

VILLAGE OF COUTTS NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2020



ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID-19: Please watch the news to stay up to date. It is important that we protect each other. Please only leave your homes to get essentials and go to work. Of course, fresh air is necessary and encouraged. Social Distancing is necessary, wherever you are. Please keep 6' between you and others. No gatherings of more than 15 people are allowed. Watch for ever changing rules, as they seem to change daily/weekly.

Our residents should be commended for the seriousness they are taking. Please continue to social distance, check on neighbors, and do good deeds. It could be a long haul and together we will get through this!! The following link is a great source of information pertaining to Alberta..

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16997.aspx>

FACILITIES: Village facilities such as the playground equipment, and the gym and workout room will remain closed until it is deemed safe by Alberta Health.

The Village Office will also remain closed to outside traffic. We are however still working as usual and can be reached by phone at 403-344-3848 or email vilcouth@telus.net if you have any questions.

SEWERS: Please do not flush anything down your toilet/drains except toilet paper and water. Paper towel, rags, diapers, feminine products, etc, need to be put into your household trash.

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 the Village Office.

COUTTS DAYS: We have not cancelled Coutts Days yet. A decision will be made in the coming weeks if we will have Coutts Day or not. We are still in need of someone to run the kids games if we go forward. It would take 1 hour of your time and everything needed would be provided to you. We have awesome entertainment hired this year thanks to the Ag Society. Richard and Debbie Popovich have been booked. Look them up on Youtube to get a sense of their style if you have not hear of them.

The Outdoor Market has unfortunately been cancelled.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Residents of Coutts

A few weeks ago I wrote a fairly long note in the monthly newsletter about the meaning of community. I want to take this opportunity to say I am very proud of those of you who are demonstrating that spirit now. I know we are all feeling disoriented and bored and this will be the new normal for some weeks, possibly months, in the future. We all need social interaction so we should not **socially** distance ourselves just because we have to observe **physical** distancing. **Keep your distance. 2 meters, six feet. Don't gather in a group. No parties.** Talk with your neighbors through the fence or across the street. Phone a friend. Facetime with family. Check on the more vulnerable. Do someone a favour. Get out and get some fresh air, just keep your distance. We are living in what for many of our group could be perilous times. A bout with COVID-19 would be very dangerous for many of you and your friends and neighbours. Elderly folks, and those with pre-existing medical conditions are among the especially vulnerable and, honestly, Coutts is full of old people. People are dying in our province right now. Be vigilant.

There have been several questions regarding how the Village is responding to the COVID-19 situation so I'll try and provide some answers to at least some of those.

Several Communities around us have declared a state of medical emergency, we looked at it for Coutts, and are monitoring the situation. Our Public Works department continues to operate, with precautions, our CAO and the Village Office are there just as before, just with the door locked because it is a small office and tough to keep 6 feet away from both desks. Phone 403-344-3848 .

- AHS South Zone activated their Zone Emergency Operations Center (ZEOC) on March 6, 2020. This is in addition to the provincial AHS Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) that has been established since January. Jamie Anderson, the Director of Emergency Management/Safety Coordinator for the County of Warner is in constant contact with Village administration.
- Within the province of Alberta, planning for public health issues and communicable disease threats is covered under the Public Health Act and done so by Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services.
- The public can get the most recent information from the provincial government at <https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx> , and from the federal government at <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html> and on the Village of Coutts Facebook page.

On March 25, Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health, announced an Emergency Order under the *Quarantine Act* that requires any person entering Canada by air, sea or land to self-isolate for 14 days whether or not they have symptoms of COVID-19 . This means stay indoors and do not go for walks, or anywhere else, for a full two weeks. This is now the provincial law as well. It is a Quarantine.

Ridge Regional Public Safety Services have been proactively patrolling the campgrounds on a regular basis since around Mar 19. They have been advising campers of the self quarantine and precautions required of them and are keeping a running log of all occupants. There are RV's in the Coutts RV Park staying for a 14 day quarantine. Food delivery is in place for them and they have been given alternate solutions, however, most have lots of food and were prepared for the quarantine. UFA was also advised for propane, and fuel if they need service. They are all self contained units and may be staying here as their houses are either rented out till mid April, have family or vulnerable people in the houses so they don't want to have them all quarantined, and some actually live all year in their RV's. The decision was made, not by Village administration, to allow them to park here. RRPSS will continue daily monitoring. You can phone RRPSS at(403) 795-2474. Know that there are Provincial and Federal penalties for someone who disregards the rules.

If you know someone who is not self-isolating when they are legally required to:

- take proper precautions and distance yourself from the person to limit your risk of exposure
- if you know they should be in quarantine or if they have symptoms remind the person that not following public health orders is against the law and puts people at risk
- politely ask them to go home immediately
- submit a complaint online (<https://bit.ly/2w0SP4M>) or phone RRPSS at(403)795-2474

This has been called a war with an invisible enemy. Don't assume that just because you or someone else is not exhibiting any symptoms that the virus is not here. Act as if you have it and you don't want to give it to anyone else. Keep your distance. Two meters, six feet. Use disposable gloves for handrails, door knobs, gas pumps, keypads, any commonly touched surface. Stay home. Take a walk but keep your distance. Don't congregate. Assume the enemy is everywhere. ...and wash your hands! We're all in this together and we will come through it together.

Jim Willett - Mayor

UPDATE FROM COUNCIL

-March 4, 2020 I attended the **FCSS** meeting in Coaldale. We had a presentation of the quarterly reports for Family & Community Support Services. The data & relevancy is now being tracked properly, raising our numbers but also increasing accuracy. Our focus has been on how we are collecting and applying data consistently. We have been approved on the South region resource list of qualified suppliers. Parent Links final funding report ends March 31, 2020. Monthly articles will now be submitted to all municipalities. And we got the Family Resource Network approval!!! They want Barons-Eureka-Warner to be the hub of the program. Our responsibilities will now include Cardston County & County of 40 mile as well. We are excited to implement this program. Our All Councils meeting & celebration scheduled for April 15 in Taber has been postponed due to COVID19. FCSS is working tirelessly to aid our communities struggling during this pandemic. Counsellors and staff are working with families and individuals from home during this crisis.

-March 19, 2020 We opted for a teleconference type meeting for **Ridge Country Housing** where we all dialed in from home to collaborate. Nadine from Avail went over our audited financial reports. We have stayed close to budget! The board has made a motion to approve the allowance of market renters to rent a room at the Wheatland Manor here in Coutts!!! Over 55 and seniors will still take priority, but if you are under 55 and are interested in renting a room at the market value please reach out to us.

We are closely monitoring the COVID19 pandemic and doing everything to keep our residents, staff & members safe.

Stay healthy and safe.

Megan Payne

COUNCILLOR SCOTT MACCUMBER

Quad Municipality Healthcare Support Committee

We had a regular meeting on March 3, 2020.

Dr. Henry Owasa is now working with Dr. Krog at the Milk River Medical Clinic, and both doctors are accepting new patients. Call (403) 647-3599 for an appointment.

National Nursing Week is celebrated during the week of May 11 to 17 this year.

Alberta Rural Health Week is May 25 to 29 this year: it is a great opportunity to honour the contributions of the rural Alberta health-care providers and community volunteers who help keep health care close to home. Rural health providers are powerful assets in their communities. Not only do their health-care skills and practices enhance the quality of rural life, but these professionals also contribute to rural life on a more personal level. They have special relationships with their patients and community; they not only provide care, but are also family, friends, neighbours, and volunteers, and often teach and mentor future health-care providers within their communities. During Alberta Rural Health Week, we encourage everybody to show appreciation for the contributions of the rural health providers whose abilities enhance the quality of life in rural Alberta. We can do this just by saying "thanks" because rural health matters.

Future meetings are on hold until further notice.

Milk River Watershed Council of Canada

Our regular meeting scheduled for March 26th was cancelled.

All future meetings are on hold until further notice.

Recreation Board

We had a regular meeting on March 18, 2020.

We plan on doing some upgrades to the ball diamond infields and the Spray Park playground before Coutts Days.

We are always looking for new ideas for recreational opportunities for our residents, so if you have any, please let me know.

All future meetings are on hold until further notice.

RECORD OF DECISION – CMOH Order 05-2020

Re: 2020 COVID-19 Response

I, Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) have initiated an investigation into the existence of COVID-19 within the Province of Alberta.

This investigation has confirmed that COVID-19 is present in Alberta and constitutes a public health emergency as a novel or highly infectious agent that poses a significant risk to public health.

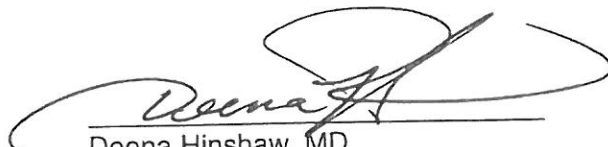
Under section 29(2.1) of the *Public Health Act* (the Act), I have the authority by order to prohibit a person from attending a location for any period and subject to any conditions that I consider appropriate, where I have determined that the person engaging in that activity could transmit an infectious agent. I also have the authority to take whatever other steps that are, in my opinion, necessary in order to lessen the impact of the public health emergency.

Therefore, having determined that certain activities could transmit COVID-19 as an infectious agent and that certain other steps are necessary to lessen the impact of the public health emergency, I hereby make the following Order, effective immediately:

1. Any person who is a confirmed case of COVID-19 must be in Isolation for a minimum of 10 days from the start of their symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.
2. For the purposes of this Order, Isolation includes the following restrictions:
 - (a) remaining at home, and 2 metres distant from others at all times;
 - (b) not attending work, school, social events or any other public gatherings; and
 - (c) not taking public transportation.
3. Subject to section 9, the following persons must be in Quarantine for a minimum 14 day period:
 - (a) a person returning to Alberta after having travelled internationally; and
 - (b) a close contact of a person who is confirmed as having COVID-19.
4. For the purposes of this Order, Quarantine includes the following restrictions and requirements:
 - (a) remaining at home;
 - (b) not attending work, school, social events or any other public gatherings;

- (c) not taking public transportation; and
 - (d) watching for symptoms, as set out below, in themselves or in a family member.
5. For the purposes of this Order, a “close contact” is defined as a person who:
- (a) provides care, lives with, or has close physical contact, without consistent and appropriate use of personal protective equipment, with a person who is confirmed as having COVID-19; or
 - (b) comes into direct contact with the infectious body fluids of a person who is confirmed as having COVID-19.
6. If a person identified in section 3 experiences symptoms, as set out below, during the 14 day period of Quarantine, they must be in Isolation for a minimum of 10 additional days from the start of their symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer, but at no time may a person described in section 3 be in Quarantine for less than 14 days.
7. Subject to section 8 of this Order, any person who is exhibiting any of the symptoms as set out below, which are not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition, must be in Isolation for a minimum of 10 days from the start of their symptoms, or until the symptoms resolve whichever is longer:
- (a) cough;
 - (b) fever;
 - (c) shortness of breath;
 - (d) runny nose; or
 - (e) sore throat.
8. Persons described in section 7 of this Order, are not required to be in Isolation in accordance with section 7, if those persons test negative for COVID-19 and have no known exposure to COVID-19.
9. Persons described in section 3 of this Order, are not required to be in Quarantine in accordance with section 3 if they are:
- (a) essential services workers;
 - (b) who are designated by their employer as being essential; AND
 - (c) where a medical officer is satisfied that the presence of the person in a public place would involve reasonably low risk to the public health.
10. Notwithstanding anything in this Order, the Chief Medical Officer of Health may exempt a person or classes of persons from the application of this Order.
11. For greater certainty, any person previously exempted, in writing by the Chief Medical Officer of Health from any requirement to Quarantine or Isolate, continues to be exempted and is further exempted from the application of this Order.
12. This Order remains in effect until rescinded by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Signed on this 25 day of March, 2020.


Deena Hinshaw, MD
Chief Medical Officer of Health

NEWS FROM THE BORDER RASCALS SOCIAL CLUB

Sadly, this news spot is coming to you from just one Border Rascal as we all enter yet another month of enforced isolation from all social events due to the viral pandemic. Thank goodness for some nice weather so I can at last see some friends across the way! And the phone rings quite frequently so I'm enjoying that. It is definitely spring now as the robins are back. Walking the dog every day is a pleasure in this weather and I love seeing the raptors hunting gophers out on the lease land where we go walking.

Our house is cleaner than it has ever been and I am actually looking forward to cleaning windows soon! Did you hear on the news that air pollution is way down since there are few cars on the roads these days, not that Coutts is a big polluter. I hope all of you are surviving the best you can. We just have to stay hopeful.

It looks like our focus as a club will be on activities planned for May and June. We will reschedule the class on how to use the portable defibrillator and get organized for the yard sale weekend and of course Coutts Days 50th Anniversary celebration in June. It will be like going from zero to one hundred miles an hour all of a sudden.

Happy Easter to you! Rumor has it that some residents have crocus and daffodils blooming in their gardens.

from your executive;

Jim Willett, president

Kris Rollins, secretary

Betty Ostby, vice-president Mardell Pederson, treasurer

MILK RIVER CABLE CLUB

April 2020

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Please check our Community Channel #231, website: milkrivercable.ca, or Facebook Page: [facebook.com/mrcc1976](https://www.facebook.com/mrcc1976) for community updates regarding the COVID-19 outbreak.

We offer paperless billing and accept online banking payments, pre-authorized debit/credit payments, e-transfers, cheques and phone payments. Contact the office for more information.

At this time, we have decided to postpone the changes to overdue accounts. As it stands, there are no late fees or penalties for overdue balances. There will also be no automatic disconnections at this time; however, we urge those who have overdue balances to please contact the office to make payment arrangements.

Our AGM has been POSTPONED until further notice.

We are also waiving all internet coverage fees for March and April. You will still see the overage on your bill, there will just be no charges applied for it.

All our new cable packaging is effective as of April 1. Thank you to all who reached out to update your packaging. If you have not yet contacted us, you have until April 15th to do so to avoid losing channels. Your billing already reflects the changes in packaging. Please note, packages which are to be deleted from our lineup will show a \$0.00 charge for April.

All members are able to view account details and monitor internet usage 24/7 through the member portal on our website. If you have not set up your account, please contact Kelsey or Nicole to do so.

TECH TALK

There are many channels being offered as free preview until April 30th. We hope members will take advantage of these free previews and should you wish to subscribe to any of the channels starting in May please let us know.

Channels available for free preview are listed on our community channel and on our website.

We are still conducting service calls and installations at this time, provided no one in the home is under self-isolation.

We appreciate your understanding.

Please stay safe!

MRCCL Board of Directors

President LEONARD MCCULLOCH: mclen@mrcable.ca

Secretary TONY MILLER: antreen@mrcable.ca

Treasurer KEITH LOSEY: kpifarms@mrcable.ca

BOB THIELEN: bbs@mrcable.ca

DARREN OSTENBERG: sales@mrcable.ca

PRAIRIE ROSE LODGE BITS & PIECES-APRIL 2020

Well folks-I said March was going to be a rather slow month-but I didn't think April would be a complete lock-down on everything and everybody. Self-isolation is a new action in everyone's home and the smell of Pine Sol is the new air freshener. The big problem is how to keep ourselves busy. I want it known that I am not a "Hoarder", but I still shop as though I am 40 miles from the grocery store. My pantry is full-okay-so some of it is a little old. Recently, daughter had a birthday, so being the loving Mother I made her favorite lemon layer cake. With cake in the oven, I decided to read the "Best Before"-August 2012! The cake wasn't very high-but there was more than ample amount of real yummy sauce. Husband is wandering around trying to keep busy. After an afternoon in the basement storage closet, he came to the conclusion we have enough toilet paper to last to Christmas-that was his mathematical calculation. I take comfort in the fact that because of my "farm-style shopping habit", our children do not have to worry about us.

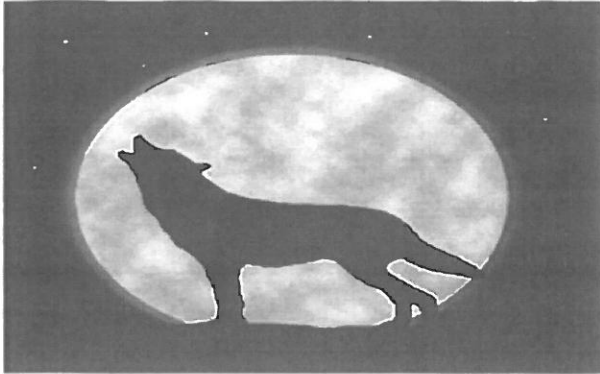
Needless to say-the lodge is in lock-down. There is no April birthday party, no outside entertainment coming in. There still is bingo, card games-anything that is in house. At this time, we wish Happy Birthday to Les Hoytos - April 4th and Ann Dixon-Bruder - April 17th. We do not know about the May birthday at this time. Also, the Ladies Auxiliary has cancelled the pie social and have not made any plans at this time.

I believe the town as a whole should be expressing their appreciation for keeping the essentials available to our residents. Hopefully, residents are staying at home. Walks in the fresh air are acceptable but keep in mind the "social distancing".

My thoughts daily go to our doctors, nurses and support staff; staff at the lodge; staff at the clinic. These "Angels" leave their families at home and come to work not knowing what they will be facing. Lodge and AHS staffs are working as a team to care for the residents. None of us is aware of the additional care and responsibility these folks are shouldering. THANK YOU and God Bless each of you.

Staying at home really has its benefits. Income tax is complete; 5 years of old tax papers shredded and files put in order. I am looking forward to our coffee chats when this community lock-down comes to an end. Many couples have not spent this much time with each other and with their children. I am sure there will be many interesting stories. Possibly an opportunity for a book of short stories.

I am sure that everyone is tuned to the many different TV stations to keep updated on this disastrous virus that is claiming so many lives throughout the world. All we can do is follow the self-isolation direction and pray. I believe there is power in prayer and that is the one action we can do alone in our homes. God Bless All-Emma Hulit



**LONEWOLF
HANDYMAN
SERVICES
INC.**

*Eaves trough
cleaning*

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

LOCAL RESIDENT

CELL: 403-635-2013

2019 GOLF MEMBERSHIP FEES

Pay by May 31, 2020 and skip the 2020 Rate Increase

Type of Membership:	Fee with GST:	Fee & Trail with GST:	Fee, Trail & Storage with GST:
ADULT	\$415.00	\$460.00	\$505.00
ADULT COUPLE	\$760.00	\$810.00	\$855.00
FAMILY - Parents + Children 21 yrs. old and under and registered in school full time	\$825.00	\$875.00	\$920.00
YOUTH - 12-14 yrs. Old	\$100.00	\$145.00	\$190.00
STUDENT - 15 + yrs. old in school full time	\$185.00	\$230.00	\$275.00
SENIOR - 65 +	\$395.00	\$440.00	\$485.00
SENIOR COUPLE - 65 + yrs old 1 person	\$750.00	\$795.00	\$845.00
TRAIL FEE	\$50.00	N/A	N/A
TRAIL & STORAGE FEE	\$95.00	N/A	N/A

Children under 12 years of age play free when accompanied by an adult

PUNCH CARDS: \$144.00 – 10 Nine Hole Games for price of nine.

2020 GOLF MEMBERSHIP FEES

GST Included – RATE INCREASE - Effective June 1, 2020

Type of Membership:	Fee with GST:	Fee & Trail with GST:	Fee, Trail & Storage with GST:
ADULT	\$460.00	\$520.00	\$570.00 gas \$580.00 elec
ADULT COUPLE	\$840.00	\$900.00	\$950.00 gas \$960.00 elec
FAMILY - Parents + Children 21 yrs. old and under and registered in school full time	\$900.00	\$960.00	\$1010.00 gas \$1020.00 elec
YOUTH - 12-14 yrs. old	\$100.00	\$160.00	\$210.00 gas \$220.00 elec
STUDENT - 15 + yrs. old in school full time	\$185.00	\$245.00	\$295.00 gas \$305.00 elec
SENIOR - 65 +	\$425.00	\$485.00	\$535 gas \$545 elec
SENIOR COUPLE - 65 + yrs old 1 person	\$780.00	\$840.00	\$890 gas \$900 elec
TRAIL FEE	\$60.00	N/A	N/A
STORAGE FEE	\$50.00 Gas \$60.00 Electric		N/A

Children under 12 years of age play free when accompanied by an adult

PUNCH CARDS: \$180.00 – 10 Nine Hole Games for price of nine.

GREEN FEES – 9 Holes - \$20.00 18 Holes - \$30.00

CART RENTAL – 9 Holes - \$20.00 18 Holes - \$30.00