

## Councillor Suzanne Oel – M.D. of Foothills Div. 4 Update 2017.02

### Update about the Priddis Post Office Closing

- Canada Post moved the Priddis Post Office into a temporary location at the Priddis Plaza, which opened on Dec. 2, 2016. This was due to Canada Post's request to move the business out of the Old School House building.
- Together, the Priddis Community Association, the Priddis Plaza owner, residents from Priddis Greens and Hawk's Landing supported this venture in the hopes that the Post Office could be moved into a new multi-purpose building, being planned for the area west of the arena in the Hamlet of Priddis. A reno was done and the community paid the bills.
- We were hoping for this option to be a lasting one. But that is, now, not the case.
- On February 6, 2017, Canada Post announced to the community that they will be closing the Priddis Post Office on February 28, 2017, due to being unable to staff the postmaster position. [See the Notice here](#) (pdf-622KB).
- The 700+ families served by the Priddis Post Office will still receive their mail as usual.
- At the end of February, parcels that do not fit in mail boxes, will be carded for pickup at the Silverado Post Office, operating out of the Shoppers Drug Mart. This will be the new location for parcel pick-up.
- Residents can also take advantage of "Flex-delivery" to send a package to any post office of their choice when placing their order. Check out Canada Post's website for that information: [FlexDelivery](#) (link).
- PO Boxes that are currently in the building will be moved outside to Community Mail Boxes, which will be located in 2 places within the Hamlet of Priddis, for Priddis area residents affected by this move. These residents received a letter in their PO box to explain what is happening with their box.
- Addresses for these few boxes will be changed immediately, as per the plan being rolled out throughout the whole MD of Foothills. All other NW Foothills residents will be receiving notice, likely later in 2017 or 2018, about address changes.
- Lastly, there is a chance that Canada Post will consider having a down-graded Post Office "Dealer" location within the Hamlet of Priddis, in one of the existing businesses. The "Retail" division of Canada Post is interviewing businesses to see if they qualify for this arrangement. The services that would be allowed are: parcel pick-up, sale of stamps and pre-paid envelopes. This matter could take up to 3 months for a decision to be made. More on that when information becomes available...
- A big thank you to all community members who have, and are trying so hard to find a solution to keep Canada Post services in the Hamlet of Priddis!

### Broadband Investigations - Update

- Many conversations are taking place! In the last few weeks, we are moving full-speed ahead to discuss improving services to the residents of the NW area of the MD of Foothills with service providers, Gov. of AB about SuperNet 2.0, Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP) municipalities, and our local talent who are helping to provide input on the matter. We are also considering other MD areas and neighbouring towns in possible concepts...
- 2 new developments: the [CRTC Announcement](#) (link) about minimal service targets of 50 down & 10 up and funding; plus, a [Connect to Innovate Federal Grant](#) (link) is available.
- I am working hard with CRP reps, MD staff and community volunteers to see if we can leverage the [eligible areas identified on the CTI Map](#) (link), which are in our area. Priddis is identified as eligible for backbone funding and west country areas are eligible for last-mile funding. So, with these in mind, we are diving into investigating a few possible projects, to see if we can meet the grant deadline of April 20, 2017, and fit these projects into an over-all regional solution concept that is also under way. More soon...
- 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!
- Interesting [newscast](#) (video link) about municipal initiatives and partnerships, featuring: Olds, Alberta

### **West Foothills Water & Rusticana Water**

We continue to work with NW Foothills residents on investigating the possibility of potable water service from Fish Creek Ranch water treatment facility. We are in the investigation phase at this time. More info can be found on websites set up by residents: [West Foothills Water](#) (link)

### **High Country Rural Crime Watch Association AGM**

Date: Monday, March 13, 2017

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Millarville Racetrack Hall

Guests: RCMP representative for an update about our area &  
Foothills Regional 911 Dispatch Centre re: How your 911 Call works

### **Septic Sense Workshop**

Date: Thursday, March 23

Time: Evening, TBA

Location: Priddis Community

Sign up is necessary: Information will be coming out soon from our MD Ag Services, in partnership with the Land Stewardship Centre.

If you are interested to attend, let me know and I can send you more info soon.

What to expect at a [Septic Sense Workshop](#) (link)

### **Foothills Water & Wastewater Collaborative**

We share the Sheep & Highwood Rivers and the creeks & streams in the MD of Foothills area with our towns and village neighbours. Together, we are looking at coordinating our water needs for our communities' future. We are working closely with Alberta Environment & Parks on issues of water supply, waste water and source water protection planning.

- We prepared a report together and look forward to continue investigating our next topics of interest.
- Here is a [link to our 2016 Report](#) (pdf-6.5MB) about investigating WasteWater solutions. There is much interesting information presented in the Technical Memorandums about Planning & Projections and Stream Flow Analysis, in addition to assessing WW solutions. For your reading pleasure...

### **Update on Flood Mitigation Projects**

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 have gone forward to be considered by the provincial government. You can see the latest info and letter to affected landowners on our website: [Flood Scoping Study and updates](#) (Link to MD website)

### **Priddis Hamlet Projects**

I continue to work with our community to guide projects, including: 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... (all will include public consultation).

- Priddis Community Association is hosting an Open House & Presentation on March 20, 2017, from 6-8 pm, to include community members and residents in their plans for the multi-purpose building concept.
- If you are not a PCA member, please join to support the community and get email updates on events and projects: [Priddis Website](#) link

### **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

- New 2017: Considering our Dark Sky Initiative: I attended a meeting with KGL & consultants (SWCRR), Alberta Transportation, Rothney Astrophysical Observatory (U of C), Cross Conservation Area, etc., to discuss lighting specs for the new SW portion of the ring road. Here are the [specs for their lighting design](#) (link to pdf-300KB).

**Reminder about MD of Foothills After-Hours Emergency Phone #**

- Our MD of Foothills after-hours emergency phone number is for Public Works emergencies only. This number gets you to our Foothills Regional Dispatch centre, where they can connect you to someone on-call.  
1.888.808.3722
- During the day, 8:30am to 4:30pm, please call our main office line and ask for the department you wish to speak with: 403.652.2341

**For Other News & Updates**

Please visit my website: [suzanneoel.com](http://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.