

Councillor Suzanne Oel – M.D. of Foothills Div. 4 Update 2017.04

Dear Residents, just sharing news with you about events and goings-on in the MD ☺

Your Personal Emergency Plan

A Meeting to share & discuss information about being prepared

Date: Monday, May 15, 2017

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Millarville Racetrack Hall

Refreshments to be served

Speakers:

- Clayton Terletski, Director Emergency Mgmt, M.D. of Foothills
- Jim Smith, Fire Chief, M.D. of Foothills
- Les Oakes, President, Alberta Equestrian Federation
- Representative from Alberta SPCA (pending)

Purpose:

- To inform residents about the M.D.'s Emergency Plan and Focus
- To provide insight into considerations for individual planning for both people and animals that goes beyond having a basic survival kit
- Based on experiences from the Fort McMurray fire and M.D. Foothills floods
- To include large animal discussion

Partners:

M.D. of Foothills, High Country Rural Crime Watch Association, Alberta Equestrian Federation, Priddis-Millarville Residents Association, Millarville Racing & Agricultural Society, High Country News, local news...

Canada Post Update

- In a discussion on April 18, Canada Post advised us that their plans to change MD of Foothills addresses in the NW this year have now been delayed to possibly 2018. Except for the Priddis addresses and new residents that are already changed over to their street addresses, the rest of the NW communities will not change this year.
- No news on the possible “dealer” location in the Hamlet of Priddis. Residents continue to pick up their parcels in Silverado or to Flex-Delivery locations.
- When addresses are changed, the new community mail boxes will come with parcel compartments. That may be handy for most parcels, but as mentioned, comes with the new address changes possibly in 2018.

Septic Sense Workshop

- Our MD of Foothills Ag Services partnered with the Land Stewardship Centre and the Alberta Onsite Wastewater Management Association to offer 2 workshops in March, 2017.
- With an excellent turnout and very informative sessions, which were of value to residents, we hope to offer this again next year.
- What to expect at a [Septic Sense Workshop](http://www.landstewardship.org/septic-sense/) (link): <http://www.landstewardship.org/septic-sense/>

Priddis Hamlet – Beacon Light

- At the end of March, 2017, a “Beacon” Light was installed at the intersection of Hwy 22 & Priddis Valley Road.
- The purpose of this light is to be a beacon light in poor visibility conditions, especially for west bound vehicles turning left (south) at the intersection of Hwy 22 & PVR.
- It may help out with other directions of traffic, but is not the final and best solution for what is needed there.
- This intersection is in limbo with Alberta Transportation (AT) as we await an improvement to the whole area, including an expanded bridge with additional lanes.
- The engineering is complete, but it remains an un-funded project. It is the MD’s highest priority to be improved and we continue to lobby the Provincial Government for this to be done.

- So, we find ourselves in a situation of waiting. In the meantime, AT does not want to make major changes to the intersection that they'll just have to tear down. The beacon light is only a temporary measure.
- I will watch for the opportunity to ask for anything else that is more comprehensive to improve this intersection.

Cycling & Event Issues & Info

Changing the yellow signs in Div. 4:

- After hearing from passionate residents about the cycling issue, we will be changing the signs by placing a sticker on that covers "PLEASE" with "**MUST**".
- Even though the phrase was done in consultation with cyclists and motorists, some residents don't like the "please", and only some cyclists are paying attention.
- Regardless of the sign's message, size or colour, enforcement is done under the Traffic Safety Act. I have tried to explain that to residents. RCMP can verify this.
- Just a friendly reminder that some cyclists on our roads are also our neighbours, who live here. Let's keep working on ideas for solutions.

Events in 2017:

- Applications for events are now coming in to the MD of Foothills for the summer of 2017.
- One that is scheduled for June 22, will start out of Azuridge on Priddis Greens Drive. This group will be benefitting local businesses and are planning a strict safety protocol. We have asked for safety measures, advance signage notification, etc. Hopefully this can be done well and precedent set for others.
- We (the MD) are also trying to encourage event planners to place events where there is less pressure; for example, in the Longview area, where the community would be happy to host them.

Parking:

- The MD of Foothills is contacting AT to investigate creating a parking lot at the intersection of Hwy 22 & Hwy 22X as an option for cyclists to park elsewhere along their favourite routes.
- After consultation with the Hamlet of Priddis and area residents, there will not be an additional parking lot created in the Hamlet of Priddis.
- Typically, there is no economic spin-off from cyclists in Priddis, as they usually only use the bathrooms and take up the parking from patrons who would have stopped at the businesses. We have had discussions with businesses and are trying to communicate with users to inform.

PCA:

- The Priddis Community Association hopes to manage the Community Hall parking lot on the weekend so that more can park there, as long as the parking-only public vacates for paying patrons of the Hall by a certain time. Signage will have to be made and posted to inform the parking public.
- Priddis Community Association has met or spoken with a few cycling groups, who are interested in mitigating the concerns of residents and businesses. They will try to keep communication open.

Safety:

- The MD is hiring a Summer Student as of May 1. This person will deal with the speed trailer program, admin support in protective services and emergency management, and will work with a Turner Valley RCMP officer on a PR project to work with cyclists and motorists by providing education and information about the rules of the road and associated safety, etc., at parking lot locations, various events, and on the website.
- The speed trailer signs will also be rolled out this year. As mentioned, our summer student will have them on a schedule on a rotating basis, as was done last year, with the possibility of additional locations where speed is identified as an issue and where it is safe for placement of the trailer itself.

SW Calgary Ring Road

Check out their website for all the latest info and construction plans as activity will now be increasing:

[SWCRR Website](#) link [Alberta Transportation](#) link [Calgary infrastructure](#) link

Strengthening the Southern Alberta and the Port of Prince Rupert Trade Corridor

- On April 20, 2017, Div. 1 Councillor Percifield and I attended a conference about this exciting initiative, hosted by the Calgary Regional Partnership along with the Port of Prince Rupert and attended by many collaborating agencies and businesses from BC and Alberta.

- The Van Horne Institute released their latest series of Reports on: Southern Alberta - Growth of Import and Export Opportunities for West Coast Ports.
- Check out the research being done by the Van Horne Institute about Inland Ports: <http://www.vanhorne.info/>. I will also post their latest Reports, released on April 20, 2017, on my website.
- We are looking at opportunities to attract businesses to our Hwy 2A Industrial Corridor that could be positioned in a growing export market connected by rail and major Hwys to western ports, that could bring warehouse, container storage, food production or other spin-off businesses to diversify our area and open up trade.

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

With Best Regards, SO