

# VILLAGE OF COUTTS NEWSLETTER DEC 2023

# Merry Christmas



## **CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSURE**

The Village office will be closed from December 25 until Jan 2. **Garbage pick up will be Thursday December 28th instead of December 27th.** Mayor, Council and staff would like to wish all residents a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. If you have an **emergency**, related to town issues, over the holiday, please call Lori at 403-642-7429.

## **TAXES AND UTILITIES**

Any unpaid taxes will receive a 12% penalty on Jan 1, 2024. We will once again be offering discounts in January (5%) and February (4%) for prepayment of taxes. Please contact the office in January to find out the amount needed to pay for you specifically. Utility prepayments will also be taken for residential properties. The payment amount is \$412.50, which results in one month free of water distribution, sewer and garbage fees. Utility prepayment is only available in January.

## **FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY—CASINO**

The **Friends of the Library** are looking for volunteers to fill the below casino positions. If you are able to help, it would be appreciated. These funds help purchase items for the library that they would normally do without such as, new chairs, projector, screen, certain programming, puzzles, and many more items. If you are hesitant filling a night shift because you do not feel comfortable driving home after the long night, a hotel will be provided for you to get some sleep before driving. Please contact Lorelei or Tracy at the Post Office to sign up. Thank you to everyone who volunteers in our small community. The money earned from working these casinos is what keeps our societies afloat, and programs running in our community.

Monday February 26– 1pm-8pm (2 positions)  
8 pm-4 am (3 positions)

Tuesday February 27- 1pm-8pm (1 position)  
8pm-4am (4 positions)

## **NEWS FROM THE COUTTS LIBRARY**

Book Club will be held on Thursday December 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm here at the library, please come and join us to talk about books.

We will be closed for two weeks once again over the holidays. Our last open day before Christmas is Thursday December 21<sup>st</sup> and we will reopen on Tuesday January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 so be sure to stop in and check out lots of books, movies and don't forget that we have jigsaw puzzles and there are a good number of Christmas themed ones in our collection. The holidays are always a good time to get a puzzle going it seems.

We have both CO2 monitors and Radon screening kits available to borrow.

Following is a list of sites that may be of interest to you during the next month.

Governor General's Literary Awards – The winners were announced in November. These awards recognize the best in Canadian books across 7 categories. Learn more about the winning titles and then be sure to place a hold on the books on our website.

<https://bit.ly/CA GovGen23>

Penguin Gift Guide – Looking for the perfect book to gift a loved one (or yourself)? Check out this handy gift guide: <https://bit.ly/BookFinder-23>

### **Book Lists:**

Cozy Mysteries – Is there anything better when it's chilly outside than getting cozy with mystery? We don't think so. We've got mysteries for the whole family.

Cozy Mysteries for Adults: <https://tinyurl.com/yc4br396>    Mysteries for Older Kids: <https://tinyurl.com/4cue3xsr>

Mysteries for Teens: <https://tinyurl.com/3tbwhnkc>

From the Heart: Handmade Gift Ideas – Homemade gifts never fail to bring a smile. Here are some books with great ideas for all your gifting needs: <https://tinyurl.com/3ebj6thp>

From all of us at the library to all of you, we wish you a Merry Christmas and happy holiday season with lots of good food, family and good friends!

## ANGEL TREE AND CHRISTMAS FOOD HAMPER

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 15<sup>th</sup>.

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.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the Angel Tree and Christmas Hamper programs, your generosity is truly appreciated.

Darlene Fleming, Angel Tree Program 403-393-3223

### HERITAGE HANDIBUS ASSOCIATION DEC 2023 NEWSLETTER

The Toyota Handibus is scheduled to travel to Lethbridge on December 6, 2023. The cost is \$40.00 per person, with a minimum of 3 riders prepaid. Riders are required to book their ride 24 hours in advance with payment due at that time. If 3 riders are not prepaid, the bus does not travel.

Both buses are available for charters.

Please call the Town of Milk River Office Staff to arrange booking, payment and more information.

Merry Christmas, a wonderful season and Happy New year to all!

### MILK RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

There will be no meeting in December, but for tours of the museum anytime, please call William King 403-647-3428.

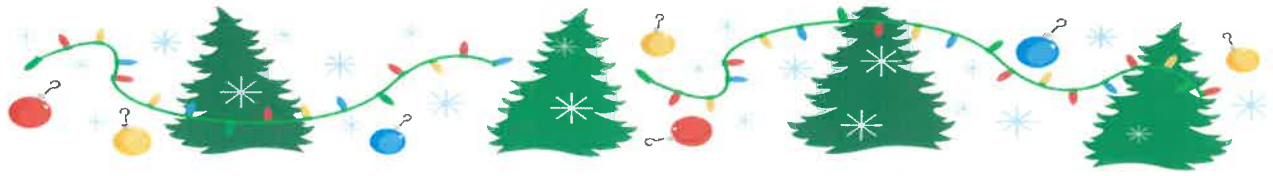
We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and thank you for the support of the Museum over the past year!

### DONATION REQUEST

The Wheatland Manor in Coutts is in need of a few improvements to upgrade the common areas inside and outside. Cash donations are being sought to purchase furniture for inside and out. Budget allowances for these types of improvements is very limited. For more information, please contact Karen at the Prairie Rose Lodge at 403-647-3531 or Megan at 403-344-3643. Tax receipts can be issued if you donate through the Village of Coutts office for amounts over \$20.00. Thank you for your consideration and generosity.

### BORDER RASCALS SOCIAL CLUB

December greetings from the Border Rascals Social Club. Come and join us this Christmas Season for some food, games, and a gift exchange. If you wish to participate, \$20.00, is the minimum amount, please. Marked for a Man or a Woman. This month is unique, as the monthly meeting and potluck are on the same day, (the 14th). 10am, for the meeting, 5.30pm, for the potluck, and party. Come and have some fun with us, we love to see new faces. Have a safe a Blessed Christmas.



# *FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS*

Monday December 18<sup>TH</sup>

*COUTT'S CIVIC CENTRE*

*POTLUCK SUPPER AT 5:30pm*

*MUSIC*

*SANTA*



## *GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST:*

**PRIZES AWARDED IN EACH GROUP: AGES:**    6 & UNDER  
   7 - 11  
   12 & OLDER

**Bring your houses to the Civic Centre on the 18<sup>TH</sup> by NOON.**

## *DECORATED HOME/BUSINESS CONTEST*

Cast your vote for the best decorate home/business at the potluck.

1<sup>st</sup> - \$100            2<sup>nd</sup> - \$75            3<sup>rd</sup> - \$50            Best Business \$50.

*PLEASE LIGHT UP YOUR HOMES FOR ALL TO ENJOY!!*

*COME OUT WITH YOUR FAMILY FOR AN EVENING OF  
SOCIALIZING AND CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!*

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



# **Milk River & District Ag Society**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Dec 18, 7:00 PM At the Civic Centre**

Please join us for updates on programs and projects at your Community Centre.

We would appreciate your attendance and feedback.

Your Board of Directors need your input and support.

Thank you.

Look forward to seeing you there!!

**This meeting is open to the public, everyone is welcome to attend!**

Please check us out on FB at  
[Milk River and District AG Society | Facebook](#)



## SOUTHERN ALBERTA OUTDOORSMEN

### UPCOMING EVENTS

All events subject to AHS rules



**Family Fishing Dec 27 2023** at Goldsprings Park camp kitchen

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

**Predator Hunt – Friday, January 5, 2024** From Sunup to Sundown Friday and bring your result in to **Measuring Day** at Heritage Hall the next day at noon to enter points and socialize.

**Measuring Day - Saturday, January 6, 2024 – Heritage Hall, Milk River, AB.**

Open at 9:00 a.m. Entry Cut Off is 12:00 noon, sharp. SAO will have soup and buns for sale

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

**\*\*Photo Contest** for photographers of all ages with three categories - Wildlife, Open, and Scenery for Juniors (Under 16) and Adults.

Photos must be presented unframed and no smaller than a 5" x 7" and must be taken by the person entering them as well as being a member of SAO.

**AGM – January 9, 2024, 7:30 p.m. at Milk River Town Hall Council Chambers**

This will be the first ½ hour of our regular meeting. At least 2 positions will need to be filled. We would like to see as many possible attend.

**Outdoorsmen 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Swap Meet & Gun Show - March 9, 2024, 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 R Clayton Taylor 403-634-7258

**Awards Evening - Saturday, March 17, 2024– Coutts Civic Center, AB. – 4:30 p.m.** This year we will be doing a POT-LUCK SUPPER If you plan to attend, please bring a supper or desert dish. SAO will provide coffee, water and juice. You are welcome to bring your own refreshments as well.

The evening will begin with socializing, silent auction, raffles and cocktails. Supper at 6:00 pm  
Come on out for a fun night!

**Gopher Hunt – Saturday, May 4 2024 –** Meet at the Heritage Hall, Milk River, AB - for refreshments after an ethical day of hunting and disposal of the gophers. Bring tails only, for count, by 5:00 p.m.  
SAO will supply hot dog supper

**Family Fishing Weekend and Camp Out –May 31, June 1 and 2 at Goldsprings Park.** Please book your own reservations if you plan to camp! Saturday, as usual, will be the main event with SAO supplying dogs and drinks

This year, we are raffling another e-bike! The draw will be made on October 8 2024 at our regular 7:30 meeting in the Town Hall. If you win, this bike can be traded back to our supplier for our purchase price on any other e-bike they sell. Check our facebook page or contact any SAO board member for ticket sales details. Some of the raffle proceeds in 2023 were sent to ACA to provide some 12-14 inch stockers for Gold Springs Park.

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*

DECEMBER 23RD 3PM-5PM  
5:30PM LIVE MUSIC & COOKIES

# LIVE INTERACTIVE NATIVITY



**A GIFT FROM RIVER OF  
LIFE CHURCH TO OUR  
COMMUNITY**

Christmas music

Free hot dogs

Hot chocolate

Christmas snack bags for kids

Photo opportunity with animals

Hayrides!



We've had another eventful month here at Prairie Rose Lodge! Terra has kept our residents very busy with lots of outings, & special activities. We would like to express a heartfelt thanks to the Students & the Staff at the school for inviting us to their Remembrance Day Ceremony. Our Residents were so grateful to take part in such a lovely tribute to all those who have served.

We're excited to be gearing up for one of our busiest months at PRL! The Christmas buzz is already all around us, & we're all SO excited to be launching our first ever "Angel Tree Project"! We have a brand-new Christmas tree at the Lodge, & it is

adorned with special Angels that represent each of our Residents. We are inviting those members of our Community, that are able, to come in, chose an Angel, & fulfill the wish list attached. We request that the wrapped gifts, clearly labeled with the residents name, be brought back to the Lodge before December 18<sup>th</sup>. Posters are up on our bulletin boards with all the details, & of course our staff is always here to help with any questions you might have. If you pop in to grab an Angel, please consider staying for a cup of coffee... We always love the extra company!

Other activities this month include, The Christmas Carol Festival with the Ladies Auxiliary on December 10<sup>th</sup>, a town Christmas light tour on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Ladies Auxiliary Bingo on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Carol from FCSS will be here decorating cookies with the Residents on the 13<sup>th</sup>, & the Goodtimers will also be here on December 28<sup>th</sup> for a little pre-New Years fun!

As a reminder, Meals on Wheels is always available for our main (noon) meal. Meals are just \$8.00 each, & monthly menus are available for pick up anytime from our community bulletin board just inside the main entrance of the Lodge. Meals on Wheels applications are also provided there, & completed applications can be submitted to Karen or Terra anytime! If you would like to join the Residents for a meal here in the Dining Room of the Lodge, we ask that you just call ahead to ensure our Kitchen Staff can prepare enough, & our support staff can have a place set for you. Those meals are also \$8.00 each, including coffee/tea/or beverage, & a nummy dessert!

Community coffee will continue to run the first Tuesday of each week in December, with the exception of December 26<sup>th</sup>. Please join us!

We would again like to thank the Community for all you do! We are grateful to have so many caring individuals, businesses & organizations that do so much to help with improving the lives of our residents!

From the Staff & Management of PRL,

*Merry Christmas!*

## #OvercomingHolidayBlues

For many, the holiday season is filled with fun, friends and family, and happiness. But, for others, the holiday season can be a reminder of challenging times, the loss of a loved one, or feelings of loneliness.

This holiday season, here are 10 tips to help you beat the winter blues:

- 1) Get outside. Even when it's cold out, it can be very helpful to get some fresh air and get some sunshine.
- 2) Don't isolate yourself. When you're feeling sad, it can be challenging to go see friends, family, or even neighbors. Even if you don't feel like it, call a friend and chat with them. You'll notice that your mood will start to improve.
- 3) Watch something funny. Laughter really is the best medicine. Watch a funny YouTube video or read some jokes to make yourself smile.
- 4) Give yourself a manageable task to accomplish. Completing tasks will give you a sense of accomplishment and make you feel proud.
- 5) Volunteer. There are many places that you can volunteer to help you feel connected to others and do something good for the community. Connect with your local food bank, animal shelter, or shovel a neighbours sidewalk. Anything helps!
- 6) Read a good book. Instead of scrolling on social media, pick up a book and immerse yourself in a fictitious world.
- 7) Stick to a sleep routine. A good sleep routine has fantastic benefits for your mood and anxiety levels.
- 8) Embrace the cold. Wear cozy clothes, warm up to a nice fire, or build a snowman. Embracing the cold weather can help you enjoy winter rather than just enduring it.
- 9) Warm yourself up with a nice hot cup of tea or cocoa. This can help you feel calm and relaxed.
- 10) Don't hesitate to see your health professional. The winter blues are common. There is less light and expectations of joy and happiness during the holiday season. However, if you think your winter blues might be a sign of something more serious, go visit your doctor.

Visit [www.fcss.ca](http://www.fcss.ca) for more information.

#### SERVING:

Barnwell | Barons | Coaldale | Coalhurst | Lethbridge County | County of Warner | Coutts | Milk River  
M.D. of Taber | Nobleford | Picture Butte | Raymond | Stirling | Taber | Vauxhall | Warner





## **WHAT'S GOING ON WITH ... WARNER AND DISTRICT MINOR HOCKEY?! DECEMBER 2023**

Hockey has officially started back up in Warner and it is so great to see the rink full of people on Thursday evenings for skating lessons and hockey practice! I think it is safe to say that everyone is excited to have a program for our young kids back in Warner in a facility that, for many years, parents, coaches, and volunteers have put their hard work and time in to keep up and running!

The Ranch Hand Smokehouse has been open at the arena for us and it is so nice to have a place to fill our bellies before we head out on the ice. We currently have a team of close to 15 local kids coming from Coutts, Milk River, and Warner! Our U8 team is coached by Bob Wills and Brent Thielen, with the help of Trent Mazutinec, who all grew up playing minor hockey in Warner!

With the stream of hockey we are a part of, there are no established 'boundaries', so we are able and happy to accept kids from any and all surrounding communities! We are always welcoming more players so if you yourself or someone you know has kids that want to come out and give it a try, feel free to contact us at any time!

We practice on Thursday evenings from 6-7pm with the possibility of more practice time in the new year. We even have a Christmas Showcase coming up on December 9th and our U8's are traveling to Cochrane at the end of January for a few games! Come on out to the rink at any time to watch some lessons, catch a practice, and meet your future local Olympic ice skaters and hockey players!

Have a great holiday season!

WDMHA Executive  
Bob Wills - President  
Trent Mazutinec - Vice President  
Ashton Thomas - Secretary/Treasurer  
Jodi Wills - Registrar



# Milk River Kinsmen Club 39TH ANNUAL CORVETTE RAFFLE



## WIN A BRAND NEW 2023 Corvette Stingray Coupe

Valued at \$83,677.65

Final Deadline: January 31, 2024  
Final Draw: February 9, 2024

Prize may not be exactly as appears

EARLY BIRD PRIZE

**WIN  
\$5,000  
CASH**

Final Deadline: January 5, 2024  
Final Draw: January 17, 2024

SECOND PRIZE

**WIN  
\$5,000  
CASH**

THIRD PRIZE

**WIN  
\$2,500  
CASH**

FOURTH PRIZE

**WIN  
\$1,000  
CASH**



Win half of the jackpot up to  
**\$400,000!**



BUY YOUR TICKETS

# TODAY!

**1  
FOR  
\$10**

**5  
FOR  
\$25**

**15  
FOR  
\$50**

**30  
FOR  
\$75**

**1  
FOR  
\$25**

**5  
FOR  
\$50**

**25  
FOR  
\$75**

**50  
FOR  
\$100**

**100  
FOR  
\$150**

ALSO! Buy tickets as gifts and you choose when to have them delivered to the recipient's email inbox.

[milkriverkinsmen.ca](http://milkriverkinsmen.ca)

**1-888-379-0048**

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