

Councillor Suzanne Oel – M.D. of Foothills Div. 4 Update 2016.12

Parks Canada Parks Pass – Free in 2017

As Canada marks our 150th, you can order online, free of charge & they will start shipping mid-December

[Park Pass link](#)

Cougar Safety Workshop

- This event was held on Dec. 1, 2016
- Had an excellent turn-out and event presentation
- See my website [index/main page](#) for more info on this topic (scroll down a ways)

Opening of temporary Priddis Post Office location

- On Dec. 6, 2016, we welcomed the Priddis Post Office to their temporary location in the Priddis Plaza, with a morning coffee event
- Canada Post moved in on Dec. 1 and opened on Dec. 2 at this location
- Priddis Community Association will keep you posted on any updates
- If you are not a PCA member, please join to support the community and get email updates on events and projects: [Priddis Website](#) link

New Flood Readiness Website by Government of Canada

[FLOOD-Ready Canada](#) (link) – check it out

Broadband Investigations - Update

- On Nov. 22, our technical group of talented local residents met to continue sharing information and discuss possibilities of serving our NW Foothills area, in consideration of the complexity of the varied terrain, access to wireless, satellite or fiber, pricing, risk and delivery issues. While some investigations are falling short of solutions, other options are opening up.
- Many of us have recently received a new offer from Telus for rural customers, which may be a really nice solution for some who can access this wireless opportunity. Check to see if you qualify – call if you are not sure, or if you want to inquire if the offer is coming to your neighbourhood: [Telus offer](#)
- 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 getting into detail about bringing fiber into the NW, with the potential for setting up fiber to towers or branching out the fiber.... Links to the CRP Background reports are on my website (index/main page).
- Dialogue also continues with the provincial department of Service Alberta, as they move towards the SuperNet 2.0. On Nov. 15, I had the opportunity to meet with the Director of Broadband Services and the Assistant Deputy Minister to share our interest for improved service and ask for any assistance they can provide. Announcement about the status of this, coming soon. Will post...
- Other providers are opening up to conversation on improved service. 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 (CRP) Projects

CRP is receiving provincial grant money for projects including the MD of Foothills:

- For our Broadband Investigation Project, as above, and
- Another very interesting project to investigate developing the Region as an Inland Port
- More info soon...

New Growth Management Board

- We are being advised by the provincial department of Municipal Affairs about the new Growth Management Board for the Calgary Region
- We will soon see what this means to the MD of Foothills and the CRP
- Regulations will be written and imposed in the next 2 months

Hwy 762 Construction FYI

Hwy 762 is currently under construction by a contractor working for Alberta Transportation (AT). AT has the jurisdiction over this road. They are doing major repair work to the 4 slide areas. This work involves numerous cement piles, retaining wall construction, drainage improvements, toe berms, and some Hwy realignment around the S curves. Their plan is to work well into December and return early spring with a late July completion date. Further improvements next year include an overlay. As there are many issues with this road repair being done, it is likely that the speed limit will be adjusted during the repair time, but cannot say how long... For more info, contact AT.

Animal-Human Conflict Reduction Project

In September, the M.D. of Foothills participated in a Beaver Management Techniques Workshop in Div. 4 with several partners. Our goal was to find solutions to reduce conflicts, save money on infrastructure repair and maintenance, and look at creative alternatives and prevention strategies. We installed a pond-leveller and exclusion device on a site that has considerable activity. Info, articles and photos are now on my website (index/main page).

More Projects & Business

- Our NW Foothills Recreation Board is working on signage for our sports park and looking at a recreation assessment report, which we hope to release soon.
- We have begun Budget discussions for the MD of Foothills. More soon...
- Moving right along on the DRAFT Calgary-Foothills Inter-Municipal Development Plan (IDP) and growth area. We held another Open House on Oct. 27, have refined the growth area map, and are now working to prepare the IDP for your input. More soon... [Latest info panels](#) (link)
- Priddis Greens Walking Path – enjoyed a community celebration to open the path on Oct. 6.
- Priddis Parking Lot paving project – very thankful for this support for our community, which was ready in time for the busy summer use in 2016.
- Have just attending the Bow River Working group, last planning meeting Dec. 8; evaluating flood & drought mitigation options on the Bow River.
- Our Staff and Council continue to work with residents in the Highwood River area on evaluating mitigation options for flood-affected properties, impacted by the protection of the Town of High River. Recommendations will soon be going forward and be considered by the provincial government.
- We continue to work with NW residents on the West Foothills Water project.
- On Nov. 9, local municipalities met for an update on all that is going on in the sub-region, including: Black Diamond, Foothills, High River, Longview, Nanton, Okotoks, Turner Valley and CRP representatives.
- In addition to the 2 events that we have recently coordinated to inform you about Bear & Cougar Safety (Oct. 22 & Dec. 1), I have posted safety info on [my website](#) (index/main – scroll down) and the MD of Foothills has also posted information on our [MD of Foothills Website](#) (link)
- AAMDC – At this Fall's session, we lobbied to get our projects in line for consideration, for input on changes to the Municipal Government Act, to discontinue assessment of Machinery & Equipment where operations have ceased and taxes are unpaid, to carefully study impacts before shutting down of Coal-fired Electricity prematurely, to discourage new taxes and further penalties to rural Albertans, etc. We met with Alberta Transportation to discuss the Priddis Bridge, Highway 762, to better coordinate cycling events, etc...
- Priddis Hamlet projects: I continue to work with our community to guide projects, including: re-location of the Priddis Post Office, investigating and planning a new community multi-purpose building, and potential future uses of the Municipal Reserve lands, including: parking, a playing field, community garden... (will include public consultation)
- Ground Water – On December 13 at 1:30 pm at our [High River Office](#) (link), Dr. Masaki Hayashi from the University of Calgary will make a presentation to Council about Ground Water in our community

SW Calgary Ring Road

Check out their new website for all the latest info and construction plans

[SWCRR Website](#) link

[Alberta Transportation](#) link

[Calgary infrastructure](#) link

What I do as your Div. 4 Councillor

- I prepare for and attend weekly full-day Council meetings, have on-going interaction (work, support, meetings) with residents, community associations, businesses, school divisions, provincial & federal departments & representatives, attend 2 annual “Alberta Association of Municipal Districts & Counties” conferences, and work on current issues...
- I work as a member on these Boards & Committees, which were re-confirmed at our annual re-organizational meeting in Oct. 2016: Foothills Regional Emergency Services Commission – Chairperson, Foothills Regional Water & Waste Water Collaborative – Co-Chair, Foothills Assessment Review Board, Calgary Regional Partnership – attending board meetings and 3 subcommittees (Economic Prosperity, Calgary Metropolitan Plan Implementation & Regional Servicing, and Transportation & Complete Mobility), Calgary Inter-Municipal Committee, Rocky View County Inter-Municipal Committee, Okotoks Inter-Municipal Committee (Alt), Ann & Sandy Cross Conservation Area Board, Highwood Management Plan Advisory Committee (voting authority), Highwood Management Plan Phase II Sheep River Study Group (voting authority), Bow River Basin Council, Priddis - Red Deer Lake Recreation Board, NW Foothills Recreation Board, Dark Sky Initiatives Stakeholders Working Group, Calgary Regional Airshed Zone, Subdivision Appeal Board (Alt), Community Standards Appeal Board (Alt), Accounts Review Committee, and Budget & Policy Committee.

For Other News & Updates

Please visit my website: suzanneoel.com

With Best Regards, SO

P.S. (from S.O.) I am emailing you this information because I thought you may be interested in this update about the M.D. of Foothills and our area (and we have been in touch previously). If you do not want to receive a newsletter from me occasionally, please let me know and I will not send any more information, or change your contact info if needed. Please share this information with your neighbours if you wish.