

July Newsletter, August 10, 2009

Mountain View County Council is back from its mid-summer break. For me, the break worked well as my family celebrated my son's wedding on August 2 and we needed every minute we could get to prepare ourselves, to welcome family and friends (national and international) and to go through all the necessary elements of a truly Canadian fusion: an Alberta Ukrainian/Chinese/Bird-Reid celebration. The early morning after the wedding brought the most spectacular wind and hailstorm to date, which I know affected many farms worse than it did ours. On Tuesday, August 4, we had our final ceremony at the bride's home, and now I am anxious to again concentrate on my other job: Mountain View County councillor.

Although I did take some time during my break to tend to some urgent meetings and duties, I do apologize for any phone calls that may not have been returned or responses that may have been slow. Please do not hesitate to contact me again if I have missed your message.

This summer I have had many questions about municipal reserves. Municipal reserves are generally contributions towards municipal services given to fulfill conditions of certain types of development. Most commonly these reserves are cash. However, sometimes they are land, particularly in cases of high-density or commercial development. The reserves are dedicated towards schools, parks, and other municipal services. The county has many older reserves which were given as land and which haven't been developed in any way. These reserves are county property and are accessible to the public. No person should limit access to these properties. That means if your property is adjacent to a municipal reserve you should leave it natural and you should not build any fences or other development on it. If there is a difficulty with that reserve, such as a tree which is threatening your property, it is appropriate to call the county and ask if you can remove it or if the county will remove it.

Access to reserves is at your own risk. Generally the reserves in this division are not tended and should be left in their natural state. This means creating trails with and for motorized vehicles is not a compatible use. However, taking walks or gathering berries or mushrooms is compatible (again at your own risk). Remember to respect private property lines when you are using reserve land.

Municipal reserves range in size from boulevards between subdivisions and roads, walking or emergency exit trails like the one in Winchell Lake Estates, potential service lots common to multi-lot

subdivisions, and quarter sections which may be rented out as pasture land or left in their natural state. As I mentioned before, in some areas, particularly those around high-density nodes, larger reserves may eventually be used as locations for schools, parks, sports facilities, or municipal service buildings. In some areas, where the reserves are becoming problematic in terms of weed control or maintenance, and are not serving a purpose such as an emergency exit, small strips of reserve land may be sold to the adjacent landowners. The money realized in these transactions would go into reserve funds.

To all the farmers who are trying to hay and harvest in this unpredictable weather, good luck! To everyone who has suffered from the hail and the wind, may the remainder of the season be kinder to you.

You may call me at (403)337-2368 or mail me at Box 190 Cremona AB T0M 0R0, or email me at LYakimchuk@shaw.ca or use the county webmail address available online. Please follow the county news in the local papers or on the website at *mountainviewcounty.com*. I try to respond to all letters and emails, and will answer your phone calls if you leave me a clearly stated phone number. Thank-you for all the excellent input you continue to give me.

Lana Yakimchuk
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