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The Beaver County Chronicle

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Victim Services ends after 31 years helping others

Patricia Harcourt

Beaver County Victim Services has officially ended after years of service to victims of crime and other tragedies.

However, Division 2 Councillor Lionel Williams reported to county council Oct. 16 that BCVS wants to continue in a different, perhaps advisory capacity, if possible.

Williams said he attended the last local Victim Services meeting and said there was a feeling of loss at what was described as basically "a wrap-up meeting."

"They discussed at length how they could fit into the regional model," he said, adding: "It's hard for them to fit in because they no longer have standing with the police and courts."

Another meeting of the local VS has been set for January which will also be "more of a wrap-up and completion mode."

BCVS could be considered one of the most successful victim service organizations in the province as it was highly supported by its board, program managers, volunteer advocates and the community over 31 years of service.

When announcing the change to a regional

program, the provincial government explained that there were many more such organizations which were not as successful, and the new regional zone model was an attempt to fix that problem.

Beaver County Victim Services has not been operational since the beginning of this month. Taking its place is the Eastern Alberta Regional Victim Service Society.

BCVS stated that the transfer of service to the regional organization was done despite the objections of the local organization.

County approves 1.5 per cent library tax levy increase

Patricia Harcourt

The Northern Lights Library System is asking local municipal authorities to accept a levy increase for next year.

However, municipalities like Beaver County pay a higher levy because there is no library within its jurisdiction.

The county's General Manager of Corporate Services Ryan Arndt, explained to Beaver County Council at the Oct. 16 regular meeting why this is the case.

"Beaver County and each of the towns and villages in the region are members of the Northern Lights Library System (NLLS)," he explained.

"Beaver County is considered a municipality without a library board as it does not have any

library boards under its jurisdiction."

One could point to the libraries in Bruce and Kinsella but even they do not fall into the criteria of being county-run.

"The hamlet libraries are considered satellite libraries of the nearest municipal library," Arndt explained.

"A higher rate (of levy) is charged to municipalities without a library board," he later added.

Levies are used by NLLS to subsidize costs for assisting and supporting local library boards.

"NLLS provides a large service," agreed Reeve Kevin Smook (Division 1), who sits on his local library board in Tofield.

NLLS requested a municipal tax levy for 2025 of 1.5 per cent, which is a new rate of \$10.94 per person. The county's cost share would be \$64,600.70,

an increase of \$944.80.

The county's share of the increase has been included in the 2025 budget, said Arndt.

In making his motion to accept the increase, Councillor Barry Bruce (Division 4) said the 1.5 per cent increase was notable as "most organizations ask for 2 per cent."

Bruce explained that the reason for the lower increase in the levy was that reserves had been saved up in anticipation of planned renovations. However, NLLS has decided not to go ahead with these renos and so the extra funds have positively impacted the levy rates.

"These funds will subsidize (the rates) for a couple of years," he said.

Council agreed and passed the motion to approve a 1.5 per cent increase in the levy.

Beaver County council establishes policy for electronic signatures

Patricia Harcourt

County Council has approved a new original policy for the providing of electronic signatures on documents.

The old fashioned and time honoured practice of using a hand signature will still be allowed and services done in this manner can't be denied.

"It is common practice for the public and county staff to use and accept electronic signatures on most documents to streamline the processes, approve customer service, and reduce paper waste," Margaret Jones, manager of legislative services, told council.

This use of "reproduced signatures on certain documents" must be officially authorized by the

county under the Municipal Government Act, she advised.

"A policy for the use of electronic signatures is a best practice and recommended by legal counsel to ensure that appropriate authorizations, guidelines and safeguards are in place," explained Jones.

The Electronic Signatures Policy authorizes their use on both internal documents exchanged amongst staff, including invoice approvals, payroll and benefits forms. Also included are external documents exchanged between county staff and residents or ratepayers in situations such as correspondence or application forms for example.

She noted that "most county documents are included in the policy."

However other items such as land transactions,

documents needing a seal and documents that need to be commissioned are not included in the Electronic Transactions Act.

The policy may in future include negotiable instruments and cheques including electronic fund transfers (EFTs). However, that would happen "if proper security measures are implemented," she said. Cheque and EFTs are planned to be implemented in 2025, Jones added. She also noted that use of electronic signatures will still be optional.

"The county may choose not to allow electronic signatures on sensitive documents and likewise, a person can choose to sign with a pen," she clarified. "The county cannot refuse to provide a service because an individual prefers to use an original signature."



PROPERTY TAXES DUE

Deadline for payment of 2024 property taxes:

4:30 PM, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2024
(if paid in person at the County Office)

or

Postmarked on or before OCTOBER 31, 2024 (if paid by mail)

or

Payment processing dated on or before OCTOBER 31, 2024 (if paid online)

To avoid line-ups, please consider early remittance. Postdated cheques are being accepted.

INTERAC, cheques, online, pay simply and telephone banking are encouraged. Please ensure adequate time for payment processing.

If you missed us during regular office hours, please use the mail drop box at the Beaver County Service Centre located at 5120 50 Street, Ryley, Alberta. Payments received in the drop box will be cleared from the box at 8:30 am each morning and deemed received the previous business day.

Hours for the Beaver County Service Centre are: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (weekdays).

Please call ahead (780-663-3730) if an appointment with the Assessor is required.

A penalty of 10% will be added to outstanding CURRENT taxes on November 1, 2024

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	
Cementing		
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)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rge Rd 161A between Hwy 14 & Hwy 855 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phases 1, 2, 3 & 4 Complete 		Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rge Rd 200 between Hwy 630 & Blackfoot Grazing Reserve entrance 		Carried over to 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rge Rd 202 between Twp 502 & Twp 504 		Carried over to 2025
Rechip 2 miles		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TWP RD 502 between RR 202 to 205 RR 112 between HWY 619 to Camp Lake Entrance TWP 470 between HWY 870 to RR 105 		Complete
Shoulder Pulls		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoulder pull Rge Rd 202 between Twp 502 & Twp 504 		Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TWP 500 between RGE RD 143 & 142 		Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TWP 500 between RGE RD 133 & HWY 36 		Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TWP 482 between RGE RD 122 & 123 		Complete
Gravelling	Ongoing	Dec 22

Bridge Repair - TWP 492 HWY 834 & RR 185		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 1 (Engineering) Phase 2 (Special order materials & install signage) Phase 3: Closed for construction Phase 4 : Reopened for use 		Phase 1: Complete Phase 2: Complete Phase 3: In process Phase 4:

CLAYSTONE WASTE LTD. PROUDLY PRESENTS

THE 2024 FALL INTAKE OF THE COMMUNITY AND PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 30

Are you a not-for-profit group that supports the residents of Tofield, Viking, Holden, Ryley, or Beaver County?

You may be eligible for a grant from Claystone Waste for your upcoming project, event, or program that supports the community.

Visit claystonewaste.com/grants for more information on the Community and Partnership Grant program and submit your online application today!



Stop by the library on Halloween (October 31) from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for a quick game and a spooky GOOD time! CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!

Family and Community Support Services
 VIKING BEAVER
 Holden Municipal Library



Members of the **Holden Senior Club** would like to thank **Claystone Waste** for the grant of \$813.75 that was used to refurbish the flooring in our building . Not only does it look great but regular maintenance will extend the life of the flooring.

Your community involvement is truly appreciated!



IMPORTANT DATES

- October 31**
 - Property taxes due!
- November 11**
 - Office Closed in observance of Remembrance Day
- November 13**
 - 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM - Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting

JOIN OUR TEAM!

We're looking for a dynamic, motivated general manager to join our team! What's your superpower?!

General Manager of Community & Protective Services

For more information, and details on how to apply, visit our website > Government > Careers




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, 8 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!

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 (SDAB) or Land and Property Rights Tribunal (LPRT).

APPEAL DEADLINE	NOVEMBER 28, 2024
Appeal Body	SDAB
Application No.	020020-24-D0070
Applicant	BRANDON MILLER
Landowner	SAME
Location	LOT 8, BLOCK 2, PLAN 792 0020 IN SW 17-51-19-W4
Development	Discretionary Use – Home Occupation Type II (Mobile Security Unit Rentals)

APPEAL DEADLINE	NOVEMBER 28, 2024
Appeal Body	SDAB
Application No.	020020-24-D0071
Applicant	STUART & ELISHA WHITBREAD
Landowner	SAME
Location	LOT 1 PLAN 002 4091 LOCATED IN SW 13-50-21-W4
Development	Discretionary Use – Buildings and Uses Accessory to Discretionary Uses (Hay Shelter)

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.




HOLDEN CHRISTMAS MARKET


Embrace the season's spirit and discover a treasure trove of unique handmade crafts, delightful food by the Holden Senior Club and a visit from Santa: 12-1pm.

Saturday, November 23

**11 AM - 3 PM
FREE ENTRY**

Holden Community Hall
4919 - 49 Ave, HOLDEN

Sponsored by the Holden Economic Development Committee and Village of Holden



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.



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

WATCH OUT FOR LITTLE GHOSTS AND GHOULS OUT AND ABOUT!

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




Hrabec throws hat in ring for RMA Presidency

Patricia Harcourt
Editor

After serving many years in the local Beaver County political arena, Deputy Reeve Gene Hrabec has thrown his hat into the ring to run for the RMA presidency.

The RMA convention in Edmonton next week will see five candidates vying for the position. Hrabec hopes to win the election that will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 6.

Not that he hasn't been busy on the local level serving as Deputy Reeve and councillor for the county's Division 3.

Hrabec is currently also chairing the boards of Beaver Foundation, which manages the government's seniors' facilities, Beaver Emergency Services Commission and Beaver County Agricultural Services.

"My main reason for running is my interest in supporting rural municipalities," he said, citing seniors care, oil and gas, and health care as major issues currently.

"I feel now is the time to get legislative work done in the provincial government's first term of office and work using advocacy to move programs ahead."

His campaign theme is "Building Bridges and Mending Fences," in line with his desire to use effective communication with government to get things done rather than confrontation.

"The RMA has become very vocal," he said, concerning issues such as Bill 20 and MSI funding.

"There's a time to be vocal and a time to work with the province," he said, "by sitting down with the premier and the departments. No matter what we want we won't get exactly what we want."

He added: "I want to take a more strategic comparative approach that is solution based."

And he wants to concentrate on creating growth within a municipality to offset any lack of funding coming from the province or the oil and gas industry due to the orphan well situation.

"We know that oil and gas companies haven't paid for these wells and will never pay," he said.

"This is why agriculture is so important to rural municipalities," he said, as a sustainable and long-term possibility for additional resource development.

"We need to find other ways for municipalities to find a balance between oil and gas and (building on) renewables," he said, citing the Town of Viking as being pro-active with its solar energy project Valhalla.

But the province's climate, he believes, does not make renewable energy types realistic as the main source of energy, stating that "natural gas is still the cheapest form of energy to heat your house... Gas and oil is cheaper but it doesn't mean we should stop renewables."

Hrabec is also a big proponent of economic development. Believing in the need to develop tertiary industries, he used canola as an example. "It shouldn't be shipped out. We should keep it here and process it here."

For this reason, he is passionate about the work done by the ASB in the county.

"We need to change this way of thinking but it won't be done overnight," he said, of the agricul-

tural industry's current emphasis on shipping out primary resources.

There are 69 counties and municipal districts in the province, and the winning candidate will need 51% of the votes at the convention to become RMA president.

Hrabec said he can still remain on Beaver County Council if successful in his bid, and received the support of his local council in July after announcing he will run.

"I think it's good for a Beaver County councillor to run, and get access to provincial ministries as well as federally such as the Federation of Canadian Municipalities."

"I absolutely think we can find common ground."



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9am - 5pm
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