

ON THE COWBOY TRAIL

News from Councillor Barb Castell
September 2008

What a wonderful summer we have had. It is heartwarming to see all the bales in the fields with the hawks perched atop - a common sight in our Foothills. The 101st Annual Priddis and Millarville Fair was outstanding. I enjoyed volunteering and viewing the many exhibits, especially the amazing entries by the children.

During Council's summer break, I managed to spend a few days horseback riding in the Kananaskis. Gardening is always a challenge in the Millarville area and this year was no exception. My garden got pummeled by the hail but a little of it came back. This is truly "there is always next year" country.

On August 13th and 14th I attended a Transferable Development Credit (TDC) workshop in Red Deer with four of the MD of Foothill's planners. We found this extremely interesting and informative. Three counties from United States showed us how they have successfully implemented TDCs. In a nutshell, agricultural and other competing land uses can be preserved by transferring residential density while monetarily rewarding the farmers and ranchers for preserving their lands.

I have seen many 911 signs as I drive around the MD. If you have not purchased your sign or are about to put one up, remember it goes on the right hand side of your entrance as you drive in.

Work on the Municipal Development Plan 2010 continues with the 14 member steering committee's dedication. Updates and results of the first open house can be viewed on the MD's website, www.mdfoothills.com.

I am looking forward to the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) Fall 2008 Centennial Convention in Edmonton from November 11th to 14th. This is Council's opportunity to meet with other municipalities and ministers from the Alberta legislature to exchange ideas and to put forth local concerns. For more information on the AAMDC visit their website, www.aamdc.com.

Council and committee work resumed August 28th and I am looking forward to a productive year. I hope everyone enjoys the wonderful Fall days ahead.

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