

# VILLAGE OF COUTTS NEWSLETTER



**DECEMBER  
2021**



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **TRAILERS/CARS ON STREETS**

The snow will be here soon, please move all trailers and vehicles that are not in use off the streets. This is necessary for plowing. Yard waste bags will no longer be picked up until spring.

### **OFFICE CLOSURE**

The Village Office will be closed from Dec 24 at noon until January 4th. If you have an **emergency** during this time, please call Lori at 403 642-7429.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE VILLAGE COUNCIL AND STAFF!**

### **PREPAYMENT OF TAXES AND UTILITIES**

Looking ahead to 2022, you may want to save a little money and prepay your taxes and/or utilities. Residents can save 1 month of the base bill for 1 month on utilities by prepaying for the year, if paid in January. The amount payable is \$412.50, for this you will receive a credit of \$450.00. Businesses and Residents alike can save on their taxes. Any amount paid in January will receive 5% towards their payment, and 4% if paid in February. For example if you pay \$100 in January, you will receive a credit of \$105, if you pay \$100 in February, you will receive a credit of \$104.00.

### **FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY**

Friends of the COUTTS LIBRARY is selling the Kinsmen Corvette Tickets at the Park Place Mall, January 10 – 16, 2022

We would appreciate those of you that use the Coutts Library to help sell corvette tickets for us. There are morning and afternoon shifts, times to be determined based on mall hours. The Friends fundraiser for Our library, Our group is small so could use help to fill the time slots so we can give funds for Library use.

We are very lucky to have the wonderful selection of books including audio, and movies with the option to use the Provincial system which is endless.

We are working to keep our "Area of Learning" going strong because of You! Thank You

If you're willing please let one of us know – Tanya, two Cindy's, Lorelei, Robbie, Colleen or the library.

## **HALO—AIR AMBULANCE**

HALO AIR AMBULANCE CALENDARS are available for purchase at the Village Office for \$25.00. Buy one for a chance at winning cash prizes throughout the year. They make great stocking stuffers.

Supply is limited so get them while you can.!



## REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

I just looked back at last December's newsletter to see what I wrote then. Some things have changed, and some remain the same. We are still living with Covid restrictions, but the vaccines have helped us cope and made it possible for those who choose to, to return to a sense of normalcy; and the border is open again! Mask wearing is the new normal as well.

The major event for the year was the great Snowbird invasion of November 7<sup>th</sup>. I spoke with several long-time residents who all said there has never been a line up as long as this was. Amazingly there were no incidents of any kind and as quickly as they showed up, they left, and by 3:30 on the 8<sup>th</sup> we were back to normal traffic. There were some of you who thought the Village should have handled traffic control and provided porta potties for all the migrants. Logistically and financially, we could not provide mass restroom facilities. Traffic control is a law enforcement and highways responsibility, and while we tried to impress on the powers that be the impending onslaught, we received 0% help. CPOs don't work Sunday evenings, Sheriffs are stationed at the weigh scales, which were closed, and the Milk River RCMP detachment had one person on duty. At one point for over an hour both main entrances to the Village were blocked. Thankfully there were no medical, fire, or traffic incidents.

It was decided at the November Council meeting we should return to reporting on our activities in the newsletter so, here we go.

The council is developing a strategic plan framework and that should start to produce some results in the new year. I attended the first monthly Mayors and Reeves (of SW Alberta) meeting of the new term on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November. As was the case for the past 15 months or so it was a Zoom virtual meeting. There were lots of new faces as results of the elections. Most of the MLAs and MPs for the region were in attendance and brought us up to date on their activities. There were questions from the floor on EMS dispatch and ambulance availability, and as usual no definitive answers on how it will be improved. I am also the executive chair for SouthGrow REDA and reported on our progress on several projects. It was decided to keep meeting virtually for awhile longer due to restrictions.

On the 17, 18, and 19<sup>th</sup> I attended the annual meeting of AUMA which is the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association. These 2 ½ day conventions combine the Annual General Meeting of the association, education sessions, advocacy resolution submissions and approvals, speeches from the Premier, Minister of Municipal Affairs, and Opposition leader, and two panels of various ministers who can be questioned from the floor. There is also a trade show and networking opportunities. This was the first large convention to be held in person under the new Provincial Covid restriction exemption program with around 1100 in attendance in Edmonton. The system worked well, show your phone with the QR code, show a picture ID with birthdate, and follow the mask rules. I never felt my health was in danger, and there were never any delays at the door. Masks were required in the Uber as well anytime I required a ride.

Any time I speak I introduce myself as the Mayor of Coutts, the Gateway to Alberta. It is surprising how many people do not know the Village exists. This year I ask the panel when the promised \$150 Million Dollar broadband fund would be accessible. It was announced in August and since then nothing. Turns out the idea is to use it to attract Federal and private money to total up to one billion dollars and there are no plans for immediate grants! Ministers Horner and Schweitzer both answered the question. Advocacy resolutions brought forward concerned EMS dispatch, ambulance response times, and doctor recruitment and availability. The other big activity was the rebranding of the Association. AUMA will now be known as Alberta Municipalities. Since I am also a representative of SouthGrow the cost of the trip was split between them and the Village.

I attend one or two meetings a month that are part of my executive function with SouthGrow but only quarterly meetings with the full board are considered committee meetings so the next one of those is in December when we hold our Annual General Meeting. We will be electing new executive members and meeting all the new board representatives (virtually). I'll report more on that in the January newsletter.

Councilor Steve Pain and I will be attending a 1 and ½ day course in Lethbridge December 2 and 3 called Munis 101: The Essentials of Municipal Governance. It delivers the key information and strategies needed to succeed in government at a municipal level. While I attended four years ago, Munis 101 is completely updated to reflect recent changes made to the Municipal Government Act and includes best practices in everything from public participation to considering how to set tax rates. I'm looking forward to the refresher. Others in council may attend future sessions.

And that brings us up to date. Let's keep practicing the commonsense rules on gatherings, distance, hand washing, and masks when required, and get vaccinated. If you are eligible get the booster. Let's all do our part. Stay safe and healthy and have a great Holiday season.

Merry Christmas!

Jim



### **COUNCILLOR TANYA SMITH**

I am remaining on the boards for Chief Mountain Region Solid Waste Commission and Oldman River Regional Services Commission. We have not had any meetings as yet to welcome in the new board members following the municipal elections in October, but we will be getting down to business again the 1st week of December. The CMRSWC is in the process of hiring an SEO as the former one moved to Claresholm. We received six resumes which we will be evaluating. We will also be having a strategic planning meeting to identify which projects regarding landfill sites need to be addressed first. My personal hope is that we will be able to get our recycling program up and running again here in the village. Merry Christmas Everyone ! It sure is delightful to cruise around town looking at all the lights that are up so far!

Tanya Smith

### **NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY**

The holiday season is once again upon us and we all tend to get 'too busy'. Remember to take a little time for yourself to relax and unwind and I can't think of a better way than to snuggle up with a good book or to read stories to and with your children. We have a great selection of Christmas books for your enjoyment and always have something new coming in as well, come over for a visit and check us out!

The next digital class is on Thursday, December 9th from 5:00 - 6:00 pm at the library and is on mobile devices. Ever wonder just how smart your smartphone is? Most people are using smartphones and tablets to go online these days, so come to this free class to learn about what your phones and tablets can do - and how to access those features. Please register by December 7th by calling us at the library, 403-344-3804.

Holiday Hours - We will be open on Tuesday December 21st for the last day this year so make sure you come in to get your holiday reading and movies. We will open again on Tuesday January 5, 2022 with regular hours. To recap, we will be closed from December 22, 2021 through January 4, 2022.

Wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday Season!





# Mistletoe Market



**Saturday, December 4 (10—4)**

**Milk River Civic Centre 321 3rd Ave**

**Enjoy the day shopping, eating and visiting Santa**

***“Kinette Christmas Shoppe for Mom and Pop”***

## **Over Forty Vendors**

A Bundle O' Bows, Abstract Canvas Art, Affordable Beef by Farmers Alliance, Avon by Natasha, Baking by Deanna, Bonnie's Towels, Bly Wood, Brindle Dixie Designs, Broadway Bouquets & Boutique, Chalk Couture, Clay Creation by T, Danity Designs by Lyndsay, Dedee's Craft Market, Devil's Coulee Fundraiser, Dream Inspirations, Fairyring Design, Fashionable Mommy and Me, Grace's Soaps, Isla & Evelyn Designs, Joanne's Jewellery, Kelsey Jo Photos/Juice Plus, Lashes by Shelb, Laula Handmade, Little Chompers, Macrame by Jenine, Main Street Bakery, Meagan's Macrame, MR & District Senior Citizen Society, Nerwax, Out Of The Fire Studio, Plunder Design, Prairiestitch Studio, Rae Dunn, Scrunchies by Beesly, Slightedge Family Financial, Star Mountain Soapworks, Strikhedonia, Tammy's Wreaths, Tea Time Designs, Thirty One, Tupperware, Wee Easel Designs

**Concession with Take Out Available**

**(Dine In with proof of QR Code Vaccine Record)**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

***Following COVID Regulations—MASKS MANDATORY***

The Kinette Club of Milk River



## CHRISTMAS SHOPPE FOR MOM AND POP

AT THE MISTLETOE MARKET,  
MILK RIVER CIVIC CENTER,  
10 - 4, DECEMBER 4, 2021

To help teach children the joy of giving,  
children will choose or craft gifts for their  
parents, have them wrapped and ready to put  
under the tree. Gifts for \$1, \$2 or \$5 each.

## PICTURES WITH SANTA 1-4 PM BY DONATION

(Pictures will be emailed)

**Santa Parade** starting at  
7 pm on a route around  
town. **Fireworks** to  
follow parade!

Any questions? Please  
call Kim at 403-647-  
7374 for more  
information.



## Milk River Elementary – December 2021 News

The Hot Lunch dates for this month are **Wednesday, December 1, 8 & 15.**

Alberta Foundation for the Arts Travelling Exhibition Program – **December 16, 2021 – January 19, 2022 – “Between the Cosmos”**. This is a solo exhibition of 16 artworks by photographer and mixed media Artist Rocio Graham. She merges the natural magic of native-Alberta seeds with that of cyanotype paper to create her very own galaxies and star systems for the audience to gaze upon. With a keen eye for detail, respect for the unexpected, and a determination to bring her artistic vision to life, Graham has generated a unique series of works that spark creativity and curiosity about the unknown.



We will be holding our annual Christmas Concert on **Thursday, December 16 at 7:00 P.M.** in the **Milk River Civic Centre**. This year under the leadership of Mrs. Karen Garber, our concert theme will be **“Colors of Christmas”**. Due to current health restrictions, we are limited to the number of people we can host in the Civic Centre which unfortunately limits us to invited guests only! Donations of a non-perishable food item or silver collection would production.

**\*Please note** – the last day of school before Christmas holidays is **Friday, December 17**. We will be celebrating the last day with Minute to Win It events and classroom activities! Thanks to Brett & Vicki Losey we will also be taking part in a school hayride and making a loop around the town. Please watch for us, come out, spread the cheer!!



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 resume after the holidays on **Tuesday, January 4, 2022!**

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### UPDATE FROM BORDER COMMUNITY WELLNESS FOUNDATION

BCWF would like to send out a very big thank you to all members of the public and businesses who were able to donate to the **Silent Auction table at ATB which will be displayed from Monday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> to Friday Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> at Milk River ATB**. Since all organizations are scrambling for ways to raise funds during these challenging times, we are very grateful to ATB for hosting, and to all who have so generously participated. **If you have noticed that the calendar has caught up to you and you are in need of some unique and local gifts for Christmas, please plan to stop in to ATB during business hours and jot down a bid or two.** BCWF would be so appreciative as it would give us continued opportunities to provide for the wellness needs of our communities. **We would also like to thank the Kinsmen for their continued efforts, and all those who stepped forward and offered to sell Corvette tickets in Lethbridge from Nov. 22- Nov.28.** In a rural area it is so heartening to see that people are willing to go above and beyond to provide our communities with much needed services and items. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

**SILENT AUCTION**

## COUTTS AND DISTRICT AG SOCIETY – AGM

The AGM for the Coutts and District AG Society will be December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Coutts Civic Centre. Members are desperately needed in order for the society to continue. Very few meetings or responsibilities. Please step up if you have time!

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## 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 10<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



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## CHIEF MOUNTAIN REGIONAL SOLID WASTE SERVICES COMMISSION

### Tenders are now being accepted for a 2018 T-590 Bobcat /Track Loader

- Less than 1300 hours
- Service Records Available
- A/C
- Joystick controls (can be changed to foot peddle control by flip of switch)
- Sold as is
- Machine can be viewed at the Chief Mountain Regional Solid Waste Landfill

**All bids must be in sealed envelope marked "Bobcat Tender" and submitted to Lee Beazer, Operator by Noon on Monday December 13, 2021**

Any questions, please phone Lee at (403) 330-6285. Pictures are available via email by calling the Coutts Village Office at 403-3443-3848 or request [vilcouth@telus.net](mailto:vilcouth@telus.net)





**LONEWOLF  
HANDYMAN  
SERVICES  
INC.**

**SPECIALIZING IN:  
DECKS, LANDINGS, FENCING,  
AND OTHER CARPENTRY  
PAINTING, ROOFING,  
PROPERTY CLEAN UPS, DUMP  
RUNS, PROPERTY  
MAINTENANCE, MOWING  
AND MORE  
INQUIRE PHONE CELL**

**call**

**CELL: 403-635-2013**

*Healthy - Covid19 Free*



## PRAIRIE ROSE LODGE BITS & PIECES

Mother Nature is really trying to bring in the winter season but she just managed a skiff of snow. Snow is not so bad but please keep that horrific wind we experienced away. I am sure the velocity was that strongest ever experienced in this area.

We are all looking forward to a beautiful white sunny Christmas.

There is a lot of activity at the Lodge. The resident Christmas party is planned for December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sadly, once again, the event will not be opened to family members due to the restrictions. However, not even AHS can keep Santa from doing his once a year duties. Also, Ted Swanson and Gordon Kopp will be providing the entertainment for the evening.

In December we have one birthday and that is John Banks on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Happy birthday John - have a great day and get ready to welcome in the New Year.

December 7<sup>th</sup>, the residents will be doing a Christmas craft with Terra. Then on December 9<sup>th</sup> there will be the annual Christmas light tour so hopefully we will have a lovely evening for that.

Construction of Ginger Bread Houses will commence on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Folks, please take note of this project. With the cost of building supplies, we may have come upon a new innovative material for housing projects.

We are really going to sweeten all of our residents. Carmel Corn will be made for the Christmas season on December 21<sup>st</sup>. It is really tempting to slip in there and to see if I am able to get my baking finished.

On December 29<sup>th</sup>, residents will be celebrating New Years Eve. The Good Timers will be at the Lodge to assist with booting out 2021 (one of the driest, hottest, windiest summers) and welcoming in 2022 with optimism.

We are now at the beginning of the holy season when we can pause and think of the past year. Are we satisfied with how our life is unfolding - could we have done some things differently? Have we been understanding, compassionate and supportive when help was needed? Above all, please remember to smile and be kind. May you and your families be blessed with good health and happiness. Merry Christmas. God Bless. Emma Hulit





## **RENTING WHEATLAND MANOR TO THE PUBLIC**

### **Apartment for Rent**

One Bedroom Apartment available for Rent in the Village of Coutts

Single Adults or Couples only (no children, no pets)

Secure Building.

\$600/month + 1-month damage deposit

***To inquire please call Collin @ 403-647-3531***

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## **CASUAL EMPLOYMENT IN MILK RIVER**

Ridge Country Housing is looking for Casual employees to work at the **Prairie Rose Lodge in Milk River**. The position covers for staff who are absent, and applicants will be trained on a variety of shifts. These positions may become permanent for the right person. Housekeeping or Kitchen experience is an asset but most importantly if you have a desire to support Seniors in the area, this may be the job for you. Interested Applicants can go on-line at [ridgecountry.ca](http://ridgecountry.ca) to download an application form. For more information, please contact Collin at 403-647-3531.

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## **MILK RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

We still have 2022 calendars available with historical pictures and pictures around Milk River taken by our President William King. They are \$20 each and all proceeds go to the museum. We thank you for the support. You can get one by calling William King at 403-647-3428. Get yours before they are all gone!

William is also available for private museum tours, keeping with Alberta Government's Covid restrictions. Give him a call at 403-647-3428 to set up a tour of our wonderful museum.

All of us at the Milk River Historical Society would like to wish each and everyone of you a very Merry Christmas! 🎅👶🎄📺

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## **RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY GOLF SOCIETY AGM**

The Annual General Meeting for the Riverside Community Golf Society will be at the Milk River Town Hall on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7pm.

Everyone is welcome. Covid rules will apply, masks must be worn. Social distancing will be in place.







# FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

DECEMBER 22, 2021

## GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST:

PRIZES AWARDED FOR ALL AGES:

PLEASE SEND A PICTURE WITH YOUR CHILD(REN) WITH THE HOUSE THEY MADE TO THE VILLAGE OFFICE AT [vilcouth@telus.net](mailto:vilcouth@telus.net), BY DEC 22<sup>nd</sup> AT NOON.

## DECORATED HOMES CONTEST

Winners will be selected by voting as in the past

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

Best Business \$50.

PLEASE SEND YOUR VOTE FOR YOUR TOP THREE HOMES, AND ONE BUSINESS TO EITHER: [vilcouth@telus.net](mailto: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 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## SANTA

SANTA will be at the Civic Centre Wednesday December 22 6:00-7:30pm. It will be a come and go visit. If you would like a photo with your child/family and Santa, one will be provided to your email address. (not a professional photo, just an iphone)

*Please light up your homes for all to enjoy!!*

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







**SOUTHERN ALBERTA OUTDOORSMEN**  
**UPCOMING EVENTS**



**Predator Hunt** – Friday, and Sat. December 10 and 11, 2021 From Sunup to Sundown Friday and until 5 p.m.  
Saturday (Legal Hunting Hours)

Meet at Heritage Hall Saturday before 5pm to enter points and socialize. Unless current AHS rules change we will not provide pancake supper or refreshments so be sure to have your lunch looked after.

**Family Fun Fishing Day** – Saturday, Monday December 27, 2021 – 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 15, 2022 – Heritage Hall, Milk River, AB. 2 years of trophies to measure  
Open at 9:00 a.m. Entry Cut Off is 12:00 noon, sharp.

SAO will not be providing lunch this year, unless current AHS rules change.

**\*\*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 11, 2022, 7:30 p.m. at Milk River Town Hall Council Chambers**

This will be the first ½ hour of our regular meeting. Our biennial elections are this year so we would like to see as many possible either there or attending via ZOOM.

**Outdoorsmen 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Swap Meet & Gun Show** - March 12, 2022, 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. Unknown at this time of printing if we will be able to provide a concession.

**Awards Banquet** - Saturday, April 9, 2022– Coutts Civic Center, AB. – 4:30 p.m.

The evening will begin with socializing, silent auction, raffles and cocktails. Banquet at 6:00 pm  
Come on out for a fun night! Tickets will be available from the Executive starting Measuring Day

**Gopher Hunt** – Saturday, May 7, 2022 – 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.

**Family Fishing Weekend and Camp Out** – tentatively set for June 3, 4 and 5, at Taber Kinsmen Park at Chin bridge.

This year, during Campout weekend, we will be drawing for our exciting new raffle. We are raffling an off-road e-bike and trailer. This can be traded back to our supplier for our purchase price on any other e-bike they sell. Watch for the announcement on FB when ticket sales go on line. Currently, we are running a 50/50 raffle. Last raffle proceeds were sent to ACA to provide some 12-14 inch stockers for Gold Springs Park.

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the  
Southern Alberta Outdoorsmen*





COUNTY OF  
NEWELL



PRESENT:

# NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT WEBINAR SERIES

Join the experts in a free 3-day live webinar series

**JANUARY 24**  
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Trevor Wallace, Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development - "Creating a Nutrient Management Plan"  
Christina Seidel, Recycling Council of Alberta - "On-Farm Composting"

**JANUARY 31**  
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Edith Olson, Lethbridge College - "Soil Salinity"  
Steven Tannas, Tannas Conservation Services Ltd. - "Nutrient Loads in Feedlot and Storm Ponds, and use of Floating Islands"

**FEBRUARY 7**  
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Trevor Wallace, Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development - "Regulations of Spreading and Storing Manure"  
Rob Lavoie, AirTerra - "Use of Biochar on Feedlots"

*\* Q & A sessions included after every presentation*

Register now: <https://www.lethcounty.ca/p/nutrient-management>





DECEMBER 23RD 5PM-7PM

\* 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