

## LETTER FROM MOUNTAIN VIEW COUNTY COUNCILLOR

February is leading into a busy spring for Mountain View County. The challenges of the economy combined with the everyday requirements of the residents of our county, tempered by the need to think of the future of this beautiful place make life very interesting for us.

I hope you have had an opportunity to view our *Environmental Protection Guidelines* on our website at [www.mountainviewcounty.com](http://www.mountainviewcounty.com). If you do not have access to a computer, you may ask at the library and I am sure someone there will find the document online for you. Alternatively, the information is available through Mountain View County office (403)335-3311. The guidelines have been developed by council for use in planning and development. Any development in the county triggers the guidelines. In the last months, any property with environmentally significant areas (for example, but not exclusively, rivers, wetlands) has had environmental conditions attached to the permission to subdivide or develop.

For people who are interested in being good stewards of their agricultural or other properties, the survey on *transfer of development credits* may be appealing. This is also at the website. In some states in the USA, it is possible to sell your opportunity to develop an acreage on your quarter, to someone else in a specified area where multiple lots may be considered. You would be paid without having to subdivide your own property, and in return you would attach a caveat to your property so that it cannot be subdivided. This could be a valuable way to plan, but it is not available to agricultural lands in this province yet. The roadblock is that there is no way to attach the transfer to the land title. This would have to be done at the provincial level.

Water Valley/Winchell Lake Area Structure Plan residents should all have received surveys from Mountain View County in the mail by the end of January. If you have not, please contact the county (335-3311) to get one. This survey is intended to collect a very broad range of considerations about the area, to prepare for the first public consultation (March 7). You have the options of answering the multiple choice questions, or writing your own ideas, or both. The steering committee uses these surveys as a starting point for discussion when we consult with you about your vision for your community. The consultation will be on Saturday, March 7, at Water Valley Hall, and will be a half day workshop to which all residents are invited. You will be doing most of the talking and writing, so be prepared to work hard.

I will be holding my spring Councillor Open House in conjunction with Councillor Gwen Day (Division 1, Carstairs area) on March 16 at the Bethel Church on Highway 580, on the division's eastern border. Open Houses are a good opportunity to meet councillors, administrative staff, and our CAO, as well as to gather any information you have always wanted to know about how the county runs (including roads and infrastructure, community services, planning and development, and budgeting and taxes). Councillor Day and I will make a brief presentation based on how council is working to achieve the goals in our

strategic plan. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to be there. We look forward to seeing all of you.

I am always pleased to hear from you, and to answer any questions that I can. Please phone me at (403)660-7959 or at my home (403)337-2368; write to Lana Yakimchuk, Box 190 Cremona AB, or email [LYakimchuk@shaw.ca](mailto:LYakimchuk@shaw.ca). Have a wonderful month –

Lana Yakimchuk, Councillor (Division 2)