

## **Councillor Suzanne Oel – MD of Foothills Div. 4 Update** 2016-05-22

### **AE&P Advisory – RE: Firearm Use Restriction Area in McLean Creek & Kananaskis Public Land Use Zones (PLUZs):**

Alberta Environment & Parks (AE&P) has responded to concerns that have been raised about shooting in proximity to homes, domestic animals and people who live near K-Country PLUZs. Use of firearms is still allowed, but just not on the edge where there are more chances of unsafe interactions. I have been informed by an AE&P Representative that we will have the same increased Fish & Wildlife Officer presence, as last year, over the busy summer season to help with keeping the guidelines of the Public Lands Act enforced. The changes to the mapping and use in the PLUZ can be seen on their new 2016 brochure, which is printed and available on-site at McLean Creek and other venues. The 2015 PDF online will be updated soon to include the new restriction... For those who enjoy target shooting, this does not prohibit the activity, it just moves the activity away from areas of conflict. Please read the full **AE&P Advisory** FYI: [Link](#)

**New “Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Brochure”** from the MD, FYI: [Link](#)

### **Dust Control Product**

The MD of Foothills is using a new product called “Clearview” for dust control on our “heritage” gravel roads. We are pleased with the results so far.

### **Seaman Sports Park Baseball Diamonds Opening Event**

We were very pleased to celebrate the inaugural use and dedication of our new Baseball diamonds on Saturday, April 30, 2016, with the NW Foothills Rec Board, Millarville Sports Association, players and guests. An full-day invitational Tournament was played with an Opening Ceremony at noon. The park is located just south off Hwy 549, directly east of Hwy 22. Check out our Website [Link](#) and Facebook page for the latest info and photos of the event.

### **Highway 762 Update from Alberta Transportation (AT)**

Our council and staff just met with AT and were given the following update: AT plans to fix up the slumped areas on Hwy 762 this summer (2016) and apply the overlay next summer (2017). It will be a welcome improvement of the road condition, but will likely increase in use again shortly after. Further, we heard that AT’s Hwy 762 Study, which was done as a result of our request and informed by our 2013 survey, is complete. However, it has yet to be reviewed and implemented by the new provincial government.

### **Proposed Priddis Bridge, Update**

The Priddis Bridge Project has made it to a published list of projects that may be considered if funding becomes available. Engineering has been done for some time. Now, it has come out of obscurity and with all our efforts in raising awareness about the PVR & 22 intersection, we are seeing some movement forward. You can find it in the new Provincial Budget list of proposed, yet unfunded, projects (AKA “the sunshine list”). Page 54 of the Capital Plan – Fiscal Plan 2016-19, (page 12 of 14 on the PDF) released recently: [Link](#)

### **Priddis Area Young Families outreach**

Check out “Priddis Moms Connect” Facebook page: [Link](#)

### **2016 Flood Scoping Study**

Subsequent to the 2013 flood, the MD of Foothills, with support from the Province of Alberta retained the services of consultants to draft the Scoping Study of Flood Related Areas of Concern on the Highwood River and Little Bow River within the MD of Foothills. Public meetings and affected resident meetings are now under way. More details: [Link](#)

### **Mail Box and Address Changes:**

Canada Post representatives met with the MD of Foothills council and staff on March 23, 2016, to let us know they are moving forward with a change-over for our rural mail boxes and addresses. You will see information coming out directly to you personally from Canada Post. While some rural addresses (Calgary RRs, TBA) will be changed this year, the process will take place over a few years for the whole M.D. The Priddis and NW area may be next year, 2017. The proposed new type of Community Mail Boxes will be more secure than the Green Mail Box units, with which many of us have had break-in issues. Our addresses will be switched to our MD of Foothills Rural 911 street addresses. Canada Post

is currently working out the over-all details of our addressing with the MD of Foothills. Our new mail boxes will not identify our addresses on the exterior of the box. Rather, we will be assigned a number for a new box/compartments in a Community Mail Box Module and given a key. There will be Parcel Boxes with each group of Community Mail Boxes for the convenience of residents. To help us with the transition, our mail will be forwarded over a period of one year. Post boxes located directly in the Post Office may not have an address change, as long as the Postal Code does not get changed (TBD). Road-side mail boxes may not change. **Canada Post** is the decision-maker on this process, timeline, logistics and communications. Again, if you are affected by this change, more info will follow directly from Canada Post to you.

#### **Update to Hamlet Boundaries:**

Priddis: [Link](#) Priddis Greens: [Link](#)

#### **New Dark Sky Lights on Hwy 22X**

Check out the great new lights up on Hwy 22X thanks to the plan of our neighbour, the City of Calgary, to reduce costs and respect Dark Skies at night! Three new sets of lights illuminate intersections on Hwy 22X and 37 St. (96 St. MD), 53 St. (112 St. MD) & 69 St. (128 St. MD), since mid-February. Instead of lighting the universe, creating glare and showing up in the telescopes of Rothney Astrophysical Observatory (off Hwy 22), this lighting-solution provides a cut-off style that illuminates what is intended, using GE Evolve LED Cobraheads. I have spoken with the folks in charge of the change-over project who shared that up to 50% cost savings on LED energy use has motivated the program to replace old street lighting in the City. In addition to energy savings there are life-cycle savings. The new LED units could last up to 20 years vs. the old lamps and ballasts needing to be changed every 4-5 years. I hope the good news on this type of lighting will influence Alberta Transportation (Hwys), Fortis Alberta and all of us to make choices to install and influence suppliers to make Dark Sky fixtures available to the consumer. Please think about using a cut off light fixture when you set up your external house, building or yard lights. Using Dark Sky lighting will help keep the country living experience with a view of the night sky that most people value so much in the M.D. of Foothills. If you are working with Fortis Alberta to install, maintain or replace your yard light, please request Dark Sky lighting, as I have just been in contact with them and understand as of 2016 they will now have an LED cut-off style of fixture available to rural customers. Most home lighting suppliers carry Dark Sky fixtures for your house exterior or out-building needs. I have learned there are also other issues to consider, including "LED Light Colour & Intensity" (less intense, less blue may be better) and "Up-light" from reflections off of the road surfaces and snow. So, we still have much to learn and hopefully we can work towards better lighting solutions as we gain experience with our efforts. For more info on Dark Skies, visit: [Link](#)

#### **CRTC Hearing & High Speed Internet Service to Rural Areas**

- The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) held a three-week public consultation on basic telecommunications services, April 11-28, 2016. They are examining the services that are needed in order for Canadians to participate meaningfully in the digital economy, etc. In support of better service to rural residents, I submitted comments on our behalf.
- Still working on investigating a fiber/improved service option in the Priddis area. Just getting some information in now and will communicate more, soon.
- Made a plea at the Ministerial Forum at the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts & Counties convention in Edmonton in March for considering "high" speed internet as some form of provincial utility. We are not alone in our requests.
- Am also participating in an initiative by the Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP) to investigate and evaluate options for serving our region. We next meet on June 7.

#### **M.D. of Foothills & Okotoks Annexation 2016 Update**

M.D. of Foothills and Town of Okotoks have reached Agreement in Principle on Annexation and are working on a new Inter-Municipal Development Plan (IDP). News Release: [Link](#) Annexation Map: [Link](#) More info: [Link](#)

#### **M.D. of Foothills & City of Calgary IDP Update**

We continue to work on a new Inter-Municipal Plan with a Fall 2016 completion goal. More info: [Link 1](#) & [Link 2](#)

#### **For Other News & Updates**

Please visit my website: [Link](#) Best Regards, SO