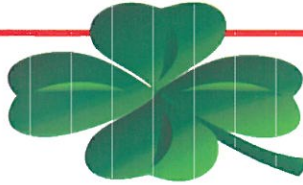


# VILLAGE OF COUTTS NEWSLETTER



**MARCH  
2022**



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Cemeteries Working Group**

A cemeteries working group is being formed to do some maintenance and upgrades to both of the Village cemeteries. If you would like to be part of this group, please contact Mardell Peterson at 403-344-3886. A few days were spent before the snow came, and the beds were cleaned out at the Holy Angels Cemetery, and trimming was started at the Anglican one. Thank you to Steve Pain for working so hard on this. Work days will be arranged once the weather turns to spring. The Village will also accept donations and give tax receipts if you would like to donate a monetary amount.



## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING QUAD MUNICIPALITY HEALTHCARE SUPPORT COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY APRIL 5, 2022**

**7:00 P.M.**

**MILK RIVER TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

## **A Message from Jim Willett, Mayor, February 28, 2022**

Last month at this time I sent out an information letter about the impending illegal blockade planned for our Village. A vocal few of you called it “propaganda”, although it did not fit the definition. I warned of a flood of protestors and spectators, which happened. I said the police would be here and available and they were, in numbers none of us could have foreseen. The promise to not block the Village in lasted about two hours.

The suggestions I made were common sense ones, aimed at making everyone safer. One guideline I made was deliberately misconstrued. Because of the increased traffic, I suggested parents should supervise their children, (to get them across streets, home from the bus stop, and to playgrounds safely). Because I did not spell that out word by word, the mistruth was spread that I had said the protestors were going to steal our kids! I still shake my head over that one.

Propaganda is the deliberate spreading of false information to further a political agenda. This letter in no way was propaganda.

As an elected official I am sworn to uphold the law and look after the populace. I support that everyone has the freedom to protest if it is kept legal. When the protestors broke the law, I could not support them in that action. Other elected officials chose a different path. My personal views on mandates, QR codes, border restrictions, antivax, have no bearing on what transpired.

My first concern was restoring highway access for emergency vehicles and keeping 500 open for fire service to the rural areas. It took awhile because there was a splintered leadership, to say the least. Other things that quickly became issues were resident’s freedom of movement, homecare access, school bus access, courier access, and of course emergency vehicle access. Shearer’s property became a major thoroughfare. There are differences of opinion on access for locals. Some residents were intimidated by the large machines, narrow road, sometimes the ditch, and large number of strangers, some rude, that were necessary to pass by to “run the blockade”. Others of you thought it was no problem at all. Consider your neighbours.

Over time the number of protestors in Coutts lessened, and police check stops on all roads attempted to keep outsiders from entering the community. Many questioned the number of police officers present as days went on. Several times I received complaints of the police vehicles speeding and rolling through stop signs. I passed those along to command and there was some improvement, although it was pointed out to me sometimes there are emergencies.

The police raid February 14<sup>th</sup> was an unforeseen and unwelcome event, as the presence of armed domestic terrorists in our community took almost everyone by surprise. The protest captains realized a line had been crossed and on Tuesday morning the farm machines and trucks rolled out. I had several times asked that the protestors leave Coutts as they found it, treat it as if they lived here, and they did. The mountain of supplies donated to them, that they were unable to take with them, was passed on to the Village.

So now here we are, a little less naïve, a little less sheltered, a little more wary. Some residents are leaving, some left for the duration, some have mental health issues, some folks may have said things they regret. I would suggest we all take a minute, touch base with our neighbours and friends, and talk. Communication as always is the key.

Two sentences I’ve heard over the past four years from residents are, “It’s always been this way”, and “We don’t like change”. Things do change whether we like it or not. Over the past 5 years our population shrank by almost 10%. We are now officially at 224, although I think that is high. Council passed a bylaw a year ago, aimed at making the Village more attractive to move to, however, ultimately it is up to you to take it to heart and act....or not.

Take care of yourselves and each other. Stay Safe.

Jim

## PRAIRIE ROSE LODGE BITS & PIECES-MARCH-2022

Just when you think you've seen & heard it all, something comes along that is beyond all imagination. Our beautiful, polite, peaceful Canada has just exploded with truck convoys, hundreds of horseback supporters, thousands of people rallying and International borders closed. Consequences are now appearing. Thank goodness it is over.

We were able to have a February birthday party-the first since March 2020. It felt so great to be able to bring in entertainment, serve treats and visit with the residents. Our next birthday party is March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. We will be celebrating birthdays of Wayne Guy, Janet Vornbrock, Marjorie Van Rijn and Beatrice Lawson. Entertainment will be our own Gordon Kopp and dessert will be served. Hopefully health restrictions will be easing and soon we will be able to have the public attend our functions.

There is a St. Patrick's party on March 17<sup>th</sup> and entertainment will be by Wonder West. Be sure to get your "green" out and have a great time. Terra will also have an Easter craft on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March. There are now exercises twice a week-a great opportunity to get in shape for spring. The usual games are still being played with card games and puzzling being very active. Shuffleboard is being introduced and promoted for the residents.

Catholic services are now held every Wednesday at 10 AM and everyone is welcome to come.


Our lodge manager Collin Beazer, due to personal reasons, will no longer be at the lodge. An employment opportunity has been posted and the position will be filled. At this time, we thank Collin for the time he was at our lodge.

Recently, I have found that a patrol car behind me now makes me nervous. Could just be a sign of the changing times. Take care and remember-life is good. God Bless All. Emma Hult.

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## MILK RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Historical Society is very happy to be the recipients of the donation bottle trailer behind J-T Wine and Spirits until March 10<sup>th</sup>. We really appreciate it and thank anyone who donates. We would also like to thank J-T Wine and Spirits, Mark & Theresa Thompson for the trailer and also Coaldale recycling. So, thanks to everyone who contributes as your donations do help to keep the Historical Society going as fundraising has been limited during Covid.

Since some of the Covid restrictions have been lifted, we are once again going to attempt to have a meeting. Mark your calendars for **Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.** 

Meeting will be at the museum, and everyone is welcome to attend.

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## BASEBALL IS BACK! THE 2022 SEASON IS STARTING SOON!!

It's that time of year again! Milk River Minor Baseball is gearing up, with high hopes to return to a normal ball season this year!

Registration forms are available at MRES, ERHS, Warner School, and the Milk River Library. To request an e-mailed copy, contact registrar Daria Snow at [mrminorball@gmail.com](mailto:mrminorball@gmail.com).

The **early bird deadline is March 3rd**, regular deadline is March 17th, and FINAL registration deadline is March 31st. Please note that any registrations received after March 17th will be subject to a \$20 late fee. Get your registrations in ASAP - remember, all PAID registrations received by the early bird deadline of March 3rd will be entered in a draw to receive one free registration!

Also, PLEASE VOLUNTEER, if you can. If you have any time to spare, please contact the registrar or anyone else on the board. We can't run a ball season without volunteers!!

# RIDGE COUNTRY HOUSING – JOB POSTING

## South Regional Site Manager

Ridge Country Housing requires a “South Regional Site Manager” to oversee the day-to-day operations of Senior and Community Housing in Milk River, Warner & Coutts. The position will be based at the Prairie Rose Lodge in Milk River.

Basic responsibilities of the position include:

- Staff Selection/Supervision & Scheduling
- Financial Record keeping and Expense monitoring
- Resident Relations
- Facility Management
- Administrative Reporting

A high school diploma is required; post-secondary education in Business Management, Human Resources and/or Facility Management is considered an asset.

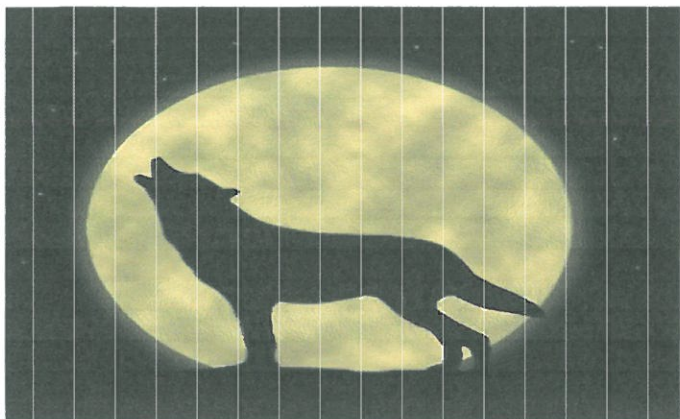
The ideal candidate will enjoy collaborating with Seniors and exhibit exceptional communication skills, planning skills, and have experience in Human Resources, Employer/Union relations, time management and team building. Proficiency in Microsoft Office, especially Excel and Word are required. Previous work experience collaborating with Seniors, or a related Health Care environment would be a definite asset. Experience in Facility/Property management would also be advantageous in this position.

Ridge Country Housing offers a generous vacation package, health and dental benefits, and a compressed work week (4 days a week). Starting salary for this position is \$50,000/yr. with an increase to \$52,000 after completions of a 6-month probationary period, followed by an increase to \$54,000 after 1 complete year of service.

Candidates wishing to apply are invited to submit their cover letter and resume on or before **March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022**, to: [chris.sopal@ridgecountry.ca](mailto:chris.sopal@ridgecountry.ca)

For more information on this position please feel free to contact Chris Sopal, CAO – Ridge Country Housing at 403-752-3696, or email [chris.sopal@ridgecountry.ca](mailto:chris.sopal@ridgecountry.ca)

**We thank all who apply however only those selected for an interview will be contacted**



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## *Public Market*

*Saturday, April 16, 2022*

*10am-4pm at the Milk River Civic Center  
321 3rd Ave*

*-market with 40 vendors*

*-concession available*

*-kids corner*

*Adults \$2 admission*

*Proceeds to Breast Cancer*

*Kids free*

*Kinette Easter Egg Hunt 10:30 Football Field*

*Everyone Welcome!*

*Contact Laurie Balog @ 403-642-7500 for more info.*





Milk River Elementary – March 2022 News

**March - Nutrition Month** – Unlock the potential of Food "**Ingredients for a Healthier Tomorrow**" is the theme for 2022. During Nutrition Month, dietitians will explore the key “ingredients” needed to change our food systems for a healthier tomorrow. These ingredients will take the form of actions that can improve an individual’s health in addition to systemic changes that can be made, not just for today, but for the future. “Dietitians want to create a healthier tomorrow with their patients, clients and communities - through awareness, advocacy and action. We are influencing change across all areas of food, nutrition and health.”

Milk River Elementary will be taking part in Nutrition Month with our “**Lunch Box**” challenge during the month of March.

**Mini-Basketball** – We have three mini-ball teams this year and have been practicing the month of February. Warner is hoping to have at least one team and maybe two, once this is confirmed we will come up with a game schedule for **March**. Our students love basketball, and we would like to thank everyone that helps make it possible – thank you to our **coaches**, referees, timekeepers, and everyone that comes out to cheer on the players and help promote the joy of basketball!

**Missoula Children’s Theatre** – **March 21–25?** We have Missoula Children’s Theatre booked but not yet confirmed to present the “**Emperor’s New Clothes**” on **Friday, March 25 at 7:00 P.M.** in the Elementary School gymnasium. **We are waiting on a COVID-19 update!**

**Upcoming Events** –

- **Wednesday, March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30** – Hot Lunch Days!
- **Thursday, March 3** – 11:30 A.M. – Virtual Assembly
- **Friday, March 4 & Monday, March 7** – School P.D. Days – no students!
- **Sunday, March 13** – Daylight Savings Time begins – Spring ahead!
- **Thursday, March 17** – Happy St. Patrick’s Day - “**Green Day**” - Pickle on a Stick
- **Sunday, March 20** – 1<sup>st</sup> Day of spring!
- **March 21 – 25** – Missoula Children’s Theatre – “**The Emperor’s New Clothes**”?
- **Monday, April 4 – 9:00 – 12:00** – **Developmental Check-ups!**

# Need help with your taxes?

*Get  
taxes done!*



**Our Community Volunteer Income Tax Program**  
offers free assistance to complete simple tax returns  
for low income individuals, families, and seniors

**Call or text to make an appointment:**

**403.915.7063**

**For Low German call Susie Peters:**

**403.593.0618**



**Connect with us online or by phone to complete your return remotely.**

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Milk River | M.D. of Taber | Nobleford | Picture Butte | Raymond | Stirling | Taber | Vauxhall | Warner