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The Beaver County Chronicle

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Community public engagement session at Bruce deemed a success

Patricia Harcourt

A community engagement session between Beaver County and residents living in Bruce is being deemed a successful project.

That's due to the uptick in the number of people who came out to provide their opinions on a variety of issues in the hamlet.

Beaver County has jurisdiction over the hamlets of Bruce and Kinsella within the county boundaries. The hamlets can have some of the same kinds of problems as those in the rural areas, but can also have more "urban" style issues as well.

The session was held the afternoon of Thursday, June 13, at the Bruce Community Centre. "We had a great turnout, lots of fantastic feedback and we enjoyed meeting so many of you," reported the county's Communications Officer Tracey Popick.

The residents were provided a unique opportunity and interactive way in which to express their opinions at various stations in the hall.

They ranged from choosing the top three things that make a community a nice place to live, to showing photos of various types of yards and asking

which were found unacceptable (most disliked the 'natural yard' using native plant species).

This was easy to discern due to all the stickers placed on this natural yard picture in this interactive style of communicating with the public.

The journey took participants through the room by following arrows on the floor and moving through the various stations.

At each station, there was information to read or something to do to express an opinion, such as placing stickers on choices provided.

Other questions involved the height grass should be before mowing, how much to mow county owned lots in the hamlet (costs \$180/mo.), whether or not residents should be able to keep backyard chickens, and what kind of storage units should be allowed in the hamlet.

People were asked for their top three concerns regarding unsightly or nuisance properties, and what the main concern was for vehicle storage, including RVs on a property.

Other questions included what the top two noise concerns were, the number of dogs that should be allowed, and information on taxes collected in Bruce and costs to maintain services like roads



Members of Beaver County Council were on hand at the community engagement session in Bruce last Thursday afternoon, including from left: Division 4 Clr. Barry Bruce, Reeve and Division 1 Clr. Kevin Smook, Deputy Reeve and Division 3 Clr. Gene Hrabec and Division 2 Councillor Lionel Williams. Missing from photo: Division 5 Councillor Dale Pederson.

PATRICIA HARCOURT PHOTO

and sidewalks.

Another station showed photos of gravel, Terra-Cem and paved roads and asked which was preferred. And there were questions on how the county should pay for increased service levels.

At the end of the stations and information sessions, people were able to

enjoy a snack and meet with the county councillors on hand.

"Your input is invaluable as we work together to improve our community," Popick said. "We will be compiling the feedback and making it public in the coming weeks. Thanks again for your participation and enthusiasm."

Tofield Lions Club members hand out Canada Day flags to local students

Kari Janzen

Tofield Lions Club members visited the two Grade 1 classes at the Tofield CW Sears Elementary School on Tuesday, June 11, to present each of the 46 students with a Canada flag and a certificate.

"This initiative is called Lions Project Pride and it's where we're helping instill some pride that we're Canadians and we live in Canada," said Lions member Kevin Smook.

Every year children in grade one, in their first year as full-time students, are visited by the Lions Club near the end

of the school year.

"We've been doing this for many, many years, going to the grade one class and handing out a certificate about how great it is to be a Canadian or be in Canada, and also handing each and every grade one student their own Canada flag. We do it around Canada Day, at the end of the school year, because of the natural tie into Canada Day," Smook said.

The Lions' efforts are visible within the community, and they are able to point out and teach the students what the Lions are all about.

"It gives us a chance to interact with

the kids, to ask them some questions about Canada Day, and talk about the things that the Lions do in the community and they all identify with that, because they know the pump track, the toboggan hill, and the Lions playground beside the library, so we're telling them that that's part of what we do, to raise money in the community to support projects like that," Smook said.

"What's really cool is when we go to graduation and we see the same kids that we handed flags out to 12 years ago. It's interesting because you get to know these kids as they grow up."



Lions member Francis Van Engelen hands out flags.

PROTECT OUR WETLANDS AND ROADS: A FRIENDLY REMINDER

Did you know altering wetlands or natural streams without permission from Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (AEPA) is a no-go? It's actually illegal. It's all about keeping our ecosystems thriving and preventing those pesky flooding issues. But hey, we get it, managing land can be tricky. Yet, ditching, trenching, or pumping without AEPA's green light could land you in hot water, including fines or orders to make things right.

Why should we care? Apart from the environmental love, illegal drainage can wreak havoc on our roads. Pooling water weakens road integrity, turning a minor puddle problem into a full-blown road repair headache. That's why, if drainage do-overs affect our roads, we're on it—reporting to AEPA and giving a friendly heads-up to landowners to fix the flow.

But here's the silver lining: Preserving wetlands is akin to hitting an ecological jackpot. These areas are critical habitats for a myriad of species and act as natural drought guards by retaining soil moisture. Without proper care, the unchecked destruction of wetland habitats can lead to decreased moisture in adjacent soils, adversely affecting the productivity of nearby crops. Given the recent dry conditions, holding onto as much water on your land as possible could significantly mitigate the effects of drought.

Noticed more dry patches and troubled roads lately? It's a sign to champion our wetlands. Let's work together to preserve these natural treasures and keep our roads safe. After all, good neighbours and land stewards make Beaver County shine brighter.



2024 COUNTY CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

(SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)	START DATE	EST. END DATE
Culvert Maintenance	Ongoing	Nov 1
Patching oil roads throughout the season	Ongoing	Sep 29
Terra-Cem		
Constructed in the following phases:		
Phase 1 (Cement)		
Phase 2 (Chip Seal - 1st Lift)		
Phase 3 (Chip Seal - 2nd lift)		
Phase 4 (Final sweep of Chips)		
• Twp 490 between Rge Rd 124 & Rge Rd 120 ◦ Phase 1 Complete	Ongoing	Jun 3
• Rge Rd 120 from Twp 490 north for 1 KM	June 13	Jun 17
• Holden Streets	Jun 18	Jun 27
• Rge Rd 161A between Hwy 14 & Hwy 855	Jun 24	Jun 27
• Rge Rd 200 between Hwy 630 & Blackfoot Grazing Reserve entrance	Jul 2	Jul 10
• Rge Rd 202 between Twp 502 & Twp 504	Jul 23	Aug 2
Rechip 2 miles TBD (Contracted for late summer)		
Shoulder Pulls		
• Shoulder pull Rge Rd 202 between Twp 502 & Twp 504	Jul 15	Jul 18
Backsloping (location TBD)	Oct 2	Nov 1
Gravelling	Mar 13	Dec 22
Dust Control- 1st Application		Complete
Dust Control- 2nd Application	Aug 8	Aug 15
TBD - To be Determined		

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Township Road 490: The soil stabilizing for the road base with soil cement is now complete and will be receiving the first layer of chip seal, there may be delays as work crews' direct traffic in order to work safely. There will be many loose rocks after the chip seal layer is applied and speed limits will be reduced on these roads once opened until the project is complete.

Range road 120: Over the next few weeks, Range road 120 from township road 490 north a mile, will be upgraded from an oiled surface to an all-weather hard surfaced road. This involves stabilizing the road base with soil cement before applying two coats of "chip seal". While this process is much different from the process to pave a road with asphalt, the end result will seem similar to residents and the travelling public resulting in a road that is not dusty when it is dry, nor muddy when it is wet.

During this construction period, parts of the roads may be closed for crew safety. Please use alternative routes; detours will be clearly marked. If you must drive through construction zones, proceed with caution (local traffic only). Beaver County's goal is to provide a healthy, injury free work environment for all employees, contractors, visitors and general public. Already this year we have had people exceeding the posted speed limit through our construction zones, endangering staff, contractors and the public.

There are potential hazards to the public and vehicles during the construction process. This can include heavy machinery, dust or mud, road material such as gravel, asphalt coatings and rock chips.

We apologize for the inconvenience that road maintenance and upgrading causes, but the same roads that receive the most traffic also need the most maintenance. Thank-you for your patience and understanding during construction. If you have any questions, please call the Beaver County Service centre at 780-663-3730.



Landfill & Ryley Transfer Station:

50117 Rge Rd 173 (HWY 854) Box 322, Ryley, AB T0B 4A0

Weekdays 9:00am - 4:30pm;

Saturdays / STATS 9:00am - 3:00pm; Closed Sundays

NOTE: customers must arrive at least 15 minutes prior to closing;

Administration building

Mon to Fri 8:00am - 4:00pm, Closed from 12:00 - 1:00pm

Toll Free: 1.855.221.2038 Ph: 780.663.2038

Lindbrook Transfer Station:

51008 Rge Rd 201 Ph: 780.662.2704

Tues 10:30am - 5:30pm; Thurs 11:30am - 6:30pm;

Sat 10:30am - 5:30pm

Tofield Transfer Station:

51032 Rge Rd 191 Ph: 780.662.2731

Wed, Fri & Sat 10:30am - 5:30pm

Viking Transfer Station:

12503 Twp Rd 480 Ph: 780.718.7956

Tues 10:30am - 5:30pm; Sat 10:30am - 5:30pm

Kinsella Transfer Station:

46418 Rge Rd 113 Ph: 780.226.6802

Wed 11:00am - 5:00pm; Fri 11:00am - 5:00pm

Please note: All transfer stations except for the Ryley Transfer Station are closed on Statutory holidays.

PROPERTY FOR SALE BY COUNTY

Discover the perfect canvas for your dream home on this expansive 4.05-hectare property, located at 48208 Range Road 143 in Beaver County. This unique piece of land offers an exceptional opportunity for those looking to build a new residence in rural Alberta. Find more info on the County Website > Business > RFPs, Tenders, Leases & Sales



IMPORTANT DATES

- June 19**
- 9:30am - Regular Council Meeting
 - 9:45am - Public Hearing for Proposed Bylaw #24-1152
- June 27**
- 2 - 4:30 PM - Ag Service Board Meeting

WHATS HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Book Club
 Location: Ross Creek Community Hall, 531041 Rge Rd 191
 Rural book club that meets the first Tuesday of each month. Meetings run from 7PM - 8PM, all ages welcome!
Tofield AA - Thursdays, 8 - 9 PM
 Basement of Bardo Lutheran Church, 4737 57 Ave, Tofield.
Viking AA - Wednesdays, 7:30 PM, Zoom option also available.
 Golden Valley Lutheran Church, 5327 56 Ave, Viking.
<https://area78aa.org/meetings/147-3>

Submit your event/s, meetings and/or gatherings to the events calendar on the website! Just head to the website, under the Explore menu click on County Region Events Calendar. We have partnered with Go East to share local events on our website!



MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID FOR SENIORS

July 11 & 12, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Viking/Beaver FCSS Boardroom:
4924 53 Avenue, Viking
FREE OF CHARGE! (A \$200 value!)

The likelihood of experiencing a mental health problem or illness in a given year increases as of age 69. This course is designed to help older adults and their families, friends, caregivers and communities to promote mental health, prevent mental illness, and intervene early when problems first emerge.

Pre-registration required. Please contact Viking/Beaver FCSS at 780.336.4024 to reserve your spot.

Brought to you in partnership by:



JOIN OUR TEAM!

- Community Peace Officer - Level 1**
- For more information, and details on how to apply, visit our website > Government > Careers



Mailing list
 Get news, meeting highlights, the road construction schedule, the Chronicle, and more - direct to your inbox!

Website
 Information on County programs and services can be found on our website, along with the latest news.

Social media

Find us on Facebook, X (Twitter), Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn.



DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

The following Development Applications have been APPROVED (except where otherwise noted) by the Development Authority under the provisions of Land Use Bylaw No. 98-801, subject to the right of appeal to the relevant appeal body - Subdivision and Development Appeal Board or Land and Property Rights Tribunal.

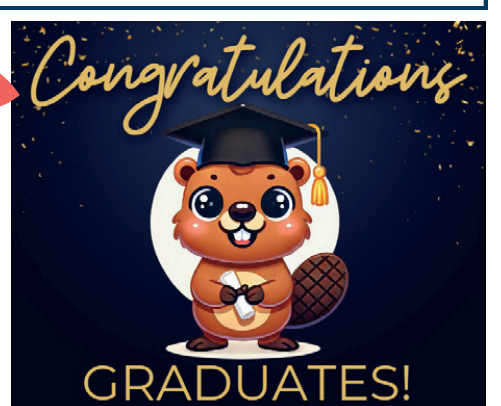
APPEAL DEADLINE	JULY 17, 2024
Appeal Body	LPRT
Application No.	020020-24-D0037
Applicant	Lemay, Serge and Laurie
Location	Plan 112 2201; Block 1; Lot 3 in NW 22-50-20-W4
Development	Solar Collectors, Ground Mount (over 10m2 floor area)

Any person wishing to appeal an application may do so by serving written notice on the prescribed form (stating reasons for the appeal) to the relevant appeal body. For information on how to appeal can be found on our website under **Services > Planning & Development > Appealing Planning Decisions**

Further information regarding the above decisions may be obtained from the County Office, Ryley, Alberta.



Summer is here!
 Can someone please let mother nature know?



ENJOY YOUR SUMMER, KIDS!

Adults, please keep an eye out for playing kids while driving. Let's keep everyone safe and have a fantastic summer!

BRUCE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Thank you!

For coming out and participating in this event, we appreciate your feedback!



Complacency a problem regarding railroad safety

Kari Janzen

Thursday, June 6, marked International Level Crossing Awareness Day, which is an initiative to raise awareness on the dangers of level crossings, which is where a railway line crosses a road at the same level, as opposed to a line that crosses over or under using an overpass or tunnel. Canadian National Railway (CN) Community Resource Officer Cst. Dean Solowan says complacency is a problem when it comes to railroad safety.

"Always assume when approaching a railway crossing that there might be a train approaching. We have a little slogan on the railway: see tracks, think train. Look, listen, and live. Some people think trains run on schedules, which they don't. Or, their mind is multitasking, they are using electronic devices, or distracted by other occupants, like a passenger or kids going to and from school," he said.

Solowan said joint-force operations to combat complacency are set to occur on International Level Crossing Awareness Day, to observe traffic and inform road users of railroad safety.

"Railway services, as well as police services, target their resources, if available, around the railway to bring more attention to motorists, if they are doing things they shouldn't be doing," he said.

"Trains come through your community several times a day, and there are people who don't seem to have the patience to wait for a train. Instead of waiting several minutes for that train to clear, they will actually accelerate or even disobey the rules of the road to beat that train, and that's when life changing mistakes happen," Solowan said.

Solowan described the two types of railroad crossings, which are active and passive crossings.

"An active crossing is when the lights start to flash and the bells start to ring, and that means that you have to safely stop at a railway crossing, and the gates will shortly thereafter, usually ten to 15 seconds, start to descend.

"A passive crossing is when there is just a stop sign and a crossbuck. This is a mandatory regulated stop sign; it has the same rules of the road as any other stop sign," Solowan said. "If there is no train, and after stopping, you look left and right, you can proceed cautiously over. If there is a train present and in motion within 500 metres, you must wait for that train to clear the crossing before you proceed through. That's a thing a lot of people don't know," he said.

Solowan compared the lights and bells at an active crossing to be the equivalent to when a traffic light turns yellow.

"The light turns yellow so you have time to get out of the intersection. It doesn't mean gun it to get through, no, it means slow down; it's going to

change to red. Based on the road conditions, for example, if somebody is approaching an active crossing and then the front of their vehicle is just within that area and the light start to flash, it's not realistic for them to slam on the brakes, and then back up. We don't want that; we want you to clear the intersection. But when the lights have been flashing for 12, 13 seconds, and people are still going through, they're going through to try to beat that train. They're not attempting to stop," Solowan said.

"When you try to beat a train, there's only going to be one winner. The train always has the right of way, even over first responders, because they physically can't stop," he said.

Another thing that motorists may not realize is that where there is a crossing with more than one track, like the crossing into Tofield on 51 St., there is a number between the lights indicating how many sets of tracks there are to cross. It is best practice to wait until the lights have stopped flashing before entering the crossing, to ensure there is not another train approaching.

"We always tell people to wait to cross until the lights have stopped flashing after the train has cleared the crossing, but they're impatient, many times. If a motorist drives up to a crossing, a train goes by, they see the tail end of that train, and their focus is the tail end of that train. The lights are still flashing, but they're impatient, they want to go, so they start to proceed. However, it's multiple tracks, which means there could be multiple trains. And that's the catch, where now they look to the left, and they see three large lights coming at them and you don't have time to react. You've just made a life changing decision which is not in your favour," Solowan said.

Solowan stressed the stopping distance from a railroad crossing be no closer than five metres away, and no further than 15 metres, because the danger of making contact with the train, or having your vision obscured, is more likely when those distances aren't kept.

"If you park further than five metres away from a crossing, your sight lines down those railway tracks become tainted, especially where trees, buildings, or billboards block your view," he said.

"In general, ensure you stop at least five metres from a railway crossing and when you go over, ensure you can clear the crossing completely so your tail end doesn't get clipped, because trains do overhang in excess of one metre on each side. It's not just the rail that you see, it's usually the rail, plus that rock ballast, that shows you the whole area that is encompassed and occupied by a train," he said.

If ever an emergency occurs at a railroad crossing, or damage needs to be reported, every crossing throughout North America has a blue and white placard with crossing-specific informa-



tion.

"The placard has the emergency railway number, which is 1-800-465-9239. It also indicates a subdivision and a mileage point. If a pedestrian, motorist, or a concerned citizen wants to report damage to a crossing, or any type of rail-related concern, they can contact that number on that placard. When call and provide the information found on the placard, we know exactly which crossing they're at, throughout North America. The railway is not identified by streets and avenues; it's identified by

mileage markers and different subdivisions," Solowan said.

Solowan also said if there is an emergency and 9-1-1 is called, the dispatchers have an overlay to identify where the accident has occurred.

"The 9-1-1 dispatches have an overlay that goes over top of their map, so if somebody describe their location by range road and township road, the 9-1-1 dispatch is able to pull up our railway overlay and correspond where that would be," he said.

Full-Time Permanent Job Opportunity: Kitchen Service Manager Town of Viking Carena Kitchen

We are seeking a dedicated Food Service Manager to join our team. The ideal candidate will have a passion for the food industry and providing exceptional customer service. This position offers an exciting opportunity for individuals looking to grow their career in the food service industry. If you possess these skills and are passionate about delivering exceptional service, we encourage you to apply for this role.

Skills:

1. Proven experience in managing food service operations, including staff management, inventory control and menu planning.
2. Strong understanding of food safety regulations and a record of maintaining high standards of cleanliness and sanitation.
3. A Safe Food Handling Certificate is required. (Certificate is an online course)
4. Demonstrated ability to increase sales and control costs to improve the profitability of the food service establishment.
5. Excellent customer service skills with an ability to resolve conflicts and ensure customer satisfaction.
6. Capability to train and motivate staff to provide exceptional food quality and presentation consistently.
7. Demonstrate leadership qualities in a fast-paced hospitality environment.
8. Experience with Touch Bistro is an asset.

Duties:

1. Oversee food preparation and other kitchen operations.
2. Order food and beverages, equipment, and supplies.
3. Ensure that employees comply with health and food safety standards.
4. Ensure timely food service and quality control.
5. Address customer complaints or concerns.
6. Inspect supplies, equipment, and work areas.
7. Prepare daily/weekly/monthly reports.
8. Conduct interviews for potential new hires.
9. Evaluate performance and provide feedback.
10. Help to resolve employee issues and disputes.

Pay based on experience level, LAPP Pension and Health Benefits after three months.

The Town of Viking thanks all applicants for your interest, however only those selected for interviews will be contacted. Job will be posted until a suitable candidate is found!

Please complete the [Application for Employment form](#) on the website, www.viking.ca

Applications can be submitted to:

Doug Lefsrud, CAO
Town of Viking
Box 369 Viking, Alberta T0B 4N0 Email: info.account@viking.ca

Viking
ALBERTA