



Walk a Mile in Her Shoes

Left: Councillor Bill Lane dressed up in heels and a dress this summer, with proceeds going to family and domestic violence programming through FCSS.

Neerlandia New School Project Unveiled

Below: Council and administration attended the public announcement regarding building a new K-9 school in Neerlandia!



Election Results - Introducing the New Council for the 2013-2017 term.

Two Councillors retired this last election, with Ron Kelifeldt replacing Lawrence Miller for Division 3 and Marvin Schatz replacing Marvin Brade in Division 2.



'Take It or Leave It' - Pilot Project Begins at Dunstable Transfer Station

The County of Barrhead has approved a pilot project that will allow residents to 'take or leave' items that are **still useful**. The program begins January 1, 2014 at the Dunstable Transfer Station. A building will house most of the items, however some consideration should be exercised when leaving things behind.

Acceptable items include: Items intact or in working order, furniture without stains or broken parts, electronics in working condition, lumber and construction material in good condition (must stack neatly).

Unacceptable items include: No freezers, refrigerators, clothing, hazardous waste, propane bottles, mattresses or beds, batteries, barbecues, food items, carpet or linoleum, or items easily harmed by the elements.

Items will be cleaned out at month end, so if leaving something behind, please do so closer to the beginning of the month. Questions can be directed to the Public Works Department at 780-674-2619 or the main office at 780-674-3331. Thanks for your cooperation!

COUNTY OFFICE CONTACTS: Main Office: 780-674-3331 Public Works: 780-674-2619

5306- 49 Street, Barrhead, AB T7N 1N5 www.countybarrhead.ab.ca

County News & Views



MISTY RIDGE SKI HILL

VOLUME 14, SPRING 2014

What's Inside?

- Reeve's MessagePage 2
- Public Works.....Page 3
- Agriculture.....Page 3
- In The Community.....Page 4

County of Barrhead No.11
5306-49 Street
Barrhead, AB T7N 1N5
P: 780.674.3331
F: 780.674.2777

www.countybarrhead.ab.ca

New Aquatics Center Update

The community of Barrhead has an important question ahead of them regarding the Barrhead Kinsmen Aquatics Center. The current structure needs to be replaced. Estimated costs vary at last look, from **\$14,648,438 to \$17,250,023** depending on the features contained within the structure. There are 3 variations available for display and discussion at the Town of Barrhead office.

Town Council has requested that the County contribute dollars into the facility. County Council moved on December 17th, 2013 to **hold a plebiscite** in March 2014 to allow you, the electors, to vote on the following:

"Are you in favor of the County of Barrhead No. 11 borrowing a maximum of \$5 Million Dollars for the purpose of providing a maximum \$5 Million Dollar contribution to the Town of Barrhead for the Town's construction of a swimming pool?"

County Council and administration would **very much appreciate your input!** If you have any questions on the project itself, you can call Mark Oberg at the County office, or your Division Councillor, as listed on the next page. The vote is set to take place **March 24th, 2014** with an advance vote option the week prior. Public information sessions will be held in the Lac La Nonne / Dunstable area on March 6, Summerdale Hall on March 10 and Neerlandia area March 14. Please watch the Barrhead Leader and our Webpage at www.countybarrhead.ab.ca for more details on this important issue, including dates, locations and times of the information sessions and the vote.



Upcoming Events & Notices

- **Bloomsbury Skidoo Poker Rally** - February 8, 2014
- **Misty Ridge Ski Hill** - Family Day Celebrations - Feb 17, 2014
- **Gardenview St. Patricks Day Dance** - March 15, 2014
- **Community Garden Plots!** Call to reserve now – going fast!
- **Aquatics Centre Plebiscite** Vote - March 24, 2014
- **Annual Pancake Breakfast** - April 8 at the Public Works Shop
- **Volunteer Appreciation Evening** - April 23, 2014 *Nominate someone today!!
- **GROWTH Alberta** - Deadline to nominate your favorite for the 2014 Business Awards is May 1.
- **Batt Traps Mudd Bogg and Quad Rodeo**, Coming in May!
- **Chamber of Commerce Spring Gala** - May 2, 2014
- **Neerlandia July 1st** community celebrations
- **Highridge Rodeo**, July 11, 2014
- **Ag Service Board (County) Summer Tour** - July 29, 2014
- **Lac La Nonne Boat Regala**, Coming in August!
- **Recycling** - Home Hardware accepting **used paint cans**.

* **Check out our 2014 Events Listing** online at www.countybarrhead.ab.ca for details as they are updated.

YOUR COUNCIL:



Bill Lee, Reeve
Division 6
780-584-2323
bill.lee@mcsnet.ca



Doug Drozd, Cr.
Division 1
780-674-3677
ddrozd@telus.net



Marvin Schatz, Cr.
Division 2
780-674-2990
marvin.schatz64@gmail.com



Ron Kleinfeldt, Cr.
Division 3
780-674-3604



Bill Lane, Cr.
Division 4
780-674-3847
thunderlakelanes@gmail.com



Darrell Troock, Cr.
Division 5
780-674-4404
dttroock@xplornet.com



Dennis Nanninga, Cr.
Division 7
780-674-5673
dennisna@live.ca

Reeve's Message

Hello Everyone.

In the last newsletter I talked about the upcoming Alberta 55 Plus Summer Games and the perceived benefits that it would bring to our community... I never envisioned just how successful these games would become. People from across the province came to our communities (Barrhead/ Westlock) and were completely blown away by our hospitality, the facilities, coordination of events, the volunteers and the fantastic food. On the last day, our guests were saying, "best games I have ever been to", and "best games ever"! In the months that followed we received numerous letters congratulating our community for hosting such a wonderful event.

The legacy of the Games is not just left in the memories we made; each of the four municipalities, the Counties and Towns of Barrhead and Westlock, will each share in excess of \$50,000 each to do legacy projects in their community, thanks to the games. This was definitely a win-win for everyone involved and the County of Barrhead was proud to be part of this successful event.

As I write this letter, January 7, 2014, I look across the fields of white from my farm office window and see this thick blanket of snow. The snow has been great for Misty Ridge Ski Hill - yet it has challenged our public works department in keeping up with the snow removal.

While the majority of us were enjoying our Christmas break with friends and family, our operators were working

through, day and night, trying to keep our roads in drivable conditions. Thanks, we appreciate you being there for us.

Our Council is very pleased that because one section of Township Road 604 was constructed by a private contractor, and another section was constructed by our own Public Works staff, the entire 8 mile length of the roadway will now be ready for paving at the same time. This work is scheduled to take place in the next two years. We accessed Federal Gas Tax Funds for this project, with a stipulation to tender for public bid - which we did. We now have a comparison between a contractor's work and work completed by our own public works crew. This spring when the frost comes out we'll be able to compare the two. Questions do arise regarding the benefits to having our own construction crew versus using private contractors. This particular project has not only given us a comparison of quality of work but of cost. We're always trying to get the most mileage out of your tax dollars and it's nice to have this comparison to keep us going in the right direction.

Whether it's putting up with road construction, controlling weeds, yard beautification or volunteering, we appreciate your support as ratepayers. It's a pleasure to serve you, and on behalf of County Council, I thank you for making our County a better place to live!

~ Reeve Bill Lee

Fire Billing and Insurance Coverage

Reminder: An invoice is issued for fire suppression costs if it is necessary to attend a fire on your property, regardless of who started the fire and regardless of who called in the fire alarm.

It is recommended that everyone contact their insurance agent to find out whether their fire insurance pays to have the emergency vehicles attend your property. Policy coverage varies! Contact your agent today to find out what kind of coverage you have.

Public Works Department - Updates

Snow Ridge Problems - The potential danger from pushing snow across roads during snow clearing activities has become a reoccurring issue. Concerns about people pushing snow from their driveway, across the road and into the ditch creates cement-hard ridges that, when hit by drivers, could cause an accident and/or damage vehicles.

County Manager Mark Oberg reports that the problem is an ongoing one. "Our message is that people shouldn't sweep it across the road," he said. "Some people are diligent about trying to remove it all, but if a ridge is left behind, it makes for some risky situations."

For more information on safe clearing practices, call the Public Works Department at 780.674.2619

Road Construction Update - Project on Range Road 40 to Township Road 604

This year road construction will continue on Range Road 40, from Highway 33 north to Township Road 604. We encourage all motorists to watch carefully for traffic signs, warnings and to watch for crews working on or beside the road. Road construction accidents are high on the list of fatalities, so diligence is important. If you need more information on schedules, please call 780.674.2619.



Agriculture Service Board

The Agriculture Service Board is again recognizing many ratepayers for their **Rural Beautification** efforts. Below are the 2013 winners, and some examples of the beautiful yards in our community!

- Division 1: Carl & Rita Bach
- Division 2: David & Donna Olson
Frank & Anjtte Werter
- Division 3: Brad & Denise Degner
David & Celeste Stoik
- Division 4: Dale & Maureen Greig
Carol & Gary Strawson
- Division 5: Herbert & Helen Tischer
Murray & Simone Tuininga
- Division 6: Dale Obrigewitch & Cynthia Jorgenson
Ewald & Mae Kelm
- Division 7: Bruce & Diane Wierenga
David & Gerri Terpsma

Also take time to congratulate the following:

2013 Century Farm and Ranch Award Winners:

- George and Judy Andrews
- The Thompson Family

2013 Conservation Award Winners:

- Geis Angus Farms Ltd.

