



CREMONA AND DISTRICT EMERGENCY SERVICES NEW CHIEF: KEVIN MILLER

Division 2 News

Thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter. I encourage you to sign up for the newsletter on a regular basis from my page on the Mountain View County website www.mountainviewcounty.com/division2.

A new fire chief has been appointed to lead the Cremona and District Emergency Services. Kevin Miller has worked as a professional in fire services for the past 10+ years. He is extremely passionate and committed to making a real and lasting difference in our community. He currently works full time for the City of Calgary Fire Department and specializes in two Calgary Fire Department technical rescue programs: High Angle Rescue (Rope Rescue) and Heavy Rescue (High Angle, Confined Space, Structural Collapse, Trench Rescue, Heavy Vehicle Extrication and Machinery Entrapment). He is a certified instructor in these specialty rescue programs, as well as standard firefighting courses. As a local to the area, Kevin has volunteered within the Cremona and District Emergency Services (C&DES) for 5 years. His responsibilities within C&DES have grown from firefighter to training officer, to Captain (2013) and now to District Fire Chief (March 2015). In addition, Kevin has been an active member with the Canada Taskforce 2 Provincial Disaster Response Team since 2008. As a member of this team he holds the positions of Rescue Technician and IT administrator. Kevin was deployed with Canada Taskforce 2 for the following provincial disasters: Slave Lake fires (2011), Calgary floods

(2013), and High River floods (2013) where he participated as an Incident Management Team Member within the Emergency Operations Centers (EOC's) for each of these disasters. Kevin has always felt driven toward helping others, and is extremely passionate about attaining and maintaining up-to-date knowledge and skills. As a leader he enjoys sharing this knowledge with others to ensure a well prepared team is available when life-threatening or dangerous conditions arise. He is honoured to have been entrusted with the opportunity to manage Cremona and District Emergency Services and to lead its dedicated team of volunteers towards ensuring the community is well.

Our council has received three presentations and updates from the Water Valley Community Association in regards to the proposed purchase or use of land for the expansion of their recreation facilities. We are working with them to ensure that we find an appropriate parcel of land for this use, as well as keeping it fiscally responsible. I will be assisting them in coordinating conversations with the recreation groups within our Cremona-Water Valley community to ensure that we are building for the needs of our entire area and not causing duplication. I look forward in seeing the plans come together to improve our community.

On April 20-21 we held Council open houses at the County office and the Sundre Legion to provide an update on projects and information from the county. The key items that were discussed were:

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Summer 2015

Operations Dept.

- The re-gravel program this year features a budget amount of \$2.7 million
- The re-chipping program this year features a budget amount of \$2.44 million
- This year operational services has been approved to do \$1 million worth of long patching on paved roads
- Once again offering calcium chloride product and application for a very competitive rate
- Major Projects Funding for this year includes almost \$3.2 million in operations equipment replacement
- In 2013, the Provincial Government decided to Zero Fund the Rural Bridge Program in their budget. The estimated cost for the county over the next 10 years on maintenance and replacement of the bridges is \$64 million.
- Engineering has been approved for the engineering of the East portion of the Acme Road that will be completed by the end of the year.

Community Service Dept.

- County Grants: \$70,000 for the Rural Community Hall Grant; \$45,000 for the Rural Community Grant; \$45,000 for the Rural Transportation Grant; \$25,000 for the Rural Cemetery Grant, \$20,000 for the County Playground Grant and \$62,500 for County Health Funding

Seasonal Flood Issues:

- The province has not yet released the Flood Hazard Mapping and the Floodway Regulations (Bill 27)
- The county has received the funds to construct the berm along the Red Deer River in the McDougal's Flats area but we are still working on the meeting the regulation criteria for the project.

2015 Budget

- Transfers to the towns will be \$1.6 million for recreation and library services for our residents
- Access to water from the Red Deer Regional Water Commission \$1.5 million
- Overall 1 per cent increase for residential and farm properties

Relationships with Towns & Villages

- Currently the County is in the early stages of updating our MOA's, or Memorandums of Agreement, with the various towns
- The County provides fire service to its residents through agreements with each of the urban municipalities. The only exception is Cremona where the County is the service provider and has an agreement to provide service to the municipality
- Waste Commission: Continue to work on the issues with the commission. So far, four of the six partner municipalities within the commission have given notice on withdrawing from Mountain View Regional Waste

Planning, MDP Review & ASP updates

- The MDP monitoring report evaluates if Planning and Development Decisions (redesignation, subdivision and development permits) in the two year since the adoption of the MPD meets the MDP's Policies and Objectives
- Bearberry and Bergen ASP Reviews are completed and the public hearings
- The public are always encouraged to schedule a pre-application meeting at no cost with planning and development staff prior to submitting an application for rezoning/subdivision/development.

The approved Cremona Rec Board grants are as followed:

- Big Prairie Community Assoc. \$882
- Cremona & District Ag Society \$30,000
- Additional Public Skating \$2,500
- Cremona Community Curling Club \$7,500
- Cremona Community Engagement Site \$10,000
- Cremona Community Hall Society \$5,010

- Cremona FCSS Summer Fun \$9,100
- Cremona Fitness Society \$6,155
- Cremona Fun Team Hockey \$18,000
- Cremona Gold & Silver \$3,824
- Cremona July 1st Committee Cremona Day \$4,875
- Cremona Minor Ball \$10,000
- Cremona Minor Hockey \$19,000
- Cremona Municipal Library \$2,900
- Cremona School Enhancement \$8,500
- Cremona Skating Club \$19,000
- Cremona/WV Chamber Commerce \$2,500
- Water Valley Boots & Saddle Club \$1,650
- Water Valley Celtic Festival \$4,000
- Water Valley Community \$8,000
- Water Valley Playschool \$5,000
- Water Valley Public Library \$265
- Total **\$170,896.00**

The County's \$20,000 playground grant has awarded \$15,000 to Cremona School and \$5000 to the Sundre Elementary.

We also provided funding for other community grants as follows: \$40,000 in grant approvals for the Rural Transportation grant. Our local groups that received some of those funds were: Cremona School Enhancement Society for \$4,000. Also, \$45,000 was approved for the Rural Community grant. Our local groups that received some of those funds were: Dog Pound Rural Crime Watch \$3,500. For the Rural Community Hall Grant there was \$75,000 in grant approvals. Our local groups that received some of those funds were: Brig Prairie Hall \$6,000, Dogpound Community Hall (Bluebirds) \$3,500, Dogpound Hall Community (Busy Beavers) \$3,500, Graham Community Association \$3,500, Water Valley Community Hall \$1,800.

Committee Updates

- I am a board member of the Cremona FCSS committee. The village recruited and appointed Jennie Thompson as the new FCSS coordinator in March 2015. There are new projects coming forward as well as preparing for our summer program. The board has decided that the organization of the Cremona Winter Fest is not within the mandate of the FCSS guidelines so we will be looking for a community group to take this over. Contact Jennie if you know of a group that maybe interested.
- I am a member of the Mountain View Regional Waste Commission and we are in the process of contracting out our fleet services for waste. At the County we will be responsible in ensuring that the service is still available for rural residents pick up. The Commission will be responsible in the operation of the recycling centers as well the transfer sites. We currently still have four municipalities with

withdraw letters that have been received by the commission and we have requested Municipal Affairs to process those.

- At our Cremona Fire meeting on May 5, 2015 we reviewed the financials for 2015 so far. Our new Rapid Attack Vehicle has been ordered and we are awaiting delivery.
- I attended the Cremona Engagement Site AGM on the 16th of May and was able to view the presentation by June Fox of her photographs that she has taken of nature and wild ponies. She has done some amazing work and it was very enjoyable to view. They also had a presenter, Chuck Brinton, who talked about the primates of Uganda. It was an excellent event to attend in the community.

If you have any comments or concerns that you would like to discuss with me please feel free to contact me either at 403-875-2969 or pmckean@mvcounty.com.

Council meetings

- Policies and Priorities held the first Wednesday of each month
- Regular council held the second and fourth Wednesday of each month

There will be budget meetings held this month so watch the County section in the Mountain View Gazette for the upcoming dates.

ALL COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND WE ENCOURAGE ANYONE INTERESTED TO ATTEND AS WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR VIEW AND IDEAS.



Patricia McKean - Deputy Reeve
 Email: patricia.mckean@mtgarc.ca
 Phone: 403-875-2969