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 Bruce, Holden, Kinsella, Ryley, Tofield, Viking

# The Beaver County Chronicle

A Free Weekly Publication Serving All of Beaver County

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## County amends road maintenance agreement with Tofield

Patricia Harcourt

The county's road maintenance shared services agreement with the Town of Tofield has been amended.

"It would be nice to look into this every three years," said Dan Blackie, general manager of infrastructure for Beaver County. "Things just change too much."

Blackie provided background in his report to council at their November 20 meeting.

An agreement between the county and the Town of Tofield occurred in 2020 for the county to maintain Range Roads 191 and 192.

"For the last four years, the county has provided the town with both road

maintenance and capital project services," Blackie stated.

An inter-municipal meeting held in early October resulted in the parties agreeing to certain changes to the agreement. The Town of Tofield approved an amended agreement on October 28.

Blackie said the costs related to fuel and equipment have risen since the initial agreement was put in place. This has caused "a modest rate increase" on the maintenance portion of the agreement.

"However, despite the increase the yearly maintenance total is slightly less than the last agreement due to the fact that the county has changed its source for winter sand resulting in a superior

but cost effective product," he explained.

The town has been paying installments on future capital projects but since most of that is now completed, and Blackie suggested the removal of this part of the agreement.

"If future capital projects arise, the work will be considered under the county's policy for public works services in urban municipalities," he said, noting that what has already been accumulated as a credit would be applied to the next project.

Other changes included removing a redundant section on repairs or upgrades and consolidating that section into another called "Upgrades," and "adjusted to ensure all items were captured in one section."

Also a dust control section was added to the Range Road 192, which Blackie said "would be invoiced upon request and paid at the rate of dust control for that particular year."

Once both parties have endorsed the amended agreement, it will take effect on January 1 of the next year.



## County hires two CPOs

Beaver County has recently hired two Community Police Officers, both working part-time to make up one full-time position. The county's new officers are CPO Spencer Wicks, and CPO Michael Binczyk. They will be out patrolling in shift work that will include weekends in their schedule. The picture shown is of Wicks with the patrol vehicle. Previous CPO Rick Ells left in January 2022.



### Important Announcement Canada Post Strike and Payment Options

Please be advised that due to the ongoing Canada Post strike, there are currently disruptions to mail services, which may cause delays in receiving your payment reminders or processing cheques.

To avoid any inconvenience, we want to provide you with alternative payment options:

- **Online Bank Payments:** You can register with your bank to make payments online. If you encounter any issues—such as differing bank listings for our organization—please don't hesitate to contact our administration office. We're happy to assist you in setting up the correct payment details.
- **Automatic Monthly Withdrawals:** Sign up for automatic withdrawals to have the full amount of your monthly statement automatically debited on the 25th of each month. This ensures timely payments with no hassle.
- **Cheque Payments:** If you prefer to continue paying by cheque, you may drop it off at any Wild Rose Co-op location. This will ensure faster processing and avoid mail delays.
- **Go Paperless:** Choose to have your statements emailed to you, eliminating any mail-related delays. Sign up today to receive digital copies of your statements.

You can find the Co-op flyer online at <https://www.co-op.crs/flyers> or in-store.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact our Finance Department at 780-672-3107.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Beaver County Council is considering the lease of the following municipal reserve lots:

- Plan 762 0125, Block 1, Lot R5 in SE 26-50-20-W4 (Willow Lake Estates) (28.34 acres)
- Plan 762 1641, Block 1, Lot R1 in SE 9-50-20-W4(15.37 acres)
- Plan 1670 TR, Lot R1 in SE 16-50-20-W4 (13.35 acres)
- Plan 752 0263, Lot R3 in SE 31-51-19-W4(13.08 acres)
- Plan 1972 TR, Lot R2 in NW 26-51-20-W4

Further information can be obtained at the Beaver County Office (5120 - 50 Street, Ryley) or on the County's website at [www.beaver.ab.ca](http://www.beaver.ab.ca).

Beaver County will be holding a public hearing to give residents an opportunity to provide input on the proposed leases. Details of the public hearing are as follows:

- **Date:** Wednesday, December 18, 2024
- **Time:** 1:00 P.M.
- **Location:** Beaver County Council Chambers, 5120 - 50 Street, Ryley
- **Contact:** Margaret Jones at 780-663-3730 ext. 1016 or [mjones@beaver.ab.ca](mailto:mjones@beaver.ab.ca)

If you wish to provide feedback at, or prior to, the public hearing, you may register to speak in person or submit written comments no later than 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 11, 2024.

To register, contact Meagan Walsh, Executive Assistant, at [mwalsh@beaver.ab.ca](mailto:mwalsh@beaver.ab.ca) or 780-663-3730 ext 1023.

Written comments may be delivered in person to the Beaver County Office at 5120 - 50th Street, Ryley, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, or by e-mail to [mwalsh@beaver.ab.ca](mailto:mwalsh@beaver.ab.ca).

Note that written submissions will not be accepted during the public hearing and that any information you provide may be made public subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.



All information is available at [www.beaver.ab.ca/government/meeting-schedule](http://www.beaver.ab.ca/government/meeting-schedule)



### BUDGET SEASON IS HERE...

2025 Proposed Budget is now available for review! This budget outlines plans to support community priorities, enhance services, and maintain infrastructure while balancing fiscal responsibility. Council will discuss the budget at this weeks budget meetings. Find the document on the website under the **Government** menu > **Financials**



## WINTER WONDERLAND CELEBRATION!

Holden Complex (5123 50 Street, Holden)  
Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024 4-8 p.m.

- Businesses, organizations and families are invited to decorate and submit a tree for judging at the festival for \$5, with all proceeds going towards the local Christmas hamper program! **(Please contact VBCSS at 780-688-3928 to register your entry as soon as possible!)**
- Community members are invited to judge the unique, creative entries on December 7! (entry is free, but donations to the Christmas Hamper program are appreciated!)

#### ALSO FEATURED:

- \*Local craft sale by Artisans **(crafters, please contact VBCSS to reserve a space!)**
- \*Taco Bar Fundraiser supper in support of the Holden AG society
- \*FREE refreshments and goodies provided by Holden Rural Academy
- \*FREE public skating
- \*FREE kids crafts
- \*Christmas Tree Auction in support of Holden Rural Academy field trip fund.

BROUGHT TO YOU IN PARTNERSHIP BY THE GALLERY HOLDEN, HOLDEN NU2 STORE, HOLDEN AG SOCIETY, HOLDEN RURAL ACADEMY AND VIKING/BEAVER FCSS.



## Claystone Waste Holiday Hours

December 25 & 26, and January 1  
Administration office, all transfer stations,  
and landfill will be **CLOSED**.

There will be **no waste collection** pickups on these dates.

### Residential Waste Collections

Collections scheduled for December 25 & 26 (Tofield, Holden, Ryley) will be picked up December 27 & 30.

Collections scheduled for January 1 (Tofield) will be picked up along with Holden and Ryley on January 2 & 3.

All of us at Claystone wish you the best this holiday season!



## 4TH ANNUAL Holiday Decorating Contest!

It's back! Lets light up our County!  
Full details can be found on our website under the Community menu.





## LAND FOR LEASE BY TENDER

Sealed offers will be accepted until: 4:30 PM, Friday, December 6, 2024

### In Equity Industrial Park (near Ryley):

- NE 3 and portion of NW 3-50-17-W4
- SE 3 and portion of SW 3-50-17-W4
- NE 34-49-17-W4

### Kinsella area:

- NW corner of NE 34-46-11-W4

### SW of Tofield:

- Plan 762 0125, Block 1, Lot R5 (Willow Lake Estates)

More information on these properties and the tender process can be found on the County's website under the Business menu. [www.beaver.ab.ca](http://www.beaver.ab.ca)



## IMPORTANT DATES

### December 18

- 9:30 AM - 12 PM - Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting
- 1 - 4:30 PM - Regular Council Meeting

### December 25 - 27, and January 1

- Office Closed for Christmas, and New Years Day

## WHAT'S 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 DECEMBER 26, 2024

Appeal Body SDAB  
Application No. 020020-24-D0072  
Applicant Brent & Heather George  
Landowner Same  
Location Pt. SW 08-50-18-W4  
Development **Permitted Use (Variance)** - 1400 ft<sup>2</sup> Post Frame Building with 38 ft Variance from Minimum Front Yard Setback (Buildings and Uses Accessory to Permitted Uses)

### APPEAL DEADLINE DECEMBER 26, 2024

Appeal Body SDAB  
Application No. 020020-24-D0076  
Applicant James John Merrithew  
Landowner Audrey Paulette Coburn  
Location Lot 1, Block 3, Plan 782 2156 in NE 19-51-19-W4  
Development **Permitted Use (Variance)** - 245 ft<sup>2</sup> and 316 ft<sup>2</sup> Storage Sheds with 8 ft Variance from Minimum West Side Yard Setback (Buildings and Uses Accessory to Permitted Uses)

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 in Ryley.



# SPILSTEAD HALL

## 20502 TWP Rd 502

### CHRISTMAS MARKET & LIVE AUCTION

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

**Doors Open @ 6:00 pm**

**Auction starts @ 7:00 pm**

**CALL LINDSAY FOR A TABLE RENTAL 780-608-6223**

FREE  
ADMISSION

## Community Christmas Hamper Program

The Tofield/Ryley/Beaver County West and Viking/Beaver FCSS offices are now accepting Christmas Hamper requests for individuals and families in need.

### Tofield/Ryley/Beaver County West

Serving the communities of Tofield, Ryley, and Beaver County west to RR 162/Hwy 855 (excl. Holden).

Location: 5407 - 50 Street, Tofield, AB (Upstairs)

Phone: 780-662-7067 or 780-662-7066

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 4:30pm (Closed 12-1pm for lunch)

**Deadline to register: Friday, December 6, 2024**



### Viking/Beaver FCSS

Serving Kinsella, Viking, Bruce, and Holden.

**Viking Office:** ✉ VikingProgram@vbfcss.ca | ☎ 780-336-4024

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 4:30pm (Closed 12-1pm)

**Holden Office:** ✉ HoldenProgram@vbfcss.ca | ☎ 780-688-3928

Hours: Monday - Thursday, 1:00pm - 4:30pm (Closed 12-1pm)

**Deadline: December 9, 2024 (Early registration appreciated!)**



Support the Program: Donations of food, gifts, or financial contributions are welcome at any FCSS office.

## Music Jam / Open Mic

**SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 15, 1 PM**

HOLDEN COMMUNITY HALL  
4919 - 49 Ave. HOLDEN, AB

Admission - \$ 5 per person  
Musicians/Participants - No Charge  
Come Dance to the Music!



For more info:  
Dave 780-720-5839  
or beaverhillplayers17@gmail.com



*Musicians and spectators welcome!*

### Social media

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



### 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.

# Competition begins for local decorating contests

Kari Janzen

Local Christmas decorating contests are being held all across Beaver County, for rural residents as well as people living in the Town of Tofield and the Villages of Holden and Ryley. Tofield's residential and commercial contest kicked off with the start of their annual Winterfest weekend on Friday, Nov. 29.

Individuals are able to vote for their top three favourite decorated homes and businesses until Friday, Dec. 20, on the Tofield Winterfest page on social media, by email, or by filling out a form at the Town Office.

Councillors from the Village of Ryley will be the judges of who wins the municipality's holiday lights contest, choosing three residential winners and three business winners on

Tuesday, Dec. 17.

In both categories, first place will be awarded \$100, second place will receive \$50, and third place will win \$25.

In the Village of Holden, homes and businesses must be registered by Friday, Dec. 13, and will be judged on Friday and Saturday Dec. 20 and 21.

There are three prizes for residential, one for commercial, one grand prize, and all other participants will also receive a prize.

First place in the residential category will win \$80, second place will collect \$60, and third place will pocket \$40. The winning business will gain \$25 and the grand prize winner will take home \$100.

"All the prizes are in Greenbucks so it can be spent in Holden, sponsored by the Economic Development

Committee," Village of Holden administrative assistant Amber Kostyk said.

Beaver County is holding their fourth annual holiday decorating contest, which started Sunday, Dec. 1. Submissions must be made before midnight on New Years Eve, Dec.

31, and the winners will be announced at the first council meeting in the new year. Three winners in each of the five divisions will be named, and the homes or businesses receiving first prize will win \$250, the second place prizes are \$150, and the third prize winners will be awarded

with \$100.

"Participation is open to everyone residing or operating a business in rural Beaver County. Let's make our rural community shine bright with festive cheer. Show off your creativity and community pride!" Beaver County's website says.

Entries can be made by emailing the County, or filling out the online form on their website.

"Judging will be based on 'curb appeal' as viewed from the road only. Therefore, only those decorations located in the front of the property may be entered," the rules state.



PHOTO KARI JANZEN

John and Sylvia Piowar, who live at the corner of Highway 14 and Secondary Highway 855 by Holden, were Beaver County's third place winners in 2023.

# Tofield home dog breeding facility request denied, homeowner permitted to keep extra dogs

Kari Janzen

In mid-October a Tofield resident submitted a written request asking Tofield Town Council to consider allowing her to run a dog breeding operation out of her home, and to harbour five adult dogs. As per the Land Use Bylaw her breeding facility request was denied during the regular council meeting on Monday, October 28.

"The only district in which an animal breeding and boarding facility is allowed is the UR - urban reserve district," the Town of Tofield's Development and Planning Contact Laraine Stuart said in email correspondence with the Town.

"The definition for this use means 'a development used for the breeding, boarding, and

training of domestic animals overnight or for periods greater than 24 hours.' Typical uses are kennels and pet boarding establishments.

"Because there is a use definition that specifically identifies a 'breeding facility,' any activity that meets this definition is classified as such and is only allowed where the use is listed. So, this request to have breed dogs in the R-LD district could not be considered even as a Home Business," she said.

Council also directed the resident to license three of the dogs, the Town's maximum under the animal control bylaw, and write another request to be permitted to continue to house the two additional dogs, which was discussed at the next meet-

ing on Monday, November 25.

"We have been able to establish that the five dogs have been in this residence for roughly four years," Assistant Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Edwards said.

Councillor Norm Martineau asked if any of the dogs were licensed before the initial request was made and Edwards said no.

"Not for the current year. They have been in the past, but there has been a lapse," he said.

CAO Cindy Neufeld said the Town has not received any complaints about the dogs.

Martineau suggested that the bylaw be amended to include that if Council were to approve requests such as this, to allow residents more dogs than the bylaw states, that

they would have to pay an additional fee for being over the limit.

"What I would like to see, and I know that it is not in our bylaw, but I think that they should start paying a premium," he said.

Neufeld agreed, and said it couldn't be implemented for the current case for this year, but said bringing back the animal control bylaw would be a great idea.

The amount the premium would cost will be further discussed at a future meeting, but suggestions of double, two and a half, or three times the cost of one dog license (\$30) were mentioned.

"I just think that, because there is the potential of having our peace officer more involved with somebody like this, which is

in turn costing the residents more money, and so in this case they should start having to pay a premium on those dogs number four and five," Martineau said.

"And it also would maybe discourage others from getting extra dogs," Neufeld said.

Mayor Deb Dueck said she would have concerns with approving the request if the dogs had been complained about numerous times.

"I would be more concerned if they were misbehaved dogs or the neighborhood was talking about (excessive) barking all the time," she said.

Councillor Brenda Chehade moved that the over limit of the two dogs be allowed under certain conditions.

"Should an animal pass away, it cannot be

replaced by another animal; all bylaw regulations must be followed regarding noise and nuisance; should complaints be lodged, the animals MAY be requested to be removed from the residence; all five animals must be licensed each year; no further requests for additional animals will be approved; and the maximum allowable limit per residence is three dogs," the motion from the November 25 unapproved meeting minutes reads.

Council also decided to direct administration to bring back amendments to the bylaw regarding premiums for those who have been permitted to house more than three dogs. Council voted in favour of the motion, 4-1, with Martineau against, and it was carried.