

Councillor Suzanne Oel – M.D. of Foothills Div. 4 Update 2016-09-20

Event - Rothney Astrophysical Observatory – Howdy Neighbour BBQ

Thursday, September 22, 2016 – this week

5:00 – 9:00 pm; RSVP: 403.931.2366

Schedule – [Link](#)

RAO – [Link](#)

Event - Bear Safety Workshop for Ranch Families and Acreage Owners

Date: Saturday, October 22, 2016

Location: Millarville Race Track Hall

Time: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

RSVP by October 18, 2016, to Berry at 403.652.9998

- Join us to learn about bear safety. This workshop is targeted specifically at safety concerns for ranch and acreage owners, and family members (all ages welcome) as they go about their daily routines, living and working in close proximity with grizzly and black bears.
- Learn:
 - how to minimize attractants around your ranch and yard
 - how to avoid bear encounters
 - what to do when you do encounter a bear
 - how to correctly identify dangerous bear behaviour
 - how to respond appropriately
 - with hands-on practice using bear spray
- Details:
 - This event is free of charge to those attending
 - There will be separate activities for younger children
 - Beverages and snacks will be provided
 - Dress for the weather - bear spray practice & kid's activities will be outdoors
- Event Supporters:
Alberta Environment & Parks, M.D. of Foothills, Southern Alberta Land Trust Society, Bear Conflict Solutions Institute, Priddis-Millarville Residents Association, Millarville Racing & Agricultural Society, High Country Rural Crime Watch Association, Priddis Community Association, Margo Supplies Ltd.

Update regarding the Priddis Post Office, Priddis Community Association (PCA) and Canada Post future:

(This update has been prepared with the input of PCA President EO & Councillor SO)

- Request to keep the Post Office in Priddis:
I am confirming with you (Priddis Community Members & residents) and Canada Post that there is great interest to keep the Post Office functioning in the Hamlet of Priddis. Much feedback has been obtained through discussions with PCA, contact with other Priddis area residents, Hawk's Landing and Priddis Greens residents, and through a widespread community Survey that was conducted in 2016 by PCA to support this conclusion.
- PCA efforts towards finding solutions:
The old schoolhouse/post office building is not acceptable in its current state for continued use as a Post Office and needs to be improved or replaced. Earlier this year PCA investigated constructing a new building which would have included space for the Post Office. That option did not materialize, so PCA now has direction with tremendous community support to investigate options for fixing up the existing building for community use and hopefully to make a better home for the Post Office.
- Interim Solution:
PCA is prepared to investigate and obtain an interim option of locating the Post Office and would work with any applicants for the Postmaster position to facilitate that happening in the Hamlet of Priddis during the time of construction or repair of the old building.
- Canada Post continues to pursue a Postmaster solution for the Priddis area. It is not yet settled. One applicant is proposing to have the location moved to their place of business. This involves a change to the land-use for that

property (place of business) and must go through an application to the MD of Foothills for this to be approved. There will be a public hearing at the MD of Foothills Office on this application, for which details will be advertised in two consecutive weeks of the Western Wheel Newspaper. Interested parties will have an opportunity to comment at that land-use change hearing.

- PCA will hold a Public Meeting for community discussion about the Old School House/Post Office Building plans - on Thursday, September 29, 7:30 pm at the Priddis Community Hall.
- I hope this explanation about community interest, planning ideas and status of the Canada Post process will help clarify information about what is happening in the neighbourhood. Thank you for your continued interest in this matter and we look forward to your participation in the decision-making process.

Light to be installed at the intersection of Hwy 22 & PVR

After discussions with Alberta Transportation about a temporary measure to improve the intersection of Hwy 22 & Priddis Valley Road, we have received permission and are working with Fortis to install a beacon light on the power pole near the stop sign at the SE corner. It will be a cobra-head cut-off style of light fixture and will give some illumination to the intersection to improve visibility, especially for westbound left turns in dark or bad weather conditions. Should be installed in the next couple of weeks. This is an interim idea until the bridge expansion plan comes off the sunshine list into reality.

Cyclist–Motorist Conflict – Response Action Update

There has been much interaction, discussion, interviews and articles written about this hot topic during the summer. Action on my part continues with the MD setting up a meeting with Alberta Transportation to discuss events and issues in the NW, working on a new research project within the Turner Valley RCMP Detachment area and setting up a meeting with them in council, working with the Priddis Community Association to create relationships with user-groups to increase awareness about issues, continued safety and events communications, hearing from you to get your great ideas and solutions, and looking into the dynamics of the Hamlet during busy use times...

MD to investigate parking in the Hamlet of Priddis on the Municipal Reserve

Due to the increased use of the Hamlet of Priddis for a staging area for cyclist touring and an expression of interest from the community to use the MR for recreation use, the MD of Foothills is investigating the possibility of using a portion of this lot in the Hamlet for parking and improving the surface. Our planning staff will be setting up a public consultation meeting in the near future to bring this idea to our community and get their input.

Priddis Area History

- Our Foothills: [Link](#)
- Foothills Echoes: [Link](#)
- “Our Foothills” book has information on the Priddis area and history of the School building. Another book about the Priddis area is called “Letters from a Lady Rancher” by Monica Hopkins... Happy Reading!

Animal-Human Conflict Reduction Project

The M.D. of Foothills is participating in a Beaver Management Techniques Workshop in Div. 4 this week with Cows & Fish, Miistakis Institute, The Fur-Bearers, AB Gov. and the City of Calgary. Our goal is to find solutions to reduce conflicts, save money on infrastructure repair and maintenance, and look at creative alternatives and prevention strategies. We are looking at installing a pond-leveller and exclusion devices on a site that has considerable activity. Will let you know how it turns out.

Broadband Investigations - General Summary of Action

- Since our public meeting in January, our technical group of talented local residents interested in moving along our investigations for Foothills NW has continued to contact providers in this area and look at options for short, middle and long term solutions in consideration of the complexity of the varied terrain, access to wireless, satellite or fiber, pricing, risk and delivery issues. A full regional solution may be in the future, but in the meantime, our desire for better service is driving the effort for exploring the business case for a fiber “pilot project” in the Priddis area. So, we further have met with a provider about a possible solution connecting to a fiber Point of Presence (on Priddis

Valley Road & Hwy 22) to serve the communities of Hawk's Landing, Priddis Greens, businesses along that route, and hopefully we can work out some extra capacity for the folks in the Hamlet of Priddis and Rancher's Hill area.

- I'm also participating in discussions and research into regional solutions with Foothills, as part of the Calgary Regional Partnership Broadband Investigation Project, now at the stage of providing its finalized report on the assessment of the area and issues. I will post this report to my website when it is released in the next few weeks. Dialogue also continues with the provincial department of Service Alberta, as they move towards the SuperNet 2.0. Federally, on behalf of our Foothills residents, I responded with comments to the CRTC Broadband Hearing in April 2016 regarding our communities' interests in Gigabit service.
- Next we want to re-convene our technical group to discuss all these items. And, we await the results of the possible fiber pilot project proposal to serve the Priddis area, which may open the door to serving our greater community. Other providers are opening up to conversation on improved wireless and DSL in the mid-term, and maybe even fiber in the long-term. And we await the mystery of what the SuperNet 2.0 holds for us – perhaps access to fiber already in the ground or new networks with some government support???
- As always, I welcome feedback, ideas, solutions, deals – as this is an effort to share info, improve service, inform ourselves about Broadband and attempt a collective voice... Thanks to everyone, so far, who has contributed to researching and bringing action to this community interest!

Calgary Regional Partnership involvement

In an effort to bring our MD of Foothills voice and residents' perspective to the table, I have accepted the invitation of the CRP to attend a few more of their steering committee meetings. Over the years, I have been engaged with CRP projects and attended meetings, but this increase will allow for an opportunity to include more detail from the sub-region and the MD perspective to the regional discussions and plans. I look forward to participating in the Economic Prosperity, Calgary Metropolitan Plan Implementation & Regional Servicing, and Transportation & Complete Mobility steering committees. CRP - [Link](#)

M.D. of Foothills & Town of Okotoks accept donation of Champion Park Land

- Champion Park is being gifted by the Knowlton Family. Gerald L. Knowlton built the park as an homage to the CPR and as a family tribute to his mother, Faye and father, Frederick (Ted) Knowlton – a CPR station agent who served in the town of Standard, AB for 42 years. The park was replicated after the train station and surroundings that his father operated and captures the history of the CPR in small town Alberta.
- Founded in 1979, Champion Park includes not only the land, but a lake, a restored CPR railway station from Champion, Alberta, a number of outbuildings, railway tracks, a 1960s era locomotive, a 1948 mail-express car, a 1929 Executive car ("The Saskatchewan"), display and rail cars, rolling stock as well as other period equipment and railway artifacts.
- The park is located 5 km northeast of Okotoks and 7 km north of Aldersyde on the east side of Highway 2 at the junction of 64 St. East and Township Road 210.
- Official transfer date TBA.
Okotoks Online article – [Link](#)
Calgary Herald article - [Link](#)

M.D. of Foothills & Okotoks Annexation 2016 Update

An update of where this process is at... We are participating in the Annexation Hearing before the Municipal Government Board on Wednesday, October 12, 2016. 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).

Annexation Map: [Link](#) More info: [Link](#)

Free Aerial Imagery from 2015

Aerial Photographs for areas around Southern Alberta are available for free download – just need to sign in. [Link](#)

For Other News & Updates

Please visit my website: [Link](#)

Best Regards, SO