

VILLAGE OF COUTTS NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2020



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TAX PREPAYMENTS: If you prepay your taxes in February you will receive a 4% discount. Any amount you chose to pay will receive a discount.

CATS/DOGS: license fees are due in January. \$5 spade or neutered, \$30 otherwise. Please pick up after your pets. The snow will not miraculously take care of the mess. Also, we are again receiving multiple complaints of people feeding strays and leaving food out. The skunks will soon be back, and we need to deter them from being in town. PLEASE do not leave food out.

SNOW: When shoveling drive ways and sidewalks, if you are not shoveling back onto your own property, please push the snow to the burm in the middle of the road.

VOLUNTEERS: We would like to put a list together of residents that are willing to work Casino shifts. Being on this list will not commit you to a shift, but will give various groups the ability to source volunteers easily. If you are willing to have your name available, please call or stop in at the Village Office.

UTILITY BILLS: The last couple utility bills have gone out via email. If you have not received one, please check your trash/spam. If you have not received a bill, it is up to you to call the office and inquire. If you would still like to be added to the emailing billing list, please provide your email address by sending an email to vilcouth@telus.net . We have quite a few signed up and it seems to be working great, we would like to get the majority of residents to use this method, to save on postage costs. Thank you!

ITEMS LEFT AT CIVIC CENTRE: There is a red Tupperware bowl and a clear Rubbermaid bowl with a white lid at the civic centre that was left after the Festival of Lights. If these are yours, please pick them up.

RECYCLE TRAILER: We are having **MAJOR** problems with items being put in the trailer that do not belong! Our options at this point are to either discontinue using the trailer, or install cameras and fine individuals that insist on putting garbage, cardboard and other items that are not recyclable in the trailer. This has turned into an unnecessary labor intensive system for our public works department.

PLEASE pay attention when adding items to the trailer. Cardboard goes up by the garage by the shop. Garbage goes in your household bin. Thank you!

SINCERE THANKS:

Tammy Degenstein & family, Dave Degenstein & family, Al & Betty , Jan & Tracy Johnson and family, Breana Smith & family wish to express our most sincere thank you for all the kindness and support given to us during our loss of Devan. We are also thankful for all the cards, food, etc. They were very much appreciated.

News from the Border Rascals Social Club

February 2020 will have 29 days as we make the "every fourth year" calendar correction with Leap Year. How do they figure these things out??

According to Google 365 days doesn't quite allow time enough to complete the earth's orbit around the sun. It actually takes another 5 hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds. Over time, this lag would accumulate and the four seasons would no longer fall within the months that we have come to call winter, spring, summer and fall. So, every four years the extra day is added to February which seems to be short of days anyway. What is with "the leap part" you might ask? Well, if your birth day fell on a Friday last year it will fall on Saturday the next year unless the next year is Leap Year when your birthday would "leap" two days ahead! So now you know!!

The Rascals Social Club enjoyed a great turnout for our January potluck with 18 members attending. Perhaps it was the milder weather or the need for some conversation after the long cold spell that brought folks out. Whatever the reason it is always good to meet friends over food. We look forward to seeing everyone again this fourth Thursday, February 27th at our next potluck 5:30 at the Rec' hall. We will follow supper with our annual meeting and election of officers.

February is Valentines month and an opportunity to let someone special know that you care about them. Remember worrying over which of those cheesy little Valentines you would give to your classmates? Maybe some of you remember when we made our own Valentine cards. We usually had treats and a party at school after exchanging cards. Oh, the memories of our youth!

Happy Valentines Day!

From The Border Rascals Social Club

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Well, winter is still here and we have something new that we would like to try. Do you like to do jigsaw puzzles? We have set up a puzzle in the library and would like to invite anyone who would like to come in and stay awhile and work on the puzzle. If we can generate enough interest we are thinking of possibly a puzzle night where we can pit teams against each other to see who can finish their puzzle first. We would gladly make you a cup of coffee or tea if you would like while you are working on the puzzle that we already have set up.

The next intergenerational program will be Tuesday April 14th from 6:00 - 7:00 pm and we are going to do ozobots again this time. We had a couple of boys come out to this last session and one senior, what a hoot, so we hope we can get a few more next time and that the flu bug will be over. There will be a few new twists and tricks for the next session.

The next computer session is scheduled for April 8th and this session will be a bit different. We will be setting up individual appointment times for each person and would like you to preregister and tell us what you are having trouble with or would like individual help with so that the instructor will be prepared. Also, please bring your device with you so that she can work with you with your particular device.

We have lots of materials for you to check out and still have our free shelf out in the hall. Hope to see you soon!

UPDATE FROM COUNCIL

COUNCILLOR SCOTT MACCUMBER

Quad Municipality Healthcare Support Committee

- We had a regular meeting on January 7, 2020.
- Dr. Ovwasa will be starting in Milk River as soon as the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta approve an assessor for part 2 of his assessment. We have not received any updates from Alberta Health Services on this but expect to hear soon. A meet and greet between Dr. Ovwasa and community members is in the works. Details to follow.
- We handed out food baskets at various locations in Milk River at Christmas time to recognize our healthcare professionals and all that they do for us.
- We are looking for new members from the community. If you are interested, please attend our next meeting or contact Scott MacCumber at (403) 344-3943.
- Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 4th at 7:00 p.m. at the Milk River Town Hall.

Milk River Watershed Council of Canada

- Our meeting scheduled for January 23, 2020, was rescheduled to January 31, 2020
- Nothing to report for this month.

Recreation Board

- No meetings in the last month.
- If you have any ideas for future projects or recreation needs in our community, please let me know.

COUNCILLOR MEGAN PAYNE

FCSS opted to not hold a meeting for January 2020. Our next meeting is February 5, 2020

Canadian Badlands – spent some time giving input by correspondence and completing the survey with Travel Alberta. Working towards expanding on tourism in our province! We have welcomed Rocky View County to the Canadian Badlands Tourism Partnership.

Ridge Country Housing- I attended the meeting in Raymond January 16, 2020. I made some inquiries about our Wheatland Manor and am waiting on information. There are approximately 10 vacancies each at the Prairie Rose Lodge & the Ridgeview Lodge. There are job opportunities for both locations. North Regional Site Manager based out of Ridgeview Lodge. And a casual position for housekeeping and food services at the Prairie Rose Lodge. Both positions have been posted. Our social housing budget for 2020 has been decreased and we are working on options to work around it. There is an ASCHA Convention in Red Deer In April 2020 and we will have a few board members attend.

Mayor's Report January 2020

This month I am going to just give you a quick idea of what I have done over the past month. I would like to note that I mention Writing on Stone in here a couple of times. I have written Minister Nixon, Minister Fir, and Minister Hunter regarding the understaffing at the Park and the termination of Dr. Meg Berry the resident archaeologist at the end of the year and expressed my disappointment and concerns. I received a letter from Minister Nixon explaining the department's plans for the new year and his assurance the Park would be looked after.

December 6th I was in Lethbridge for the monthly Mayors and Reeves meeting. These sessions give all the Mayors and Reeves in SW and South Central Alberta a chance to get together and hear reports from the two governments and discuss common concerns. This meeting occurred just after the Municipal policing funding model had just been released so there were plenty of questions for Minister Hunter who was in attendance. Minister Hunter reported on the accomplishments of the government so far. There was a presentation from the Alberta film industry. "Keep Alberta Rolling". Economic benefits of the film industry to rural Alberta.

Discussed how to have a film friendly municipality. Discussed the need for Alberta to have an "uncapped" film tax credit program. (Side note: some of Netflix series "Lost in Space" recently filmed at Writing on Stone).

December 12 I was again in Lethbridge for the SouthGrow Quarterly Meeting – We had an interesting presentation by Paul Ryan from SAEWA. Energy from Waste. Site selection for the plant should be done by now. Elected Executive. All five stayed on via acclamation. Voted to fund Broadband Final Mile project. By the time we have the next quarterly we hope to have financial news from EDT&T Minister Fir to see if we are continuing in our present form.

December 16 I was again in Lethbridge to meet with MLA Nathan Neudorf. Peter Casurella of SouthGrow and I had an interesting hour with Mr. Neudorf. Discussed the usual Southgrow topics, broadband, Alternative Energy, Plant Protein, Highway Three twinning, and I made sure he knew about Writing on Stone. Talked about the constant need to make sure provincial government is aware of our region's strengths. Discussed Stars and Halo

December 17 I participated in a teleconference with Minister Fir and representatives from the other Regional Economic Development Associations

January 3 in Lethbridge for Mayors and Reeves – Presentation by Doctor Samantha Myhr from Pincher Creek addressing her concerns for rural medicine with the latest threatened government actions regarding health care. Also in attendance were MLAs Schow, Neudorf, and Hunter. MLA Schow got into a spirited discussion with the Doctor over negotiations, perceived cuts, etc. RMA reported on the Orphan well and default tax situation and how it is impacting rural municipalities. By now we all have heard the province's thoughts on that.

January 8 Peter Casurella and I met with MLA Shannon Philips - catching her up with what SouthGrow has been doing and the state of economic development in the region. Voiced our concerns over water security and the fact Edmonton seems to think the province ends at Calgary, or maybe Okotoks on a good day. I also made sure she was aware of the situation at Writing on Stone, since Parks were her responsibility as previous minister.

January 13 participated in a Teleconference between the HandiBus Society, GreenPower Motor Company, and SouthGrow.

January 22 in Lethbridge again for a SouthGrow Exec Meeting - The Peaks to Prairies Electric Vehicle Station in Milk River is now ready for commissioning and there should be a ribbon cutting soon.

And that brings us up to date. Here's hoping the last couple of weeks temperatures continue. Makes for a shorter winter.

WHAT'S GOING ON

**DROP-IN
PROGRAMS**

STAY AND PLAY

IN MILK RIVER: TUESDAYS 9:30-11:30
(Civic Center - Agora Room)

IN WARNER: WEDNESDAYS 10:00-12:00
(Village Office: East Entrance)

POSITIVE PARENTING DISCUSSION GROUPS

Hassle Free Shopping: Feb 3rd

Teaching Children to Listen: Feb 10th

Come to any or all of them

Where: Warner Parent Link Center

When: 1:30-3:00 pm

**REGISTRATION
REQUIRED**

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE

Join us to discuss common challenging behaviors & effective strategies

TRIPLE P PRIMARY CARE

In 4 short one on one sessions learn why children behave as they do and develop a parenting plan that supports you in encouraging desirable behavior & changing challenging behavior.

**AVAILABLE IN COUTTS, MILK RIVER &
WARNER**

LOOSE PARTS IN COUTTS

**In partnership with the Five by Five
Early Learning Coalition**

Imaginative play for families with preschool
age children

COUTTS RECREATION HALL

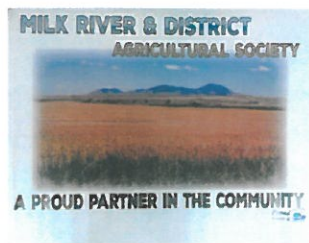
Wednesday March 4th 5:00-7:00 pm

FREE SUPPER!

ADULT SUPERVISION & PARTICIPATION REQUIRED

REGISTRATION/CONTACT:

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



The Milk River Ag Society is working on ideas for new/improved events for this year, if you have any ideas stewing in the back on your head, please share them with us. We want your input.

Pickleball is still going strong and always looking for new players. Play times are still the same: Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 9:30am to 11:30am, and Thurs evening from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Come out and try it out.

Rollerskating has started up again, 3 times a month until end of March, look for our poster in this newsletter. This is a great way to spend a Friday evening with your kids, have a hotdog, popcorn, a glass of swamp juice and some laughs.

Bonanza Day planning committee will be meeting to get things rolling on Bonanza Days. They are always looking for volunteers to help in any way, big or small. Let us know if you are interested and we can get you in touch with the committee members.

We are looking at updating our logo and making some changes to the Civic Ctr... stay tuned 😊.

Follow us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/mrdagsociety>

Our email address is mrdagsociety@outlook.com

Milk River & District Ag Society

2019-2020 Rollerskating

Note new times

6:30 to 8:30 PM

Jan 10	Feb 7	Mar 6
Jan 17	Feb 14	Mar 13
Jan 31	Feb 28	Mar 20



For more info, please contact Laura Balog,
403-647-2212

MILK RIVER CABLE CLUB

We have held 2 special meetings over the past 2 months; Dec 4, 2019 and Jan 20, 2020 regarding offers to purchase the club. We would like to thank everyone who came out to the meetings. For anyone who was unable to attend, the meeting minutes have been posted to our website: www.milkrivercable.ca

As you may be aware, a vote was held on Jan 20 regarding whether members are interested in pursuing the sale of the club or not. We had 115 votes in total (79 yes/36 no) leaving us with 68.7% of the members in attendance voting in favour of pursuing the sale of the club. We required 75% in favour to continue moving forward, so the Milk River Cable Club will no longer continue negotiations regarding selling the club. Operations will continue as normal.

TD online banking customers may notice a discrepancy on their bill; this is due to the MRCC being unable to regularly receive payment reports from TD over the past 2 months. We believe we have rectified the situation, but if you notice a missing payment please contact Kelsey at the office immediately; 403-647-2115 ext. 1 mrtech@mrcable.ca

If you have a local ad, please feel free to use our Community News bulletin board in our front entrance.

We are unsure of the date for the AGM at this time. More information to follow once we have selected the date.

The guide for our local channels on 180-194 is back online!

FAX line subscribers have been without service. We have been working on this issue, but unfortunately a clear resolution has been difficult. We hope to have service restored ASAP and understand how frustrating this has been.

The following channels are still off-air:

318 CTV Edmonton HD

339 Global Edmonton HD

351 CTV 2 Alberta HD

These channels show a "One Moment Please" message.

We have run into a programming issue with the new equipment and are unsure when we will have it resolved.

Heritage Handibus News

Hello Heritage Handibus Bus Clients, Friends and General Public:

Plans are underway for the bus fundraiser coming up.

Ethan Harty Of Strome, AB.

The Grand Masters Canadian Open Champion Fiddle Player

Is coming to entertain us on March 21, 2020

Tickets will be sold in advance.

In other news, we have lost our funding for the free ride Tuesdays around town in Milk River. We are hoping another group will decide to fund the service.

Judy Gaehring, Secretary

PRAIRIE ROSE LODGE BITS & PIECES-FEBUARY-2020

Thank goodness January has come to an end! Everyone has been so grumpy, so defensive, so judgmental. I find that I too have let Mother Nature determine my outlook on life. Well the sun is shining and I am taking back my happy optimistic attitude. Look around us- we all have so much to be happy and thankful for. Life is good. Now if that old Ground Hog will just make the right decision.

February is still somewhat of a quiet month-depending on the weather. The Lodge residents are looking forward to attending a movie, complete with popcorn and ice cream, in Warner in the near future.

On February 12th the Lodge residents will be enjoying a Valentine Fondue party- sounds like a lot of yummy chocolate to me. If you want to have a little "sweet fun," come on over in the afternoon.

Our birthday party will be February 13th at 7PM honoring Gene Hester, Shirley Johnston, and Julia Racz. Once again we are pleased to announce Derek and Candee will be entertaining, so come out and celebrate with us. You know the cake and ice cream is free.

The feature country for February is France-there will be French trivia and French snacks & drinks. Anyone with something unique about this country, please share it with the residents. You can do this by contacting Terra or Dorothy.

I know it is early to let you know that Personal Touch will be here on March 19th with many of their spring fashions. This is a wonderful service to our communities for those residents unable to venture to the city. They have clothing for both men and women and accessories. Mark your calendars March 19th.

Once again I am going to make a plea to our communities to come join our Auxiliary. Our numbers are dwindling due to members moving into the lodge and others at the age that they no longer feel they are able to contribute. Our meetings are the 3rd Monday of the month for 1-11/2 hours and the birthday party held the 2nd Thursday of the month which is a 2 hour commitment. All of us appreciate these services tin our communities, however it takes the involvement of everyone. Our meetings are at 2PM and we are guilty of having a little fun.

Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood. Cherish yesterday, dream tomorrow, live today and remember-to enjoy the rainbow, you must endure the rain. Life is good. God Bless. Emma Hulit



We are looking forward to our coed grades 3 – 5 mini-basketball season. There are 27 students signed up to play. Thanks so much to all our volunteer coaches – with their support and dedication we will have three mini-ball teams this year. We are counting on a team or two from Warner, which will give us lots of games to watch! We will be practicing the month of February and hope to start playing games the first week of **March**. The finalized schedule will be posted in the March Newsletter. Everyone is welcome to come out and cheer on these very enthusiastic basketball players!!

Upcoming Events –

- **Monday, January 27** – “Family Literacy Day”
- **Thursday, February 6** – “Dress-up Day”
 - o 2:45 – General Assembly
- **Wednesday, February 12** – A.M. – Grade 4 – Scientists in School “Wheels in Motion”
- **Thursday, February 13** – Report Card #2
- **Friday, February 14** – Happy Valentine’s Day
- **Monday, February 17 to Friday, February 21** – **Family Week – NO School**
- **Wednesday, February 26** – A.M. – Grade 5 – Scientists in School “Electricity”
 - o “**Kindness Day**” – We will support kindness by wearing a “**PINK**” shirt to school on **Wednesday, February 26** to take part in the “**Lift Each Other Up**” campaign. A simple but powerful message encouraging us to look beyond our differences and celebrate the things that make us unique. When we lift each other up, we see beyond the things that separate us and see instead the things that unite us as people; we can see how our differences are beautiful. In a world of people tearing each other down, it is more important than ever to focus on being kind to one another. This Pink Shirt Day and every day, let's lift each other up.
- **Friday, February 28** – Grade 1 – Scientists in School “Sensational Science”.

Our students will be participating in the **Milk River Watershed 11th Annual “Poster Contest”** – they ask students to recognize their watershed by drawing a picture using pencil, watercolors, crayon, pastels and acrylics that illustrates the theme “**Wonderful Wetlands**”. The deadline for entries is **Wednesday, February 12**.



As part of the Gr. 4/5 Phys. Ed. program, the students have been going to the Milk River Curling Club to learn the fundamentals of curling. We started the last week in January and will be going February 3, 5, 10 and 12 from 1:00 – 2:30 P.M. Many thanks to the Curling Club and volunteers for this opportunity and for coming out and sharing their expertise with our students.

Employment Opportunity
Ridge Country Housing - Prairie Rose Lodge
Milk River, AB

External Posting: January 20, 2020

Prairie Rose Lodge is currently seeking qualified workers. You will follow our training procedure for various positions, must be able and willing to work all shifts (mornings, evenings and nights; most departments – cleaning, serving, assisting as per duty lists).

Casual status can lead to an opportunity of many hours and or to apply for a “four days on, two days off” rotation as it comes available.

Food service, cleaning or housekeeping experience and certifications are an asset.

Wage: Wages and Benefits as per the CUPE collective agreement.

Closing Date: Until filled

**Please drop-off, fax or email applications/resumes to:
Dorothy Fraser, Manager, Prairie Rose Lodge**

**P.O. Box 489 Milk River, AB T0K 1M0 403-647-3531 or Fax
403-647-3565 or dorothy.fraser@ridgecountry.ca**

RIDGE COUNTRY HOUSING – JOB POSTING

North Regional Site Manager

Ridge Country Housing requires a “North Regional Site Manager” to oversee the day-to-day operations of Senior and Community Housing in Raymond and Stirling. The position will be based at the Ridgeview Lodge in Raymond.

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 working 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 working 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 \$45,000/yr. with an increase to \$50,000 after completions of a 6-month probationary period.

Candidates wishing to apply are invited to submit their cover letter and resume on or before **Feb 7th, 2019** to: chris.sopal@ridgecountry.ca

For more information on this position please feel free to contact Chris Sopal, CAO – Ridge Country Housing at 403-752-3683 ext 3, or email chris.sopal@ridgecountry.ca

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