

ON THE COWBOY TRAIL

News from Councillor Barb Castell

July 2009

After snowing on June 5th and 6th, summer is finally here. The unusual weather brought new birds to my feeders, including Orioles, which really enjoyed eating the oranges I put out. There is a picture of one of them on the top right hand corner of my website, www.thecowboytrail.ca.

Council has been very busy with the Calgary Regional Partnership/Calgary Metropolitan Plan this past year. There was a large turn out at the meeting we held for residents on June 10th at the Foothills Centennial Centre in Okotoks. Those who attended gave us a clear, unanimous message as to the way they wanted us to represent them. We listened and on June 19th our council could not in good conscience vote for the Calgary Metropolitan Plan as it stands now. We have been guided by our residents' concerns and our belief that some of the policies would not be in the best interests of the residents of the MD of Foothills. We were not alone as the MD of Rocky View and the County of Wheatland did not vote for the plan either. Watch for updates in the media over the next few months.

Premier Ed Stelmach paid council a visit on June 24th where he outlined his future plans for Alberta. We had a chance to ask questions and visit with him and express our concerns.

As a board member of Leighton Art Centre, I had the pleasure of attending the re-designation of the centre as an Historical Site on June 12th. Representatives from the Alberta Government made the presentation to our board chairman, Paul Squires. For those of you who have not had the opportunity to visit the Leighton Art Centre, watch for events advertised in the local media or go to their website, www.leightoncentre.org.

Good news for the Millarville Community School! Council has approved a motion to have parking lot and area in front of the school paved. This will cut down on mud being tracked into the school and generally make the area cleaner and nicer looking. If Mother Nature co-operates, the paving will be finished over the summer while the children are on holidays. Just a reminder, the speed limit in Millarville has been lowered to 30 km/h.

If you have plans this summer or fall that involves disturbing the soil, please remember to call before you dig to avoid a potentially dangerous situation. We have already had incidents where gas lines have been hit. For more information contact Alberta One-Call at 1-800-242-3447 or visit their website, www.alberta1call.com.

Council is on summer break until the end of August but the MD offices are open so you can contact any department at 403-652-2341 or 403-931-1905. You can also visit the MD website, www.mdfoothills.com.

On a sad note, we said goodbye to long-time resident, rancher, Councillor, and Reeve, Fred Ball at a tribute at the Black Diamond church on June 3rd. It was an evening filled with stories from Fred's family and friends. Over the past few years I have had many long talks with Fred about farming and the history of this beautiful area that we call home. I will miss those conversations and he will be missed by a grateful community.

Enjoy your summer.

Barb Castell

M.D. Office: 403-652-2341 or 403-931-1905

Home Phone: 403-931-3690

E-Mail: brcastell@thecowboytrail.ca

Web Site: www.thecowboytrail.ca