

VILLAGE OF COUTTS NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2020



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Recycling

The recycling trailer is closed until further notice due to Covid-19. The virus can remain on metal for days and we do not want to put our workers at risk. Please either store your recycling or put it in with your regular garbage.

Brown Bags with yard waste will be picked up Monday mornings, please have your bags out by 8:30am. Do not leave your bags on the curb until Sunday night. If it rains they disintegrate quickly and they cannot be picked up easily. The Village no longer has bags for sale, sorry for the inconvenience.

We are still collecting "refundable" bottles for Coutts Day next year. They can be dropped off in front of the garage behind the office. Please let the office know if you are doing that so we can get them moved inside.

Street Sweepers

Street sweepers will be here towards the 2nd week of June, please try to move all vehicles, trailers etc off the road in preparation.

Generator

The generator for the Booster Station in Milk River has been ordered. If you will recall, when the power is out in Milk River we have no way of receiving water. This project cost approximately \$60,000 and will be funded with grant money. (Federal Gas Tax Fund). It will be completed within 3 months, generators are built as they are ordered, so there is a waiting list.

Taxes

Taxes will be mailed on June 17th. If you are signed up for email and do not get them, please call the office. The taxes will be due August 31, 2020 as usual, however interest will not be charged until October 1, 2020. The Provincial Government gave a deferral to Non-Residential tax payers of Education tax payments of 6 months. Council has decided to give everyone an extra month before interest accrues, instead of just deferring Education Tax for commercial tax payers, on their entire tax bills.

Water Conservation

A reminder that watering is allowed between the hours of 7pm and Noon. Please be mindful of the amount of water you are using. With the break of the diversion on the Milk River in Montana we will be forced to conserve at great lengths through the summer. The storage ponds in the Town of Milk River are currently full, and they have been able to maintain that level thus far. As storage drops, be prepared for stricter conservation regulations. This is a serious situation and together with the Town of Milk River and the County of Warner we have had a meeting with MLA Hunter. Further meetings will take place with elected officials, Alberta Environment, MP Motz, and the Milk River Watershed Commission. Updates will be shared as we know.

Update From the Mayor

Well the May rains came and we're glad they did. From what I've heard everyone got two or three inches, maybe more. It was a welcome relief!

However, speaking of water, we could be in for a long dry spell, and I'm not talking about the weather. The failure of drop 5 on the St. Mary's Diversion in Montana means we are cut off from the source of much of our water and with summer coming that is not great. We'll be passing on more information as we receive it. We have been and will continue to be in consultation with all the affected parties and governing agencies searching for a solution.

The situation with HALO remains much the same, but due to successful fundraisers they have managed to delay shutting down for the Summer Months. Milk River Mayor Peggy Losey, County of Warner Reeve Randy Taylor, and I along with our CAOs met with Associate Minister Grant Hunter our MLA, and expressed our concern over the lack of support. I wrote a letter to the Premier and Minister Shandro on behalf of the Village also expressing our concern. I received a reply from Minister Shandro that his department is waiting for recommendations from the HEMS survey which has been delayed because of the Covid-19 response. So, no money from the Province on the horizon. That makes it all the more important that we all give what we can in support. The Border Communities Fundraiser on Facebook is an excellent way to contribute and if you want to make a cash donation you can contribute through ATB Cares online and they will add 15% to your donation. The CMOH Dr. Hinshaw and the Premier announced they will be starting screening of northbound traffic soon for Covid-19 symptoms and that will mean a few traffic adjustments. See the notice elsewhere in the newsletter.

As restrictions start to ease I do want to thank everyone again for your patience and cooperation, and by practicing the rules we have so far kept the Village of Coutts and Warner County Covid-19 free! Everyone pat themselves on the back and let's continue to observe physical distancing, masking when necessary, and wash your hands! It's warm and sunny. Get out, enjoy the fresh air and sunshine and count your blessings!

Until Next Time...Jim

Councillor Megan Payne

May 6 we did a virtual meeting with **FCSS**:

We reviewed the audited financial statements with the auditor and the 360 Review Report. With all the new technology and ways of doing things we all went over methods of virtual information protection. Things to be aware of and extra precautions. We got the contract with the Family Resource Network and got approved for increased funding!! It will be a service based organization rather than a funding body. Funding through Parent Link Center is finished. The Family Resource Network kept most staff, with a few transfers and even added some new positions. The Youth Do Crew Program has been extended until March 2021 and a new facilitator will be hired shortly. There have been some temporary lay offs with some Program Support Workers due to COVID19. The 50th Anniversary celebration for FCSS has been postponed to a later date, we do still hope to celebrate! Extensive measures have been put into place to manage work loads, working from home and safety for FCSS staff. Everyone has done a fantastic job!

May 21 we did a teleconference meeting with **Ridge Country Housing**:

We reviewed the north & south manager reports and the COVID19 efforts. Some visitation is being allowed through facetime, or through windows and on the patios, keeping distancing in affect. Otherwise both facilities are still on lockdown for anyone in or out. We have experienced a rise in maintenance expenses with no additional funding. Currently working around new ways of sourcing those funds on a need to fix basis. ASCHA has cancelled the June 2 conference. Instead it will be available online for anyone to log in and attend through a link. Ridge Country Housing is also working towards a website that will facilitate all that our locations have to offer and how to contact us! We got a preview, it is looking awesome!

Councillor Tanya Smith

I attended the meeting for **Chief Mountain Regional Solid Waste Authority** on May 13, 2020 via ZOOM. As we had not met for a couple of months there was a lot to discuss.

Avail Accountant presented our yearly financial report. Due to 2 break-ins with losses, the digging of a new cell, and repairs to equipment we went over our projected budget by about \$30,000.00 however the insurance claim for the break-ins covered most of that overage.

We had a member attend the Waste to Energy Symposium. There are big hurdles for CMRSWA to take advantage of this technology as we just don't generate enough waste. Big cities can take advantage; new government policies would have to be in place for it to work for smaller centres like ours.

We still have a couple of hiccups to get through before we can be granted status of a Commission. The Blood Tribe is undecided as to whether they want to be included. We are trying for a meeting with their Administration to get that settled. If it doesn't happen we will go ahead without naming them in the final application with the option to add them later if they so desire.

We have been receiving a lot of extra garbage as the Lethbridge Landfill has been closed due to COVID-19 and people are driving to our landfill sites to get rid of their garbage. COVID-19 has produced a lot of extra garbage due to so many people being home and cleaning out their attics and basements etc. There have even been people from Claresholm coming to our landfills. If the trend continues and we start getting close to overages we will have to charge fees for dumping.

ENHANCED BORDER SCREENING

On May 20, the Government of Alberta announced enhanced border screening measures to prevent the spread of travel-related COVID-19 cases.

A provincial checkpoint is currently being set up northbound on Highway 4, near the Coutts Vehicle Inspection Station. Travellers entering Alberta will be required to stop at the checkpoint, complete an isolation questionnaire and undergo a temperature check prior to proceeding to their final destination.

Similar checkpoints have been set up at the Calgary and Edmonton airports.

The full news release is available here <https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=71397FFF740D6-0176-5B5F-9E0149A38F3E4D52>

To access Highway 4 northbound, local traffic must use 4th Street W, and join the right-hand lane. There is no northbound access to Highway 4 from 2nd Ave N. As well, there is no local access to Coutts via 2nd Ave N when travelling from the south. Local traffic is not required to stop at the checkpoint, but must follow all signs and directions. Southbound travel is not affected by the provincial checkpoint, and there will be minimal disruption to commercial traffic.

More details will be shared as they become available.

PRAIRIE ROSE LODGE BITS & PIECES-JUNE 2020

I hope everyone has been making productive use of the "stay at home" direction due to the Corona- virus. The local hardware store has been doing a bang-up business on paint sales so I'm sure there was no longer an excuse to put off the re-decorating urge that hits us every spring. The Thrift store has been swamped with phone calls "When may I bring in my donations?" Safe distancing is even visible while walking pets-at least I hope that is why everyone crosses the street rather than meet me. Husband and I decided we would build a new front step - not a problem - we have done a number of them in the past. I just neglected to calculate how far in the past it was. It didn't take long for us to realize we are not as young and strong now. We still have three steps to do and the way we are moving tonight-we may be finished by Christmas.

The regularly scheduled birthday party is June 11th, however, once again we will not be able to have our party. However, we will wish the residents a happy birthday. Celebrating on June 1st are Dolly Cox and Dee Brown; Wayne Berry - June 20, and Dorothy Ainscough on June 26th. Happy birthday and wishing you a great day - sorry - we can't bring cake and ice cream. The auxiliary does miss our visits with the residents but this too shall pass.

Activities for the residents have been very limited-people are not allowed to enter and residents cannot leave. However, gardening is on-going, exercises and walking the halls, Wii bowling is happening, crib by two people is allowed. The country of Sweden will be focus of interest followed by a movie. With the help of Terra, residents have been able to visit with family members through face time and zoom. Thanks again to the Gold Springs Society for donating an iPad. The patio is being used on these lovely days and visits are happening with family and friends respecting social distancing.

There seems to be a break in the hairdressing restrictions concerning the COVID-19 at the lodge. There will have to be guidelines put in place but very soon haircuts will be available for the residents.

I realize it has been a hardship on the residents with all the rules that have been implemented however, it would take just one case of the virus and it would sweep through the entire facility. We are so thankful that everyone has been well. Thank you to the residents for hanging in there-it has been very boring and trying for you. Staff have been vigilant in keeping the residents and facility virus free. It has meant extra duties and concerns for you also. Our thanks and blessings to you.

With adhering to the Stay Home direction, it has given me time to reflect. Life is too short to wake up with regrets, so love the people who treat you right and love the ones who don't just because you can. As we live with the present situation, remember-everything happens for a reason. God Bless All,
Emma Hulit.

Coutts ATB Financial

Is now a fully banked location!!

We can do:

- **Account Openings,**
- **Investments, Mortgages**
- **Loans, Business Accounts**
- **RRSPs, GICs, TFSAs**
- **ATB Wealth & Prosper**

ATB, Serving our community!

Thank you for your support!

ATB Financial 

Border Communities

Fundraiser



Concerned members of our Communities:

As you have most likely heard through the news and social media, HALO Air Ambulance is having a financial trouble without the ability to fundraise considering these times of COVID-19.

We, Denise Reuber-Graham, Kim Jones Owen and Lori Rolfe have started a fundraising campaign on Facebook. We are collecting donations to be auctioned off. Border Communities Fundraiser- HALO Air Ambulance, is where you will find the site.

Please join our group, then donate, bid or share. It all helps.

If you are a company, small at home business, or just a generous citizen, we would appreciate your donation. You are eligible for a tax receipt for the all items that are not gift certificates, due to CRA rules. Keep in mind, you will have to prove the amount if questioned by CRA as well.

If you are making a donation, you are welcome to post the item yourself, or if you would rather, one of us would be glad to do it for you. Please just contact one of us through the site.

We will be accepting donations until June 10th at 10am and the auction will be ended on June 13th at 10 am.

For more details, please refer to our Facebook site.

Thank you for your generosity, together we can all make a difference.

Denise, Kim and Lori

Administrators of the Border Communities Fundraiser-HALO Air Ambulance.



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**Lana Proctor
(403)647-2677**

Or

**Penny Pittman
penny.pittman@fcss.ca
(403)915-4017**

There is no cost for this service



www.fcss.ca

FCSS Family Services Virtual Support June 2020

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4	5
<p><u>CIRCLE TIME</u> 10:00- 10:30am With Janet & Myrna https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88498706907 Password: 7gH8pY</p> <p><u>FACEBOOK LIVE</u></p> <p><u>CAREGIVER CAFE</u> 1:00-1:30 pm with Penny</p> <p><u>TRIPLE P SEMINAR #2-</u> Raising Confident, Competent Children 1:30- 2:30 pm With Stacey & Penny</p>	<p><u>TRIPLE P TEEN GROUP #1</u> 6:00-8:00 pm With Penny & Amanda</p>	<p><u>CAREGIVER CAFE</u> 10:00-11:00 am With Janet & Myrna Join Teams meeting</p> <p><u>BABY SIGN</u> 10:00-11:00 Brenda & Penny</p> <p><u>TRIPLE P DISCUSSION</u> - Dealing with Disobedience-Part 1 1:30-2:30 pm With Stacey & Brenda</p>	<p><u>CIRCLE TIME</u> 10:00-10:30 With Stacey</p> <p><u>CIRCLE TIME</u> 11:00-11:45 With Kim, Jackie, Brenda https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82903602563?pwd=SEN5TXZ3bURENIVLK1Y2UituYnplQTO9 Password: 7UPUa0</p> <p><u>CAREGIVER CAFE #1</u> 8:00-9:00 pm With Tashina & Kimmy</p>	<p><u>FACEBOOK LIVE</u></p> <p><u>CIRCLE TIME</u> 10:30- 11:00 am with Myrna</p> <p><u>INFANT MESSAGE</u> 11:00am with Kim</p>
8	9	10	11	12
<p><u>CIRCLE TIME</u> 10:00- 10:30am With Janet & Myrna https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88498706907 Password: 7gH8pY</p> <p><u>FACEBOOK LIVE</u></p> <p><u>CAREGIVER CAFE</u> 1:00-1:30 pm with Penny</p> <p><u>TRIPLE P SEMINAR #3-</u> Raising Resilient Children 1:30-2:30 pm With Stacey & Tashina</p>	<p><u>TRIPLE P TEEN GROUP #2</u> 6:00-8:00 pm With Penny & Amanda</p> <p><u>TRIPLE P DISCUSSION-</u> Managing Fighting and Aggression 7:00-9:00 pm With Janet & Myrna Join Teams meeting</p>	<p><u>CAREGIVER CAFE</u> 10:00-11:00 am With Janet & Myrna Join Teams meeting</p> <p><u>BABY SIGN</u> 10:00-11:00 Brenda & Stacey</p> <p><u>TRIPLE P DISCUSSION</u> - Dealing with Disobedience-Part 2 1:30-2:30 pm With Stacey & Brenda</p>	<p><u>CIRCLE TIME</u> 10:00-10:30 with Stacey</p> <p><u>CIRCLE TIME</u> 11:00-11:45 With Kim, Jackie, Brenda https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82903602563?pwd=SEN5TXZ3bURENIVLK1Y2UituYnplQTO9 Password: 7UPUa0</p> <p><u>CAREGIVER CAFE #2</u> 8:00 -9:00 pm With Tashina/Kimmy</p>	<p><u>FACEBOOK LIVE</u></p> <p><u>CIRCLE TIME</u> 10:30- 11:00 am with Myrna</p> <p><u>INFANT MESSAGE</u> 11:00am with Kim</p>
15	16	17	18	19
<p><u>CIRCLE TIME</u> 10:00- 10:30am With Janet & Myrna https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88498706907 Password: 7gH8pY</p> <p><u>FACEBOOK LIVE</u></p> <p><u>CAREGIVER CAFE</u> 1:00-1:30 pm with Penny</p> <p><u>TRIPLE P TEEN SEMINAR #1-</u> Raising Responsible Teenagers 1:30-2:30 pm with Stacey & Janet</p>	<p><u>TRIPLE P TEEN GROUP #3</u> 6:00-8:00 pm With Penny & Amanda</p>	<p><u>CAREGIVER CAFE</u> 10:00-11:00 am With Janet & Myrna Join Teams meeting</p> <p><u>BABY SIGN</u> 10:00-11:00 Brenda, Stacey & Penny</p> <p><u>CAREGIVER CAFE</u> Temperaments 1:00-2:00pm with Kimmy & Jackie</p>	<p><u>CIRCLE TIME</u> 10:00-10:30 with Stacey</p> <p><u>CIRCLE TIME</u> 11:00-11:45 With Kim, Jackie, Brenda https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82903602563?pwd=SEN5TXZ3bURENIVLK1Y2UituYnplQTO9 Password: 7UPUa0</p>	<p><u>FACEBOOK LIVE</u></p> <p><u>CIRCLE TIME</u> 10:30- 11:00 am with Myrna</p>
22	23	24	25	26
<p><u>CIRCLE TIME</u> 10:00- 10:30am With Janet & Myrna https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88498706907 Password: 7gH8pY</p> <p><u>FACEBOOK LIVE</u></p> <p><u>CAREGIVER CAFE</u> 1:00-1:30 pm with Penny</p> <p><u>TRIPLE P TEEN SEMINAR #2-</u> Raising Confident Teenagers 1:30-2:30 pm with Stacey & Kim</p>	<p><u>TRIPLE P TEEN GROUP #4</u> 6:00-8:00 pm With Penny & Amanda</p>	<p><u>CAREGIVER CAFE</u> 10:00-11:00 am With Janet & Myrna Join Teams meeting</p> <p><u>BABY SIGN</u> 10:00-11:00 Stacey & Penny</p>	<p><u>CIRCLE TIME</u> 10:00-10:30 with Stacey</p> <p><u>CIRCLE TIME</u> 11:00-11:45 With Kim, Jackie, Brenda https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82903602563?pwd=SEN5TXZ3bURENIVLK1Y2UituYnplQTO9 Password: 7UPUa0</p>	<p><u>FACEBOOK LIVE</u></p> <p><u>CIRCLE TIME</u> 10:30- 11:00 am with Myrna</p>
29	30			
<p><u>CIRCLE TIME</u> 10:00- 10:30am With Janet & Myrna https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88498706907 Password: 7gH8pY</p> <p><u>TRIPLE P TEEN SEMINAR #3-</u> Getting Teenagers Connected 1:30-2:30 pm With Stacey & Penny</p>				

As of June 1, 2020, Milk River Cable Club is **no longer waiving overage fees** and internet overage will continue to be charged at \$1/GB. Please note, we have seen very high usage over the past few months, which if continued will incur large overage charges for many of our members, so please ensure you are monitoring your usage and change your internet package accordingly. If you have any questions, contact the office.

The MRCC Member Portal is a great tool for monitoring your account. If you do not already have access to it, please contact Kelsey or Nicole and we can get you set up!

If you are missing sports channels, it is because our packaging has changed, and you are no longer subscribed to a sports package. You will need to contact the office to select your new packaging.

Some members have already been notified of outages due to maintenance on our system. Please be aware we will continue to conduct maintenance on the system over the coming months. If/when your services will be affected, you will be notified.

Are you signed up for e-billing?

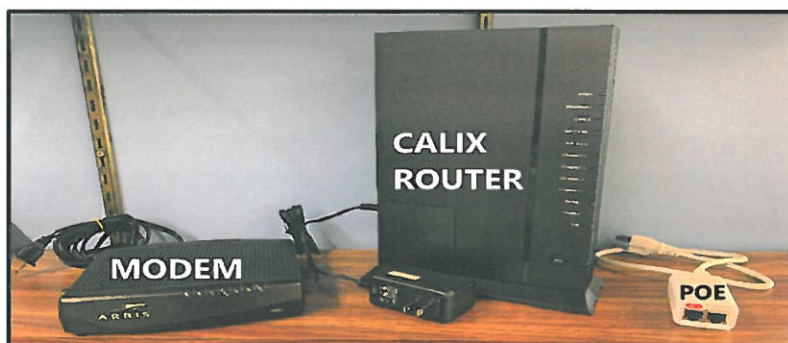
If you provide us with an e-mail, we can send your statements electronically. Providing your e-mail address also benefits internet users as you will receive notifications about usage overage.

REBOOTING EQUIPMENT

Power surges/outages and service outages frequently cause devices to lose connectivity, even when they show that they should be online. When experiencing issues with internet, it is always our recommendation to **first reboot your equipment.**

To properly reboot equipment, both your modem and Calix router need to be power cycled together. **Unplug your devices and wait approximately 10 seconds, then plug it back in.**

For rural members, your POE and Calix router will need to be rebooted.



Long Term Care Family and Resident Council

My Thoughts and prayers have been with all the families across Canada that has loved ones in lock down in our Long Term Care Facilities.

Due to the Covid19 Alberta Health Care restrictions we your family council have not been able to meet; and at this point we are still unsure as to when our next meeting will be called. So if anyone has any concerns that need to be addressed please contact Lana at 403-647-2677 not saying I will be able to fix them but will try to get you answers at least.

For anyone that has bought raffle tickets the draw was to be on held at the Hospital Auxiliary Annual Strawberry Tea. Well you know it was cancelled and the draw will now take place in the fall. So for all of us that have tickets to sell, we now have more time to sell them. The draw date will be announced at a later date.

Sherie from the Rec. Dept. has contacted me to see if we would pay for the hanging baskets and flowers to brighten up the court yard for our loved ones. I have given her permission to spend up to \$200.00 and we will make it official at our next meeting; whenever that may be. Trusting all would be in agreement with this decision.

Lana Proctor – Treasurer/Family and Resident Council