

# VILLAGE OF COUTTS NEWSLETTER



**JANUARY 2021**



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS**

The winners for the decorated residents were 1st place: Ryan and Carrie Barrows, 2nd Al and Betty Johnson, 3rd Rob and Sue Berezay...the winner in the business category was ATB. Thank you to all who participated by decorating your homes. The Village looked great this season.

### **TAX and UTILITY PREPAYMENTS**

We are once again offering a discount for tax prepayments. January you will receive 5% discount, and in February you will receive 4%. Amounts payable are based on the previous years tax assessment. You are not required to pay the full amount in order to receive a discount. For example if you pay \$100, you will receive a credit of \$105.00. UTILITIES can be prepaid in January only. It is a set amount of \$412.50. Paying this amount will give you a credit of \$450.00, which equates to one month free of distribution charges. Cheques can be dropped in our mail slot, or you can pay online through your bank if it is set up with us. If your bank is not set up and you would like to do an e-transfer, please call the office for instructions.

### **WATER DISRUPTION**

Just after 9:40 pm on the evening of Sunday January 3rd, we experienced a problem at the water plant. Our public works employees both came to the plant to find out what was going on. After a certain amount of trouble shooting, it was discovered that something was wrong in the control panel. The communication had failed, therefore the pumps would not operate. The plant was put on manual operations for the night, so water service could resume. The total amount of time without water was just under an hour. We are sorry that this inconvenienced some of our residents, and we thank you for your understanding. Technology is not 100% fool proof and we know time to time we will have issues. We feel the problem was solved within a very reasonable time frame, and are thankful to our employees for coming up with an alternative so we could have water.

We all know this is about the time of year we can experience water breaks, it is advisable to have some spare water on hand just in case.

As a reminder, all residents are welcome to call Lori at 403-642-7429 if they are experiencing a town related **EMERGENCY** during all hours.

## **2021 MILITARY SERVICE RECOGNITION BOOK**

This annual publication helps identify and recognize many military service members and Veterans who serve or have served our country. Stories are now being collected for the 2021 submission. Anyone may submit Veterans stories, pictures, clean jokes or a poem. Submission stories have a maximum of 500 words and should include a photo of the identified veteran. Photographs and other information will NOT be returned, so please scan and email or copy and mail it with your submission. Submission deadline for the 2021 book is January 31, 2021. No exceptions. These books are free and are delivered to the Foremost Legion later on in the year.

Call (403) 666-2260 if you'd like to receive a copy. There will be a charge if I have to mail them.

Email submissions to: [vetbook@fenety.com](mailto:vetbook@fenety.com), or mail too: Military Service Recognition Book P.O. Box 1266 Station "M" Calgary, Alta. T2P 2L2

Forms are available through the Village Office. If you would like one please call and it will be emailed to you, or you can pick up.

## CHRISTMAS FOOD HAMPER AND ANGEL TREE PROGRAM

In a season of giving I give thanks for each and every person that participated in the Christmas Hamper and Angel Tree programs. It truly makes my heart proud to be part of such a giving community!! With all the amazing community support the Christmas Hamper and Angel Tree programs were a great success again this year. Thank you to all who donated towards these programs, your thoughtfulness and generosity is truly appreciated and helped make Christmas a joyous time for many families in the Milk River and Coutts areas.

I want to send out a huge thank you to Marion Martin, Connie Ainscough, Jane Reese, and Victoria McCulloch and all the people who helped to organize the hampers!! Huge thank you also to the Town of Milk River for providing a space for us and all their support – Tia and Kim do such an amazing job collecting Angel gifts for us!! Also many thanks to Riverside Market, Village of Coutts, Canada Border Services Agency, and Cole International employees in Coutts for their support.

In a really trying year I have to say this Christmas season was such a special one. We had so many people donate their time and make some extra donations. Kelly and Elise Walker and family, Sheila Mazutinec, and so many others truly made this Christmas a little brighter. Thank you to all who donated!!!!

Finally we would like to thank all the wonderful people that helped to deliver the hampers. RCMP, Peace Officers, ATCO, Customs, and Town volunteers. Having your help was greatly appreciated. A special note of Thanks to Tanya Smith for being such a great help with Coutts deliveries!

We may be a small community but we certainly have a huge heart!

Darlene Fleming

Angel Tree Program

### Milk River Elementary – January 2021 News

**Horizon School Division – Early Childhood Services** – Registration details for the **2021/2022 School Year coming soon!** Registration forms will be available at your neighborhood school and on the Horizon School Division website. You will need your child's original Birth Certificate or Canadian Citizen Status card and Alberta Health Care card.



**From the staff and students at Milk River Elementary School –**

**We wish you a Happy, Healthy and Joyous New year!!**

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

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

### From the Mayor – January 2021

A very Happy New Year to everyone. While it was a quite different Holiday Season for most, I hope you had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We are cautiously optimistic the New Year will bring a return to a more “normal” time, and the worst is behind us. Again I would like to thank you for following the guidelines set down by AHS to keep us all healthy and safe. As I’ve mentioned to a few people, we are all adults here and able to follow instructions and that is why we continue to have no instances of Covid-19 in Coutts and a very low incidence in the County. The biggest thing to remember is not to let fatigue or complacency set in but continue to be diligent. Socially distance, wear a mask, wash your hands, and if you develop symptoms, isolate. As always you can consult the latest restrictions on the Provincial Government website at [alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx](https://alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx)

I would like to personally thank the public works crew for the speedy work on a Sunday night to get our water plant back up and running. We had an unusual electronic failure at the plant but worked our way through it and should it happen again we’ll be ready. Thanks again Ken and Roychella.

On the Doctor front I’m cautiously optimistic that Doctor Owasa will be able to return to the Clinic this month and it will be open to see patients. I would like to personally express my gratitude to Scott MacCumber and the Quad Municipality Healthcare Support Committee as well as our MP Glen Motz for their continuing efforts to help with all the government red tape to expedite the doctor’s return to Canada. We still need to explain to the folks at AHS the situation at the clinic and hospital and their solution and suggestions were not really all the best. I hope to be speaking with Minister Hunter on this subject later this week.

One other note. This is a civic election year and due to changes in the election’s act rather than a single nomination day, nominations can be submitted any time between now and September 20<sup>th</sup>. For more information <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/candidates-guide-running-for-municipal-office-in-alberta> or contact the Village Office.  
Until next time, stay safe.

Jim Willett

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### ***Councillor Scott MacCumber***

#### **Milk River Watershed Council of Canada**

We had a regular meeting on November 26, 2020 by zoom. We would normally be getting together in person to come up with a 3-year operational plan, but due to Covid19, the strategic planning session has been put on hold. We will see what happens in the new year. The Meander newspaper will be out soon. It should be in your mailbox or you can find it online at the Watershed’s website, [mrwcc.ca](http://mrwcc.ca), under the Library section. All our regular research, monitoring and education efforts will carry on as much as possible in the new year. Our next meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2021.

#### **Quad Municipality Healthcare Support Committee**

We had a regular meeting on December 1, 2020. We will be selling Kinsmen Corvette tickets in Lethbridge during the week of December 21 to 27 as a fundraiser. We will be doing a “Thanks to our Healthcare Workers” project sometime early in December. Posters will be put into our various newsletters, on cable, and food trays will be distributed to our healthcare workers. AHS has received several applications for the open physician position in Milk River. Interviews will be scheduled soon. Our next meeting is scheduled for January 5, 2021.

#### **Western Gateway Trade and Logistics Corridor**

Students from the Digital Media course at the Lethbridge College were asked to come up with a logo for this new group. 16 students went to work and presented their ideas to the committee on December 1<sup>st</sup>. After much review and discussion, it was decided that a blend of 2 students’ ideas was the winner. Both students were awarded a \$150.00 gift certificate to Park Place Mall and the other 14 were given a \$15.00 gift card to Starbucks. The students did an outstanding job, and the chosen logo is:





# Census Jobs

# Emplois au recensement

## Statistics Canada is hiring in your community!

- Schools, housing, and health and emergency services are all planned using census data.
- We are hiring approximately 32,000 census employees to count every person in Canada.
- In the current context of COVID-19, we are committed to ensuring the safety of our employees at all times.
- Help your community to plan for the future—apply now!

## IMPORTANT TO KNOW:

- Pay rates vary **by position** from \$17.83 to \$21.77 per hour, plus authorized expenses.
- Start and end dates vary by position and location, but are between March and July 2021.
- You must be available to work flexible hours, mainly during evenings and weekends.

## Statistique Canada embauche dans votre collectivité!

- La planification des écoles, du logement ainsi que des services de santé et d'urgence se fait au moyen des données du recensement.
- Nous embauchons environ 32 000 personnes dans le cadre du recensement en vue de dénombrer toutes les personnes au Canada.
- Dans le contexte actuel de la COVID-19, nous nous engageons à assurer la sécurité de nos employés en tout temps.
- Aidez votre collectivité à planifier l'avenir : postulez dès maintenant!

## RENSEIGNEMENTS IMPORTANTS :

- Le taux de rémunération varie entre 17,83 \$ de 21,77 \$ l'heure **selon le poste**, en plus des dépenses admissibles.
- Les dates de début et de fin d'emploi varient selon le poste et le lieu de travail, mais se situent dans la période allant de mars à juillet 2021.
- Vous devez être disponible pour travailler selon un horaire flexible, principalement le soir et la fin de semaine.

Apply now/Tell a friend

[www.census.gc.ca](http://www.census.gc.ca)

TTY (a telecommunications device for deaf persons): 1-833-830-3109



Postulez dès maintenant et parlez-en à un ami

[www.recensement.gc.ca](http://www.recensement.gc.ca)

ATS (appareil de télécommunication pour personnes sourdes) : 1-833-830-3109

## PRAIRIE ROSE LODGE BITS & PIECES- JAN. 2021

Just think folks-we are almost rid of the year 2020. It has been a year when we are told "don't be social, stay home, wash your hands, isolate, wear a mask." Can you imagine how hard it is for me to be quiet and not visit? Do you know how horrible it is to breathe in your own exhaust? Having lived way in the country for half a hundred years, isolating and staying home wasn't that difficult. By gosh-I just do not like being told what to do-not as a kid, not as an adult and most certainly, not as a senior. However, I follow the rules, as most of us do in the rural areas and we are reasonably well. I just ask the good Lord to keep us safe, healthy, mentally balanced and as I say "this too shall pass". In a more serious mode- This Christmas we were unable to be with our family and friends. We missed the delight of the "Santa" visit and wide eyed wonderment of the whole event. However, we do have 2021 to look forward to.

My thoughts go to the many unable to get out for a great breath of fresh air or be able to socialize with the many coffee people who are unable to stop by. The staff at Prairie Rose Lodge are to be commended for going the extra bit to try make the situation more tolerable.

The Ladies Auxiliary has not been able to have events at the lodge since March of 2020 and we miss these activities. January 2021 does not have a birthday to celebrate. Normally, we would have had entertainment, however this is not an option now. Just wait folks, this too shall pass and we will have a bang up party.

2021 will be the start of having a theme for each month for residents to focus on and discuss. The month of January the topic will be pets-residents can talk of their pets through the years; watch movies about pets and if allowed, have some pets brought in. Also, January 25<sup>th</sup> is Bobby Burn's day and residents will be treated to Scottish treats and bagpipe music. A valentine craft will be done near the end of January. There will be a focus on exercises, health and nutrition information as the residents are unable to be out and about. The usual events-name that tune, horse race, card games will continue.

Once again as I close, it is important to think of those not as fortunate as we. A kind word, a short chat or a smile can change a lonely person's life. Wishing everyone a healthy, safe winter month. God Bless . Emma Hulit

## **BORDER COMMUNITY WELLNESS FOUNDATION UPDATE – WINTER 2021**

It has been a Christmas season that no one will soon forget! Despite this fact, we are hoping that there was gladness in your heart, and that there were virtual meetings across the miles in order for us to adhere to the restrictions put before us. Let's not forget that Alberta is a robust population who has been through many ups and downs through the years, and we always come out of these times with a greater perspective on how fortunate we really are.

As with many other organizations, we have been limited in the meetings that we have had, and also in the opportunities to hold fundraising events. We are thrilled to be taking part in the Corvette ticket sales during the week of January 11-17th. As our foundation serves all community members in the County of Warner, and the villages of Coutts, Milk River, and Warner, we would be happy to hear from any volunteers who may be able to help us out with these ticket sales for the Kinsmen Corvette. These proceeds will continue to fund purchases or events which help us all maintain a healthy and happy lifestyle. We thank the Kinsmen group for the wonderful support that they give to numerous organizations in our area. It is so appreciated. If you are able to help sell a few tickets for the Corvette in the new year, please contact Emma Hulit @ 403-344-2222, or Robbie Wills @ 403-344-4312.

Border Community Wellness Foundation wishes you all a healthy and prosperous 2021!

Resident & Family Council for Milk River Long Term Care

January 2021

Our November Silent Auction was a great success. We raised \$1884.00. This money will go to provide the residents of our Long Term Care with a few pleasures over the next year.

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

To the Business's and Individuals that donated items for the auction' To all the good folk that came to the ATB to have fun and bid at the auction. To Audrey Blackmer and Val Schamber for their determination and hard work to ensure a successful event. To ATB Financial for letting us set up tables at the bank.

The virtual concerts that were held in December were very much appreciated by the residents, lots of smiling faces, clapping hands, stomping feet, and even a bit of sing-a- long. Rec. Therapy made the event even more enjoyable by providing drinks and snacks to the residents as they enjoyed the concerts. Even a bit of western gear was handed out for the occasion.

THE REVIEWS ARE IN

Comments sent to Duane Steele from the residents; along with a thank you card and an honorarium

- I really enjoyed the show.
- Thank you for your time.
- Good job.
- I liked the songs.
- Really enjoyable.
- Woo Hoo!

2020 has been an extraordinary year to say the least, and against that backdrop, we hope that you and your family are staying safe and healthy. This year has given us the opportunity to reflect and look to the future. So all of us from the Family & Resident Council want to wish you a Very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2021.

Lana Proctor.....Treasurer

**Silent Auction Donators – Remember to Shop Locally**

Business Donations

AM Service \_ Anthony Miller  
ATB Financial  
B.& C. Insurance  
D.F. Smith & Sons  
Dolores Pittman Massage Therapy  
J.T. Wine & Spirits Ltd.  
Lavonne's Hair Nook  
Main Street Hair Styles  
Milk River Dental Centre  
Milk River Farm Supply – Triple "O" Sales  
Milk River Home hardware  
Napa Ridge Auto Parts  
No Filter Brows  
Parrish & Heimbecker Ltd.  
Riverside Market  
Rocky Mountain Equipment  
Smart Alice  
Town of Milk River  
Tread Pro

Individual Donations

Audrey Blackmer  
Bonnie Buchanan  
Susan Horgus  
Peggy Losey  
Lana Proctor  
Linda Selk  
Keith Skippen  
And Our Anonymous donors

# Warner Adult Learning

**It's Coming! What's coming? Our New Program Guide should be arriving in your post office box early January.**

What's all the excitement about?

Didn't get one? Call and we'll mail it to you 403-421-0036

Shadow Boxes

Create your own



Feb. 8

and Paint parties

4 communities – Warner, Stirling, Milk River & Raymond. Pick your town and your date - January to May. Check your program guide for more details.



## Get to know Windows 10 and Excel

Starts

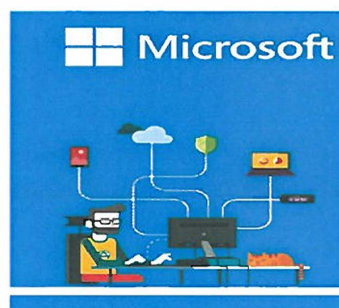
Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> and

March 11<sup>th</sup> .

Call 403-

421-0036

To register



Many more exciting classes coming your way, check out the dates and times in your New Program Guide. Please call 403-421-0036 for more information on all classes.

## **MILK RIVER & DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS' SOCIETY**

**ALL SENIORS' FUNCTIONS AT THE HERITAGE HALL REMAIN CANCELLED AT THIS TIME!**

**Functions will resume once the current lockdown regulations are lifted. Firm date for that is unknown. Please watch the Seniors' Facebook page for updates on when the Heritage Hall can be reopened or contact any Executive Member for updates.**

### **Monthly Meetings:**

At this time, the Executive has cancelled the Seniors' January 2021 Meeting due to the present COVID-19 lockdown regulations.

The next Seniors' Meeting will be Thursday February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 1:00PM in the Heritage Hall.... **MEETING ONLY**, no luncheon due to COVID-19 restrictions. Our meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month. Old timers and newcomers to the area are always welcome.

### **Seniors Membership:**

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

### **Bingo: CANCELLED AT THIS TIME**

Christine Hoytos, Bingo Co-ordinator - 780-524-8670

Bingo Doors open at 6:00PM – Bingo starts 7:00PM Sharp. Maximum Bingo Players may be restricted as per COVID-19 regulations.

Volunteer workers are still needed on Bingo Night. Positions are: Cashier, Caller, and Floor Sales. If you would like to join our workers and have some fun, please call Christine Hoytos.

### **Seniors Coffee: CANCELLED AT THIS TIME**

Senior Coffee - Monday to Friday at Heritage Hall 8:30–11:00 AM. Stop in, catch up on all the News, enjoy the coffee, socialize, and guaranteed you will get a chuckle or two in. Open to anyone who would like to join in.

### **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

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## **RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY GOLF**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The AGM will be rescheduled sometime in the New Year once the current lockdown regulations are lifted.

Golfers, please watch the Golf Facebook Page, Golf Website at

**<https://milkriverriverside.wixsite.com>** and the three Community Websites or Facebook Pages for updated information on the AGM date. Also updated info will always be in the Community Newsletters if we make the deadline for submission of articles.





## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 – Postponed

Measuring Day - Postponed

## AGM – January 12, 2021, 7:00 p.m. at Heritage Hall

Membership prices for 2021:

Youth \$25    Uninsured \$40    AFGA affiliate \$50    Family \$65

Please contact any member of the SAO to purchase your membership!!!

### EXECUTIVE

James Wills, Barry Snow, Scott Tollestrup,

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS, REPRESENTATIVES, DIRECTORS

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



# FCSS FAMILY VIRTUAL SUPPORT SERVICES

## JANUARY 2021

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
4	5	6	7	8
11	<p><b>BABY AND ME</b> 12:30-1:30pm Jackie</p> <p><b>FACEBOOK LIVE! Q&amp;A</b> Teen/Tween Talk Tuesdays 1:00pm Penny, Amanda</p>	<p><b>CAREGIVER CAFE</b> 10:00- 11:00am Janet, Myrna</p> <p><b>CAREGIVER CAFÉ LIVE Q&amp;A</b> 1:00pm Kim, Penny</p> <p><b>WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS</b> Mental Health Awareness 1:30- 3:00pm Myrna, Janet</p>	14	<p><b>FACEBOOK LIVE - CIRCLE TIME</b> 10:00- 10:30 am Myrna and Janet</p>
18	<p><b>BABY AND ME</b> 12:30-1:30pm Jackie</p> <p><b>FACEBOOK LIVE! Q&amp;A</b> Teen/Tween Talk Tuesdays 1:00pm Penny, Amanda</p>	<p><b>CAREGIVER CAFE</b> 10:00- 11:00am Janet, Myrna</p> <p><b>CAREGIVER CAFÉ LIVE Q&amp;A</b> 1:00pm Kim, Penny</p>	<p><b>TRIPLE P GROUP</b> 6:30- 8:30pm Janet, Stacey</p>	<p><b>FACEBOOK LIVE - CIRCLE TIME</b> 10:00- 10:30 am Myrna and Janet</p>
25	<p><b>BABY AND ME</b> 12:30-1:30pm Jackie</p> <p><b>FACEBOOK LIVE! Q&amp;A</b> Teen/Tween Talk Tuesdays 1:00pm Penny, Amanda</p>	<p><b>CAREGIVER CAFE</b> 10:00- 11:00am Janet, Myrna</p> <p><b>CAREGIVER CAFÉ LIVE Q&amp;A</b> 1:00pm Kim, Penny</p> <p><b>WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS</b> Family Literacy 1:30- 3:00pm Myrna, Janet</p>	<p><b>TRIPLE P GROUP</b> 6:30- 8:30pm Janet, Stacey</p>	<p><b>FACEBOOK LIVE - CIRCLE TIME</b> 10:00- 10:30 am Myrna and Janet</p>

**CONTACT:**  
**Penny Pittman**  
[penny.pittman@fcss.ca](mailto:penny.pittman@fcss.ca)  
 403-915-4017

