

MountainViews

Issue 6 – Dec 2011



Mountain View
COUNTY

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Message From The Reeve



Bruce Beattie,
Reeve

As with most people, when the calendar turns to December those of us serving on Mountain View County council look back on the year that has just passed with a quick glance before firmly setting our sights on the year ahead.

It's clear when speaking with any of our Councillors, the first year of our mandate handed to us by County residents in the general election of 2010 featured a huge learning curve. Suffice to say that we now look to apply the lessons and experiences of this first year towards the next year of governance.

And what faces us in the remainder of 2011 and forward into 2012? Well, the issues are as diverse as the landscape and people of our County. Obviously the final approval of our 2012 budget and the next step in the Municipal Development Plan Review are at the forefront of the list. The conclusion of the budget process should be within grasp when you read this and it's likely that the MDP Review will be in the public feedback phase in terms of the final draft document.

However, while these items justifiably get plenty of public attention, there are other initiatives that will continue to be in the crosshairs of the Council and administration. Chief among them is the impact of increased oil and gas activity within our borders - particularly activity that occurs within our rural neighbourhoods.

Overall, the County is encouraging and supportive of economic activity within our municipality. We fully understand the importance of the petroleum industry as the livelihood of many of our residents.

Still, we are entrusted as elected representatives of Mountain View County to ensure that we do everything within our means to mitigate that impact on our residents and our infrastructure while expecting that companies operating within our jurisdiction play by the rules and adhere to regulations. Most of these players in our region are more than willing to do their due diligence, yet there have been and likely always will be others who don't maintain the same level of engagement with the municipality and its residents.

Unfortunately the actions of those few can sully the reputation of an industry.

Be assured that while oil and gas development is a huge topic for Mountain View County, it isn't the only one on the radar for your municipal Council and staff. There are many new initiatives and ideas that we are looking to pursue.

Briefly, it includes new and improved ways of communicating to our residents with new delivery methods and an increased emphasis on two-way communication. As well, we are looking at potential new direction and governance models when it comes to seniors housing; reviewing our Memorandum of Agreements with our urban partners along with finalizing recreation funding and fire services agreements with those same towns and village. And that doesn't even touch on the discussions regarding the development proposals in the Highway 2 and 27 area, which will be in-depth and ongoing.

One area that will see no changes in the coming year is our Council's commitment to fiscal restraint. During times of economic concern, it is incumbent upon those of us in public office to ensure we exercise prudence when it comes to using tax dollars. As well, we must ensure we are getting value for our money on our programs, projects and initiatives.

Overall, there will be much to tackle in the coming year and we invite you to stay in touch with us during the process.

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Minding Your Business

By Doug Erdman, Economic Development Officer

This month continues the detailed examination of the business plan by focusing on the operations function.

OPERATIONS

The operations section describes the activities that take place which result in the production of goods or services by the enterprise. The following steps result in the design of this component.

1. Design of the Production System

The product section of the marketing mix identifies the characteristics of the product or service that will be provided by the enterprise. Based on these characteristics, the final design of the production system can be made. Equipment should be sized such that projections regarding increases in sales can be accommodated. In addition, capital and operating costs relating to the system should be estimated.

2. Final Selection of the Production Site and Buildings

The place (location) section of the market mix will allow the final choice of the site and production facilities to be made. Consideration should be given to zoning, fire and health regulations as well as any environmental impact studies that may be required. Capital and operating costs for the installation should be estimated.

3. Staffing Plan

In this stage the number of employees needed should be estimated. Position descriptions must be designed and salary/wage rates pertaining to the foregoing positions must be researched. Any training plans required must be designed and costed. Again, as with the preceding phases, capital and operating costs relating to cafeterias, first aid stations and the like should be projected.

4. Operations Component of the Organization Chart

At this stage, it is useful to develop the section of the organization chart which applies specifically to the operations function, especially if a large number of employees are anticipated to be working in this part of the enterprise. Particular attention should be directed to lines of communication and authority as well as line and staff relationships.

GENERAL

Design of the operations function can be a time consuming and complicated task. In most cases it will be necessary to cycle through the four stages outlined above several times before satisfactory projections are obtained. Often specialized expertise must be engaged to complete the planning process. For example, a law firm may be needed to transfer land titles, oversee rezoning applications and the like. Environmental impact studies are usually conducted by firms specializing in this field.

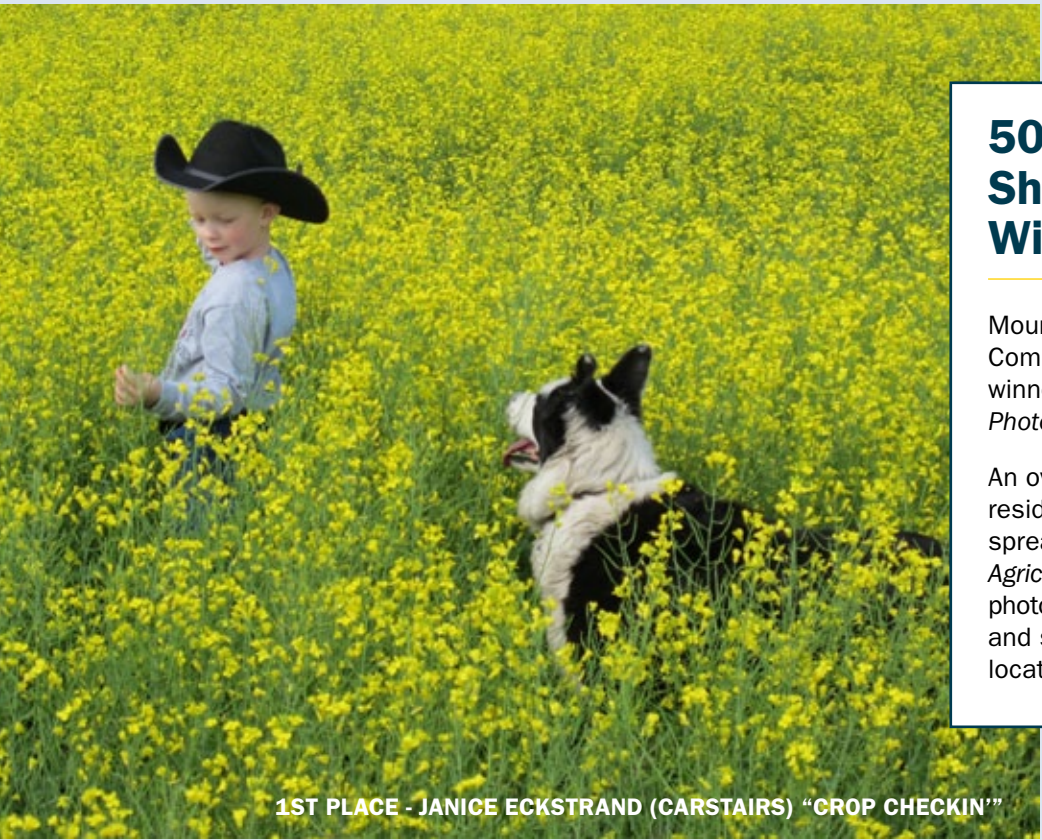
Comments or suggestions? Contact me at 403-335-3311 ext. 161, by email at doug.erdman@mountainviewcounty.com, or drop by for a visit at the County office.



Doug Erdman

Final Issue

This will be the final edition of Mountain Views after a two-year run. A huge thank-you to Overwater Media and Communications for all their expertise in putting together the newsletter. Starting in January 2012, Mountain View County will have a bi-weekly pull-out in the Mountain View Gazette. See that for all the latest information from the County.



1ST PLACE - JANICE ECKSTRAND (CARSTAIRS) "CROP CHECKIN"

50th Anniversary Best Shots Photo Contest Winners Selected

Mountain View County's 50th Anniversary Committee is proud to announce the winners of the *50th Anniversary Best Shots Photo Contest*.

An overwhelming response from area residents resulted in a total of 84 entries spread across the three categories: *Agriculture, Historical* and *Seasonal*. All the photos were taken in Mountain View County and showcase the municipality, its fabulous locations and many of its wonderful people.

AGRICULTURE



3RD PLACE - KATIE CRAWFORD (DIDSBURY) "SUNSET AT THE FARM"



2ND PLACE - SANDY EASTERBROOK (SUNDRE) "AUTUMN HAYFIELD"



Hon. Mention - Sandy Easterbrook (Sundre) "Mother's Little Helper"

The committee extends a warm thank-you to all the gifted photographers for their truly amazing entries and for sharing their photographs with the rest of the community. The decision for the committee could not have been any more difficult thanks to all the terrific entries.



Hon. Mention
Veronica Reist (Olds)
"Westcott Vintage
Buildings"



**2ND PLACE - BRAD STUDIER (OLDS)
FOR "LONE DEER ON THE TRACKS"**



**1ST PLACE - JUNE CHARLTON (CARSTAIRS)
"1952 JOHN DEERE TRACTOR"**

SEASONAL

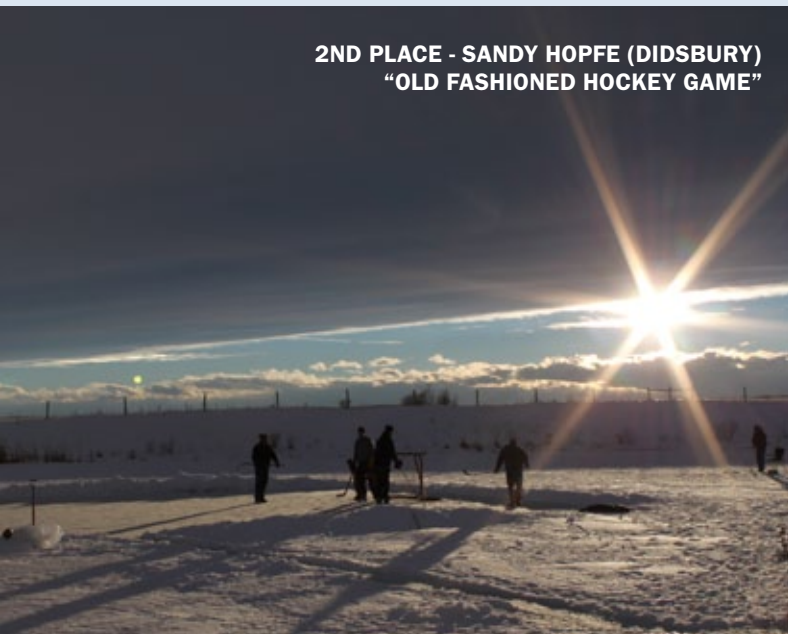


**1ST PLACE - CONNIE MURDOCH (OLDS)
"BABY OWLS"**

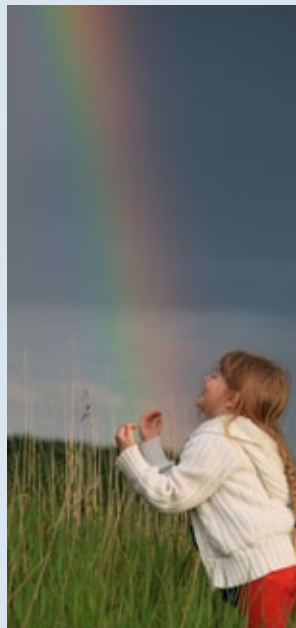
HISTORICAL



**3RD PLACE - COLLIN FAIR
(CARSTAIRS) "VINTAGE
PRAIRIE HOUSE"**



**2ND PLACE - SANDY HOPFE (DIDSBURY)
"OLD FASHIONED HOCKEY GAME"**



**3RD PLACE
SHANNON MCDOWELL
(CARSTAIRS)
"I CAUGHT IT!"**

Hon. Mention
Collin Fair (Carstairs)
"Dusty Country Road"



Agriculture in Action

Growing Forward Stewardship Programs

Mountain View County wants to ensure producers are able to take advantage of Growing Forward programs for the agriculture and the agri-food industry. With a number of funding programs available now, go to the Growing Forward website to access the online self assessment tool: <http://www1.growingforward.alberta.ca/app117/index.jsp>

An Environmental Farm Plan is a prerequisite for applying for any of the Stewardship Programs under Growing Forward, such as the Grazing and Winter Feeding Management and Manure Management Programs.

The **Grazing & Winter Feeding Management Program** offers 50% funding of the eligible costs

to approved projects, up to a maximum of \$15,000 per applicant. Some of the projects that may be eligible are watering systems and portable shelters. A work plan and application form must be completed and submitted to be considered for funding. The program ends January 31, 2013.

The **Manure Management Program** may help cover the costs of improved manure storage systems, verticle beaters for box spreaders, groundwater monitoring systems and more. Approved projects will be funded by 50% to a maximum of \$50,000 of grant funding per applicant.

Water Management Program

Do you have plans for developing your water source?

Under the Water Management Program with Growing Forward, producers looking at developing their water source can apply for up to \$5,000 in funding. To be eligible for the Water Management Program producers need to have a minimum of \$10,000 farm commodity income per year, and need to develop a Long Term Water Management Plan for their farm. Special incentives of 50% of eligible costs for certain items in support of improved water management or protection funding may be available. This program ends March 31, 2013.

Energy Program

Environmental Stewardship Division is planning to launch a Renewable Energy Solar PV Equipment Pilot program in November 2011.

It would provide grant funding to farmers installing solar PV technology (for electricity production) on their farms, up to the maximum of \$19,500 per Applicant. The systems cannot be off-grid, and they must be sized to qualify as a Micro-Generator (no commercial scale systems allowed) with the main criteria being that the system size is equal to, or less than, the size of the Applicant's electrical service transformer. The grant would be paid out based on the rated power of the system depending on the range, until the maximum is reached. For example a 10kW system would max out the available funding per applicant at \$19,500.

For more information on this program or to watch for the program launch date check the Growing Forward website at www.growingforward.alberta.ca

The On-Farm Energy Assessment is still available from the On-Farm Energy Management Program. These assessments are done free of charge, they review a farm's energy use. The Energy Efficiency Retro-fits Program & the Energy Efficiency Construction Program are closed but will re-open April 1, 2012.

From Farm to Finish... Ranching Opportunities Conference

Ideas and Opportunities for Growing your Business

February 16th, 2012 at Olds College in the Alumni Centre, Registration \$25 - lunch and tradeshow are included.

Discover new ways to manage your livestock, Explore options for marketing your product and learn about the challenges and achievements of successful Ranchers.

Register today or for more information contact Amber Hines at Mountain View County at Phone: 403-335-3311 ext 163 or by e-mail: amber.hines@mountainviewcounty.com. Or Watch for more information in the Mountain View Gazette or the County's website mountainviewcounty.com The registration deadline is February 10th.

LOCAL FOOD WORKSHOPS PROVIDE DIVERSIFICATION INFORMATION

You can't turn on the TV or radio or open a newspaper or magazine or surf online without hearing or seeing something about local food. Sometimes it seems like the jargon changes so quickly that you can't keep up. What does it all mean and is it something you could become involved in? Or maybe you are ready to further diversify but don't know how to go about it.

Mountain View County in partnership with Wheatland County, Rocky View County, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD), and Growing Forward are hosting two, one-day workshops this winter to help clarify what it means to sell into local markets and to provide some resources to make your decision easier.

The first workshop, **Explore...Local Foods, Local Markets**, will be held on February 8, 2012. This is a must-attend event if you are:

- new to selling direct to consumers
- intrigued about accessing new markets
- excited about new profit opportunities
- curious about how you and your family fit

"We will give an overview of what it means to sell locally," says Bert Dening, business development officer with ARD's Explore Local Initiative. "We will share industry trends, talk about the different marketing venues, give an overview of regulations, insurance and food safety requirements, provide information on different production practices and share resources.

On February 9, 2012 the second workshop titled **Expanding ... Local Foods, Local Markets**. This workshop targets those individuals who are already involved in selling into local markets and want to further diversify their operations.

"This year, our producer-speakers will present in-depth information on specific market channels they are involved in, sharing 'the good, the bad and the ugly' about those channels so that participants can make informed decisions as they move ahead with their own operations," says Marlene Abrams, local market specialist with ARD's Explore Local Initiative.

Explore...Local Foods, Local Markets

February 8, 2012 – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Strathmore Travelodge

To register: Contact Sarah Schumacher at Wheatland County, 403-361-2827 or Sarah.Schumacher@wheatlandcounty.ca.

Expand...Local Foods, Local Markets

February 9, 2012 – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Lone Pine Community Hall

To register: Contact Joyce King at 403-335-3311, extension 151 or Joyce.King@mountainviewcounty.com

The cost for each workshop is \$25 per person and includes lunch. Participants can attend one or both of the workshops. The registration deadline is February 1, 2012 for both workshops.

This project was sponsored by Growing Forward, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

Environmental Farm Plans

Mountain View County Agricultural Staff can assist County landowners in the completion or update of an Environmental Farm Plan.

Top 5 Benefits of completing and updating your Environmental Farm Plan:

- Improving farm health & safety
- Building acceptance of the operation among neighbours and the public
- Increasing personal satisfaction and knowledge
- Adding value to the farm property
- Agricultural sustainability

Contact Amber Hines, Sustainable Agricultural Specialist, for more information on the Growing Forward Stewardship & Water Management Programs or Environmental Farm Plans at 403-335-3311 ext 163 or amber.hines@mountainviewcounty.com.

Community Aggregate Payment Levy Bylaw

In October of this year, Mountain View County Council approved second and third readings of Bylaw No. 14/11 - Community Aggregate Payment Levy.

Under the terms of the bylaw a \$0.25 per tonne levy will be applied on all shipments of aggregate from any pit within the boundaries of Mountain View County. The levy will be applied against sand and gravel business operators and not the individual landowners.

Operators must provide semi-annual reports to the County within 30 days of June 30 and December 31. The reports need to be submitted using an Aggregate Tonnage Roll that will be available from the County office or on the County's website at mountainviewcounty.com.

Within 45 days of receiving the report, the County will send out to each operator a levy notice in the form of an accounts receivable invoice. Payment will be due within 30 days of mailing of the levy notice.

Exemptions to the Community Aggregate Payment Levy Bylaw include shipments for provincial or municipal projects. However, those shipments must be accounted for in the semi-annual reports provided by the operators.

Council determined through the public hearing process and by reviewing submissions in regards to the bylaw, to dedicate the funds raised from the levy towards the cost of infrastructure maintenance and upgrades - in particular affected County roadways.

The bylaw goes into effect on January 1, 2012.

The full bylaw can be viewed at mountainviewcounty.com/bylaws or by contacting the County office at 1-403-335-3311 or toll free at 1-877-264-9754.

Animal Control Bylaw Update

On July 7, 2010 Mountain View County passed the Animal Control Bylaw which regulates the number of livestock and dogs allowed on differently zoned parcels in the County. Permits are required for the keeping of livestock and dogs in excess of the numbers allowed (see table below for examples; a complete list is available at mountainviewcounty.com/bylaws).

A grace period was established to allow those that exceeded the allowable numbers to apply free of charge for a permit to keep the animals they have. The deadline for application for a free permit is December 31, 2011.

Any person wishing to obtain a permit must complete the permit application form available online at mountainviewcounty.com or in person at the Mountain View County office.

A review committee, appointed by the Chief Administrative Officer, reviews all permits and either approves or denies applications. Approval is based not only on numbers established through the bylaw, but also other areas such as the proximity to neighbours, the grazing management plan, length of time animals will be on site, manure management, facilities to be used, water sources and consultation with adjacent landowners.

YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

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In determining whether a permit for additional dogs (more than three but less than six) will be granted, the Review Committee may require the applicant to provide information on the proximity to neighbouring dwelling units, parcel size and isolation of the parcel, any required structures used to house the dogs, potential nuisance impacts and compatibility with surrounding areas and neighborhood. Consultation with neighbours may also be required.

Permits are issued on a site-specific basis and can not be transferred if you move. For any additional information please contact Jane Fulton, Manager of Agricultural Services at 403-335-3311 Ext. 184 for assistance.