROGRAM

It is the time of year when we start thinking about the Christmas Hamper and Angel Tree Programs. For 2026 I will once again be gathering information and coordinating with the Town of Milk River and St Pauls United Church to help make some Christmases a little brighter.

We are asking the citizens of Milk River, Coutts, and surrounding area that you think about your neighbors and if you feel that these Programs would possibly benefit and make Christmas a little bit easier for yourself or an individual or family you know please contact me by November 1st with the appropriate information. I will need the name of the family and a phone number to contact them.

The Angel Tree will be placed in the Milk River Town Office on November 12, 2026, so we must have the information prior to that date.

Mark your calendar and remember to come to the Town Office after November 12th to pick up an Angel if you wish to purchase a gift for a child.

Darlene Fleming, Angel Tree Program

Home: 403-393-3223

Save the Date

MISTLETOE MARKET



Saturday, December 5, 2026

Milk River Civic Centre

Call Laurie 642-7500 for Information

Council Report – Steve Pain

Coutts Fire and Rescue

Your volunteer Fire Department handled 2 fire calls, 1 motor vehicle accident, 3 medical response calls, 2 smoke investigations and 1 false alarm over the summer period. The latest being a combine fire involving 2 pumpers and 2 brush trucks. Both Chief Jan and Doug Smith have successfully completed their required EMR registration courses for 2026. Regular weekly fire practices have resumed for department members. The Fire Department attended the 9-1-1 memorial ceremony in Sunburst. They are also participating in the upcoming Sunburst "Homecoming" parade. Our Fire Department and the Sunburst Fire Department remain committed to their long-standing relations, friendship and resource sharing in times of need. Four members of the Department recently completed a 2 day course on Livestock Emergency Response. The training was held in Milk River in conjunction with other local municipal fire departments.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK: OCTOBER 4th to 10th. THEME: CHARGE INTO FIRE SAFETY. "Safe charging a super power" Lithium-Iron equipped electronics in the home

Chief Jan will be the guest speaker at the Border Rascals October 22 Thanksgiving potluck dinner. His general theme will be medical preparedness at home and then host an open forum.

Heritage Handibus Association

Total riders from January to the end of August totalled 619 compared with 530 for the same period in 2025. Registrations continue to climb with new registrations concentrated on new residents of Prairie Rose Lodge and Long-Term Care in Milk River. The association has recently added its first disabled young adult to its client base, great news. Charters in August included a day charter by Coutts Border Rascals.

39% of rides are for local purposes while the remaining are primarily Lethbridge, followed by Taber and Raymond. 37% of rides are for medical purposes; often involving transport to specialized medical services only available in Lethbridge. Rides to the Milk River Medical Clinic are frequented primarily by residents of Prairie Rose Lodge and those who do not have vehicle access of their own.

Keeping the aging vehicles well maintained at commercial standards remains challenging but the association remains totally committed to the safe, punctual transport of its clients. Fuel prices over the summer have certainly not helped in maintaining running costs. The association is grateful to community businesses that contributed to the sponsor drive and remains hopeful of more in the future.

Coutts and District Library

The Library summer programs were a great success. Karri had 17 attendees for the rock painting session at the library. This fall FCSS will sponsor 3 craft sessions at the library, two on woodcarving and one on macrame. A children's reading program will commence in October utilising the new TV and "Canopy Programming" provided by Chinook Arch. The kids program will be held on Tuesdays at 4 pm. The library will also host a children's Halloween Party later in October.

The Village of Coutts Municipal Library Privacy Management Program was approved at the September 22 board meeting. Amendments to the Library's 'Confidentiality of Users Records' were also approved. These changes bring library policies current with the provinces POPA and AITA ruling.

Discussion on operational changes for the implementation of part 5.1 of the Provincial Library Regulation pertaining to Bill 28 has commenced. Operational changes (primarily involving restriction of materials to youths age 15 and younger), a librarian/board assessment of current materials within the library and a new Library Policy governing such changes (submitted to Minister Williams office) must be completed by January 1st of 2027.

The library welcomes Judy Sontag as a part-time librarian assistant.

Respectfully, Steve Pain

Council Report – Megan Payne

On September 2 I attended our first **FCSS** meeting back from the summer via Zoom.

~FCSS won 1st place for parade float at the Taber Corn Festival!

~We had an update from Reaching Home, Rural Development Network (RDN)

- It is a two-year project funded by the Government of Canada's Homelessness Strategy, applicable to the period of April 2026-March 2028

-It works within 5 categories. Housing, Services, Needs, Integration & Access.

- Noted that to receive help from this program, people must be considered "housing ready," which means they are open to & cooperative in receiving assistance.

~FCSS received a Certificate of Appreciation from the CRA!

~ The FRN (Family Resource Network) contract was a success!! FCSS will receive \$850,000 in funding for the next two years!! This is very exciting news & a sigh of relief as this funding is essential to our operations. With this information, an increase in requisitions should not be necessary.

~We reviewed some policy updates that included definitions & holiday arrangements.

~ Our Annual Evaluation Report was approved!

On September 17, 2026 I attended the **Ridge Country Housing Meeting** at the Prairie Rose Lodge in Milk River.

~We are currently in good financial standing. Our increases are in part due to the rise in residents at the Prairie Rose Lodge! Rooms are filling up which is great to see!

~ Prairie Rose Lodge is getting some rooms reorganized to have more space available & we are talking about possibilities of some renovations of some of the smaller rooms. This is currently in the idea stage.

~ There are currently 3 vacancies at the Prairie Rose Lodge, not including the small rooms.

~ Prairie Rose Lodge is need of staff. If you or anyone you know is interested, please apply.

~The Ridge View Lodge is at full capacity with a long waiting list.

~ The sprinkler system at the Ridge View Lodge is finally being looked at for repair.

~ Both lodges have had successful fun activities with the residents.

~ The Access Agreement has been approved and received for review by our Access Agreement Committee.

Plans for each location Christmas Parties are under way!

Thank you

Megan Payne

Council Report – Darren Hall

- attended SouthGrow Quarterly Meeting in Carmangay on September 17
- Brad Nickel from Equus did a presentation regarding Data Centers, called "Data Centres 101"
- FortisAlberta Virtual Power Plant Pilot ended up going to Strathmore
- Succession Planning process undertook by SouthGrow's Executive Committee to ensure SGRI is prepared for future leadership and operational transitions and that the Board understands the capabilities required to support the organization's work into the future. More work to be done on that and will report more at next meeting
- SouthGrow gained a new member: City of Lethbridge
- Next meeting is scheduled for December 10th

Coutts and District
Ag Society
Presents

Chili Challenge

Bake Off

AND

Pumpkin Carving

How good
is your chili?

Who makes
the best pie?

Can you
carve a pumpkin?

OCTOBER 3RD
4 PM

AT THE COUTTS SCHOOL

Come out, have fun

♥ SUPPORT THE AG SOCIETY ♥

DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

EVERYONE WELCOME!



TOM GILCHRIST MEMORIAL ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

AWARD NOMINATIONS

THE MILK RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL CANADA (MRWCC) IS LOOKING FOR NOMINATIONS TO HONOUR INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES, AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS THAT ARE GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS OF THE MILK RIVER WATERSHED. NOMINATIONS ARE IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

INDIVIDUAL
FAMILY
COMMERCIAL
BUSINESS
ENVIRONMENTAL
GROUP

NOMINATE ANYONE IN THE ABOVE CATEGORIES THAT HAS DEMONSTRATED OUTSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS TO SUSTAIN, PROTECT, AND ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT WITHIN THE MILK RIVER WATERSHED. SELF-NOMINATIONS ARE WELCOME.

TO NOMINATE OR FOR MORE
INFORMATION PLEASE

CONTACT US AT:

ADMIN@MRWCC.CA

(403) 647-4310

240 MAIN STREET, BOX 313
MILK RIVER, ALBERTA, T0K

1M0

WWW.MRWCC.CA

NOMINATION DEADLINE IS
SEPTEMBER 24, 2026



2025 award recipient



2024 award recipient



2023 award recipient

St. Peter's Catholic Church
**ANNUAL FALL
FUNDRAISER DINNER**

(Roast beef with all the trimmings)



Sunday, October 4, 2026

Milk River Civic Center

Buffet style meal served @1:00 p.m.

Adults \$25.00

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

Take out Available starting at 1:30 p.m.

Bake Table, 50/50, Silent Auction, Religious Gift Store

St. Isidore's Allerston CWL, will be selling a limited amount of
"Allerston" Sauerkraut, and garden pumpkins.

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 21 years of growing community involvement in managing the areas that are important to all of us!

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

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

OCTOBER 8TH, 2026
MILK RIVER CIVIC CENTER

REGISTRATION AND MORE INFORMATION:

✉ ADMIN@MRWCC.CA

☎ (403) 647-4310

🌐 WWW.MRWCC.CA

AGENDA:

- 4:00 - Greeting and Stories from the MRWCC
- 4:30 - Feature speaker (30 min)
- 5:15 - Keynote speaker (45 min)
- 6:00 - Banquet Dinner
- 7:00 - Community Awards and silent auction closes
- 7:30 - Raffle draw
- 7:45 - Thank-yous and closing Statements

Oktoberfest

2026 FUNDRAISER

MILK RIVER CIVIC CENTRE
321 3rd Ave NE

SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 17th



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



Hospitality Hour 5-6



Silent Auction 5 - 10:30



Schnitzel Dinner 6-7
(Gluten Free Option)



Music starts at 7:00 pm

Purchase Tickets by October 10th at:

Mane Street Hair Styles
Smart Alice
J-T Wine & Spirits

Ticket Includes Dinner & Dance
Adults \$30.00
Youth \$20.00 (7-12)
Six & Under Free

Dance Only Tickets Available at Door

A Family Fun Evening