

K N E E H I L L N E W S

From the Reeve

One of the things that impresses me every year is the ingenuity and resilience of the residents of Kneehill County. We, as residents, and as a County continue to deal with the many pressures put on us by the hot Alberta economy and the ever changing agriculture industry and continue to thrive. As a County we see the positive aspect of the increased drilling and pipeline activity through the increase in economic activity, job creation and eventually increased assessment. This is just one of the things that has allowed us to reduce the residential and farmland tax rates by 25% over the past three years. The other side of the equation is the increased pressure the high activity level places on each of us through our personal dealings with companies as well as the increased traffic on roads, construction activity etc. etc.. Kneehill County has made some adjustments by adding graders and by increasing our road gravelling capacity. We have also completed some paving, with the most recent being the roads into the Agro and Agricore elevators off of Highway 21.

The extra activity means extra risk and to assist in dealing with this Kneehill County is working in a very cooperative fashion with the Towns and Villages to upgrade and enhance our Emergency Services. Over the past few years we have substantially increased our operational funding and purchased new fire vehicles for virtually every community with two more new trucks arriving this year. We also are working in partnership with both Kneehill Ambulance and Badlands Ambulance to continue to ensure exceptional service and care.

A second area where Kneehill County is facing growth pressures is in residential development with an increased demand for subdivisions and country residential development. Kneehill County has updated our Municipal Development Plan and created a subdivision guide in order to help streamline the process. During the past year we have begun the process of bringing our Land Use Bylaw up to date. Council would appreciate your comments and suggestions on desired changes to our current bylaw. Within the next few months we hope to bring a draft copy of a proposed Bylaw to a public meeting and once the input from that meeting is added, to hold a Public Hearing. Council would ask you to consider providing input into this process by phone, mail, or by attending one of the meetings.

As always Council appreciates any input from our residents and asks that if you have comments, questions or suggestions that you drop us a note at the office, contact us directly or attend our ratepayer meetings this spring.

Murray Woods, Reeve

KNEEHILL COUNTY 2007 ROAD PROJECTS

APPROVED PROJECTS:

- Allingham Road 30-2 (SH805 to County Boundary)
- Linden Nursing Home Road—RR 25-4
- Linden West 30-4 (from pavement to Mountain View Boundary)
- Linden East 30-4 (east of tracks to Hwy 21)
- Berry Project – TWR 30-2 From RR 26-1 TO RR 26-5 6.4KM—North of Sections 8, 9, 10, 11 Twp 30 Rg 26 W4
- Charlebois Project – RR 23-1 Between TWR 29-2A & TWP 29-4.2.25KM West of Sections 24, 13 Twp 29 Rg 23 W4
- Bates Project – TWR 29-2 From RR 27-0 to RR 25-5—11.27KM—North of Sections 7,8,9,10,11,12 Twp 29 Rg 26 W4

AWAITING PROVINCIAL FUNDING APPROVAL:

- Buffalo Jump Road (Hwy 21 to RR 22-5)
- Buffalo Jump Road (East portion to Prov. Park) – RR 24-2 (Fr. 583 to 582 and pt Twp Rd 31-4) –

WATER RESERVOIRS:

- The County re-applied in 2007 for a provincial grant for the Torrington Reservoir.
- This year we have applied for a grant on the Huxley Reservoir.





BURNING OF OLD BUILDINGS / BRUSH / TREES **Call Before You Burn** Burning permits are required from April 1st to October 31st every year. If you are planning to burn outside of this time span we ask that you phone the Kneehill County Emergency Management Services Coordinator, Greg Harsch, or your local area Fire Chief. This information prevents the fire departments having to respond should someone observe the fire and call 911.

Kneehill Patrol - Special Constables work co-operatively with the general public, groups/organizations and other agencies pursuing the goal of voluntary compliance and a safer community. Primary focus includes: Infrastructure protection through monitoring heavy vehicle movement; Promotion of Public Safety through enforcement of the Traffic Safety Act of Alberta; Public education on road safety issues; and Compliance monitoring. Our Special Constables also pursue compliance with a number of other Provincial statutes and in some cases may arrest under statute authority for violations and/or individuals named in warrants and search and seizure warrants. A list of the Provincial statutes our Special Constables may enforce is available from the County office.

Tax Installment Payment Plan

The County offers a Tax Installment Payment Plan (TIPP) to its' ratepayers. Ratepayers may apply to pay their taxes on a monthly basis throughout the year. Pre-payments on taxes are not eligible for interest nor is interest charged on amounts due after the tax deadline of October 31.

Details and forms are available at the office or on line at www.kneehillcounty.com – see Finance & Administration under Departments. Additional information may be obtained by calling the office at 443-5541 or toll free at 866-443-5541.

Sharps/Pharmaceutical Collection Program

Free service offered by Kneehill County and the Drumheller & District Solid Waste Management Association to all Kneehill County residents.

Sharps and Pharmaceutical materials are needles, syringes, and empty medicine/vaccine bottles generated from farming or ranching operations. Specialized collection containers have been placed at all of the Transfer Stations within the County.



TRANSFER STATIONS: No Charge to Kneehill County Residents. Bagged Household Garbage and Sharps Disposal. Herbicide Container site at Three Hills Transfer Station only.

| Acme | Carbon | Linden | Three Hills | Trochu |
|-------------|------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|
| Tues: 9-5 | Sat: 9 - 5 | Tues: 10 - 6 | Tues-Fri: 1- 6 | Tues: 1-5 |
| Thurs: 9 -5 | | Thurs: 10 - 6 | Sat: 10 - 6 | Fri: 8-3 |
| Sat: 9 - 5 | | Sat: 9 - 5 | | Sat: 9-4 |

Kneehill County Waste Recovery Site/Transfer Station: SW 20-32-26-W4: Wed & Sat: 10:00 a.m.– 6:00 p.m.

- ❖ Burning Pit: Wood/Cardboard
- ❖ Tires: Car/Truck only – no rims allowed
- ❖ Inert Wastes: Concrete/Asphalt shingles etc.
- ❖ Metals: Wire (coiled): White metal: Scrap metal



COUNTY WATER

Kneehill County's main goal is to develop a safe, reliable and assured supply of portable water at a reasonable cost for Kneehill County residents. The Council has selected the full flow/full pressure system for water delivery. The first of the many water service areas to be constructed in the County was Linden North Phase 1, completed in summer 2006.

The next Water Service Area chosen for construction is the South East Water Service Area (SEWSA) (Swalwell East to the river and South to the County line) and an application for 2/3 funding was made to Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF). Kneehill County has been monitoring the progress of the grant application since the closure date. The approval date has been postponed a couple of times by the Province, however, an answer is expected at the end of January 2007.

On behalf of the County residents in SEWSA and Linden North we have applied to Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration to assist residents with 1/3 of the cost for the system hook up and individual line connection costs to a maximum of \$4,000. (ie: \$6,000. hook up fee +\$1500 for line trenching etc. divided by 3 = \$2500). PFRA has approved this funding although we do not have all the details as to eligibility for the grant. Items still being discussed include: what receipts are required, who qualifies, and eligibility for completed hook-ups. We do know that you must hook up to the water line to qualify for the grant.

In the meantime, Kneehill County's Council has directed Administration to move forward with some preliminary work in anticipation of receiving the grant. Initial design and groundwork has been completed in order to get a start on the main plans for the Water Service Area. Lowell Wattie of LGW Land Services Ltd. has been hired to represent Kneehill County as our Land Agent and will eventually contact everyone affected by the project. Please do not feel you have been missed if you haven't heard from him yet. If you have any questions regarding the project please contact the Operations Department at the County Office.

WORKING TOGETHER WITH OUR URBAN PARTNERS

Kneehill Community Services Summit

November 10, 2004 Kneehill County Council hosted the first regional "Community Services Summit". The Summit was attended by thirty five elected officials as well as Chief Administrative Officers (CAO) from each of the local governments in Kneehill County. The purpose of the Summit was to establish a shared interest to pursue opportunities to maximize regional cooperation. The response by participants was viewed as a positive initiative to help municipalities in our area work effectively in areas of regional cooperation.

A "Protocol for Regional Cooperation" was developed and signed by all parties in late 2005 for the purposes of sharing resources, expertise, risk and benefits associated with regional cooperation efforts between and with the municipalities in the Kneehill Region. The protocol identifies guiding principles, structure, and communications with the emphasis on trust, seeking areas of mutual interest while acknowledging and respecting the diversity among participating municipalities.

Continuing on in 2005, with the assistance of an outside facilitator, Councillors and CAO's from the six municipalities identified 26 candidates as areas for potential shared services; this listing has since been further grouped into 17 main topic areas.

It was determined that Recreation and Culture, Waste management and Economic Development required further outside consultative assistance and each municipality agreed to contribute \$7.00 per capita to assist in this process. These studies were undertaken in 2006 and results are currently being studied by the group. February 6, 2007 Elected officials and CAO's from Acme, Carbon, Linden, Three Hills, Trochu and Kneehill County joined together for another Community Summit meeting to set priorities of future cooperation.

Kneehill County

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News from Planning and Development

Kneehill County has a new Subdivision Guide to assist residents and ratepayers in the subdivision process. Copies are available at the County office or on-line at <http://www.kneehillcounty.com/>, under Departments, Planning and Development. 2006 saw 100 Development Permits, 7 Re-zonings, and 41 Subdivisions come into our offices and 2007 is off to a fast start with January and February being busy months in the Planning and Development department so far.

Land Use Bylaw Review

Kneehill County is in the process of reviewing our existing land use bylaw, Bylaw 1440. To allow this review to be successful and reflect the experiences, needs and requirements of County residents, public input is required. Your comments or concerns can deal with any number of issues, from subdivisions to development setbacks.

The existing Land Use Bylaw, Bylaw 1440, is available for review on the Kneehill County website at www.kneehillcounty.com under Departments, Planning and Development, and by then clicking on the Link to Land Use Bylaw (printable Version). A copy of the Bylaw 1440 may also be viewed at the Kneehill County offices between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday excepting any statutory holidays. Written responses are welcomed and encouraged but must be received by 4:00 pm on February 19, 2007. If you wish to discuss any issues feel free to call either Sean or Philip at 443-3822. Please direct your written responses to the County Office or by email to planning@kneehillcounty.com.

The Kneehill Watershed Advisory Council (K.W.A.C.) has initiated a funding project to help maintain the health of our groundwater resources. K.W.A.C. will fund 5 community well decommissioning projects at a maximum of \$200.00 each. The project proposals from community groups must be submitted to the K.W.A.C. board for approval before the funding is donated. The Orkney Church group is the first recipient of this funding.

The sealing of abandoned wells and well pit upgrades for private owners is an eligible category for part funding from the Canada-Alberta Farm Stewardship Program. To qualify for the funding you must complete an Environmental Farm Plan. To find out more information about the Environmental Farm Plan or to submit a proposal for the K.W.A.C funding of decommissioning community group wells please contact Callie Fox, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman at 443-5541.

COUNCILLOR CONTACT LIST

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