

A message from the Reeve

County Council sworn into office

Hello everyone, and welcome to the fall edition of the County Connection newsletter.

Let me begin by congratulating farmers on a good harvest season. We are fortunate to live in such a bountiful area and are thankful for the many blessings that the County bestows on us.

There have been many changes for the County lately, and yet, many things

have managed to remain the same. The biggest change at the County office is the retirement of County Manager and long-time employee, Dennis Shigematsu. Dennis began his career 27 years ago as a Junior Accountant and rose through the years to more senior positions until seven years ago when he became County Manager. Dennis will be missed by employees, citizens and Council as

a sage leader and advisor, and for his thorough attention to detail. Most of all, we will miss his laughter, gentle guidance, patience and his kind demeanor. We wish him and his wife Beth all the best as they forge into their next adventure of world travel, discovery, and of course, golf. Congratulations Dennis, you will be missed.

Taking the helm is another long time County employee, Rick Robinson. Like Dennis, Rick has many years of experience as the Director of Corporate Services, and before that as Controller. Rick is also a humanitarian, taking two years to work in Haiti at the Albert Schweitzer Hospital, where he continues to sit on their board. We are looking forward to working with Rick as he makes this position his own, working with citizens, Council and staff to move the County forward into a new era. Best wishes to Rick. Also congratulations to Tracy Anderson who will step into the role of Director of Corporate Services.



LORNE HICKEY
Reeve

On September 23, 2013 all members of Council were successful in regaining their seat through acclamation, so no election was necessary. Councillors will return for what is now a four year term instead of three. Also, at the October 17, 2013 Council Organizational Meeting, both myself and Henry Doeve were once again honoured when Council elected myself as Reeve and Councillor Doeve as Deputy Reeve; Council as a whole will continue to strive to bring sound leadership and are thankful for the opportunity to serve this plentiful community. All Council members are looking forward to the

future while maintaining our core values. We will be working with Rick and his senior staff to meet the objectives set out in our Strategic Plan; ensuring a high quality of living for residents through managed growth and our focus on infrastructure.

County Council has contracted Jack Hayden of Hayden and Associates to lobby the Provincial Ministers on behalf of the County of Lethbridge in Edmonton. Mr. Hayden will consistently bring the message of our unique infrastructure challenges and heighten our presence with the different provincial departments in an attempt to gain funding for our roads. It is no secret that the County faces exceptional challenges on our infrastructure. Council, by attending meetings twice a year at the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties and meeting with ministers, has not yielded the results we would have hoped for in terms of getting additional grant funding.

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Dennis Shigematsu, soon to be former County Manager congratulates Rick Robinson, incoming Chief Administrative Officer at the County's Whoop Up Days Breakfast held on August 20th.



LORNE HICKEY
Division 1 Councillor and Reeve



JOHN WILLMS
Division 2 Councillor



HENRY DOEVE
Division 3 Councillor and Deputy Reeve

All councillors are sworn in at the October 17, 2013 Organizational Meeting by Executive Assistant and Commissioner of Oaths, Lorraine Megella.

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<http://lethbridgeairport.ca/>

