

VILLAGE OF COUTTS NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2020



ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFICE VISITS

We are asking residents limit their visits to our office. If the reason for your visit can be resolved by a phone call, please call instead. Bill payments can be made online through ATB, CIBC, or RBC. Cheques or cash can be put in our mail slot. If you must come in, please use the Civic Centre entrance.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Please see the attached poster for details.

TAXES

If you have not paid your 2020 taxes, please do so prior to January 1, 2021 in order to avoid a penalty. 12% of the total outstanding will be added on January 1, 2021.

ANGEL TREE

Just wanting to send a reminder out to those that picked an angel from the Angel Tree to please return your gift to Milk River Town Hall by Friday December 11th.

Thank you to everyone who participated in picking an Angel; your kindness is greatly appreciated!!

Food donations towards the Christmas Food Hampers can be dropped off at the Town of Milk River office. Also, for anyone wanting to make a cash donation towards the Food Hampers you can make cheques payable to Town of Milk River with memo line stating it is for the Christmas Food Hamper. Taxable receipts will be issued.

Thanks you to everyone who has participated in the Angel Tree and Christmas Hamper programs, your generosity is truly appreciated. The Angel Tree and Food Hampers service needy residents in Coutts and Milk River.

Darlene Fleming, Angel Tree Program 403-393-3223

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Well, December is here and we will soon be done with 2020! What a year it has been! We will be closed for two weeks over the holiday season beginning Friday, December 18th through Monday, January 4th. Your last day to stock up on books and movies will be Thursday, December 17 and we will reopen on Tuesday, January 5th with regular hours.

As of December 31, 2020 magazines will not be available on our RBDigital platform, but have no fear! We still have the magazines you love in two easy-to-use apps. Flipster features digital versions of the latest issues of popular magazines, available instantly. www.chinookarch.ca/elibrary/eservices/flipster. Press Reader lets you read full issues of thousands of international magazines. www.chinookarch.ca/elibrary/eservices/pressreader.

Radon screening kits are now available to borrow! Brought to you in partnership by Chinook Arch Regional Library system and BREATHE the lung association with support from Health Canada. To place a hold, visit www.chinookarch.ca and type Radon Screening Program Kit into the search bar. These kits are available between October 1 and May 1. Radon is the second leading cause of cancer, after smoking. Radon is a radioactive gas that comes from the ground and is found in every home, though not always at elevated levels. Over time, exposure to elevated levels of radon can cause lung cancer.

We would like to wish everyone a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!

PRAIRIE ROSE LODGE BIT'S & PIECES-DEC.2020

As we come to the final month of 2020, there are so many different experiences all of us have endured. The southern agricultural area is thankful for their bountiful crops. Many of us have been restricted from seeing our loved ones in advanced care facilities - some even losing family members. Those not feeling well are urged to stay home for the protection of others and ourselves. If ever there is a time to seek a greater power it is now. We are coming to the time of celebration of the birth of our Savior - be an active part of it in your own way.

Like so many of our charitable organizations, our Ladies Auxiliary have not been able to meet or sponsor functions. Many of these groups have been able to raise funds by supporting the Kinsmen Raffle ticket sales. If you are asked to help a group by selling tickets, please step forward to help our worthwhile groups. All of us are working to benefit our communities. We appreciate the opportunity the Kinsmen have given our groups to be part of this fund raising. THANK YOU.

For the month of December, we have John Banks celebrating on Dec. 30th. Happy birthday John and hope they give you a big piece of cake. Activities at the lodge have been focused on the festive season with Christmas crafts, holiday popcorn and Christmas movies. Thank you to all the staff for attempting to replace the family members unable to be present.

This brings us to the new regulations. Each resident may have one designated person and or a visitor available to visit. However, the manager must be contacted by phone (Monday-Thursday) to make an appointment for visitation and this includes for the weekend. If you are not sure of what to do, please phone the office - 403-647-3531 for clarification.

All of us in our small communities are trying to do the right thing during this Pandemic however there was a need to put into place new stricter regulations until December 16th. During this time and through the Christmas season, if you know of someone alone, please be kind and thoughtful. It is amazing what a phone call to have a chat can really make a difference. I strongly believe that Christmas 2020 will remind us of what is truly important in our lives. It is family, friends, peace, love, friendships, caring, understanding, forgiveness and the celebration of our Savior's birth. God Bless. Emma Hulit.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Back in March I don't think any of us could have foreseen what this year has been like. Covid turned our world upside down and proved how adaptable and resilient we Albertans actually are. Everyone in Coutts deserves praise for following proper procedures and keeping the virus out of our little community. We all realize what a disaster an outbreak here with our older population would be and so common sense has prevailed, and we are approaching our tenth month still safe. The biggest thing to remember is to not let Covid fatigue set in and to stay vigilant and stay healthy.

While the restrictions changed our usual schedule and resulted in cancelling of Coutts Days celebrations, the rodeo, Craft shows and markets, the Village has managed to get some things done and more are planned. We found out we had the capacity to weather a lack of water in the River, and with the well-timed rains, I think everyone's lawns will recover. Well done to all on following the restrictions. Streets were paved, sealing of Centre Avenue is planned and paid for, new street signs are being installed and we are drafting a new bylaw which will provide guidance to residents on managing necessary upkeep and appearance of your property.

The Village finances remain strong and secure thanks to the efforts of our CAO and council. The phrase often is overused, but "We are all in this together", does apply in this case.

Let's keep practicing the common sense rules on gatherings, distance, hand washing, and masks when required, and hopefully 2021 will see a return to a more normal lifestyle. Fingers crossed for some relaxing of rules before Christmas so we can celebrate with family. Let's all do our part. Stay safe and healthy.

Jim

COUNCIL NEWS

COUNCILLOR SCOTT MACCUMBER

Quad Municipality Healthcare Support Committee

We had a regular meeting on November 3, 2020. We sent in a grant application to RhPAP (Rural Health Professions Action Plan) to assist us in our attraction and retention projects and was given the maximum \$3000 to be used over the next 3 years. We have also received a week in December to sell tickets for the Kinsmen Corvette raffle. We purchased bedding and kitchen equipment in the hospital Doctor's suite to replace some older stuff, in the amount of \$355.16. The doctor recruitment process is on-going and we will give potential doctors tours of the area as required. So far, AHS has not received any appropriate applications. Our next meeting is scheduled for December 1st, in Milk River.

Western Gateway Trade & Logistics Corridor

This committee has been created to focus on economic development along highway 4 from Coutts to Lethbridge. On November 10th, we had a zoom meeting with instructors and students in the Lethbridge College Digital Media program. They have been asked to design a logo for this new group, so the students will be competing against each other. They will present their ideas by the end of November.

Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework

The Government of Alberta has mandated each municipal area in Alberta to make agreements with neighbouring municipalities. The purpose of these agreements is to identify services provided to and from each municipality and the funding arrangements for these services. As we share a boundary with the County of Warner, we are required to formalize any arrangements. On November 10th, County officials met with officials from Coutts, Milk River, and Warner to identify services and identify funding requests. The information given at this meeting will be summarized by ORRSC (Oldman River Regional Services Commission) and sent back to us for review. Areas of discussion included Rec Board funding, Library funding, Recycling, Waste Transfer Sites, Emergency Services, and Municipal Safety Programs.

Recreation Board

The new playground at the Spray Park has been assembled and all we need now is the backfilling of pea gravel to make it complete. That will be done as the weather permits.

COUNCILLOR MEGAN PAYNE

November 4th I attended the **FCSS** meeting via Zoom. We had our organizational meeting where all members voted in and kept the same delegates as before. We then had our regular monthly meeting where we made plans for the next year and confirmed the current COVID measures. It was one of our shorter meetings.

November 17th I attended the **Ridge Country Housing** meeting at the town office in Raymond. We had our organizational meeting voting to keep Colette Glynn as President & Peggy Losey as Vice President. Confirming all committees to be kept as is. In our regular meeting we discussed maintenance issues and confirmed both lodges to remain COVID free. Ridge View Lodge has put out an ad to hire a new maintenance person and is reviewing applications. The Wheatland manor in Coutts is looking for residents.

COUTTS ATB AGENCY & MEG'S SHABBY CHIC & ANTIQUES
Would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!!
Thank you for your business & support this past year.

All of us at the Milk River Medical Clinic wish everyone a Safe and Happy Christmas.
At times like this, it's important to focus on what we can control:
-hand hygiene -wear a mask and follow AHS guidelines -be kind and support one another
Remember, if you are struggling you are not alone. These supports are in place to help you.
Kids Help Phone - 1-800-668-6868 or text CONNECT to 686868 Mental Health Helpline - 1-877-303-2642 Addiction Helpline - 1-866-332-2322 Community Resources - 211 Alberta
Crisis Text Line - Text CONNECT to 741741 Family Violence - Find Supports - 310-1818
Income Supports - 1-866-644-5135



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS

COVID-19 STYLE

DECEMBER 21, 2020

GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST:

PRIZES AWARDED FOR ALL AGES:

PLEASE SEND A PICTURE WITH YOUR CHILD(REN) AND THE HOUSE THEY MADE TO THE VILLAGE OFFICE AT vilcouth@telus.net, BY DEC 21 AT NOON.

DECORATED HOMES CONTEST

Winners will be selected by voting as in the past.

1st - \$100

2nd - \$75

3rd - \$50.

Best Business \$50.

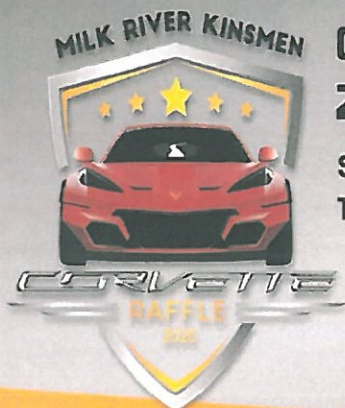
PLEASE SEND YOUR VOTE FOR YOUR TOP THREE HOMES, AND ONE BUSINESS TO EITHER: vilcouth@telus.net or place on a paper in the drop box at the office. One set of votes for each person as usual. HAVE YOUR VOTES IN BY NOON ON DEC 21.

Please light up your homes for all to enjoy!!

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



36TH ANNUAL CORVETTE RAFFLE



GRAND PRIZE

2020 Corvette Stingray Coupe

Value \$69,998

Second Prize \$5000

Third Prize \$1000

Single Tickets at \$20 each | Sets of 5 for \$50

Sets of 20 for \$75 | Sets of 50 for \$100

Total Tickets Printed 91,500

Licence #563521

**KINPOWER
50**

Win half of an ever-increasing jackpot

UP TO \$100,000

Minimum payout of \$20,000

Total Tickets Printed 24,800

Licence #563520

Single tickets at \$10 each | 5-Packs for \$25 | 15-Packs for \$50



ORDER ONLINE AT WWW.MILKRIVERKINSMEN.CA



CUT-OFF JANUARY 24, 2021

Final Draw Announcement February 7, 2021

Total value of all 3 prizes is \$75,998.00

*Prizes may not be exactly as shown

For inquiries please call

1-888-379-0048

Kinsmen Club of Milk River

PO Box 263

Milk River AB

TOK 1M0

Quad Municipality Healthcare Support Committee is looking for 1 volunteer to sit in the park place mall and sell corvette tickets on December 24th - 10 am til 1:30 pm. Call Scott MacCumber at 403-647-3943.

Coutts Community Events is looking for volunteers to fill shifts between December 28 and Jan 3. I know it isn't the most fun thing to do, but our community benefits from the funds that the Kinsmen donates for doing this simple task. If you have not volunteered to take a shift in the past, please consider doing so. The people that have volunteered in the past are getting burned out. If we do not get enough volunteers, the money will go do different groups. Please call Lori at 403-642-7429 if you are able to help fill shifts.

From the Quad Municipality Healthcare Support Committee

THANK YOU TO ALL HEALTHCARE WORKERS!

Your work matters and makes a difference to every individual and family who receives healthcare services in our community.

Thank you



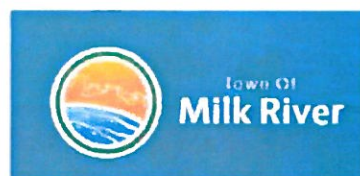
To those whose faces we see on the **FRONT-LINE**: the first responders, paramedics and EMT's, the nurses and doctors and clerks, the lab and imaging technicians, and clinic staff;

And to the **HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS**: home care and public health, physiotherapists, occupational and recreational therapists, respiratory therapists, chiropractors, pharmacists, massage therapists, dentists, dental hygienists, mental and social health workers, and their staff;

And to **EVERYONE BEHIND THE SCENES**: the housekeepers, kitchen, building maintenance staff, the managers and administration staff;

And to **YOUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS** for their support;

Your continued commitment to provide the best care to everyone in our Quad Municipality area (Warner County, Warner, Milk River, Coutts and the County of Forty Mile) who needs it is appreciated.



Milk River Elementary – December 2020 News

This year we are using a new COVID style hot lunch format! We are pre-ordering meals from the Sandstone Restaurant and they are delivered to the school.

The Hot Lunch dates for this month are **Wednesday, December 2, 9 & 16.**

Alberta Foundation for the Arts Travelling Exhibition Program – **December 16, 2020 – January 20, 2021 – “Altered Realities”**. This exhibition features artists from Canmore & Calgary. Their works are abstracted from nature and the artists use the process of layering to create complex photographic collages that describe both the familiar and unreal.



Due to current health restrictions, we will not be able to hold our traditional Christmas Concert this year. However, we are very excited to announce that our students will still be performing with their classmates and there will be a recorded “**Christmas Special**” for our school families to enjoy at home! We are still encouraging students to bring donations of non-perishable food items to go under our Christmas tree as we would like to spread some Christmas spirit by donating to a local food bank.

***Please note** – the last day of school before Christmas holidays is **Thursday, December 17**. We will be celebrating the last day with a Christmas dinner, treats and classroom activities!



From the staff and students at Milk River Elementary School – We hope your Christmas Season is Healthy and Happy and wish you all a Joyous New year!!

School will return with “**At Home Learning**” on **January 4** and regular classes will resume on **Monday, January 11, 2021!**



Honorable Grant Hunter
MLA Taber-Warner

Our satellite office in Milk River will be open (by appointment) on the fourth Friday of every month from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm to meet with constituents. Please call 1-888-600-6080

Office address is
240 Main Street NE
(Town of Milk River Office)

MILK RIVER CABLE CLUB

DECEMBER 2020

On behalf of the Milk River Cable Club Board of Directors and Staff,

**WE WISH YOU ALL A
MERRY CHRISTMAS &
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

We are holding a

Christmas Customer Appreciation Raffle

for an **Amazon Fire Tablet 7**

Stop by the office, or submit your name and contact number by e-mail to mrconnect@mrcable.ca.

Entries will be accepted from Dec 1-Dec 15 and only current active customers are eligible. The draw will take place December 16th.

Enjoy Christmas music on our Community Channel #231 from Dec 1st-31st.

Firelog channel is #949

MRCC Office Holiday hours are:

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Thurs, Dec 24: | 8:30am-1pm |
| Fri, Dec 25: | Closed |
| Mon, Dec 28: | Closed |
| Thurs, Dec 31: | 8:30am-1pm |
| Fri, Jan 1: | Closed |

MRCC Help Line Holiday hours:

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Thurs, Dec 24: | 8am-5pm |
| Fri, Dec 25: | 11am-6pm |
| Thurs, Dec 31: | 8am-5pm |
| Fri, Jan 1: | 11am-9pm |

With the Winter weather upon us, we are doing our best to keep up with Service Calls and Installations. Access to rural locations, towers and pedestals can be limited in the Winter, so much of this work is weather pending. We appreciate your patience and understanding with this.

MRCC Board of Directors

President LEONARD MCCULLOCH: mclen@mrcable.ca

Secretary TONY MILLER: antreen@mrcable.ca

Treasurer BOB THIELEN: bbs@mrcable.ca

KEITH LOSEY: kpifarms@mrcable.ca

DARREN OSTENBERG: sales@mrcable.ca

TECH TALK

We continue to experience issues with our VOIP phones. Customers are most reporting to us that calls are not reaching them. If your callers are reporting that you are not answering your phone and you have no record of their call, please ask them to reach out to their own phone provider, as we are seeing calls being incorrectly routed to us.

If you are experiencing phone issues, we **NEED** you to please contact us with:

- 1. The date and time of the call**
- 2. The number calling/being called**
- 3. Exact details of what happened.**



SOUTHERN ALBERTA OUTDOORSMEN



Our Passion is to promote, through education and programs, the conservation and utilization of fish and wildlife and to protect and enhance the habitat they depend upon.

SAO will be strictly following all AHS guidelines, and events are subject to modification/cancellation based on recommendations from AHS.

Regular meeting held 2nd Tuesday of every month, 7:30pm at the Heritage Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend, and PLEASE DO!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Predator Hunt - Cancelled due to new COVID restrictions

Family Fun Fishing Day - Sunday, December 27, 2020 - Gold Springs Park

8:00 a.m. - Early Afternoon (or when the fish stop biting).

Weiner roast and hot chocolate will be provided. Bring the kids out for some fresh air and fun.

Measuring Day - Saturday, January 2, 2021 - Heritage Hall, Milk River, AB

Open at 9:00 a.m. Entry Cut Off is 12:00 noon, sharp.

No lunch will be provided.

****All Entries** must be accompanied by a license and tag number. All wildlife entries must be clean (no residual flesh), dry, and free of odor. (Or can be rejected)

****Photo Contest** for non-professional photographers with three categories - Wildlife, Open, and Scenery. Juniors (under 16), Adults (over 17).

Photos must be presented unframed, no larger than 8 x 10, must be taken by the person entering them as well as being a member of SAO.

AGM - January 14, 2020, 7:00 p.m. at Heritage Hall

Outdoorsmen 6th Annual Swap Meet & Gun Show - Saturday, March 13, 2021 - 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: Rodger King 403-344-2124, Scott Tollestrup 403-642-7728,

Craig Blackmer 403-344-2146

Awards Banquet - Saturday, February 20, 2021- Coutts Civic Center, AB. - 4:30 p.m.

More details to follow

Gopher Hunt - Saturday, May 1, 2021 - Meet at the Heritage Hall, Milk River, for refreshments after an ethical day of hunting and disposal of the gophers. Bring tails only, for count, by 5:00 p.m.

Family Fishing Weekend and Camp Out - June 4-6, 2021, Location to be determined

EXECUTIVE

James Wills, Barry Snow, Scott Tollestrup,

COMMITTEE CHAIRS, REPRESENTATIVES, DIRECTORS

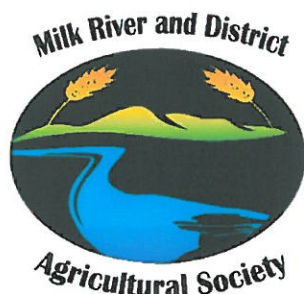
Clayton Taylor, Warren Cunningham, Bryan Baczuk, Jalen Hult, Mindy Prunkle, Rodger King, William King, Brandyn Hult, Barb Snow, Craig Blackmer

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the Southern Alberta Outdoorsmen

December Newsletter

Warner Adult Learning

*Wishing you a warm and heartfelt Merry Christmas!
Be on the look out for our new Program Guide coming soon to a
mailbox near you.*



JOB OPPORTUNITY

We are looking for a custodian/caretaker for the Milk River Civic Centre on a permanent part time basis, starting January 1, 2021.

You will be responsible for all cleaning, and minor maintenance of the Civic Centre.

Hours are flexible based on the usage of the building.

Salary is negotiable.

Applications will be accepted until Dec 18, 2020.

Applications to be submitted by email to:

mrdagsociety@outlook.com

or thru our FB page: www.facebook.com/mrdagsociety

for further information,

please contact Laurie Balog, at 403-642-7500.

MILK RIVER & DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS' SOCIETY

Monthly Meetings:

The next Seniors' Meeting is Thursday January 14th at 1:00PM in the Heritage Hall.... **MEETING ONLY**, no luncheon due to COVID-19 restrictions. Our meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of every month. Old timers and newcomers to the area are always welcome.

Seniors' Christmas Dinner

The Annual Seniors' Christmas Dinner & Celebration has been **CANCELLED** for **December 2020**. Hopefully by 2021 things will be more normal and we will be able to gather and celebrate as a group.

Seniors Membership:

Membership to our Seniors Group is \$5.00 annually. 2021 Membership Cards are now available. Please ask any Executive Member (listed below) as they have cards.

Bingo:

CANCELLED until further notice.

Seniors Coffee:

CANCELLED until further notice.

Heritage Hall Rental:

Hall Rental – contact Joni Johnson – 403-860-8552 - \$60.00 for Rental. Kitchen available to renters.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS:

David Hawco, President 403-647-7503

Joni Johnson, Vice-President 403-860-8552

Bev Fleming, Secretary 403-647-7323

Elaine McCoy, Treasurer 403-421-0053

RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY GOLF

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

All 700 tickets for the Traeger Grill were sold. The winner was Marcel St. Onge from Lethbridge, AB. Thank you to everyone that sold tickets and to all that purchased tickets. It is you that make our raffles the success they are. Huge Thank you to Rocky Mountain Equipment, Milk River for their generous donation of the Traeger Grill.

Thank you to all the volunteers that have shown up for work parties, stepped up when needed for projects, have sat and sold tickets, and were always there when RCGS needed you. Volunteerism is what keeps our Golf Club alive.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE MILK RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We would like to thank everyone who supported our bake sale on November 7th. Thank you to those who donated baked goods and those who came to purchase them and the calendars. We made enough to keep the heat and lights on at the museum for a few months, so it was very much appreciated and well received. Our next meeting will be at the museum on January 21, 2021 at 7pm at the museum. Everyone is welcome!

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!

Are you facing obstacles to employment
and/or Post-Secondary Education?

The **Taber Youth Employment Program** assists youth
with developing employment skills and gaining
practical on-the-job work experience



Taber Youth Employment Program

CONTACT:
403.416.5115



UPCOMING START DATES

INTAKE 2 - JANUARY 4, 2021

INTAKE 3 - APRIL 26, 2021



Apply online today!

7 weeks of Employability Skills Training and 9 weeks of Quality Employment Opportunity

ELIGIBILITY

- AGES 15-30 AND NOT IN SCHOOL
- WORK IN CANADA LEGALLY
- NOT RECEIVING E.I. BENEFITS
- UNEMPLOYED
- HAVE BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT

THE TABER
YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM
IS A PROJECT OF TABER &
DISTRICT COMMUNITY ADULT
LEARNING ASSOCIATION

FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF
CANADA SKILLS LINK PROGRAM

Canada 

Chief Mountain Regional Solid Waste Services Commission

Truck Driver

The Chief Mountain Regional Solid Waste Services Commission is now accepting applications for a permanent full-time position of Truck Driver. The ideal candidate will possess strong communication and interpersonal skills as well as have a background in Landfill Operations or related operations with preference given to candidates with experience.

The Truck Driver will be required to:

- Transfer solid waste from Transfer Stations to the Chief Mountain Landfill
- Load solid waste from Transfer Station into the trailer
- Responsible for minor maintenance on truck, trailers, and bobcats
- Other work as required by the Operator

The candidate should possess the following qualifications:

- Class 1 Drivers Licence
- Clean 3-year Abstract Letter
- Clean 5-year Claims Experience Letter
- Experience in bobcat operations

Chief Mountain Regional Solid Waste Services Commission offers a competitive salary and pension.

Please submit your resume and salary expectation in confidence to:

Chief Mountain Regional Solid Waste Services Commission
Box 1711 Cardston, AB T0K 0K0

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| For further information contact: | Lee Beazer | (403)330-6285 (cellphone) |
| | Operator | Email: leebeazer@hotmail.com |

Deadline for applications is Wednesday, December 9, 2020 @ 12:00 noon.

All applications received by the deadline will be considered. The position will be left open until a suitable candidate is found.

However, only short-listed candidates will be notified.