



# COUNTY CONNECTION

Welcome to the next 50 years

LETHBRIDGE COUNTY NEWSLETTER ★ FALL 2014

*A message from the Reeve*

## June rains fail to damper summer events

Hello everyone, and welcome to the fall edition of the County Connection newsletter. It's hard to believe that summer is already over and the harvest season has begun.

It certainly has been an eventful summer for Lethbridge County, starting off with another June flood. For the second year the County went into a State of Local Emergency from June 17-23. Prolonged heavy rains caused severe overland flooding and as a result high water warnings on the Old Man River were issued. A big thank you goes out to our citizens for their patience as they were asked to refrain from pumping their fields until water levels subsided. It couldn't have been easy to see valuable crops under water, but because of slow drainage, any water pumped out would have collected in a neighbour's yard or field. In the end we were fortunate to have warm, sunny weather following the flood and the loss of crops was significantly less than originally anticipated. Let's hope for a drier June in 2015.

This summer was also a time for celebrating! On July 19, approximately 1,200 citizens joined us at Prairie Tractor and Engine Museum's Coyote Flats Village to celebrate Lethbridge County's 50th Anniversary. This event was almost two years in the making and a huge success. Everyone enjoyed the many activities including the barrel train ride, petting zoo, photo booth, face painting, balloon artists, and old fashioned carnival games. Local fire departments came out with their trucks, old and new, and the County's own Constable Darrell Craig came dressed in Red Serge to mark the occasion. Live music was provided by local musicians Trevor Panczak and Who's Yer Daddy and a delicious toonie BBQ fed the attendees. We were honoured to be joined by many local political dignitaries such as MP Jim Hillyer, Minister of Municipal Affairs and MLA Lethbridge-West Honourable Greg Weadick, MLA Lethbridge East Bridget Pastoor, MLA Little Bow Ian Donovan, and various Mayors, Reeves and Councillors from neighbouring municipalities.

The event was about celebrating our past while looking to the future and I could not think of a more symbolic way of doing that

than seeing County children, our future, enjoy themselves amongst the historic buildings and machines of our past. Proceeds collected from the toonie BBQ at this event was donated to the Lethbridge Chapter of the 4-H Club to help support the future young ag producers.

We also hosted a Whoop Up Days BBQ at our Lethbridge office after the parade on August 19th as part of our 50th anniversary celebrations. We were happy to partner with the Canadian Cancer Society and more than \$500 was raised for that deserving organization.

This summer the County also shared in the celebrations of our neighbours! Unveiling a new County float and an Airport float, we



Constable Darrell Craig in his Red Serge at Coyote Flats Village.



LORNE HICKEY  
Reeve

were present at surrounding local towns and villages parades and were proud to be a part of their community events.

It wouldn't be a County newsletter without information on gravel roads. This summer marked the beginning of an innovative new gravel stabilization project. The Calcium Stabilized Gravel Surfacing test project will test a new type of gravel in the hopes of finding a gravel strategy that prolongs the life of County roads and reduce infrastructure costs. This test project was constructed on the 4.5 mile (7.24 km) stretch of Range Road 20-3 between Highways 25 and 519, one mile east of Iron Springs. The test sections will be monitored to record the difference(s) between the various types of gravel under the same weather and driving conditions. You can read more about this project in this newsletter.

I, along with my fellow Councillor's Zeinstra, Benson, White and the Ag Service Board attended the Provincial Ag Service Board Summer Tour in Newel County (Brooks). It was a very interesting tour and brought to light what can be accomplished through working partnerships. Without irrigation, crop production would be very small in that County and the Eastern Irrigation District is the largest land holder in Newel County. The cooperation that exists between the two entities is great and is something that we should all work towards.

Please enjoy this edition of the newsletter. We are hopefully providing you with all the information you need to become the most up to date County Citizen you can be, but please feel free to contact us with any stories you wish to see and we would be happy to report them.

Thank you.

Lorne Hickey  
Reeve

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