

2015-10 News Update from Councillor Suzanne Oel, Div. 4, M.D. of Foothills

Hope you are enjoying the beautiful Fall! Just sending a bit of news... Best Regards, S.O.

Dark Skies - In case you haven't heard

In July 2015, the Ann & Sandy Cross Conservation Area (ASSCA) was designated a "Dark Sky Preserve", the first in Canada, by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada! This is yet another reason to celebrate and promote Dark Skies in the M.D. of Foothills – to consider the natural processes and creatures that benefit, to continue enjoyment of viewing the stars at night, and to support the ASSCA and Rothney Astrophysical Observatory (RAO) to observe and do their science right in our own area of Division 4, off Highway 22. We have successfully teamed up with RAO and the University of Calgary to request a Dark Sky policy in the "Providence" Area Structure Plan, a new neighbourhood being planned by Calgary on our borders, and also have managed to request the planners of the SW Calgary Ring Road to look at more Dark Sky friendly lighting for this part of the project. So, please add yourself to this list of action by using Dark Sky fixtures when you change out the old ones and please consider changing your current yard lights to motion sensing and light cut-off, so they don't appear in the RAO telescope images or light up the neighbourhood beyond your need to see the area near your home/yard. Please share the good news about our Dark Skies in the M.D. with your friends and neighbours and encourage them to change a fixture or change a habit! For more info:

(1) M.D. of Foothills Dark Sky Bylaw

http://www.mdfoothills.com/residents/planning/environment/dark_sky_initiative.html

(2) RAO <http://www.ucalgary.ca/rao/>

(3) ASSCA <http://www.crossconservation.org/>

(4) Royal Astronomical Society of Canada <http://www.rasc.ca/lpa>

(5) IDA <http://darksky.org/light-pollution/> Fixtures - <http://darksky.org/fsa/>

Keeping you informed

The M.D. of Foothills sends out a periodic email newsletter, called "Keeping You Informed". In the latest September Issue, we heard about extended landfill hours, a recycling & hazardous materials roundup at the Priddis Transfer Station and planning initiatives with our rural neighbours. If you would like to receive these email updates, please consider signing up directly to receive "Keeping You Informed":

<http://www.mdfoothills.com/services/planning-and-development/municipal-plans/current-planning-projects/growth-management-strategy/subscribe-to-email-list.html>

Provincial Water Collaborative - Update

Recently, I attended our provincial "Water Collaborative", including our southern Alberta Municipalities and interested organizations, which is now meeting again as our new government moves forward. The Resilience & Mitigation Branch, under Alberta Environment & Parks, continues to evaluate the possible flood water storage options previously put forward and are now adding additional possible flood storage projects to the list. These additional projects are very preliminary and will go through the processes of engagement as we have previously seen on the other projects. Evaluations may include water storage for drought, as well. The flood-mapping and communications projects continue to move at a fast pace and we can expect further information in the next few months. I will write more for you about this as information rolls out. Information link:

<http://albertawater.com/work/research-projects/resilience-and-mitigation-branch>

Do you want Fiber Optic Internet Service to the Priddis Area?

I have been working with our community to investigate the possibility of Fiber Optic Internet Service to the Priddis area. At this time, we have not heard from providers other than Axia regarding fiber optic, but of course are open to any possible combination of partnership opportunities, any proposals or discussions. (If you have any other ideas, please contact me.) As a start to creating a business case, we have been looking at the area around the Hamlets of Priddis, Priddis Greens and Hawks Landing and area. The Fiber runs along Highway 22 and may be available for us to connect. Anyone who is interested can sign up in the same way, regardless of location, including other locations in Div. 4 and the MD. There is no financial commitment to express interest. If it is agreeable to

you, please read the following message from Axia on how to express your interest in obtaining Fiber Optic Internet Service.

Axia Message: Axia is actively working with Alberta communities to bring this service and construct new fibre optic networks. In order for Axia to consider investing and partnering in a community, a 30% response from potential customers in this project area is needed. Priddis Area Residents can express their interest online in one of two ways on Axia's website: <https://www.axia.com/>

(1) Click on Coverage and check the availability of your address and pre-order, or

(2) Click on the Order Now button on our home page and enter your address. When the website shows that we are not currently offering services in a particular area, the information is captured and lets us know that people are interested.

Click on Plans for information about monthly service plan costs. Click on How it Works or Who is Axia for more info. Another measure we use is how enthusiastic your community is to work with us. In order to bring our network to a town or project area, a large degree of planning, designing, and ultimately building needs to take place. A joined effort between Axia and the municipality can make that seamless and successful. Between the first expressions of interest and the 30% mark, we anticipate engaging in conversations, meetings, events, and other possible promotional activities to drive those numbers in order for Axia to invest in bringing our infrastructure to your community. If you should have any further questions about this note, or Axia in general, I would be happy to have the discussion - Jason O'Connor, Community Relations, C 403.968.8324, jason.oconnor@axia.com, 3300, 450 1st Street S.W. Calgary, AB, T2P 5H1.