

2009/04/05
Sundre Round Up
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This weekend I have the privilege of attending an event at the newly constructed James River Hall. I've been asked to talk about some of the programs that Mountain View County offers to promote our community halls. It's interesting that eight years ago, almost to the day, I attended a meeting at the old James River Hall, and the mood was much different. The furnace had given out, and the bathrooms needed repairs, and some of the good people assembled that evening wondered if there was any use carrying on. I helped where I could to provide information for a number of provincial grants including the CFEP grant, and provided a list of oil companies in the area through my association with SPOG. The next event I attended there was a benefit for a family in need. The upgrades had been completed, and the hall was humming along. This was near the end of my first term of office, and one of the last things I did as a councilor, was help create the Rural Community Grant. This grant was intended for capital upgrades, and major repairs for community halls. I pointed out that where there had been a hall or old school house in every community in our county, nearly sixty at one time, now less than half remained. We needed to do something to help. The community hall is the center of the "rural lifestyle".

What is the "rural lifestyle"? Well, some who move out to the country for the first time seem to think it's all about being the king of your newly acquired domain, about building a castle deep in the woods, with no neighbours. Those of us who grew up here know that it's just the opposite. It's about having neighbours, knowing them, caring about them, and knowing that they care about you too. It's about keeping up your side of the fence and knowing your neighbour will do the same. It's about pulling your baler over to the neighbour's field to help him finish up when you know he got behind. It's about a community pulling together to build a new hall when the old one is destroyed. So that when a family is facing cancer, or a fire, or the loss of a loved one, we can have a benefit, or a meeting, or a funeral lunch. Or we can just get together and break bread. Currently, Mountain View County has three grant programs available for community groups. They are: The Rural Community Grant for programs, the Rural Community Hall Grant for hall operations, and the Rural Transportation and Operating Assistance Grant. For more info on these programs, please continue to contact me at: 403- 559-8938 or E-mail: gerald.ingeveld@mountainviewcounty.com