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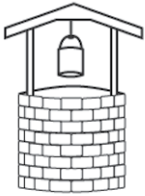
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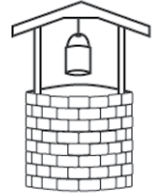
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**HIGH COUNTRY NEWS is published monthly by:**  
**High Country Business Services Ltd.**  
**Box 476, Bragg Creek, AB, T0L 0K0**

**Editor: Lowell Harder**  
**Layout & Design: Anna Grist**

**ADVERTISING RATES:**

FRONT PAGE Banner \$175  
 Inside Cover Full Pg \$595 • Index 1/4 Pg \$175  
 Index 1/3 Pg \$210 (Min 3 mth booking front/index)  
 Full Page \$540 • 2/3 Page \$380 • Half Page \$290  
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 Layout Charges \$60/hr  
 Commercial Classifieds \$16 for 4 lines,  
 \$4/each additional line  
 For website advertising, call the office for a quote  
 Discounts available on long term commitments  
 GST NOT included in rates  
 Subscription \$30/year • Circulation: 12,000

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*From The* **EDITOR**

Spring is one of my wife's favourite seasons. She loves the early spring flowers. Tulip and daffodil bouquets are almost always on the grocery list. I think it is the promise of new life. Following the plant cycles, new life comes after a period of dormancy, or depending on the plant, death. As humans we try to avoid these times. They generally carry both financial and emotional pain. When faced with times of dormancy we generally try to rush the process and move to the next job, position, or relationship - we can't seem to handle being in a situation where life would seem to be moving forward for others and not us. If you look at the natural process of spring, it is a slow process. The freeze-thaw cycles, the false starts of warm weather followed by a spring snow storm. New spring growth takes time, but it will come. If we allow the

cycle to happen, winters eventually give way to spring and new life appears. The deep rooting that took place over the winter will provide strength for the new growth ahead.

Our society has had a time of dormancy and in one sense, death. Many things that we have been used to have changed or have been taken away from us. We can be victims of these changes or as communities we can endeavour to look at how we move forward together regardless of the forces pushing against us.

The other day a customer and friend texted me and asked how I liked my coffee. Moments later, he stopped by my office with a coffee and treat from one of the local shops in our community. We chatted about trees and raspberries for his property. We discussed politics and business. We didn't solve any of the issues that are being thrust upon our society, but here was an individual that took time to engage relationally with the community around him. He did more than support the local businesses financially. He invested into the community relationally.

There are many issues that need our attention to get our communities back on their feet post-COVID-19. The biggest investment you can give is your time and relationship. As spring begins to emerge, I trust you will invest back into those around you. Your actions will have a far greater impact than you could ever imagine.

There are several great articles and announcements in the paper this month. Please enjoy the read, and get involved in your community.

*From my family to yours,  
Lowell Harder*

For more from the Editor: [highcountrynews.ca](http://highcountrynews.ca)



*Artist* **PROFILE**

Crystal Cassidy is a retired Alberta Government employee who has grown up and lived in the hamlet of Bragg Creek for almost 50 years. Since retirement she has found the time to explore more of her "back yard" with her dog Charlie.



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## Letters To The EDITOR

I was dismayed by the letter of Diane Pollock and her outlandish allegations. It would appear that Ms. Pollock does not realize, or even acknowledge, that Alberta along with the rest of the planet is in a crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Alberta Government under the UCP leadership of Jason Kenny has implemented a number of Ministerial and Public Health Orders to limit the spread of the novel virus with the goal of safeguarding public health and balancing economic fallout. It is a difficult and precarious path for the UCP to negotiate.

Any government decision is fraught with the risk of being perceived either as too stringent or lenient. Decision-making is rendered even more complex when COVID-19 variants are factored in. For Ms. Pollock to declare that we are on the path of totalitarianism is not only absurd it is ridiculous. The solution to control COVID-19 may be regarded as straightforward: wear a mask, socially distance, and handwashing. But as the saying goes, the devil is in the details. The most controversial of the control measures may be social distancing because the Alberta Government Orders under the UCP have negatively affected businesses, churches, and sporting events to name only a few. Others may rail at the requirement to wear a mask in public settings. But let's be clear, in a crisis the

government does have the statutory authority to implement measures to secure the public good. Temporary measures that some people may consider authoritarian or that abrogate their rights. In more familiar examples, personal rights may be abrogated when emergency responders restrict access to and enforce mandatory evacuation of a neighbourhood, a shopping mall, or a church when there is a developing situation that threatens the public good such as a bomb scare, leaking natural gas, a hazardous material spill, a catastrophic flooding event. It is the same situation with COVID-19 except that rather than being familiar, localized and short-term, it is unfamiliar, province-wide and long-term.

*Dennis Stefani  
Bragg Creek*

Bravo for the fine letter by Dr. Trofimuk defending Miranda Rosin. I've corresponded with Miranda several times previously and have formed an opinion that she's a very intelligent, thinking and well informed person with great courage to stand up for what she believes is right, even if it may be at odds with her own party.

Now to the 3 people who attacked Ms. Rosin in a previous issue, I would suggest that they enlarge their information sources outside of the mainstream media and what the AHS/ Health Canada is telling them. It's always valuable to question information when it changes and doesn't meet with what your eyes and ears are telling you.

Hinshaw, Tam and Fauci have done plenty of 180s on policies and information which makes me and many others question their credibility.

So outside of the AHS/MSM narrative what do we see?

Multiple studies and raw case numbers all over the world showing an INCREASE in COVID-19 case numbers after mask mandates, lower than advertised efficacy on vaccines and more serious side effects, people challenging lock down measures and winning in court, a dragging of feet in researching zinc, Vitamin D and Ivermectin effectiveness despite many initial studies showing great promise in these for preventing or treating COVID-19, plus downright suppression of anything outside of the current vaccines which could save lives. This list could go on.

Now for those saying their Charter rights haven't been trampled by the restrictions, really? Many wouldn't agree with you. Businesses ruined, lives ruined, free association, free speech suppressed and travel not allowed. The courts in Canada are starting to agree now. EVERY COVID-19 ticket case in Calgary defended by the JCCF has been withdrawn. At least 2 court cases in Quebec have challenged the curfew there as unconstitutional- and won. There is no justification for these measures and one look at most any Alberta government COVID-19 video covered by MSM on YouTube will show a 5 or 10 to 1 down vote ratio. Lots of folks don't believe or support AHS measures or information. In fact, comments have been disabled on most of these due to the negativity.

AHS won't release the PCR Cycle Threshold Number used in Alberta tests. Why? Most true experts say this should be to 30-33, yet 40-45 is common and results in many false positives and more "cases" where there is almost no chance of transmission or sickness. The number of "cases" put people into a panic and Flu deaths mysteriously disappeared worldwide. Really? It's blatant misinformation to push this narrative that COVID-19 is so dangerous when AHS' own stats show otherwise.

Facts: 27,000 people die in Alberta every year. In 2020, COVID-19 killed far less people than Dementia, heart disease, heart attacks or lung cancer. Opioids killed nearly as many as

COVID-19. It's all about COVID-19. But even COVID-19 "death" numbers are questionable since most involve people over 70 and with multiple comorbidities. There is a big difference between dying FROM COVID-19 as opposed to dying WITH COVID-19. The average age of death with COVID-19 is 82 which is also the average lifespan of Albertans. These folks would probably have died shortly anyway from their other conditions. COVID-19 has killed about 1.3% of all "cases" and .04% of all Albertans, if you believe that all COVID-19 deaths registered are truly due to COVID-19. I don't. Almost no healthy person under 60 is dying of COVID-19, yet every age group was locked down. Why?

Meanwhile, other causes of death are up, as predicted by many, due to lack of diagnosis and treatment because of the COVID-19 scare and restrictions. That is another serious consequence of this strategy but hardly talked about.

Miranda Rosin knows all of this but evidently many people don't. Miranda's free speech is guaranteed under the Charter just as yours is. Disagreement and discussion is fine, suppression and Cancel Culture isn't.

Stay home from work or school and take your vaccine if that's your choice but please don't lecture others on how to think or live. COVID-19 is here, learn to live with it and get on with living life. Something will get all of us in the end...

*Sincerely,  
Ross Farnham*



**On February 25, Our Government Tabled Budget 2021**

One short year ago, we were on track to achieve a balanced budget significantly ahead of schedule. Yet after witnessing oil prices plummet to negative values and the economic impact of COVID-19, circumstances have changed and governments all over the world have been forced to adapt. Over the past twelve months our government took action to protect the health and financial security of everyone living in our province. Budget 2021, centered around the theme of “Protecting Lives and Livelihoods”, reflects just that.

Budget 2021 makes a historic investment in healthcare, funding it at its highest level in history. This includes a \$900 million overall increase, \$1.3 billion in new contingency funding specifically for COVID-19, \$97 million to clear surgical backlogs caused by the pandemic, \$143 million over three years for new health care facilities, \$200 million to boost continuing care, and \$140 million for mental health supports. Of course we recognize that additional funding is not the only way to reform and improve healthcare, which is why these funding announcements are complemented by the measures our government has already taken to reduce surgical wait times by contracting some surgeries to chartered surgical facilities, and our decision to privatize hospital laundry and janitorial services so that all existing health care dollars can be directed into actual frontline health care delivery.

In addition to new funding to protect the lives of Albertans as we emerge from COVID-19, Budget 2021 also makes investments to strengthen and diversify our economy and protect the livelihoods of Albertans. Budget 2021 includes new financial supports for working parents, \$3.1 billion in economic recovery programs, a \$22 million increase to support tourism and destination management, and the continued advancement of the largest infrastructure stimulus spend in Alberta’s history – \$20.7 billion to create 90,000 jobs and ensure our province is prepared for the economic growth ahead.

While Budget 2021 makes strategic investments to grow our economy and protect the health of Albertans, it simultaneously recognizes the dire need to return to fiscal balance as promptly as possible. That is why Budget 2021 also seeks to find labour efficiencies across multiple ministries, keeps debt-to-GDP below 30 percent, reduces spending to municipalities by a whopping 25 percent, and most notably, rolls back public sector compensation.

Our government understands that the best way to pursue a balanced budget is to grow our economy, and that’s what the strategic investments in Budget 2021 will do. If West Texas Intermediate (WTI) prices can sustain themselves at \$55/barrel over the course of this year, the projected deficit in Budget 2021 forecasted on a WTI price of only \$46/barrel will reduce itself by \$3 billion. If oil prices continue to rise from there and our economy continues to

grow, Albertans can be confident that our province will be on track to fiscal balance once again in no time.

The Bank of Montreal, the Conference Board of Canada, and the National Bank of Canada are collectively projecting that Alberta will lead the country in both GDP and employment growth this year. With the WTI already rising more than \$20 higher than the \$46 price our budget is predicated upon, a suite of major private sector investments in our province spanning every industry from robotics to geothermal to film production, and the most competitive tax rates in North America, we can be confident that Alberta will remain the economic engine of Canada as we embark into this new year.

The future is bright for Alberta, and our government will continue to unapologetically support our province’s economic growth and recovery as we put COVID-19 in the past. Budget 2021, “Protecting Lives and Livelihoods”, is the first step in a new and better direction.

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# ROCKY VIEW COUNTY | DIVISION ONE COUNCILLOR UPDATE



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It's so nice to see that we've rounded the corner from winter's grasp to brighter, warmer and longer days ahead of us. Not to say this past winter was a difficult one but rather, as a golfer and backyard enthusiast, I appreciate warmer temperatures. If I want a taste of winter, I can grab my skis and head over to Lake Louise or Sunshine.

The burning question looms. We're in an election year and some of you have been asking if I'm seeking re-election. It's only fair should anyone want to take on the role of the local councillor that they have time to look into what the job entails. In my opinion, it has been life changing. As promised, I said I would make that decision soon. Well, "soon" is now.

One of the reasons for my decision is due to the new boundary adjustments that are being implemented in Rocky View County's upcoming election. For those of you who are unaware, as determined by ratepayers, RVC will be adjusting the number of divisions from 9 to 7. That's not to say things will get any easier. On the contrary, it will require more time and attention to matters affecting the whole of RVC. The main reason for this move is to achieve more balanced representation based on population densities throughout RVC. In the case of Division 1, we will be amalgamated with Division 3 (Elbow Valley) to the east. To see a map of the new boundaries and get a full scope how RVC will be divvied up, please visit rockyview.ca and search "2021 Elections". It will definitely make for a very robust, challenging, as well as entertaining municipal election.

Back to me. After careful consideration involving many sleepless nights, long and frank discussions amongst family, friends, and colleagues, I have decided not to seek re-election. As a full-time business owner and councillor, not to mention part-time teacher, it has reached a point where I can only manage one job proficiently. Suffice to say, my career and my passion is AdMaki Creative and the advertising design profession. I want to take every opportunity to stay creative and active in my craft. That's where my gut says I'll be most productive and happy. And I trust my gut.

With a realigned Division 1 and substantially more residents, I couldn't continue to wear multiple hats moving forward. The past three plus years have been both mentally and physically challenging. It has also been exciting and mind-bending. RVC and Division 1 continues to grow and prosper. As we look around, we can see so much is happening. We have protective berms and flood mitigation being implemented, we are working with the Province and our Tsuut'ina Nation neighbours for a future solution to our 4-way intersection, planned development will inject residential and commercial life into the Hamlet, secondary egress road discussions, and so much more, not only here but throughout all of RVC.

These initiatives will bring further enjoyment and prosperity to many of us. For as long as I have been a resident of this community, I have wished for and supported "sensible growth". That was my slogan when

I first ran. And I stand by that. Without growth, we stagnate.

I want to see this vibrancy continue to be the envy of everyone around us. And it's happening. That's not to say we become over commercialized but rather injected with a cultural spirit that is unmatched by any other jurisdiction, anywhere. That's why my family and I live here and I want to see it happen. As I have learned, residing in such a diverse area where every step is closely examined by residents, multiple government levels, inter-municipal neighbours, stakeholders and businesses alike, things don't move quickly. Good things require time to take root and that's how sensible growth works. More than ever you need a councillor who can give 110% of his/her time to RVC and its passionate residents.

It has been an honour and privilege to serve Division 1 and RVC. I have learned several new skills and discovered many new insights about myself, residents and due process. I have grown a deep appreciation not only for the duties of elected officials, but for our public servants, the RVC Staff & Administration, that support us. They are the backbone of RVC making us the envy of so many communities across Alberta. Lastly, I cannot thank enough, the residents of RVC that help shape our County and its visions.

Until next month, stay safe, keep your distance and wear a mask.

*Cheers, Mark*

PS. If you think you're up to the challenge, nominations are now being accepted at rockyview.ca.



**MP Update**  
Foothills  
**John Barlow**  
John.Barlow@parl.gc.ca • 403-603-3665

**N**o family should ever feel unsafe in their home, but rural crime remains a critical issue across Alberta and certainly in Foothills.

My Conservative colleagues and I have brought forward several initiatives on rural crime including a study at the Public Safety Committee, established a Rural Crime Task Force and locally I partnered with MLAs, municipal councils, First Nation communities, RCMP and rural crime watch groups to share ideas.

However, our efforts are being stymied by nonsensical legislative changes by the Liberal government.

This has never been more evident than with the recent tabling of Bills C-21 and C-22. The first bill is an infringement on the rights of law-abiding firearms owners, while C-22 actually reduces sentencing on violent gun crime.

In contrast, Conservatives tabled alternative legislation (C-238) to target actual gun crime and smuggling to strengthen the criminal code. Liberals voted against that bill, showing they are not serious about stopping dangerous criminals from accessing illegal firearms.

How does this make any sense? Why are the Liberals ignoring the data and experts when it comes to addressing rural crime, gangs and gun crime?

The Liberals are misleading Canadians when they claim Bill C-21 will curb gun crime because we know that is simply not true. This will not keep firearms out of the hands of criminals and gangs. The fact is most firearms used in criminal activities are illegal firearms smuggled into Canada from the United States.

In fact, C-21 also bans Airsoft guns which will be devastating to this industry including Foothills paintball parks like Millarville and Bragg Creek.

No matter how draconian the Liberal government gets with domestic firearms regulations, no matter how much they trample on the freedoms of law-abiding Canadians, the reality is criminals do not obtain their firearms

legally, and they will never follow firearms laws.

Instead of targeting law-abiding Canadians and firearms retailers, the government should be investing in anti-gang and gun units and the CBSA to provide law enforcement with the resources they need to stop illegal smuggling operations and get dangerous criminals and gangs off our streets.

However, the Liberals have gone backwards by introducing Bill C-22.

C-22 eliminates a number of mandatory minimums relating to gun crimes including: robbery with a firearm; weapons trafficking; unauthorized importing or exporting; discharging a firearm with intent; using a firearm in commission of offences; and possession of weapon obtained by commission of offence.

A majority of the above mandatory minimums were introduced under previous Liberal governments, contrary to the narrative from the Liberals they are undoing Conservative legislation.

To be clear, the Liberals are eliminating mandatory prison time for criminals who commit robbery with a firearm, weapons trafficking, and drive-by shootings. They're doing this because they feel these laws are unfair. They are standing up for criminals instead of defending our rural communities.

Please know, we are doing everything we can to oppose both Bills including organizing petitions to ensure the Liberals understand the issue. The first petition, led by Conservative MP Glen Motz from Medicine Hat, was tabled with 175,000 signatures and Calgary MP Michelle Rempel-Garner sponsored another petition which garnered more than 230,000 signatures - a record number of petition signatures for the House.

You can also express your opposition by writing directly to the Minister of Public Safety and Prime Minister at pm@pm.gc.ca and ps.ministerofpublicsafety-ministredelasecuritepublique.sp@canada.ca.

Also, speak with friends and family who do not own firearms to help them understand your concerns. We need to show Canadians we already have strict gun control measures in this country, this legislation will not address gun crime and you can help be a part of that movement.



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# Letters To The EDITOR

Dear Editor,

We would like to commend the efforts of the Board of the Bragg Creek Community Association (BCCA) for alerting our community to the present difficulties the organization faces.

Among the BCCA's guiding principles are to foster community and to operate and maintain their asset, Bragg Creek Community Center (Center) in a "financially viable" manner. After the Center reopened in 2001 the board quickly recognized meeting these two mandates simultaneously would be difficult. The management then undertook an aggressive, and largely successful, marketing initiative to attract commercial business which subsidize user rates. Some were disappointed with a Center, which, although beautiful, was not the "OLD" BCCA Center, with its volunteer staff and "everyone has a key" policy. In 2005 the Board, recognizing without community engagement and collective ownership the building would never survive, launched a "Charm Offensive" designed to attract community members with interesting and affordable programming, concerts, fundraising activities, the continuation and expansion of Bragg Creek Days, and things of this nature. This effort continues to this day.

Obviously COVID-19 has had a major, unforeseen, detrimental effect on the BCCA's finances. But time has proven the biggest challenge to attaining financial viability and not crushing board enthusiasm has been the sheer size and complexity of the Center and the lot it

occupies. (In all fairness the re-builders expected population growth which has not come to pass.) The fact of the matter is owning the building and the lot it sits on is very costly. Consider the BCCA is in the hole about 35% every year before the doors even open due to utilities and operating expenses. The challenges of running a NON-PROFIT facility this large in a community this small while keeping user fees low is a major challenge. Without the support of and grant funding from the RVC Rec Board these many years, this facility may have closed long ago. Further, as time passes, unexpected things break down and need to be replaced making budgeting difficult. The flooding of the building when the fire suppression system failed in 2016 and the resulting drain on cash reserves for another rebuild certainly did not help either.

Over 50 years many Creekers, Foothillers and Redwoodians have served on the board of the BCCA and the Ladies Auxiliary and countless citizens have volunteered. For many newcomers, us included, this was our introduction to Bragg Creek. For a many of us the BCCA was not only the first time we got involved in a community, (let alone THIS community), it was also the first time we served on a proper board. Everyone who has served on the BCCA board quickly comes to recognize the overwhelming fiscal challenges. We can say with a high degree of confidence that the goal of making the Center viable has been and continues to be the overriding concern of most

board members since the building was rebuilt. If there have been questions in the management of this facility, all decisions have been honest ones made by board members and staff dedicated to fulfilling their fiduciary duty to both BCCA members and the community at large. They did their best with the information they had at the time. To think otherwise does a disservice to all our community members who have and continue to serve on the board of the BCCA and the staff who have worked for the organization.

The Center and a large chunk of the lot it occupies is an ASSET and a LIABILITY owned by the BCCA. It is more than a building, it has been where new friends have met and where we have said goodbye to old friends, it is where our children have gone to play and where we adults have gone to party. We honour our fallen within its walls and it is our place of worship. It is more than a building.... these walls hold community. This is not the first time we have been at the precipice, but it may be the last. We urge all community members to rally to the call and assist BCCA in whichever way they can.

Respectfully,  
Dave Rupert & Julie Handrahan




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## Update from Rocky View School Board

A year of COVID-19 and we are cautiously optimistic about reopening. This is good news for families who are eagerly awaiting youth activities to return to normal. At least the promise of spring brings hope and sunshine as we look forward to the return of outdoor activities. I would like to acknowledge the many volunteers on School Councils who work tirelessly on behalf of students volunteering in many ways to advance learning, raising funds to purchase needed resources, assisting in organizing adventures for students, and providing school administration with community feedback. School Councils welcome individuals who are willing to contribute their time and talent for the benefit of our youth.

This link takes you to a nation-wide coding challenge – kids need no prior experience: [mindfuel.ca/2021/01/14/cv-crack-the-code/](https://mindfuel.ca/2021/01/14/cv-crack-the-code/)

### Provincial Government News

The provincial government has announced 14 new school builds and 140 million dollars of funding for portals. Both of these fundings would be welcomed by Rocky Views Schools. Bill 55 when passed will allow Superintendents to become a self-regulating governing body. Bill 52 when passed will allow for recall of a Trustee.

The government has given school boards the dollars boards will be receiving for the 2021-2022 school year. The government did not penalize schools boards for lower enrolments during this COVID-19 year. As a result, boards will not be negatively affected by the 3-year rolling average enrolment calculations.

In the recent capital funding government announcement, Rocky View Schools Division received no new schools. The news was very disappointing as the majority of Rocky View Schools are at capacity.

### Board Updates

The Board was privileged to listen to a wonderful presentation by high school students who lead the Division Student Leadership initiative training students in leadership. The students focused on an adaptive approach in COVID-19 thinking not what I can't do, but what can I do. Students introduced their mentees to a number of new online tools

for communicating, problem-solving and brainstorming. More than 300 students in our division are impacted by this division-wide initiative.

The Board has setup an ad-hoc committee to meet with Rocky View County to develop a new joint-use agreement since Rocky View County cancelled the last one.

Nominations are now open for all candidates in the upcoming municipal elections including Trustee.

### Wondering what Rocky View schools are doing to support student mental health?

Rocky View Schools have been addressing student mental health for some years. Currently, Rocky View Schools use Positive Behavioural Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework as best practices to support students with mental health challenges. Interventions are culturally responsive to the student, school and community. The PBIS framework is designed to create emotionally responsible and predictable environments. It is strength-based, intentional social-emotional learning woven through the school culture. The practice is responsive to the needs of all kinds of learners.

The Board has a partnership with Stepping Stones for Mental Health which includes MindUP. The Stepping Stones program uses a universal approach with classroom, school and community.

Administrators have been receiving Traumatic Events Systems (TES) training. This initiative is having an impact on the understanding of mental health and well-being of students dealing with trauma.

The Working Mind was made available to all staff including support staff.

A recent legal webinar identified the current trends in legal issues for schools. These include increasing numbers of court cases arising from human rights challenges. COVID-19 issues have also affected schools as some divorced parents argue schooling options during the pandemic.

Students enrolled in the Building Futures Program in Airdrie, used their skills to upgrade the animal shelter in Airdrie.

Two Calgary schools will be piloting rapid testing for COVID-19 so study applicability of wide-spread use.

Submitted by Judi Hunter  
Trustee for Ward 5

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Mid-February to mid-March saw a large number of complex public hearings. With many Council balls in the air, I reserved reporting to after Second Reading decision making. Council's Agenda saw the Municipal Development Plan (MDP), the Springbank South Area Structure Plan (ASP), and the Springbank North ASP all scheduled for a single-day. Ultimately they required six full council meeting days to work through.

**Video Submissions for Hearings:** While County Hall is closed to public access, the video or audio submissions now allowed for public input are working extremely well. Compared to taking time away from work or family to come to County Hall to speak and being nervous addressing Council from the podium, folks can make their 5-minute video while more comfortable, at home or outside, and on their own time. Re-takes as necessary ensures a "submission-worthy" version is sent in.

Unlike regular written submissions, video enables folks to easily present face-to-face. When humans communicate, more than half the message conveyed is from visual cues, not just the words. While I read every submission for a hearing, I appreciated the extra effort taken to provide video submissions. I will be advocating to keep this form of presenting to Council after County Hall reopens.

**Second Reading Draft Plans:** On 6-3 votes, draft versions of the Municipal Development Plan and the two Springbank ASPs passed second readings. Council then unanimously instructed Administration to put them to Calgary Municipal Region Board for approval. A recurring theme amongst the updated statutory documents was the relaxation of rules that historically had been "shall" statements replaced with "should" statements. Unless in direct contravention of Statutory Provincial Legislation, this was thoroughly applied with a broad brush across virtually all policy statements.

The MDP provides over-arching development policy where there are no ASPs or Concept Plans. This relaxation purposely allows for any development anywhere, wholly at Council's discretion. My debate commented that loosey-goosey development would negatively impact our developer community already invested or planning for growth in our existing ASPs. There will no longer be a level playing field with well-defined rules going forward. Business likes minimal risk and certainty when making investment decisions. Critical thinking also led to my questioning of Council approval of use of "should" with regards to policy honouring our contractual Inter-municipal Development Agreements with our neighbours.

Both Springbank ASPs saw major last-minute amendments by Councillors, with minimal public scrutiny. I will save comments on these two plans until next report. As they sit now, the combined ASPs allow for 55,000 additional residents – three times the forecast growth for the entire County.

I did not support second reading of these plans, as neighbouring municipalities had clearly informed us that they wanted more negotiation

for increased certainty in a number of our policy areas that impact them directly. Updating these plans has required significant financial investment by the County, and I did not want to see them purposefully fail.

**Mountain Ash Application Approved:** Despite overwhelming opposition, the Summit gravel pit in Division 9 was approved 6-3 with Councillors Kissel, Wright and me in opposition. Alberta Environment and Parks had asked the County to either impose a 1.6km setback from the Big Hill Springs Provincial Park or conduct a third-party assessment on potential impacts to the aquifer and downstream fish habitats. The Council majority supported the notion that the applicant's studies provided all assurances.

*Please e-mail me if you would like to be added to my e-mail list for potential future online communications*

*Kevin.Hanson@RockyView.ca or call 403.463.1166*

## Why You Should Choose A Financial Advisor

There are common misconceptions about the value of working with a financial advisor. Some believe you have to be rich to be worthy of financial advice. Others take a DIY (Do It Yourself) approach, believing that online resources will guide their needs. Some people feel that they are too young, too old, or too much in debt to benefit from working with a financial advisor. However, the truth is that financial advisors are not just for the rich, and they can play an essential role at any stage of your financial journey. Research supports the idea that a financial advisor can be an invaluable resource, a guide who will work with you to achieve your financial goals.

Here are some strategies that could help put you in the driver's seat of your financial life, post-holidays and beyond.

### Investment Strategies

Canadians who work with an advisor on their investment strategies enjoy almost four times the assets of investors who don't (over a 15 year period), according to a 2016 report by Cirano<sup>1</sup>. The same report debunks the myth that advisors only work with the wealthy. According to Cirano's study, the majority of Canadian investors had investable assets of less than \$25,000 when they first started working with a financial advisor. Also, be aware that many financial institutions (i.e., banks) charge fixed fees even if they don't make you money. "Buyer Beware."

### Savings Strategies

The ability to put away savings regularly is fundamental to reaching your long and short-term financial goals. 80% of those who work with a financial advisor say that this relationship empowers them to develop skills and strategies that help them achieve better long-term

savings habits<sup>2</sup>. Remember, investing is a marathon, not a sprint. Returns from investing in good quality mutual funds, over time, far outperforms CICs, etc.

### Tax Efficiency

Canadians who work with financial advisors take advantage of tax-sheltered registered accounts at about twice the rate of non-advised Canadians. Working with financial advisors also increases access to a wide range of solutions and strategies designed for tax efficiency<sup>3</sup>.

### Increased Well-Being

Your financial advisor is your financial partner. Beyond investing and saving strategies, to help you achieve your goals, their professional advice may also help to reduce your stress around finances and the future. In the 2019 study by BlackRock<sup>4</sup>, 76% of those who work with a financial advisor report having an increased sense of well-being.

Managing investments and making consistently sound financial decisions takes skill and commitment. It is also not a one-time thing. Researching, executing, and monitoring financial decisions drains your most precious commodity, i.e., your time. A financial advisor has the skills, time, and expertise to support you through a lifetime of complex and changing financial needs, such as education, retirement and tax planning, insurance solutions, intergenerational and estate planning. Finding the right advisor may be the most significant step you can take towards feeling good about your finances now and in the future.

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1. 2016. *The Gamma Factor and the Value of Financial Advice*.

2. 2019. *2. Canadian Mutual Fund & Exchange Traded Fund Investor Survey*.

3. 2012. *3. New Evidence on the Value of Financial Advice*.

4. 2019. *BlackRock Global Investor Pulse*.

## Tired of Being Stuck Inside?

If you have a deck, patio, or terrace, an outdoor patio heater is the perfect accessory to add comfort and warmth to outdoor entertaining even on the chilliest of nights. Whether you are entertaining friends or just hanging out with family, outdoor patio heaters offer great benefits.

Patios are a great place for cooking, entertaining guests, and relaxing. Heating your outdoor room with an outdoor heater will extend your outdoor entertaining season and allow you to enjoy your patio or other outdoor living space for a couple of extra months or, in some cases, year round.

Outdoor heating with an outdoor patio heater offers many versatile placement options, a few different fuel options, and an array of stylish designs. Outdoor heating fuel options for outdoor patios heaters include propane, natural gas, and electricity. Outdoor heaters that use propane or electricity are available in portable and table top, standup, hanging, and ceiling or wall mount models. Natural gas outdoor heaters are a little more

permanent and are available in standing, in-ground, and hanging models.

Outdoor patio heaters are pioneers in establishing safety standards. Outdoor patio heaters do not produce an open flame and the base of outdoor heaters stay cool to the touch so there is no real danger to pets and children being around them. The only part of the outdoor heating unit that will get hot is the emitter screen and the dome at the top of the patio heater since they come in direct contact with the heat source.

Outdoor patio heaters provide all of the outdoor heating benefits that you would expect and have become increasingly affordable. There are a wide range of products to fit every budget, everything from smaller fire tables to large inset hanging radiant heaters, and

everything in between, and they are fairly inexpensive to operate.

We are all ready to get outside and get together again. It's been painful to not spend time with family and friends, missing those special moments together.

Your outside porch or patio is the perfect place to safely distance and still be able

to spend time with family and friends, but our weather is so erratic it often leaves us out in the cold – even during spring and summer. One simple and affordable solution is an outdoor space heater – not only

will this increase the square footage you can easily enjoy at home but you can be warm and cozy while enjoying your friends and family in the great outdoors!

By Carla Berezowski, Owner  
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## Councillor's UPDATE

Rocky View County

Kim McKylor, Councillor, Division 2



Firstly, two larger gravel applications were heard. Neither in Springbank, but they were larger public hearings (one took two days). The first one in Bears paw and the second in Division 9 north of Cochrane. I mention these because it is very important to have an open mind when dealing with anything on Council. You can neither be against something all the time, or for something all the time. At the Municipal level, moderate thinkers will serve a community to a greater degree. One I voted against, and one I supported. Different reasons for both. The science and the experts will come to the conclusion that supports whomever is writing the cheque! Both are likely equally right – that is the beauty of data modelling. If your goal is 100% - and you achieve 50%, you're either a 50% winner or a 50% loser, that's the way data works. It happens all the time depending on how you are looking at the data and what is important to you. I know, always, that the truth of anything is generally somewhere in the middle so it is always important to consider all the factors when looking at anything that comes in front of Council. We all have biases (conscious and subconscious) so we need to check those at the door, because they serve no one well.

The second large item (that we are still not done with yet) is our new MDP (Municipal Development Plan). This is

an over-arching policy document that guides the entire County through the next 7-10 years. Much of what is in the MDP is may be contained within Area Structure Plans, but for those areas that aren't in ASP's it has policy statements that would guide the County. One of the more "contentious" items that I've asked for an amendment on (and this HAS NOT been approved by Council) is to identify the highway corridor from basically Range Road 40 westerly to Highway 22 as an employment corridor. Why? Well firstly do I think this will be developed anytime soon? No I don't. And no, not even in the life of the MDP. So why ask for it? Well it shows the Province and our regional "partners" that we have a plan. Cochrane's vision document (Non Binding for RVC) shows a corridor from south of Cochrane all the way to Highway #1 as a NO development zone. Cochrane, planning in RVC, doesn't want any development south of Cochrane all the way to Highway 22. Well that is great for Cochrane, and certainly would preserve lands for them should they want to annex southwards. But what about RVC? What about our landowners? At the end of the day, we need to charter our own course. And while working with our regional partners is very important, in any arrangement, both parties at the table should confer a benefit. Identifying this as a strategic corridor (which it is) simply says that RVC recognizes its highway corridors as assets, which they are.

An example I like to give when people call me to talk about the pros and cons of the CMRB (Calgary Metropolitan Growth Board) is a totally FICTIONAL one about where the CMRB would not be of benefit to the region.

Everyone knows the PetroCanada/ Truck Stop on the North/West corner of Highway #1 & Highway 22 right? By definition, a commercial business area providing products and services to our local community, but mainly for the benefit of travelers. In my fictional example, a company like Amazon/Wayfair/Leons etc. decides that since this is a strategic intersection for shipping (to Calgary/Cochrane/BC) it wants to purchase 60 acres of land, build a large warehouse for goods to ship. Strategic being on two major highways, close to the ring road in Calgary, doesn't need the shiny lights of the city, and little infrastructure to support its business (water/waste water) – just needs land and a place that semis have easy access to.

Now this business would create a couple thousand jobs for the region (RVC/ Calgary/Cochrane/Bragg Creek/ Canmore and at least two or three First Nation communities in the area). This business would have almost ZERO impact to any municipality roads (all provincial or federal highways/ or internal business roads). It would create a large commercial tax base for RVC, and have virtually no people impacts (views/ views scape).

Most people at this point think this would be a good idea (some won't!) – but guess what – this would not be allowed under the CMRB – because the board has picked where RVC gets to grow, no appeal, no nothing. So identifying where RVC might want to grow into the future (not today) is an important step to maintaining our autonomy. And this isn't just about business development, but it is also about new housing, new hamlets (again none in the shadows that I know



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about). Our MDP and our ASP's charter our future. If we don't have forward looking plans, then truly we might as well ask the City of Calgary Council to make all our decisions for us, or wait for them to swallow up our lands.

So onto the next item, our two ASP's (Springbank North and Springbank South). Yes, it was my motion (that Council accepted) to split the plan area into two. There are sound planning principals why. And in fact, I think 3 ASP's would have served the County even better – with the special planning areas and urban interface areas (those lands that touch the city of Calgary) should have been held in their own ASP, because they are uniquely different.

I supported the passing of the ASP's because they are designed for the future. Elected officials get caught up, especially in election years of either trying to make a long-term decision, or appease the voters. A longer view will ultimately be better to protect the autonomy of RVC and Springbank. People may be telling you this is a developer's dream come true. Nothing could be further from the truth – this is a hard look and acknowledgement at what is already happening, what is already in the works and what we are already "amending" our existing ASP's to accommodate. NOT just this Council.

Here are all the big developments that previous Councils approved that involved changing the current ASP: Bingham; Harmony; Edge School and more. This Council approved Paradara Springs and Rivers Edge (Condo type living). We can stay where we are and do this stuff piecemeal or we do it right with a plan that considers this in the first place. An ASP will live for 20 years or more – it can't look backwards and Springbank, whether I like it or not, will look different 20 years from now, just as it looks different today from 20 years ago. Next steps, now that both plans have been given second reading, they go the CMRB to be evaluated under the interim growth plan. According to our administration they meet that criteria, and according to the CMRB consultant, Mr. Calthorpe we are permitted to submit new ASP's under the plan – BUT – I personally have little faith that our new ASP's will make it through that process. It won't be because they won't meet the criteria, it will be because the City of Calgary wants to control all growth, and ALL the rural municipalities have been left out of that equation! This process will take a couple of months.

Good news – all the MSI funds that were allocated almost 10 years ago to Springbank for recreation have been used

to improve and ensure the continuity of the Springbank Parks for All Seasons. While I would have really liked to spread this out more between the community centre and pathways, we needed to get the money spent before the province took the money away. We needed "shovel ready" projects. We were also able to add the dog park, which is located on our lands which has added an awesome amenity to Springbank. I am still working on solutions for the community associations and pathways – I haven't lost sight of those!

Speaking of the dog park, I'm thrilled to see it used so much. Daily I drive by and except when it was -30 there are 4 to 5 cars always there – on a Saturday afternoon once I saw more than 10. I did a quick stop there the other morning and was really happy to see very little "poop" left behind – thank you for taking care of it. I will organize a "clean up" day in the spring, hopefully some of you will be able to help!

Please call me if you have any questions at all, I'm always happy to have a conversation!

*Kim McKylor,  
Deputy Reeve Division 2 Councillor  
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**BRAGG CREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
*Notes*

**The Mysterious Disappearance of John A. McIntosh: Part 2**

In Part 1, on December 9th, 1915, John A. McIntosh left with his team and a wagonload of wood from his homestead in Bragg Creek. The team and wagon arrived back in Calgary, but no McIntosh.

From the police accounts, locals learned that two men who were known to have had a disagreement with McIntosh were questioned numerous times. We also know that homestead deeds were highly coveted, and research has found that prior to McIntosh's disappearance, cancellation proceedings for quarter section SW ¼ 12 had been instituted by another aspiring homesteader from Calgary. As a result, in April 1914, the Department of the Interior had informed McIntosh by letter that he had until July 15 to "perform the requisite residence and cultivation," or "prove up" to get title to the land.

By March 1916, the Crown Timber Inspector in Calgary also had an eye on this land, citing the availability of 200,000 feet of merchantable spruce and pine. He noted there had been no improvements on the land, with exception of a small log shack and stable, and because the land was unsuited for agricultural purposes should be placed in a reserve for timber purposes. As well, the homesteader McIntosh "has suddenly disappeared from this land and has not been since heard of." McIntosh's entry was thus cancelled by September 1916 and the land reserved for timber.

Over the years, skeletons and skulls have been discovered and the story of Old Mac resurfaces. In 1974, local writer Joan Merryfield, while researching the mystery for the book *Our Foothills*, wrote to the Alberta Attorney General asking if there had been any closure. The response was disappointing: no record of Mr. McIntosh appeared in the available archive files and the R.C.M. P. could not substantiate anything, due to the time lapsed. The R.C.M.P. only noted that they had spoken with a Mr. Stanley

Fullerton (younger brother of Jake) who saw Calgary bachelor McIntosh leaving Bragg Creek with a load of firewood headed towards Calgary at approximately 9:00 a.m. So back full circle, whatever happened to John A. McIntosh that fateful December morning?

by Michele McDonald

Homestead Records,  
1 8 7 0 - 1 0 3 0 ,  
Acc.1970.313 - Film  
2443 - File 309036S,  
Ancestry.ca., (via  
Alberta Genealogical  
Society); Purlal,

Freda I, "The Mysterious Disappearance of John A. McIntosh", *Our Foothills*, pg. 420; "Fear John M'Intosh Has Had Accident", *Calgary Herald*, Pg. 1, December 10, 1915; J.E. Mos correspondence to Joan Merryfield, *Alberta Attorney General, Criminal Justice Section Crown Counsel*, April 26, 1974.

\*Royal North West Mounted Police



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Box 42,  
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Alberta.

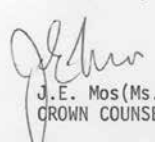
26th April, 1974.

Dear Mrs. Merryfield,

Your letter to the Attorney Generals Department concerning the late and lost Mr. John A. McIntosh came to my desk. I attempted to do some searching for you but came up with nothing of any value. Our archive files, that is files which have been flaunted, appear to have no record of Mr. McIntosh. The R.C.M.P. in Calgary advise that due to the time lapse their police records cannot substantiate anything they know about the incident. They do however, advise that they spoke with a Mr. Stanley Fullerton who was around at the time when Mr. McIntosh was resident in the area. Mr. Fullerton knew Mr. McIntosh personally, and recalls that McIntosh was an elderly bachelor who resided in Calgary, Alberta, and had a cabin in the Bragg Creek area where he would occasionally stay overnight while cutting wood. In the latter part of December, 1913, McIntosh was last seen leaving Bragg Creek with a load of firewood headed towards Calgary at approximately 9.00 a.m. Gossip then has it that he was never seen again; it was never learned whether he made it to Calgary, however, he was never back to Bragg Creek. As you are aware, his body was never found, and nothing was ever substantiated by any evidence.

I hope this will be of some assistance and regret that nothing further is available, and wish you luck with your compilation of a history book concerning that area of Alberta..

Yours truly,

  
J.E. Mos (Ms.)  
CROWN COUNSEL.



## GBC FireSmart Update

The 2020 wildfire season was relatively quiet for Bragg Creek and area residents in contrast to 2018 when there were tense hours while the McLean Creek fire burned or the weeks of hazy skies we endured in 2019 which served as a constant reminder that the threat of wildfire was real.

Who knows what the summer of 2021 will bring? The only certainty is that the risk posed by wildfire has not gone away. So, what can you do to reduce your wildfire risk? We can find an answer to this question in a study of the Fort Mac fire commissioned by the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction (ICLR) entitled "Why Some Homes Survived".

The ICLR study compared pairs of homes of similar type and exposure where one survived and the other did not. A hazard ranking scheme was developed to assist with the comparison. It was found that the vegetation fuel hazard allocated to the burned home was greater in every paired comparison - by a factor of 3 times in some cases. Landscaping practices stood out as

the variable contributing most to fire spread and eventual loss of the home. Furthermore, home ignition was most often the result of wind driven embers, a.k.a. firebrands, that initially landed on and ignited vegetation and organic ground cover materials (e.g., bark mulch) close to the home.

The ICLR examined the density of firebrands, i.e., how many embers landed per square metre. The density was quantified by counting small burn holes combustible materials such as patio furniture fabric. In one case, a yard was showered by 600 embers per square meter which is an eye-popping 150,000 embers per hectare! Under such conditions, the ignition of bark mulch or juniper bushes would be a near certainty. It is worth pointing out that the fire front does not need to be close to your home for brand-initiated ignition to occur. Firebrands can cause spot fires at a considerable distance ahead of the main fire front. There are documented examples of fire spotting at 10km ahead of the fire. There is even anecdotal evidence of spotting up to 30km during an Australian bush fire.

The ICLR report offers several recommendations. Of these, the most compelling and easiest for homeowners to adopt are the FireSmart Canada vegetation management practices. FireSmarting your property starts with establishing a zone out to 1.5m from the home where all combustible materials are removed. The next step is applying landscaping practices out to 10m that do not serve as a path for fire to follow up to the home. And finally, work on the area between 10-30m. In this zone provide at least 3m of horizontal space between evergreen trees and remove branches to a height of 2m from the ground.

More information on FireSmarting your property and other tips to reduce your wildfire risk can be found on the Greater Bragg Creek FireSmart Committee Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/GBCFireSmart](http://www.facebook.com/GBCFireSmart)). The site is also a great way to keep informed about local events such as Chipper Days where you can drop off branches for shredding. The GBC FireSmart Committee is planning for two Chipper Day events this summer. We hope to see there.

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## A Path for Crime Watch Associations?

The High Country Rural Crime Watch is just one of many Crime Watch groups that exist not only in Alberta but all across Canada. In Alberta, HCRCWA is a member of the Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association (APRCWA): [www.ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca](http://www.ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca)

Prior to 1993, Rural Crime Watch Associations were not linked by a provincial body; in 1993 it was decided a province wide umbrella group was needed to support and enhance crime prevention, so a committee was formed to produce bylaws and policies. On March 19, 1995, the APRCWA received official recognition as a Society and the APRCWA Organization has become a supportive Organization for Member Associations.

The focus of the Rural Crime Watch program still provides the extra “eyes and ears” for the RCMP, however the focus has changed. The focus is now promoting Crime Prevention through awareness, education and encouraging reporting of suspicious activity when observed.

There is excellent information to be found on their website including a Crime watch app that can be downloaded to your phone which provides an easy way to send notification about a crime.

Additionally, there is a Canadian organization – The Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention (CMNCP): [safercities.ca/home](http://safercities.ca/home). They are a community of practice created to build capacity and mobilize Canadian municipalities to prevent and reduce crime and to foster community safety and well-being. CMNCP aims to increase investment in effective, evidence-based and collaborative crime prevention strategies in municipalities. Membership in this organization is optional.

Why am I telling you about this? I know we tend to look no further than our local HCRCWA and the results of crime without realizing there is extensive information around crime prevention and reduction of crime not only in Alberta but across Canada.

Darlene Roblin, Emergency Services Manager, Foothills County, and I attended an online session on Rural Crime Prevention held over 3 days in January/February presented by the CMNCP and were provided with information on organizing, planning, and developing a Community Safety and Well-Being plan.

Seventy-seven people with all types of roles (Mayor of Lac la Biche; councillors from Manitoba; RCMP (National); Government of Alberta; York Regional Police, Ontario; First Nations Policing, Nanaimo; Kent County RCMP New

Brunswick, several places in Alberta including Wetaskiwin, Innisfail, Beiseker, Red Deer, Strathcona and Foothills Counties.) We had the opportunity to meet in breakaway groups to discuss topics and provide feedback to the larger group. Each breakaway group consisted of people across Canada so it was a great opportunity to hear what they had to say about their specific area and what they are doing.

One of the ways to prevent crime is by working with youth early on; this will make a difference in crime rates.

Some jurisdictions have their program up and running and have had success in reducing crime by working with youth and implementing positive interactions. Kent County, New Brunswick RCMP gave a presentation on how they interact with the public through attending festivals, ceremonies, parades, and large community functions to create relationships in the community.

To create a plan one of the initial action items is to create an advisory panel which could include RCMP, Mental Health partners, First Nations people, Seniors, youths, and residents of the community. This panel would provide information regarding the issues they see or experience within the community.

There was a presentation given by Koren Lightning-Earle, a lawyer and member of Samson Cree Nation, about creating relationships with First Nations people. This presentation made me realize how important it is to engage First Nations people in advocating for programs that work with youth.



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The CMNCP included excellent documentation during the training that provided a “blueprint” for where to start and how to set this program up.

It will take resources – this program isn’t something that will happen on its own. It requires a role to coordinate, to create a plan, and then ensure that it is sustained. The benefit to the community

is less crime, and youth that may have gone down a path of drugs and crime can become valued members of our community instead.

*by Lyn Dean, Vice-President of the HCRCWA, has written this month's article passing along her learnings from a meeting of Crime Watch Associations across Canada.*

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## Putting Your Best Foot Forward

by Patrick Bergevin

B. Sc. Hon. Kin., C. Ped (C)

Bragg Creek Physiotherapy

[www.braggcreekphysio.com](http://www.braggcreekphysio.com)

Bragg Creek Physiotherapy is pleased to introduce Orthotics In Motion and Patrick Bergevin, Canadian certified pedorthist, as the newest member of its clinic.

Bergevin's passion for the mountains brought him out West in 2000. From his very first position in pedorthics

in Ottawa ON, to becoming the owner of Orthotics In Motion, his drive, compassion and willingness to help has never wavered. When the opportunity presented itself at Bragg Creek Physiotherapy, Patrick seized the chance to work with Steve Resta and his amazing team. Being part of a multi-service clinic that treats the whole body and works collaboratively to achieve the patient's wellness goals, aligns with Patrick's vision for patients.

Admittedly, it was also easy to convince Bergevin to travel to Bragg Creek bi-weekly, as he has been enjoying the trail system it has to offer for decades, and loves the area. The small community atmosphere, the local events, the traditions and lifestyle made the

decision easy for him, while the draw to work with all walks of life felt like a calling.

Orthotics In Motion is Calgary's premier pedorthic services

provider, and it is a pleasure to offer big city service and expertise, in a beautiful clinic with small town charm. Your family physician or physiotherapist may recommend seeing a Canadian certified pedorthist, and booking with us is a breeze. Pedorthists are one of very few experts trained in completing a thorough gait assessment to produce a custom foot orthotic, the manufacturing of an orthotic, footwear recommendations and modifications, as well as the assessment, casting and dispensing of custom-made footwear. One would see a pedorthist for foot ailments such as plantar fasciitis, chronic heel pain, metatarsalgia, bunions or flat feet, while knee, hip and lower back pain can also be addressed.

The Orthotics In Motion advantage lies in the extensive 1hr gait assessment process, covering all aspects from history to ailments to footwear recommendations, while being backed by the quality products produced at its main office. A comprehensive report is then produced and forwarded to all treating professionals, ensuring the synergy of treatments, while the "5 Steps to Pedorthic Success" will ensure your symptoms are addressed and



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promptly resolved. This is all based on our belief that you get better results if you understand why you are getting foot orthotics.

Additional areas of expertise would be to address the orthotic and footwear needs of specific activities. Bergevin is well known in the running community, and has developed a wide offering of sport-specific devices such as for cycling, mountain biking, skiing,

golfing, horseback riding or motocross. Whatever the activity or footwear, he takes a collaborative approach to understand your needs and applications, and will truly create a custom product.

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you need to know in preparation for your appointment, while helping you understand if a physician's prescription is necessary prior to seeing us, or how claiming to your health benefits is handled. We are also a digitally-run clinic that allows you to complete preliminary information in the comfort of your home, reducing time in the common areas of our clinic.

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# Bragg Creek Centre

Hello Creekers! I love Spring, the season of new beginnings. With it comes the promise that everything can begin again, letting go and embracing something new. To quote Leo Tolstoy - "Spring is the time of plans and projects" and that is exactly what we are doing here at the Centre...planning. We are working on a few exciting projects that we hope to announce later this month so keep your eye on our website and social media channels for the latest news.

### The Bragg Creek Satellite Library is open!

Residents in Bragg Creek and area have access to Library Lending Lockers offering resident's convenient self-service holds pick-up, browsing, and returns.

With a current Marigold (TRAC) library card issued by Marigold or any participating member library, you may access the Library Lending Lockers. Instructions on

using the lockers are available online at [www.braggcreeklibrary.ca](http://www.braggcreeklibrary.ca).

### How do I get a library card?

You have three options to register for a TRAC library card:

1. Fill out the online registration form at [www.braggcreeklibrary.ca](http://www.braggcreeklibrary.ca)
2. Visit any Marigold member library
3. Contact Marigold Library System at 1.855.934.5334. Come in and check it out!

### Need to Zoom?

The Internet Co-workspace is open. If you require a reliable internet connection to work or school virtually, we've got you covered! Daily, weekly and monthly rates available. Ask about our student rates.

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Email: [info@braggcreekca.com](mailto:info@braggcreekca.com) to register  
Space is limited - Please register before noon on Fridays.

Masks must be worn by clients at all times during low-intensity individual and group exercise.

### Summer Camp

Registration is open for Nature Adventures Summer Camp with Rediscover Play! Running 8 weeks; July 12th thru August 30th; children ages 5 - 12 years will learn bushcraft, wilderness survival skills and creative play through outdoor exploration. Each week will have a theme. Spots are filling up quick so don't wait, register now!

Register: [braggcreekca.com](http://braggcreekca.com)

Email: [info@braggcreekca.com](mailto:info@braggcreekca.com) for information

### Did you know the Bragg Creek Community Association is a registered charity and can issue tax receipts?

Remember to purchase your membership and consider donating. Every little bit helps us to continue our mission - to support the greater Bragg Creek area through programs, events, and services that build community responsibly and sustainably for current and future generations.

Our office is open Monday - Friday 9am-5pm. Call 403.949.4277, email: [info@braggcreekca.com](mailto:info@braggcreekca.com) or visit us at [www.braggcreekca.com](http://www.braggcreekca.com) for news & updates.

Take good care Creekers!  
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It's officially Spring - that means it's time to tweak our driving habits. Here's some tips to help you enjoy spring driving safely.

**1. Don't rush to take off your winter tires.** They should be left on until daytime temperatures stay above 7 degrees Celsius.

**2. We can (and will) still get some snowfall.** The warm spring sun can melt ice and snow near the road and this melted water can freeze when the sun stops shining on it and the temperatures drop below zero. If you notice wet-looking roads and the temperatures have dropped below freezing, expect ice and slow down.

**3. As the weather warms it will bring out motorcyclists and cyclists.** Look out for these two-wheeled travelers enjoying our area and give them space to safely ride when passing.

**4. Warmer weather brings more people, children and pets outside.** Slow down and pay careful attention in residential areas and school zones. Kids focused on other things won't be paying much attention to traffic.

**5. There are wide fluctuations in temperatures and freeze-thaw cycles at this time of year, which can cause potholes to form.** Stay well back of the vehicle in front so you can give yourself more time to see potholes.

Staying farther back from the vehicle in front of you will also reduce your chances of being hit by kicked-up rocks. Keeping your vision high is critical to safe driving.

**6. Spring melting can cause localized flooding.** If you encounter a flooded road, don't try to cross the flooded section as the roadway under the water may be washed out. Instead, turn around and look for an alternate route.

**7. Spring wreaks havoc on gravel shoulders.** They can be much softer than usual from all the melt water. Coupled with winter erosion, gullies can form on the shoulders. Use extra care if you're pulling off the road or if you drop a wheel off onto the shoulder. Smoothly steer your vehicle back onto the pavement.

**8. During the winter, sand and salt are applied to the local highways to increase traction on snowy roads.** Residual sand acts as tiny ball bearings under tires causing a noticeable reduction in grip. When exiting off of a major road onto one less travelled, you may be driving from a road with good grip to one with very little grip as you encounter these sand-covered roads. Look where you want to go, slow

down and expect the road to be slippery from sand.

**9. Many animals are on the move as they forage for food with their young.** Every year, motorists die or are seriously injured hitting animals or trying to swerve to avoid animals (and the animals rarely survive, either). Slow down and be aware of your surroundings!

**10. Driver distraction is a leading cause of traffic crashes.** It is so important to remember to stay focused on the task of driving. If you must take a respond to something on your phone, pull over and then do it.

**11. And finally, you can't avoid it, if you can't see it.** Ensure your windshield washer fluid is topped up and your windshield is kept clean to ensure you can see everything (and everyone) around you.

*Until next month, stay safe!*



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# A Taste Of The High Country

## Why You Want To Have Breakfast At The Coyote Moon Cantina & Espresso Bar

In 2001 Abraham and Hanna landed in Calgary, on one-way tickets for them and their ageing parents. They knew little about the city, except that houses were not as expensive as in Vancouver. They also reasoned that if others could live in -30C weather, they could do the same. They were right.

Back in Korea, Hanna Ma, a second language teacher, met Canadian expats who told her about our northern land. She soon dreamed of moving to big sky country and seeking opportunities for herself and her husband.

Abraham, a soft-spoken culinary Chef with a specialty in Swiss hotel management, went along with his wife's dream. The first few years were all hard work, though. First as a Chef for the Palliser Hotel, then the Sheraton, and as an Executive Chef for Smuggler's Inn. The long hours eventually grew weary on him, and he started to yearn for a better work-life balance. One day, as they were exploring Calgary's surrounding small towns, they discovered Turner Valley. Its western flair and proximity to the Foothills charmed them. And as luck had it, the Coyote Moon Cantina & Espresso Bar was for sale.

Today, Coyote Moon is a well-known landmark in Turner Valley. The building in 1940 was initially built as a fire station -- interestingly, it partially burned down a few years later. Once repaired, the building became the Town Hall, then an office building, and eventually a restaurant. Abraham and Hanna immediately fell in love with the Café and its history. They took it and kept it as-is to this day.

You can't miss Coyote Moon on Main Street. It has a quintessential southwestern flair with its big, bright

ice cream cone signs, log fences sealing the porch, and picnic tables luring you in. Inside, a large L-shaped room greets you with its rustic high ceiling of whitewashed rough-cut planks reminiscent of its firehall heritage and an eclectic collection of wooden tables and chairs. Once you settle down, the busy decor gradually comes into focus. A massive two-man hand saw adorns a retaining post beam. A gigantic

painting of horses pulling a wagon hangs high above a wall. Moose antlers, the taxidermy of a coyote, and countless other objects keep you entertained, complete with a wood stove and a pile of firewood that heats the restaurant.

The menu focuses on breakfast and lunches. Simple, wholesome, delicious food met to satisfy sturdy appetites. They also offer various coffee styles using only high-quality beans: Coffee Concept and Caffé Monté. Together, the building, the menu, and the coffees are why the Coyote Moon is a favourite "hang out" for locals. They love to come in and catch up on the latest news, lingering in the comfort of a restaurant that feels like home. While we were there enjoying our breakfast, the rambunctious mayor of Turner Valley came in to buy his coffee. He



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left the premises talking over the tables from the front entrance, wishing Hanna a good day and leaving many with a smile.

Hanna is responsible for the front house. She welcomes and serves clients while Abraham prepares the food - classic bacon and eggs, egg benedicts, omelets, earthy sandwiches and burgers. When they are busy, their two daughters, now in their twenties, help out. Unfortunately though, it's been almost a year since the couple

felt the need for extra help, thanks to the pandemic and all the associated restrictions. The couple is looking forward to resuming regular business just as it was, with a packed house on weekends and steady traffic during the week.

The drive to Turner Valley is pleasant any time of the year. It is a beautiful country drive looking at the long vista of the Foothills with ever-changing colours and shapes. Although Hanna and Abraham left the decor of their cafe untouched, they did add two new elements. A couple of shelves to display artworks and crafts produced by local artists and available for purchase. They also hung one inconspicuous eight inches square frame. It is a gift from a friend - a Korean

Word Art - a simple, delicate, elegant piece of art that I invite you to seek out when you visit the restaurant.

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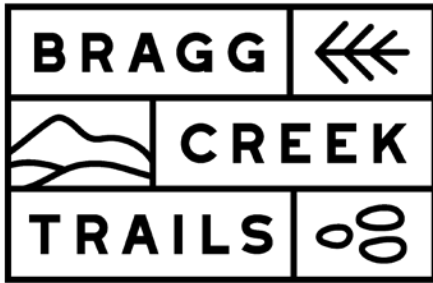
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### Think Before You Sink (by Rex)

Hi folks! Rex your trail blazing canine friend here again. Because my sniffer is closer to the ground than most of yours, I'm closer to the real dirt out here in West Bragg Creek. Springtime means dirty paws and dirty bikes. I feel bad bringing all that nice sticky Bragg Creek dirt home with me when it should stay where it was made. Sometimes we come back early from my run because of the deep ruts we're making in the trail. We don't want to make more work for the volunteer trail crew. I've also noticed that humans like to go around puddles and soft spots, widening the trail or making new trails - that just makes dog and bike traps to fix.

This is when I see my human using his talking thingy to look for a dry trail to go on. It seems to work because I don't have to have as many baths when I get home. We ran into one of the nice trail hosts who also knows where to find dry trails. They've been bracing for lots of trail damage from humans not knowing where to ride or walk. She suggested using trails on sunny south facing slopes until the other trails have a chance to dry out. She showed us a poster with BCT's new trail mantra "Think before you sink" to get people thinking about being good trail stewards. Seems easy enough to me. Besides, I hate getting mud stuck between my paws and on my tail. The mud flying off the tires of my human's bike into my face isn't a picnic either.

If you all take a minute to check trail conditions and get recommendations from the trail hosts, this will mean a lot less work for BCT volunteers in the long run. You will also get a very enthusiastic tail wag from me!

Before I head out for my walk, I just want to give a big "woof out" to all the winter trail groomers who made it possible for so many humans and their dogs to get out and enjoy nature. Sure the trails were busy but this was a great place to get away from COVID-19.

Smell you on the trails! Spring is in the air!

### Boomer Groomer Moving On

Jeff Hughes, a local resident, has spent the last 7 years cross-country ski grooming and leading Winter Operations with BCT, exemplifying how 'giving back' begins in your own backyard. Thanks to Jeff and his commitment, the trails exceed our expectations with every adventure. We thank him for his passion and drive, and wish him the best of luck in future endeavours. If you happen to catch Jeff out on the trails during a backcountry ski, or on his infamous unicycle, give him a shout-out for the amazing legacy he leaves behind!

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## John Wort Hannam, Oscar Lopez, Colin Linden and The Travelling Mabels open Bragg Creek Performing Arts Couch Fest

On Friday, April 16, 2021, the Bragg Creek Performing Arts proudly host their 40th anniversary “Couch Fest” celebration, an online event featuring artists from the past four decades.

In 1981, the Bragg Creek Performing Arts was launched to give artists a stage to share their work with the community. *“It’s been an honor to have hosted many amazing and talented performers, and worked with such wonderful community volunteers. We need the arts now, more than ever,”* Clint Docken, BCPA spokesperson, said. *“I am proud that the BCPA is entering this virtual arena, ensuring that we remain connected to one another and energized by the arts.”*

The Couch Fest will be a celebration of talent. John Wort Hannam, folk music musician, is known for his story telling through music. His themes include life in western Canada, and the human experience as seen through the eyes of working folk. Feathers in Wort Hannam’s cap include the 2010 Canadian Folk Music Award and a Juno nomination.

It will be hard to sit still when listening to Oscar Lopez. He is a world-class guitarist who has dazzled the ears and touched the hearts of many with his

stunning technique. Lopez was named Instrumentalist of the Year by the Prairie Music Awards, has Juno wins and the Socan Hagood Hardy Jazz/Instrumental Music Award.

As an ardent fan once stated, *“If the Eagles and the Trio (Dolly Parton, Linda Ronstadt and Emmylou Harris) were a family, then surely their children would be The Travelling Mabels”*. It’s the harmony vocals that make this delightful country-folk group an exceptional experience.

Colin Linden is Canada’s musical Renaissance man. He has been playing country blues, ‘20s style acoustic blues, since he was a kid and met [electric blues pioneer] Howlin’ Wolf. Linden captures the spirit of his early blues heroes, but his approach transcends mimicry.

*“Celebrate with us at this virtual event. You’ll support the BCPA and ensure performing artists keep sharing their talent and inspiration with the world,”* Docken said.

*“To make for a truly one-of-a-kind evening - wherever you are - why not order-in from your favorite local restaurants?”*

resident Ziggy Stuart said. *“This would make for a special night at home, with the feeling of a great night out.”*

Our Couch Fest will have you and your peeps sitting on the edge of your seat. It starts at 7pm on Friday April 16. Each BCPA ticket includes unlimited on-demand access to the show for 7 days following the event. To purchase tickets - \$25 per couch - visit [www.bcpa.ca](http://www.bcpa.ca)

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## Councillor's UPDATE

*Foothills County*

Suzanne Oel, Councillor, Division 4



### The Calgary Metropolitan Region Board Growth Plan - Why you should care & take action!

**Background:** In 2018, the Province mandated the 10-member Calgary Metropolitan Region Board (CMRB) and required that a Growth Plan and Servicing Plan be written for the region. Decisions of the Board are approved, subject to a voting method which favours urban opinion and population: 2/3 support with 2/3 of population, from a Board made up of 7 urban and 3 rural municipalities. Foothills County has come to the table in good faith to engage in the work of creating a regional plan. The members of the CMRB unanimously approved the Interim Growth Plan to enable business to continue during the development of

a fulsome Growth Plan and Servicing Plan. The City of Calgary pressured the Board into hiring an American planning firm to undertake the next step in developing these plans.

Foothills County has grave concerns: with the way the Growth Plan has been developed and with the consequences to County landowners, should it be approved on June 1, 2021.

#### This CMRB Draft Growth Plan:

- **Shuts the door on rural opportunity:** The plan limits the location of where residential and employment growth may occur in the rural municipalities. It also limits the allowable types of residential growth to very high or very low density. Since Board permission is required to establish new settlement areas in rural municipalities, the outcome is very uncertain because the urban-weighted vote decides what happens in Foothills County.
- **Limits economic development for rurals:** Employment areas larger than 20 acres require Board approval and can only be located in Joint Planning Areas (JPAs) or Board-approved Hamlet

Growth Areas. The growth plan will not allow continued development of un-serviced rural industrial areas, which have provided a cost-effective option for business. The County's planned growth area and Highway 2 East-side Commercial Area cannot be developed due to the constraints of this growth plan.

- **Creates red tape and economic uncertainty:** Employment areas can only be located in JPAs (with mandatory urban oversight) or in Board-approved Hamlet Growth Areas. The proposed JPA in Foothills County already has approved plans in place with servicing studies underway. JPAs will require a jointly-prepared Context Study to "inform" plans that are already complete and being implemented. Foothills would rather work with our neighbours to solve existing problems, instead of wasting time and money undertaking this work that is not necessary.
- **Utilizes insufficient public engagement:** Although there have now been two rounds of on-line engagement, residents have not been provided with

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an explanation of the impacts of the plan. Engagement has not been well-publicized and only a few people have participated. Much of the content has been slanted towards getting desired responses.

- Is biased against rural municipalities: The American consultants have strong opinions regarding urban development serviced by transit, as the primary goal for the region, and have mandated lofty development forms that do not fit in the County. The diversity of place, the choice of lifestyle and the opportunity for the development of business that has been the basis of rural development will no longer be permitted here. All areas of urban municipalities are considered “priority growth areas”; whereas, rural municipalities may only establish these through Board approval, and must justify any development. Despite the minimal growth that Foothills County is likely to see, there is still a concerted effort to control the County. This growth plan systematically strips away property rights and stops the rurals from doing anything, except farming and being annexed. This bias results in pitting municipalities against each other and places our long-standing, collaborative relationships in jeopardy.

- Will cost taxpayers money: The proposed plan creates a large number of projects that municipalities will need to undertake, such as: revising municipal plans to align with the regional plan, writing joint Context Studies for the imposed JPAs, and participating in and paying for additional studies on transportation, environmentally sensitive areas, servicing and transit. There may be future requirements to pay for joint projects, such as regional transit, that may have no benefit for our residents. Money could be lost on projects that may not proceed after planning dollars have been spent, and on delayed rural infrastructure projects determined to be low-priority by CMRB metrics which elevate city projects in the bid for provincial dollars.
- Ignores requested changes: Foothills has requested that the plan be amended to allow us to grow in accordance with our own vision established in our Growth Management Strategy that we have worked on with our residents, that the County be allowed to create new growth areas for both residential and employment (the same as the urban municipalities are allowed in the plan) and that communities be established at

a density that is appropriate in the rural context. Our requests have not been heard.


- Leads us to a call to action: Please help us send a strong message to the CMRB and to the Provincial Government that this plan is harmful to Foothills County! Have your say by doing the online public engagement at [www.calgarymetroregion.ca](http://www.calgarymetroregion.ca) (due April 8, 2021) and by contacting:

- the Honourable Ric McIver Minister of Municipal Affairs, [minister.municipalaffairs@gov.ab.ca](mailto:minister.municipalaffairs@gov.ab.ca); 310.0000 + 780.427.3744
- Highwood MLA RJ Sigursdon, [Highwood@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:Highwood@assembly.ab.ca); 403.995.5488
- Livingstone-Macleod MLA Roger Reid, [Livingstone.Macleod@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:Livingstone.Macleod@assembly.ab.ca); 825.212.2000
- Banff-Kananaskis MLA Miranda Rosin, [Banff.Kananaskis@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:Banff.Kananaskis@assembly.ab.ca); 403.609.4509

Please help!

*Best Regards, Councillor Suzanne Oel  
For Other News & Updates:*

*Please visit my website: [suzanneoel.com](http://suzanneoel.com)  
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**W**ith the current AHS restrictions, the Priddis Community Hall is closed until further notice. Please respect the current COVID-19 restrictions mandated by AHS for outdoor activities and group gatherings. The Hall parking lot has limited space so please respect social distancing. Check our website for updates and current information [www.priddisalberta.com](http://www.priddisalberta.com)

**Priddis Library:** The Priddis Library, located in the old schoolhouse, is open Tuesday and Fridays from 3:00-5:00, and the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month from 10:00am to noon. We are part of the Marigold Library System. Incoming books are quarantined for 72 hrs. Social distancing is being practiced between visitors. Your donations are greatly appreciated but we will not accept encyclopedias, textbooks, cookbooks, *Reader's Digest* condensed books, or any books more than 20 years old. Many volunteers helped at the library over the years. Gerri has retired and we thank her for her time. She will be missed. Those continuing to run the library are Arlene, Carole, Sonya, and Barb. Thanks for volunteering your time to keep the library operational for the community.

**Mobile Mammography Screening:** The AHS Screen Test Mobile Mammography Clinic is in Black Diamond April 21 to 24, 2021. Screen Test brings breast cancer screening to women across Alberta with its state-of-the-art mobile mammography unit. To book, call 1.800.667.0604 (toll-free). Help raise awareness about the clinic and the importance of breast cancer screening by telling family, friends, and colleagues. Thank you for supporting women's health in your community. Visit [screeningforlife.ca](http://screeningforlife.ca) website for breast health and Screen Test information.

**2021 Board of Directors:** If you would like to get involved in our community, we still have a few board positions open for 2021: Treasurer and Communications Directors. If you can make a commitment of a few hours every month, please email [priddissecretary@gmail.com](mailto:priddissecretary@gmail.com). Make a difference in your community!

**Priddis Rink:** The Priddis Panthers volunteers had hoped to keep the ice rink open longer, but with the warmer weather in early March, it closed early. Next year we will try to have a thicker base to get those extra bonus weeks in March. Our association was able to refund 65% of the fees to our members. Thanks to all our hockey parent volunteers for their time.

**Priddis Early Learning Program - PELP:** Registration for 2021-2022 is postponed until May as we do not know what COVID-19 protocols will be in place, what days the class will run, whether we will be able to have volunteers, etc.

Currently, classes are Mon/Wed/Fri, from 9-11:30am. More info about the program can be found on our website – see below. We are meeting/exceeding all AHS and government COVID-19 protocols. Prospective families can familiarize themselves with what is required of us here: [open.alberta.ca/publications/covid-19-information-guidance-for-preschools](http://open.alberta.ca/publications/covid-19-information-guidance-for-preschools)

Our fundraiser is ongoing: Mabel's Labels – order labels to personalize your child's clothing, shoes, etc. Once on the website, click "support a fundraiser" and select Priddis Early Learning Program (Foothills). Website: [campaigns.mabelslabels.com](http://campaigns.mabelslabels.com)

Check out our website or email for more information, [pelppreschool@gmail.com](mailto:pelppreschool@gmail.com) or [pelppreschool.wixsite.com/pelp/registration](http://pelppreschool.wixsite.com/pelp/registration)

**PCA Website:** The Priddis Community Association website is getting a new look. You can still print off the Membership Forms and make payments, book the Hall/check availability, and read past issues of the Priddis Post.

Priddis Panther's Hockey Association Recycling Bins: *Note: It is recommended that boxes with donations be sealed and smaller bags be used so they fit easily into the roller chutes.*

The bottle recycling bins are located at the west end of the Priddis Community Hall parking lot by the rink. The bottle recycling program is a fundraiser for the Priddis Panthers Hockey Association. Thank you to everyone supporting this program with your beverage container recyclable donations for youth in our community. Please, only deposit containers indicated on the bottoms of the bins.

**Booking the Hall:** We are taking bookings for the Hall for the remainder of 2021 and into 2022. If we are unable to honour your contract due to COVID-19, your deposit

will be returned. For your convenience, we are now able to take deposits and make payments by e-transfer to: [priddisassociationpayments@gmail.com](mailto:priddisassociationpayments@gmail.com)

To view or book the Hall, contact Mike, the Hall Rental Director at [PCAhallrentals@gmail.com](mailto:PCAhallrentals@gmail.com). Check the website [www.priddisalberta.com](http://www.priddisalberta.com) for availability, pricing, and updates.

**Staying Connected:** Did you know that along with The Priddis Community Association's webpage we have a few Local Facebook pages to keep the community connected? These are great resources for seeing what is going on in the community, asking questions, finding out about local businesses and so much more. Be sure to check out the following Facebook groups:

- Priddis Community Association
- Priddis Moms Connect
- Priddis Buy and Sell
- [www.priddisalberta.com](http://www.priddisalberta.com)
- [www.facebook.com/Priddismoms](https://www.facebook.com/Priddismoms)

Looking to volunteer in our community and meet new people? Many helping hands are always needed for PCA functions. Anyone interested in volunteering is requested to make their interest known to any Board Member listed on the website [www.priddisalberta.com](http://www.priddisalberta.com)




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# TURNER VALLEY & BLACK DIAMOND News

Hello, Diamond Valley! I can't believe how fast this year has gone so far. The snow has largely melted, and we are in that phase where we have something akin to a false spring. The tulip bulbs pop their little heads up, buds form on bushes and trees, and the birds are singing their little hearts out. The die hard campers excitedly head out for the May long weekend camping trip. Then Mother Nature generally dumps a whole lot of snow on the works. But spring officially arrived on March 20 and we will take what we can get.

I took a drive out to Archie and Janet Hogg Campground around the middle of March as I had not been there since the last flood. The campsites right on the river were washed away but it still looks like a great place to camp. A couple of Canada geese were honking and splashing in the bit of open river and the only other sound was that of a lone cow mooing. Most campgrounds are opening in May, with a few such as Three Sisters opening April 13. Fishing season opens April 1. I see in Black Diamond there is a new fishing/camping/bike/skate shop that opened in the new building on Government Road, across from the Hotel. Nice to see new businesses in town. I also heard the bakery may be going into the old Black Diamond post office, as there is a lot of talk how much we miss our bakery.


In Turner Valley, the Library is open again, yay! And at the old post office a new cannabis business has made its home there. It looks like Planet Auto put up new signage, it looks really nice. Or maybe they did that a while ago but I just noticed. The Planet has never done me wrong all these years and it is nice to have such a family owned and operated business in town. It does look like we are getting back to a bit of normal after such a crazy year, so we all deserve a pat on the back, and the nice spring weather certainly helps put us in a better mood.

What else is happening in Turner Valley? The Legion is still accepting vendors

for their Farmer's Market which will be opening June 5. And we will remember The Battle of Vimy Ridge on April 9, which was the most significant battle of WW1. It was fought April 9-14, 1917, along a long narrow ridge in France that both the British and French valiantly tried and failed to take from the Germans. The Canadians Corps tried with the commandment of Lt. Col Sir H.G. Bing. They rehearsed and had the support of nearly 1000 artillery pieces and finally swept the Germans from the Ridge on April 9, 1917. It was not done without the severe cost of 3598 killed and thousands more injured. This sweep ultimately defused any notion of the Germans control of Europe and led to the Armistice of November 11, 1918. The event brought about ultimate Canadian pride, honour, and respect to the Canadian Military. This information was taught to me years ago by Gordon Day, who had a great respect for the Battle and fought for the recognition of it. Here's to you, Gordon.

Up the road a bit, the Sheep Creek Arts Council in Turner Valley offers tons of different classes, some online and some in-person,

depending on restrictions. The in-person classes may open end of March, so check them out at [sheepcreekarts.ca](http://sheepcreekarts.ca) for details. They are also hoping to recruit new members to sit on the Board of Directors or to join one of their Board Committees, any takers? Sheep Creek Arts Council has its beginnings in 1958 when Archie Key, director of the Calgary Allied Arts Council, suggested a similar council to promote interest in the arts. The interest was already there and before long painting and arts classes were being taught, using the local schools, and soon it became apparent that a building was needed. The Turner Valley Skating Rink Committee



**Priddis Early Learning Program 2021/2022**

Do you have a child who will be 3 or 4 by Dec 31, 2021? Are you interested in having them join our well regarded early learning program? If so, please email [pelppreschool@gmail.com](mailto:pelppreschool@gmail.com) to express your interest.

We will be holding an open house and registration night in May (more details to follow) but your expression of interest will help us to be able to plan classes and provide more information at that time. More information about our program can be found here: <https://pelppreschool.wixsite.com/pel>



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had purchased the Calmont Cook House and moved it onto Main Street to be used as dressing rooms for the new rink. They were not using the front half of the building so in 1959 SCAC moved their operations there. The building was also used for 4-H clubs and Provincial Court, as well as the Turner Valley School hosting their annual Ice Carnival. When the Flare 'n Derrick replaced the old rink accommodations, the council formed alliances with the newly formed Valley Neighbors Club, and today they share their building on Sunset Boulevard.

Down the road a ways from the Valley, the Leighton Centre invites you to the virtual launch of two new Alberta created exhibitions, as they await the opportunity for in-person visits. As with anything nowadays, call or Google first as restrictions lift, as they may now be allowed to open. It is on my bucket list to visit this historical art gallery, museum, and art education centre located on 80 beautiful acres between Turner and Millarville. "Of a Certain Age" is the first exhibit by artists Cindy Bouwers and Jean Pederson, who are two women of a certain age and are richer, deeper, and more complex because of this, and it shows in their work. The second exhibit is "Coexistence" by artist Terra Simieritsch. In this exhibit you see different species in a different light as we intermingle with wildlife and reflect on stereotypes of "good" and "bad" wildlife species and

how they are necessary to our ecosystem. Both exhibits run until April 17, for more info, visit [leightoncentre.org](http://leightoncentre.org).

Gardening season is approaching as well. Diamond Valley Community Garden offers 20" raised 16' by 4' beds for rent, at \$60 per year. The rental includes use of water, tools, and much more. Interested gardeners should contact Jane Toews at [diamondvalleygarden@gmail.com](mailto:diamondvalleygarden@gmail.com). The Valley Neighbors Garden Club in Turner Valley should be set to get their hands in the dirt soon, as well as the Foothills Horticultural Club, with speaker Mike Dorion educating about composting and soil enrichment on April 14. This club also sponsors a scholarship for students in the Foothills who are enrolled in horticultural related classes. For info on this scholarship, please write Carol at [poffenrothcarol@gmail.com](mailto:poffenrothcarol@gmail.com). Millarville also has a Horticultural Club which usually meets the second Tuesday of the month. Whether you are a novice or expert, these clubs are only \$15 a year to join, for more information, check them out on Facebook, and happy gardening!

The Transfer Station will be open four days a week starting April 15, until November 15. Here is where you can take your compost materials such as grass clippings, leaves, branches, etc. and the towns will use them for compost around planted trees and the like. They also accept additional household garbage if you are busy cleaning up, you will need a

tag from the town office first, though. So nice to have this service instead of going to the Landfill. Although I don't mind the back road to the Landfill, us townies call it the Elk Farm Road, it is a nice little drive and you can check out the farms and acreages along the way. I'm not even sure what the actual name of that road is, but this is how we give directions. Turn left at Bob and Mary's house, go past that house where we used to get popcorn balls and candy apples at Halloween as kids, then head out past that acreage with the rusty combine out front and turn right at the crooked tree. These kind of directions, when given at the local watering hole, generally end up in discussions as to what Bob and Mary's kids are up to now and how the cattle are doing on the rusty combine farm.

After tending to the garden and yard, lace up the shoes, or tune up your bike or scooter and join the Foothills Country Hospice for the annual Hike for Hospice. It is virtual this year. What does that mean? It means you can register online and then on May 2, walk, run, scooter, or bike a 5km route in your neighborhood, your favorite trail, or at home on your treadmill. The first 300 registrants will receive a free T-shirt and race bib. The goal this year is to raise \$50K and the date is in line with National Hospice Palliative Care Week. I can't think of a better way to get 5km of exercise in, so to register and to find out more, go to [countryhospice.org](http://countryhospice.org).



Meetings are held at the Millarville Anglican Church House on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, September to May. April will have two meetings: Tues, April 13, 7pm – Rose Pruning by Verne Williams, Master Gardener (Zoom presentation) and Sat, April 17, 10am – Building Bluebird Houses. There is a \$15 fee for the birdhouse kit. Details for the 17th meeting arrangements will be confirmed later this month.

If you are interested in attending any of these presentations please contact Gail Dziuba (587.578.3798) at [millarvillehorticulturalclub@gmail.com](mailto:millarvillehorticulturalclub@gmail.com). The presentation is free for members and \$15 for non-members. Whether you are a novice or expert in landscaping or gardening, join our club: \$15/year for singles or \$20/year for a family.

We invite you to like us on our Facebook page where there are lots of tips and hints posted.

The Anne Vale Millarville Horticultural Club Scholarship is available to individuals accepted to, or are currently attending classes, or recently completed courses, related to horticulture, whose primary residence is within Foothills County, with preference to those in the Millarville area.

Please forward your application in letter format, outlining: Where you currently live, and where and how long you have lived within Foothills County; Your horticultural experiences, and how those relate to your horticultural studies; A description of those studies, with proof of enrolment and or completion certificate; A description of what you plan to achieve through this program; Jobs, interests, volunteer activities, and other information that you would like to share with the committee and why you think you should be entitled to receive this scholarship.

You may forward your application via email to: [poffenrothcarol@gmail.com](mailto:poffenrothcarol@gmail.com) or via Canada Post to: Millarville Scholarship Committee, 266105 – 80 Street West, Foothills, AB T1S 0S7



Black Diamond has a Shuttle Service available on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In partnership with the Town of Black Diamond and the Foothills Boys and Girls Club, the fully accessible wheelchair lift van can be booked ahead or on the same day, and groups and individuals can charter the shuttle outside the times and destinations usually driven by the shuttle. One-way fare within Black Diamond or Turner Valley is only \$3, Okotoks is \$7, on a credit/debit payment system, and kids 5 and under are free. You must wear a mask while on board, and they operate with a shared ride system where feasible. The Shuttle was officially launched on

February 18 and it will be nice to have something like this for those who don't drive. To find out more or to book your ride, call 403.861.2081. And I must give thanks to the many years Don's Taxi shuttled us around at most anytime of the day or night, always so pleasant to talk to, Don, enjoy your retirement, you have earned it!

It's tax time again and the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program is a free service to residents who have a simple tax situation and modest income. Qualified residents of Black Diamond can drop off their T-slips when they come to

the Town Office to fill out and sign the required forms. Residents can check their eligibility at [town.blackdiamond.ab.ca](http://town.blackdiamond.ab.ca) or call Suzan at 403-933-4348 or email her at [SuzanN@town.blackdiamond.ab.ca](mailto:SuzanN@town.blackdiamond.ab.ca) for additional information. The Program is run by qualified volunteers, and for that, we thank them!

If you have anything happening for your not for profit organization for next month's issue, please drop me a line at [elaine.w@telus.net](mailto:elaine.w@telus.net). The deadline for this issue is April 15.

*Happy Easter, and Happy Spring!  
Elaine Wansleben*

## Black Diamond And Turner Valley Enter Into Formal Amalgamation Negotiations

Black Diamond and Turner Valley Councils are moving forward in the amalgamation process by beginning formal negotiations.

The amalgamation is a priority for the Joint Friendship Agreement Committee (JFAC) and a decision will be finalized when all related negotiation topics have been thoroughly considered and reviewed.

Town Councils have worked together to optimize the strengths of both communities to develop a progressive timeline and implementation plan with a focus on providing clear and consistent communication throughout the process.

### Proposed amalgamation process timeline:

September 15, 2020	Notification to the Minister of Municipal Affairs
September 2020 to August 2021	Collect all related amalgamation information and data for consideration. Negotiation of the mandatory and transitional matters overviewed in the Municipal Government Act (MGA)
February to June 2021	Public and Stakeholder engagement
September 2021	Anticipated submission of the amalgamation report and application, if proceeding, to the Minister of Municipal Affairs

Public engagement is an important component of this process. Throughout the entire program, both municipalities are committed to keeping community members informed at regular intervals through online information and engagement tools with opportunities to provide feedback, ask questions and participate in process events.

The first public event, an online engagement kick-off, will outline the amalgamation process and timelines, discuss

process related questions, and collect feedback on the topics community members want further clarification on.

For more information, community members are welcome to attend on one of the following dates and times

March 30, 2021 6:30pm-7:30pm, or April 1, 2021 10:30am-11:30am.

Anyone wanting to participate in these events is encouraged to register here: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/N72LSZ2](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N72LSZ2)

Email any questions to: [amalgamation@town.blackdiamond.ab.ca](mailto:amalgamation@town.blackdiamond.ab.ca) or; [amalgamation@turnervalley.ca](mailto:amalgamation@turnervalley.ca)


Additional public activities will be held in the spring and in the early summer of 2021 to report back on the Amalgamation process. Announcements will be made when the event dates are confirmed.

*"We value and respect the views of our community and encourage all residents to visit our websites for more information and to provide feedback on the amalgamation process,"* said Turner Valley Mayor, Barry Crane.

*"The questions and feedback we receive through our communication channels are extremely important to us and the input we receive will be considered by both councils before making a final decision,"* added Black Diamond Mayor, Ruth Goodwin.

Amalgamation information will be updated at regular intervals on both town websites and will continue to be updated regularly throughout the project.

*Black Diamond: [www.town.blackdiamond.ab.ca](http://www.town.blackdiamond.ab.ca)  
Turner Valley: [www.turnervalley.ca](http://www.turnervalley.ca)*



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**H**ooray, hooray, our little library is open today. We are back to our regular hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 10am to 5pm. Our phone number is 403.558.3927.

It is still recommended that books be quarantined for 72 hours after arrival to the library, so Lynda will call you when they arrive.

Story Walks will continue when the weather is fine. They are extremely popular. Thought is being put into the upcoming Summer Reading Program, so stay tuned for information about this.

Lynda is hoping to acquire a kit for passes to our National Parks for the summer months. They would be free, as well as the rental of binoculars, compasses and a guide book. Again, watch for more about this.

Louise Penny and Hillary Clinton have written a mystery novel that will be

out in October. Hillary has long been an admirer of Penny, and they became friends when Hillary was in Montreal for a time. It is called *The State of Terror*, and it is a high stakes thriller of international intrigue.

February was an important month for all readers. Freedom To Read Week was from February 21 to 27. It was a week when Canadians were encouraged to think about and reaffirm their commitment to intellectual freedom. It is overseen by the committee of the Book and Periodical Council. Many great books have been banned, many of them classics and more recently Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, Fredrik Backman's *Bear*, and the Harry Potter books. And this week, Dr. Seuss!

What can you do to help this situation? You can talk about the issue with your family and friends, put up posters and talk with your librarian and the owners of bookshops nearby.

February was also Black History Month. It was a month to celebrate the Arts and Culture of our black neighbours. There are many many writers in this group of both fiction and non-fiction.

Some are: *The Gutter Child* by Jael Richardson, *The Polished Hoe* by Austin Clarke and *What We All Long For* by Dionna Brand.

A good read is *The Book Club* by Mary Alice Munroe. It's such a moving story, you will wish you were a member, too. The bookclub is a very close group of friends who share their trials, triumphs and love and respect for each other.

Another is *Miss Benson's Beetle* by Rachel Joyce, author of *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*. It is an engaging tale of an unmarried woman who is an amateur entomologist, and along with her colourful friend set out to find a golden beetle on the remote island of New Caledonia. If they find it, they hope to give it to the Natural History Museum. The story has a touch of whimsy and is a delightful read.

And, March 8-11th is Canada Reads Week. This is CBC's Battle of the Books. Seven authors have been chosen to submit their books, their value will be debated and each day a book will be eliminated, with the winner chosen on the last day.

*Happy Reading!*  
Sylvia Binkley, [sliv@telus.net](mailto:sliv@telus.net)

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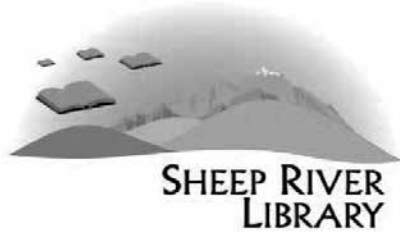
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Much to our surprise, libraries were moved from Stage 3 to Stage 2 of the province's re-opening plan, able to open as early as March 2 with 15% capacity. It took us a few more days to get our ducks in a row (actually, they were more like squirrels, and they were everywhere) and we re-opened on March 8 and we are loving having patrons back in the building. There are lots of new items that have been added to the collection during the closure, many still on our "new" shelves just waiting for you to come and peruse. Our hours for now are Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm and Saturday Noon to 4pm. All services are available: public computers, wifi, faxing/scanning and circulation desk services. We will still provide curbside pick up for those patrons who request it. All returning items must still be put in the outside drop box and all items will be quarantined for

72 hours before being checked in. We have not set any time limits for how long people can remain in the building, so you can sit by the fireplace and read, or use the study spaces. Masks are mandatory in the building and we ask that you please sign in in the binder by the circulation desk for contact tracing purposes. We also have separate entry and exit doors. All surfaces are disinfected regularly for your safety.

Programs will be reintroduced as soon as it is safe to do so. The Summer Reading Program will be running this year beginning in July, but we are not sure yet what format it will take. We are in the process of providing more outdoor and online programming thanks to the Friends Foundation receiving a New Horizons Grant. This will enable us to buy more snowshoes and safety equipment, bring in some trainers and speakers, set up a Zoom account, and provide laptops and tablets to program facilitators. Part of the funds will be used to make the Reading Garden a more useful space by installing outdoor heaters and lighting and more comfortable chairs. A new brochure will be available soon setting out the virtual and off-site program opportunities.

We have found that many patrons realized that knowing how to access e-books and other electronic resources during the past year saved their sanity. We also know that there are many of you who wished they possessed this knowledge. Now is the time to act. If you wish to learn how to download e-books, please make an appointment with Gita on Friday afternoons and she will get you set up. Although we hope it does not happen, another closure could occur (and we're back to squirrels everywhere again). E-resources are free to access and include much more than books: magazines, newspapers (thousands), movies, music, language learning and research sites. Don't feel you will have gone over to the dark side. Physical books will still be here for you, anytime.

If your membership expired during the past few months, please come in and renew! The cheerful staff at the circulation desk are happy to do this for you.

Please check our Facebook and website for update on hours and happenings. We also try to keep the phone message up to date. (Remember the squirrels!) Things have a tendency to change quickly.

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*Due to COVID-19, Screen Test is taking a number of precautions to ensure the safety of our clients and staff. Details will be shared when you call to book your appointment.*





# Square Butte Community

The Board has been working hard the last month compiling information and putting together a submission for the prov. grant Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) in the amount of \$140,000 which we need for the basement wall restoration. We then approached the County of Foothills for support and through our Councilor Jason Parker, Division 3, put forward motions to council that were approved as follows: 1. The county will issue tax receipts for donations over \$100. 2. They will waive any associated development fees or permit fees to complete proposed repairs. 3. County will have the Safety Codes department work with Square Butte at no cost. 4. Council will support Square Butte's fundraising efforts with matching funds up to \$35,000.

*"It is a well-loved facility and even though it is far out west, it does get quite a bit of use",* said Parker Councilor Alan Alger, who was in full support of contributing to the repairs. *"I'm certainly supportive of helping out our community halls,"* said Alger. *"They are the lifeblood of areas".*

Several of the Councilors spoke in favor of supporting Square Butte's project and we thank each of them for their backing and encouragement.

Jason acknowledged our communities commitment to provide volunteer labour and to continue to raise funds to ensure we qualify for the county's matching grant of \$35,000. *"They have skin in the game and they are raising the funds and are going to be doing a lot of the work: This hall was donated to the community and moved on to the volunteer built foundation in 1961 and has been well-maintained by the community".*

This brings us to our online auction which will launch in April. We are reaching out to our community and supporters for your submissions to contribute to this auction. Some items of interest that have been donated are: Custom picture frames; a half day's work with skid steer; a pickup load of firewood; leather purses; a house

concert by Lightfoot & Jeffery; a copy of *Foothills Echoes*, a local history book; a bed quilt; a camp hatchet with sheath; Milwaukee 12 volt heated jacket; a Mega Bloks 1300 piece antique steam engine kit; a Pampered Chef goodie basket; 4 bottles of Scotch; a septic tank pump out; a B&D cordless combo tool kit and 2 hours shop time.

Please contact Lisa at 403.606.6161 or email [contact@squarebuttehall.com](mailto:contact@squarebuttehall.com) with your auction items or for information on hall rentals.

Look for more Square Butte information at our website: [Squarebuttehall.com](http://Squarebuttehall.com)

Facebook: *Friends and Neighbors of 762*

Financial: [sq.butte.comm.assoc@gmail.com](mailto:sq.butte.comm.assoc@gmail.com)

Submitted by Mary Ann Watson



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## Bird Family is Blue After Wild Housing Market Takes Flight and Goes Sky High:

*ASCCA to Help Get Them Off the Ground With Low Wingcome Housing Project*

**W**e are the Turdidae family (Mountain Bluebird species) and we are looking at buying a new home to raise our young. Ideally, we'd like a small, one room box with a 1 inch hole entryway - not facing North - in a grasslands neighborhood. The house should be 5 to 8 feet off the ground as this helps our children stay safe from any unfriendly neighbours. To help us with gathering food, insect-adjacent is a must. We enjoy morning sun and afternoon shade the most and the house can only be made of wood, as these things help keep our gas and electricity bills low. We are willing to pay condo fees to have somebody come by in February and September to clean our box while we are away for the winter.

Here at the Ann & Sandy Cross Conservation Area (ASCCA), we have over 100 bird boxes designed to house Mountain Bluebirds and Tree Swallows. We also get a few House Wrens here and there. These birds are cavity dwellers and competition for quality cavities in trees is very high. To help solve this problem, we build and install bird boxes all over the area. These boxes are built to be ideal homes for these birds, which then are able to make a nest inside the box and raise their young.



We do not want invasive species like the House Sparrow to make nests in these boxes, which is why the doors are only 1-inch wide – unwanted birds will be too big to fit inside! Boxes have to be placed up 5 to 8 feet high so that predators like cats, raccoons, and coyotes cannot get in. However, with that comes one of the difficulties we have at the ASCCA - 5 to 8 feet high is perfect scratching post height for the local cows, which are part of the area's grazing program. As for the no North facing entries - it's because we do not want the wind going right through their box.

Temperature regulation is very important for a successful nest. If it is in the sun all day it can get too hot and hurt the birds inside, and if it is only in the shade it will be too cold. A

combination of the two is best. Metal does not retain heat very well and can get too warm, which is why wood is the best material to build the boxes out of.

Cleaning out the boxes in September makes sure that there are open spaces when the birds come back in late March. We do a second cleaning prior to their arrival in case any other animals moved in during the winter.

If you want to get involved in bird boxes at home feel free to contact Andrew at [lgriffin@crossconservation.org](mailto:lgriffin@crossconservation.org) and we can provide you with some start up resources. Thank you to our ASCCA volunteers, Chevron employees and our day campers for helping us build homes for aspiring bird families.

*By Andrew Stafford*

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# Red Deer Lake United Church

We have decided to cancel all in-person services and programs until further notice, putting our energy and time into continuing to care for our community and evolving our online services and programs.

We are posting virtual church services on YouTube and our website for

you to enjoy each week. Watch all of our online services here: [reddeerlakeuc.com/sundayvideos](http://reddeerlakeuc.com/sundayvideos)

We also have pub nights, Bible studies, meditations, music, and family activities online. You can see everything we have to offer on our website: [reddeerlakeuc.com](http://reddeerlakeuc.com).

If you need support during this time, our Congregational Care team may be able to help. Please reach out by contacting us at [office@reddeerlakeuc.com](mailto:office@reddeerlakeuc.com). For more information about our church, please call

us at 403.256.3181.

Located on Highway 22X about five minutes west of Spruce Meadows, Red Deer Lake United Church is an inclusive and affirming community of faith – people of all ages, perspectives, and stories, who gather to connect with God, each other, and ourselves, and find in Jesus a new way of being human and alive in the world.

*You're welcome, wanted, and accepted.  
Join us on the journey.*

## Black Diamond Strong Seeks Strength In Numbers!

How do you feel these days? Just like the seasons come and go, wellbeing moves along a continuum. At your best you have energy, sleep well and take things in stride. Difficult times might cause sadness, anger or anxiety and when you withdraw from people or responsibilities, it is a sure sign you are hurt. With panic attacks, suicidal thoughts and addictions to cope with, things have reached the point of illness.

Once you feel defeated and beaten down, it is really hard to figure out how to get up. Finding someone you are comfortable sharing your misery with

is a huge mountain to climb. Mustering energy to start the search is often more than you can handle. What makes it worse is the feeling of disconnect from a world where you feel out of place and do not belong while others seem able to handle what comes their way. The importance of community cannot be understated as we do find strength in numbers.

Many people are raised to tough it out, smarten up and get a grip. Others are very good at keeping up appearances. If it were only that simple. The last thing we need when we are hurt is the burden of feeling a failure. Some storms are too much to endure by yourself. What I do know from personal and professional experience is that it helps to share stories that allow us to speak

our truths, face our fears, connect, find common goals and move forward feeling stronger.

Black Diamond Strong is about learning together, inspiring each other, and taking turns. What we need right now is people who want to take part in the discussion.

All ideas and thoughts are welcome. Residents are invited to share personal stories by email to [diamondvalleystrong@gmail.com](mailto:diamondvalleystrong@gmail.com) or in writing at Black Diamond Strong, p/a FCSS 301 Centre Avenue West, Black Diamond TOL 0H0.

*Riny Tuithof de Jonge  
Community Animator Black Diamond  
Black Diamond Strong  
Mental Wellness Movement  
[diamondvalleystrong@gmail.com](mailto:diamondvalleystrong@gmail.com)*

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**Y**eah! We are now officially allowed to open and also allowed to use our wonderful volunteers. We are currently assessing our volunteer roster and because of that we are going for a gradual re-opening. Effective immediately we will be open on Tuesdays, 9-12 and Wednesdays from 12-7:30. In a few weeks we will add Tuesdays 12-3, Wednesdays 9-12, and Thursdays 9-12 and 12-3. Check on our Instagram and Facebook accounts for that announcement and information on any upcoming events or art exhibits.

Our legendary Summer Program will run this summer, probably mostly outdoors (very popular last year). Again, watch our social media for updates.

The library is looking very bright and spacious with its new shelving so come in and browse (that sounds so good after a year!) and check out the many new books.

***Reading seems to be ever more popular, particularly among our younger patrons. Here are two book reviews from two Millarville School students.***

*The Wheel of Time* series by Robert Jordan is a 15-book fantasy series full of adventure, quests, fantastic creatures, betrayal and loyalty. In book one the story follows the main character Rand and his companions who have to journey to a far away land. With many twists and turns in the action, at times you wonder who is good and who is bad. This story is full of sword fights and magic. The imagery the author uses makes the story more vivid in the reader's mind. For example, in book two, one of the main characters, Mat, has to find a ruby-hilted dagger or else he will die. The way the author described this made me feel like I was in the book and makes this series stand

above other fantasy novels. The author weaves together different storylines that meet up throughout the story and eventually collide at the climax. This book was so good, I couldn't put it down and I can't wait to read the next book in the series.

*Review by Bergen Polivka*

*Riding Freedom* by Pam Munoz Ryan: If you love horses you will love this book! Based on the true story of Charlotte Darkey Parkhurst, this award-winning book takes place in the time of the US gold rush. Born in an orphanage for boys, Charlotte always dreamed that one day she would have her own ranch with horses. This dream took her on many adventures. Charlotte became a famous stagecoach driver and was known for being the best to get people to where they wanted to go. She was also known for being the first woman to vote in U.S. history. I loved this book because it showed that if you follow your dreams and stick with it you are capable of anything. I think that readers from 8-11 would enjoy this book.

*Review by Sabine Polivka*

Thanks you Bergen and Sabine for two great reviews. We are always looking for reviews like this and reviews from adult library patrons too. Contact Natasha at the library. The High Country News and the Trackwatch deadline is around the middle of every month.

And here's a great read for grown-ups, or "growing-ups" (you never stop growing when that next book is on the nightstand, or in

the library!)

*Indians on Vacation* is by Thomas King, legendary novelist, short story writer, poet, scriptwriter, photographer and award winner. Inspired by a handful of old postcards sent by Uncle Leroy nearly a hundred years earlier, Bird and Mimi spend their vacations trying to trace Mimi's long-lost uncle and the family medicine bundle he took with him to Europe.

Their journey throughout Europe careens from the wildly funny to the political, through the baggage and foibles and guilt that we all carry with us wherever we go, especially when we travel and are confronted with "inconvenient truths."

In an excellent Writers and Company interview (Google it) Thomas King tells Eleanor Wachtel that while echoes of King and his wife creep in, it is not autobiographical. "I always wondered what I was going to do be able to do with all the travel that my wife drags me off on. And so I decided, well, I'll write a book about that. And so I did."

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## Shelter

by Andrea Kidd



Shelter provides respite from pressure. Some pressure comes from outside; from others. Some pressure comes from inside; from unreasonable or unfulfilled expectations of myself.

*Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.*

*I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." (Psalm 91:1, 2)*

This is good. A constant reminder of these words keeps the mind and emotions on track and prevents them from running amok to cause destruction.

As we walked along the Highwood River this afternoon I noticed sheltering in various guises.

We were plunging through a thicket of wild roses. Their thorns grabbed our jeans and held tight to hold us back but we pushed them aside and tore

away from them. Those woody stems were sheltering live stems, harbouring shoots that will burst into fragrant pink blooms in a few short months.

Beneath our feet, not far underground, last year's lupine seedlings were sleeping under their protective blanket of snow, ready to sprout in the spring and sprinkle the field with their spikes of pale purple florets.

At the edge of the steep river bank we gazed at the still, glazed water of the Highwood. The water, frozen into immobility on the surface, yet flowing freely below, is providing a sheltered home for rainbow trout, bull trout and pike as they quietly wait out the winter. The ice, a gleaming blue-green sheen, invited us to peer down into the depths but we could not see the creatures hidden below.

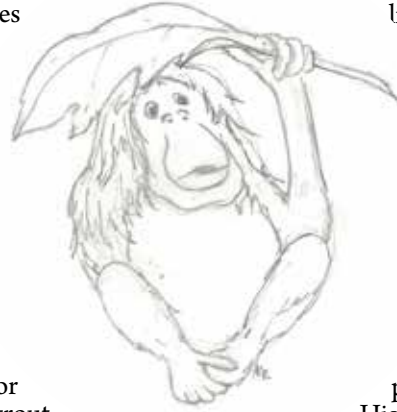
Along the cliff's edge masses of juniper ground cover peeped out from under the snow. The roots of these plants

spread out and firmly grip the soil. In other places, where there were no juniper roots, the dirt, stones and even trees were slipping into the river. Small plants protect river banks and the fate of trees.

On we walked in deep snow, our feet sheltered from cold, wind and wet in our cozy fleece lined boots, through some scrubby wild rose sprigs. Some stems were swollen with brown rose galls, another protection, both for the rose and the wasp larvae.

As God provides shelter for insects, plants and river creatures, He also provides shelter for me. His love and acceptance protect my soul from everlasting damage and bring healing from the harsh elements of human life. Then I am better equipped to handle pressure with truth, wisdom, courage and strength.

*Illustration by Russ Rodman*



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In a classic *Peanuts* comic strip, Charlie Brown goes to Lucy for psychiatric help. He says, “What can you do when you don’t fit in? What can you do when life seems to be passing you by?” Lucy leads Charlie away from her booth and says, “Follow me. I want to show you something. See the horizon over there? See how big this world is? See how much room there is for everybody? Have you ever seen any other worlds?” Charlie replies meekly, “No.” She continues, “As far as you know, this is the only world there is... right?” Even more meekly, Charlie says, “Right.” Lucy presses on, “There are no other worlds for you to live in... right?” Charlie admits, “Right.” “You were born to live in this world... right?” “Right,” says Charlie. Lucy then explodes, “Well, live in it then! Five cents, please.” While we may disagree with Lucy’s counseling technique, we recognize she is on to something. Eleanor Roosevelt put it this way, “*You would not worry about what others are thinking of you if you realized they weren’t thinking of you.*”

In coming to terms with where we fit, or our life’s purpose, I would like to introduce you to three people:

1. The Driven – The victor: These are the prosperous, the powerful, the performers
2. The Dismissed – The victim: These are the disenfranchised, disengaged and deserted
3. The Disciplined – The victorious: These triumph over failure, trample on obstacles and tend to their responsibilities.

***The Driven—The victor***

He’s rich. He wears Italian shoes and tailored suits. He has diversified investments. He has unlimited credit on a platinum card. He lives like he flies — first class. He’s young. He pumps away fatigue at the gym and slam-dunks old age on the court. His belly is flat, his

eyes sharp. Energy is his trademark, and death is an eternity away. He’s powerful. If you don’t think so, just ask him. You’ve got questions? He’s got answers. You’ve got problems? He’s got solutions. You’ve got dilemmas? He’s got opinions. He knows where he’s going, and he’ll be there tomorrow. He’s the new generation. He has mastered the three “Ps” of life: Prosperity, Posterity, and Power. The skies are clear blue, and his hot air balloon is being driven by a moderate breeze. From his perspective, he is on top of the world.

***The Dismissed—The victim***

This person lives under a cloud. Misfortunes, financial reversals and unforeseen circumstances have shattered his dreams, scandalized his trust and shortened his vision. As T S Eliot put it, he is one of the “*hollow men who has shape without form, and shade without color.*” This person is jaundiced with envy, corrupted with covetousness, and calloused by disappointment. The government, his parents, his partner, his firm, and many others share the blame for his failure to live up to his potential.

My brother owned a company that built customized homes. His land development projects did not have cookie cutter homes. He discovered a piece of land that had real developmental potential. He presented his plan to the city planning commission and received high commendation and verbal approval. His desire was to include family and close friends in the investment. However, the city council reversed the planning commission’s verbal commitment. He was left with over a million dollars’ worth of land that couldn’t be developed. His personal debt was just over a million dollars plus what others had invested. The agricultural land freeze had sabotaged his plan and left him in a “sinkhole.” He had a decision to make: become a victim or look for a creative solution. Together we worked out a creative solution and the bank agreed. This solution opened the door for him to step into his life’s purpose.

***The Disciplined—The victorious***

The disciplined person will not allow themselves to wallow in self-pity, sink

in the quagmire of self-doubt or cocoon in the prison of self-protection. The victorious person does not have to win the game or come in first. But they do need to know that they have given their best effort to the contest. The movie, *When The Game Stands Tall*, tells the true story of the high school football team that had 151 successive victories. The team’s first loss, plus the heart attack of the coach, plunged the team into despair. What brought the team out of the slough of despondency? A resilient coach who taught them that victory was not about winning. Victory is concentrating all of one’s talents and energy on the task at hand so that when the game ends, I know that I have given everything I have. Furthermore, it is having the security to say, “Who could help me do a better job than I have done?” Never measure your success in the war by an individual battle.

I remember reading the account of a father who arrived at his son’s baseball game late. He looked at the scoreboard and saw that score was 17-0 in favor of the opposing team. His son was on third base. He called to him and said, “Son, what is wrong? You are down 17-0!” The son replied, “Don’t worry dad! It’s only the first inning.”

The disciplined person never allows the score to determine what he puts into the game. Adversity is the gymnasium that produces champions. Adversity, pushback and rejection have the potential of developing our capacity to not impose our personal timelines on people and projects. That strengthens our ability to keep persevering until the goal is achieved. Those two strategies develop character that is trustworthy. That character enables us to invest in people without consideration of what we will get in return. Personally, I can’t think of a better formula for success in life. At the end of the day success is not measured by what you possess but rather by what you become. In fact, what profit is there if I amass great wealth but end up losing my own soul? What am I willing to give in exchange for the eternal destiny of my soul?

Keep looking up and I will see you at the top.

**Should You Buy First Or Sell First?**

Like the saying "What comes first: the chicken or the egg?"; there is no generally correct answer to the classic real estate problem of whether it's better to buy first or sell first.

Moving from one house/property to another involves the financial risk of carrying two properties simultaneously or ending up having to find temporary accommodation and having to move twice. Here are the advantages and disadvantages of both alternatives for you to ponder. Of course your decision in this regard will be affected by your risk quotient and financial resources.

**If You Buy First:**

1. You will have the satisfaction and security of knowing where you are moving to.
2. The smart thing to do is to include a clause in the offer stipulating that the purchase is subject to the sale of your house/property by a certain date (such as say 60 days) and find out if the seller agrees.
3. If you need new financing, there will have to be an appropriate clause to that effect.
4. Because of these two "subject to" clauses, you will have reduced bargaining power (in comparison with a subject-free cash offer) i.e. the seller will be less inclined to negotiate on his/her asking price.
5. Then there is the uncertainty of whether your property will sell during the limited time period. This may be particularly the case if you are selling an expensive acreage, as they can take a long time, especially if overpriced to market. To avoid tying up a client's house needlessly, a listing realtor will most often insist on inserting an escape clause that allows the seller to continue to market the property while he/she waits for you to sell and should they receive another acceptable offer in the meantime they will give you 24 or 48 hours to remove all your "subject to" clauses and make your purchase offer firm and binding. Failure to do so will render the contract null and

void and the seller will be free to accept the other offer.

6. The lending institution that will grant the new mortgage for you may not give a firm commitment until your property is sold. Besides the uncertainty of how much new financing you will need, the problem may be your inability to carry two houses/properties.

7. Next, you will find yourself under pressure to sell within a limited amount of time frame and in many cases your existing property will need to go to market quickly. Of course if you have the luxury of a strong financial position you may be able to buy without having to sell quickly to close on the other deal but many sellers do not have that situation.

8. Selling in a seller's market compounds additional problems. Over-optimistic or unrealistic sellers may tend to overestimate their home's marketable value and underestimate the length of time that is required to sell their property.

9. You will not have the luxury of being able to hold out for a more ideal price. In fact you may be forced to progressively reduce your list price in order to attract an offer. On the other hand if priced well and in an attractive price bracket you may get quick results.

10. To add insult to injury you may be served (during the 60 days you have to sell) with the 24-hour escape clause before your old house is sold. For many people, it is too risky to borrow bridge financing and to carry two properties. In that case, you have no choice but to step aside and lose out on the other home of choice.

In summary, if you buy first, chances are that you will buy high (less bargaining

power as yours is not sold) and sell low (due to time pressure) and /or you may lose out anyway on the house of choice.

**If You Sell First:**

1. The preliminaries of putting the property on the market can be taken care of without wasting precious time.

2. While your property is for sale, there is nothing to stop you from familiarizing yourself with what is on the market and should you find a suitable home before you have a firm offer on the existing property, the "subject-to-sale" method is available.

3. If you get an offer on your existing property before you have found something you like, then you do have the luxury of being able to drive a tougher bargain (to make only small concessions on your asking price). Furthermore, you can negotiate a possible long possession of yours to provide ample time to look for another property. I personally have negotiated at times up to 6 months or more for sellers who have not found another home before selling.

4. If your buyers are renters, then a long possession date should be no problem. A long possession date could be a bargaining factor and should be attempted on all offers.

5. After you have received a firm offer with a substantial deposit (for your peace of mind), you can get your mortgage financing pre-approved.

6. Try to drive a favourable purchase price on your next purchase. The owner of the house you want to buy will view you as a cash buyer and may be more disposed to making price concessions.




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## Out of the Rut Chapter 128



**H**ow much influence has the “now” factor had on your life? When would you like it to happen? Those two sentences were jotted down at some point as a moment of inspiration or potential for this column. I wonder where my head was at when I wrote that? Now, I have no idea. How times and circumstances alter cases.

Recently I’ve been very sensitive to the immediacy of everything online, the way in which exponential increases in computing capacity and speed have overrun into the rest of life and how little patience any of us - myself I guess, since I’m the only person I really know when I’m rambling on like this - have these days. With anything. Most notably myself. *(insert appropriate emoticon here)*

And on a completely different note. I am thrilled by the changing season. Sunday February 28 I stood on my deck and then sat down on it. It was gorgeous. Warm and sunny and delicious, despite a foot of snow on the ground just below. Blessed with great weather for hanging out in the garden listening to the birds sing and watching their never-ending free entertainment. I highly recommend it.

A week or so of Chinook thaw later... walking in sunshine along the erratically eroding cliffs of sedimentary layers formed by a winter’s plough-slung snow. Strata defined by fine lines of grit, oily

residue from a particularly interesting freeze-thaw-big-truck-passing cycle, pristine snow crystals, granular, solid, all packed so hard we can clamber all over these temporary geological morphlets.

I alternate my perambulation this afternoon between scrambling along a steep bank where accumulated snow hugs contours and lies thick over fallen trees to disguise and surprise. I step on the surface and walk across a tightrope of uncertain length, random patches of light and shade reflect or mask the depth or strength of the freeze beneath making for an interesting stumbling gait as I sink up to my knees in places. I hang onto the slenderest tree branches for support as I pass. One tall poplar shivers and shifts as I wrap my fingers around its narrow waist, I prop it back into position so it may fall fully when the next significant breeze finds its way through there.

Climbing up a slope into and through the pools of light, I follow the snow’s edges where the reveal of winter grass and desiccated leaves form percussive orchestras beneath the trees. I sit below the spread branches of a spruce, wondering whose pad I am invading right now. Deer tracks, relatively fresh, have led me to this place. I watch the gold orb hanging in the western sky, beaming heat straight at me, partially obscured by the tall spruce marching up the westward slope beyond me to cut off the warmth of the setting sun. I imagine

sweeping the tops of trees away to open a swathe of pure light across this second hill, but the light as it is, filtered and transfigured by its journey, is perfect.

Further into the valley, the opening of the slopes forms a cradle for the sunlight to roll in and play for hours. I walk with random thoughts colliding and not so random footfalls pushing the road behind me pace by pace. At a certain



point I turn to retrace my steps, stripping layers as this valley’s warmth seeps deep through me. Hat gone, jacket off, next layer doffed... it’s a beautiful spring day, the birds are singing joyously, the ground is beginning to warm after that recent deep-freeze doled out a good dose of winter.

Then I reach the foot of the hill, the trees rise up around me with their dour expressions of forbidding indifference, the temperature plummets

in the space of a stride and I find myself fully clad once more. Dramatic changes, even prodding myself to maintain pace uphill, the deep-freeze has done its work here. It will take more than this afternoon’s sunshine to thaw us out for real.

We move forward into Spring with new hope and blooming ideas. Looking forward to seeing more of you!

*With gratitude and love,  
Kat Dancer*

*bodymudra@gmail.com  
403.931.3866 (h), 415.525.2630 (c)*

*continued from previous page*

7. I suggest the longer the possession, the larger to the deposit. Although virtually all deals close as no buyer wants to face a lawsuit for not closing, a very long possession may give a buyer too much time to deal with possible buyer’s remorse.

8. If you sell first and buy later, there is nothing to stop you from looking while marketing your property, and if you

play your cards right, you will hopefully sell high and buy low.

Regrettably, there is no universally perfect solution to this dilemma. You will have to weigh the risks of having to move before the next place is available. For instance, if you bunk with friends or relatives or rent temporary quarters, there is the expense of having to move twice, storing the furniture somewhere and possibly having to put a pet into

a kennel. For some, there may be the question of where the children will go to school. For what it is worth, all of these problems are surmountable and merely inconveniences in comparison with the financial burden and fiasco of having to carry two properties for an indeterminate length of time.

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**What Is Vaping?**

It is the act of inhaling and exhaling vapors heated from nicotine, flavored “e-juice”, marijuana or hash oil that are suspended in propylene glycol and vegetable glycerin. These liquids or solids are contained in a sleek looking metal device called a ‘vape’, ‘vaporizer’ or often called ‘juuling’. The use of vaping has skyrocketed especially among teens. Approximately 2.1 million middle to high school students (illegal and under-aged) were users in 2017.

**What Is The Connection?**

ADHD teens are particularly susceptible because they have a neurochemical condition that results

in impulsivity and inattentiveness. The three core deficits that contribute to the act of vaping is their inability to sustain attention to work, inability to focus and poor impulse control. Furthermore, they struggle socially with a constant worry about what they have said, they want to be liked, to fit in and belong. The truth is that vaping does not make you happier, nor improves your social status!

**How To Feed The Need For Speed?**

ADHD teens are already at risk for nicotine addiction, as they are low on naturally occurring dopamine and norepinephrine levels in the brain. Nicotine is a central nervous system stimulant. So, when it is inhaled, it will release dopamine. Most people are: ready, aim, fire. ADHD people are: ready, fire, aim. Let’s just do it and think about the repercussions later. It feels good. I like it. I want more. Some brand name pods contain 5% nicotine, which is equivalent to one pack of cigarettes. That does not necessarily mean that the other 95% of the pod, mod, juice, e-liquid or cap consists of

water. It could be a mix of as much as 700 different carcinogenic compounds that are harmful for your health and developing brain.

**What Can Go Wrong?**

Many devices contain batteries... a risk

for a leakage or an explosion (during storage or charging, inhalation or in your pocket). The actual device heats up to 400F to turn the liquid into vapour. Even though there is no tar, side-effects can include addiction, painful mouth sores, hoarse voice, permanent lung damage and chronic bronchitis. When teens with ADHD try to stop vaping, the same or worse symptoms that they try to manage with their general ADHD are exacerbated, i.e. anxiety, inattention or insomnia.

**What Can Parents Do?**

You can check. There are simple, easy to use dipstick urine tests available to accurately detect the amount of nicotine-cotinine. You can help them escape a bad situation.

- Create a word or phrase that only you know the meaning of and means: “PICK ME UP or HELP!”
- Have a plan for youth to leave an uncomfortable or unsafe situation IMMEDIATELY. No questions asked.
- Teens should always share their location with their parents.
- Talk openly about nicotine addiction and vaping. Consult an addiction counselor if needed.

**When Saying “No” Is Not Enough... Then Script**

- Not sure if you know, but I got into enough trouble the last time to last me forever.
- Keep a bottled drink or lemonade with you at parties. “I’m covered”. Students are less likely to offer other substances if they see you already have something in your hand.

• Blame your parents for finding out. They would be happy to be the scapegoats.

• Find something to do. Look busy. Get up and dance. Offer to DJ.

Sources:

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## Should I go Variable or Fixed?

Ahhh... the most common question asked by my mortgage clients: "Should I go with a variable rate mortgage or a fixed rate mortgage?" Especially lately when we have variable rates as low as prime -1.05% (=1.40%) on new purchases. To better understand what the answer is, we must first understand the difference between the two.

Variable rate mortgages are linked to the prime lending rate, which are directly influenced by The Bank of Canada. Our central bank sets its targets for the overnight lending rate, a schedule of eight fixed dates each year, in order to affect the various elements of the national economy relating to its monetary policy (inflation, the dollar, etc.).

A lender funding a portfolio of variable rate mortgages will attempt to match these mortgage assets against a portfolio of variable rate deposits (savings deposits or Banker's Acceptances [a short term investment issued by a financial institution]) – attempting to lock in the spread over the duration of the loan. The end result is that, since the lenders' source of funds will fluctuate based on the actual decisions made by the Bank of Canada, so too will variable mortgage rates.

Fixed mortgage rates are an entirely different story. Financial institutions attempt to lock in the spread between the loans they grant and the deposits they use to fund these loans. The ideal source of funds for longer-term fixed rate loans is investment deposits like GICs (which have a fixed rate over a fixed term).

Investment deposit rates, however, have a different competitive pressure – bond yields. An investor looking to determine what yield they are willing to accept on would start with an understanding of the lowest risk equivalent investment. So investors will look at the Government of Canada bond yields as their benchmark. The yield on a bond rate can be thought of as the 'all-in' interest rate – how much an investor would earn, expressed as a percentage, if the investment is purchased at current prices and held to maturity.

Bond yields are volatile and fluctuate in response to political and economic events – both domestically and abroad. Economic factors such as inflation, unemployment, and currency affect bond prices, as does the risk associated with default. Bond investors also negotiate prices based on their expectations.

When setting fixed term mortgage rates, financial institutions will analyze the bond market, since the

lender will ultimately be borrowing money from investors to loan to its mortgage borrowers. When the lender sees what it views as fundamental changes in bond prices, it will act to protect its spread between loan and deposit.

In a nutshell: higher bond yields will increase the lender's cost of funds, which will lead to higher fixed term mortgage rates. As of this writing (mid-March), they're increasing, and so too have fixed interest rates. Lower bond yields tend to lead to lower long-term mortgage rates.

Variable and fixed mortgage rates do not necessarily move in unison as changes are motivated by different factors.


Nevertheless, after all this economic insight the answer to my clients question is quite simple: "Do you have the ability to withstand fluctuations in your monthly mortgage payment?" If the answer is 'yes', then perhaps a variable rate mortgage would work well for you; if the answer is 'no' then a fixed rate it is!

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Koolatron Urban Series 12-bottle single zone thermoelectric slim wine cooler. 10" w-19.5" d-25" h. Never used \$185. Susan 403.242.9617.

Mint condition ladies electric lift chair recliner, rose colour, \$600 OBO. Please call 403.933.2074.

## CHURCHES

Meeting at Valley Neighbors Club Sunday mornings at 11am for worship, Bible investigation, and fellowship meal. Check out [fbfellowship.ca](http://fbfellowship.ca) for other gatherings and Bible studies.

## SERVICES OFFERED

Petsitting services offered by mature, bonded person. Drop in services, daily walks or overnight stays in your home and I will look after almost any type of animal. Please call me at 403-933-5588 or email at [dianemcniven@yahoo.ca](mailto:dianemcniven@yahoo.ca) to get in touch.

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Information contained herein, while not guaranteed, is thought to be correct

# Saint Patrick's words scramble

1. TADPYSTIRICKnaas
2. CHAPELNeur
3. DogL
4. Anbowir
5. ENREG
6. thas
7. Rishij
8. SCROKHamS
9. DarPASE
10. Ningcad



your answers

1.	6.
2.	7.
3.	8.
4.	9.
5.	10.

Arley age 7

ANSWER  
 1. SHAMROCKS  
 2. GREEN  
 3. HATS  
 4. IRISH  
 5. ST. PATRICK'S  
 6. DANCE  
 7. DANCE  
 8. DANCE  
 9. DANCE  
 10. DANCE

**Have a great idea for a puzzle, brain teaser, colouring page or word search?**  
 Have your parent or guardian submit your completed project (have an adult look it over first!) to [submission@highcountrynews.ca](mailto:submission@highcountrynews.ca) and you may see your project in print!  
 We will include your first name and age if you include that information

Submitted by Medina and Dina, ages 13

m	o	o	s	e	w	a	d	e	r
w	s	d	e	f	e	c	i	w	y
w	f	t	e	a	e	k	d	a	f
b	u	t	y	s	p	o	o	n	o
s	n	o	w	s	e	f	e	n	r
n	i	a	n	r	e	d	a	m	k
e	a	n	h	o	c	k	e	y	e
e	a	s	d	e	z	a	b	c	d
c	h	o	c	o	l	a	t	e	f
p	o	n	m	l	k	j	i	h	g

- ice
- tea
- hockey
- chocolate
- moose
- snow
- rain
- spoons
- fork

# KIDS ZONE

This month's Kids Zone generously sponsored by:

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