

SPRING IS COMING!

March, 2011



TOWN OF PINCHER CREEK

Hello from Mayor Ernie Olsen

Spring is coming! (I hope)

I would like to thank all of our citizens for their patience with the snow plowing issue. Our men (and lady) are doing their best and if you travel to other municipalities, I think you would feel the same.

We have had some past issues to deal with, as every new Council has, but we are just about over them now, so I think we can move on to bigger and better things.

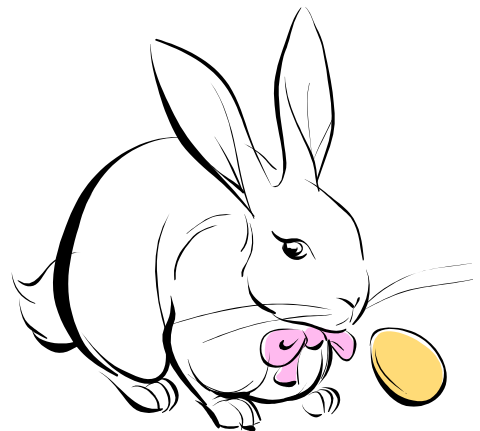
Thank you,
Mayor Ernie Olsen

PUBLIC BUDGET PRESENTATION

Thursday, May 5, 2011

7:00 PM

All Members of the Public are
Welcome to attend.





“Of the 22 libraries
in the Chinook Arch
System, we are
one of 3 that have
late night hours:
open until 9pm
Tuesdays &
Thursdays!”

Hello from Councilor Sahra Nodge

EMERGENCY SERVICES UPDATE:

The Emergency Services Committee is made up of 2 Councilors from the MD and 2 from the Town: myself, presently sitting as Vice chair & Councilor Anderberg. The members from the MD are Councilor Berg, Committee Chair, and Reeve Cyr.

We meet once a month with the Fire Chief and have an oversight role for the operations of the Emergency Service for the area. We develop the EMS budget and make request to councils for funding for operational & capital needs. We make recommendations to council, but need their approval to undertake action.

In the past there have been vulnerabilities noted in this structure & governance model. Over the past year 1/2 we have been researching structural changes that would eliminate the vulnerabilities & strengthen the organization & service to our community. In this process we have been meeting with the Town and MD councils to share potential governance models that could evolve from our present structure.

Throughout this process our guiding principal has been to develop a form that follows the function we serve in the community. The goal is to build on the strong foundation/operational model that exists, & ensure that roles & authority are appropriately assigned between the Municipalities & EMS governance body. As these conversations continue with both Town and MD council, I will keep you posted.

LIBRARY NOTES:

We received a presentation from the Chinook Arch Regional System recently that included some numbers reflecting the usage & value of our library in the community. Councilor Jackson is the library rep for the town, but library lover & fan that I am I thought I would share some of this with you. Of the 22 libraries in the Chinook Arch system, we are one of 3 that have late night hours; open until 9pm on Tues and Thursday.

Since the addition of eBook & audio downloads last year our library has had 767 downloads. In the last month alone the users of this service increased to 77 from 55 (suggesting that lots of people received digital readers from Santa?)



LIBRARY NOTES, continued.....

Accessing digital eBooks & audio books through our Regional Library System is a great way to increase the collection of books we have that can be used by visually impaired readers. After Lethbridge we have the highest usage of these types of media.

Non profit & Community Groups have been using the Chinook Arch System to access grant & funding databases for their fundraising efforts. 9000 items have been borrowed from other libraries in the Regional system. 335 items brought in from outside the region, from the National Library for example. These items are borrowed from professional research, genealogical studies, & academic queries.

...and a small comment on Infrastructure...

There are many requests for the expansion of new infrastructure & facilities to meet the needs of our residents. Recently we have had citizen requests for the expansion of sidewalks. The addition of the curling facility to the list of Town facilities that would be tax payer supported is still unresolved.

We have added lights to the in-

tersection at Wal-Mart (Table Mountain Street & Hwy.6) and on the pathway at the hill by Canyon School. The Town office is getting a facelift renovation to address privacy, accessibility & capacity issues. This includes the addition of an accessible wash-room facility in the building. All of these changes & requests are things we can see & appreciate. What about the unseen needs?

Beneath our streets in an intricate network of pipes that enable the flow & disposal of water & wastewater. Much of this network was built many years ago, & is ageing alongside ourselves & our visible facilities. As we make changes to our facilities to meet the needs of an ageing and changing population, we also need to address the needs of these systems. We have millions of dollars of infrastructure that will need replacement, repair, & upgrade in the near to medium term future. How we prioritize the many facility & infrastructure needs will ultimately frame our ability to attract & retain citizens & business in our community.

Council just concluded a strategic planning session that will inform the priorities of the

Municipality. Top priorities include Facility & Infrastructure Maintenance/ Renewal Prioritization, Regional Water System Decision, & EMS Committee Model change. Look for the official release of these 'murals' that will communicate Councils direction & philosophy for our term soon.

Councilor Sahra Nodge

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Street Light Repair Request—For Residents:

The procedure to follow in the event of a Street Light outage is to call the Town Office to report it, and we will fill out the Request Form immediately—this will then be Faxed to FORTIS ALBERTA, letting them know where the outage is and the date repair requested. The street light in question is then added to their repair list and FORTIS will of course respond as soon as possible. Keeping the Town of Pincher Creek well-lit & safe is a priority so please do not hesitate to call re any Street Light outages that you feel need our attention.

Brought to you by: Councilor Don Anderberg

Garbage Bins:

Residents please be aware that Bylaw #1605-09, 4.2 section b states that the Town will provide the first garbage receptacle at our cost.

If requiring a replacement garbage receptacle it will cost property owners \$78.75 for the large (360 litre) bins, and \$68.25 for the small (240 litre) bins.

These will have to be purchased at the Town Office before being delivered.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Volunteer Opportunities!

If you or someone you know is interested in the heritage of our community & would like to contribute to a key project, please read on! The Town of Pincher Creek has recently been awarded funding from the Municipal Heritage Partnership Program to undertake a comprehensive survey of our heritage, geological sites within Town boundaries. This project will be undertaken with the support & involvement of the Historical Society as well as other groups & organizations & community volunteers. A Heritage Survey is the first step towards preserving & protecting our heritage under the Prov.

Program. The project will commence in spring 2011 & conclude in spring 2012.

If you would like more information or to fill in a Volunteer Application Form, contact the Recreation Office at 895 Main Street (Swimming Pool) or phone: (403)627-4322.

“Creating a Future for Alberta’s Historic Places”

