

2014-03-17

Dear Residents,

We have a March of many **Events** before us:

March 26: Spring melt is upon us and our thoughts go towards preparing for spring run-off or high water. A Provincial meeting on **Spring Readiness** is planned to take place at the Turner Valley Golf Course from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Please watch the Western Wheel and our website for more information: <http://www.mdfoothills.com/index.html>

March 27: The **High Country Rural Crime Watch Association AGM** will take place at the Priddis Community Hall from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. We will have guest speakers from our Foothills Fire Department and our Turner Valley RCMP detachment to discuss current issues.

March 29: University of Calgary astronomers invite the public to participate in **Earth Hour** at the **Rothney Astrophysical Observatory** from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. The award-winning documentary *The City Dark: a Search for Night on a Planet that Never Sleeps* will be shown, followed by a Q&A. If the sky is clear, guests will have the opportunity to gauge the darkness of the night sky through a unique demo powered by TheGlobeAtNight.org. Attendees will also have access to professional telescopes for stargazing. Donations for the Food Bank accepted.

March 31: Meota Gas Coop AGM will take place at the Priddis Community Hall at 7:30 p.m.

May 1: (early notice – I know ☺) **Land Use Bylaw Review** Open House at the Priddis Community Hall from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. Please see our Foothills website to confirm the details on this soon.

Notice about a Service in our area: Fish Creek Ranch (FCR) truck bulk fill station is now open. Operating 7 days a week, the station is credit card operated, with the cost of water \$5.60 per cubic metre. Located at the intersection of 194 Ave W and 368 St W, the FCR bulk fill station is 5.5 km south of Highway 22x on Highway 762, East on 194 Ave W to 368 St W.

Update on Potential Flood Mitigation Proposals:

After the devastating floods of 2013, the Government of Alberta has directed the Flood Recovery Task Force to oversee the consideration and evaluation of potential flood mitigation options, including operational, natural and infrastructure opportunities. The Bow Basin Flood Mitigation and Assessment Project team and working group of experts have been meeting to evaluate all ideas and identify intended and unintended consequences when proposed ideas are placed in a broader system context. A report is being compiled and will be presented to the Flood Recovery Task Force and made available to the public at the end of March 2014 for further discussion. Next steps include presenting recommendations to the Government of Alberta Ministerial Task Force and making decisions on which projects may have merit to be evaluated and begin engineering, consultation processes and stakeholder engagement to determine viability, costs, benefits, risks, consequences, trade-offs, etc.

One solution being considered may include a diversion from the Elbow River to the Priddis & Fish Creeks in our area or an alternate route in proximity of these creeks, or in Calgary. To further expand the context, I recently have been informed that where it states "Priddis" in the waterSMART presentation (and next over-all report being prepared) this could mean anywhere from one small headwaters stream down to areas in Calgary over to Fish Creek... This idea is still a work in progress and at the preliminary screening stage, only considering volumes of water in a water flow model; however, I have been involved to make sure that the many complexities and concerns for our area have been expressed and are noted in the report. We don't know what the solutions will be at this point. Much more work and consultation needs to occur. There may be some larger measures or a whole lot of small measures that may add up to an over-all solution. If this idea goes to the investigation stage, then the M. D. of Foothills would work

on evaluating the proposal and residents would participate in stakeholder engagement in areas that may be affected. I will continue to represent our community as this process unfolds.

To keep up on the latest information, please follow these websites:

<http://www.albertawater.com/work/research-projects/flood-recovery-task-force>

<http://www.gov.ab.ca/Flood-mitigation.cfm>

To see the Elbow Diversion Proposal, my letter Response & Concerns and the recent waterSMART presentation, please see my website: <http://suzanneoel.com/>

Best Regards!
Suzanne Oel
Div. 4 Councillor
M.D. of Foothills