

## TOWN OF MILLET BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER

November/December 2020



The Prettiest Little Town in Alberta.....  
Come Play in Our Backyard!

Town Administration Office

5120-50 Street, P.O Box 270, Millet, Alberta T0C 1Z0

Phone 780-387-4554 Fax 780-387-4459

NEW OPERATING HOURS Monday - Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm

*We are now open during the lunch hour*

Website: [www.millet.ca](http://www.millet.ca)

Email: [admin@millet.ca](mailto:admin@millet.ca)

### TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Due to COVID-19 physical distancing requirements, Regular Council Meetings will be held in the Hugo Witt Room (Millet Agriplex) at 3:00 p.m. located at 5400 45th Avenue until further notice.

Wednesday, November 25th, 2020

Wednesday, December 16th, 2020

#### DEPARTMENTS

##### 24 HOUR ON-CALL

780-916-6591

##### PUBLIC WORKS

[publicworks@millet.ca](mailto:publicworks@millet.ca)

#### COMMUNITY PEACE OFFICER

##### 24 hour dispatch

780-387-4224

[enforcement@millet.ca](mailto:enforcement@millet.ca)

##### FIRE DEPT

[milletfire@millet.ca](mailto:milletfire@millet.ca)

**EMERGENCY— Call 911**

#### HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

##### The office will be closed:

November 11th for Remembrance Day and December 24th, 25th, 28th for Christmas Holidays. Office will also be closed January 1, 2021 for New Years Day.

**Agriplex Field House** will be closed Dec. 22nd - Jan. 3rd.



**Mayor:** Tony Wadsworth

**Councillor's:** Doug Peel, Vicki Pyle, Carol Sadorosznay, Pat Garrett, Mike Storey and Robin Brooks

**Chief Administration Officer:**

Lisa Schoening

### MILLET IDENTIFIES ISSUES AND MAKES PLANS TO MOVE FORWARD!



In the past year and a half, the new administration team for the Town of Millet have been working hard to identify gaps and assess our current programs and Town facilities. During this time, many things were identified that had been let go in the past and the results of this analysis are as follows:

#### **MILLET COMMUNITY HALL**

It was determined that the current Community Hall is in very poor condition and there are several safety concerns in the building. After a full integrity inspection, it was determined that the building would need to be rebuilt, as the foundation has cracked severely and is beyond repair.

#### **MILLET LIBRARY**

The building currently housing the Millet Library is very small and does not allow for any growth at this time. Over the past few years this has become a venue for many children for programs and activities. They are currently at capacity and therefore have to cut down on programs and new participants.

#### **TOWN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

It was identified back in 2006 that this building had hit its capacity for administration. We are currently housing some staff in back storage areas, with no windows or proper exits and only one common washroom. As the Town grows, there will be no more space to house any more employees.

#### **PRE-SCHOOL and DAYCARE FACILITIES**

It was brought forth to Council on several occasions that Millet is in dire need of a pre-school program and day care services. Millet Council is very anxious to make this possible in Town so that our young ones and their parents will no longer have to travel to adjoining cities to attend these programs.

#### **MEETING and BOARD ROOMS**

There has always been a need for meeting and board rooms. Community groups, as well as residents have noted the need for more spaces.

#### **OLD MILLET SCHOOL**

The Town has heard from many residents that they do not want to see this building torn down, as it is an icon in our community. Residents have expressed that they wish to see it be re-stored. With all the issues and challenges it would be impossible to rectify most of these issues in an expedient, cost efficient manner so administration and Council have been working diligently to find solutions that will show results in the quickest manner, as well as not affect the overall taxes in Millet.

#### **RESULTS**

In reviewing all of the above issues, the Town has been working with Creative Infrastructure, from Wetaskiwin. An overall structural analysis of the old Millet School identified that the building is in great structural shape. Administration has been tasked to work with Creative Infrastructure to put together a plan for the Town moving forward.

We will work with Creative Infrastructure to re-develop the old school building. The building will be the new home to the following:

**New Library** - the northwest side of the old school will be designed into a new public library.

We have allotted 4700 sq ft which will then allow for more room for programs and activities and will also be in close range of the Griffith-Scott School.

**Pre-School** – The two old Kindergarten rooms in the basement of the old school will be developed into a pre-school area. We will be looking for someone to run the pre-school program in Millet.

**New Administration office/Meeting rooms** – the east side of the building will be designed for a new administration office. This will also include more meeting rooms as well.

**New Community Hall** – the old gym on the southwest side of the old school will be designed into a new Community Hall. The old staff room across from the gym can easily be made into a kitchen/bar area for the hall. We know the mural on the existing Community hall is very important to many residents and we are working with artists to have this mural redone to fit on the south entrance of the old school, where the new entrance to the Community hall will be.

**Additional Spaces** - There is still rooms in the basement that we can work with Community groups to see what how we can utilize these spaces in the future.

Administration has been working hard to find ways to move forward with this project at the least possible cost to the residents and we are happy to report that after the sale of the old community hall lots and library building, in addition to less maintenance required for these facilities, we will be able to proceed with the project with **NO ADDITIONAL TAXES TO OUR RESIDENTS FOR THIS PROJECT!**

### MILLET LIBRARY

The Millet Library is very excited about moving to the former old Millet School space. The Friends of the Millet Library Society are working hard to raise funds to support this upcoming move. The new location will be over twice the size of the current library and many items will need to be purchased to utilize this increased area and meet the needs of our patrons. If you are interesting in donating or want to help us fundraise for this amazing new space, please contact the Millet Library at 780-387-5222 or email us at millet@yrl.ab.ca.

The Town of Millet Public Library Board is also seeking new members. Join us in this exciting time as we prepare for our move to our new location. The position is a three-year term, and anyone interested in the position can email millet@yrl.ab.ca to the attention of the Millet Library Board.

The Friends of the Millet Library Society is holding their annual Silent Auction on November 24th - 27th at the Millet Lions Hall. Please drop by the Lions Hall during this time to bid on an item or to make a donation. Hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. and Wednesday from 1:00 - 6:00 p.m. Proceeds from this fundraiser will be going towards pur-

chasing shelving for the new library. If you have items to donate for the auction, or want more information, please call 780-387-5222 or email [millet@yrl.ab.ca](mailto:millet@yrl.ab.ca).

### TIPS FOR SAVING WATER

- Consider a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install and can save you at least 3000 liters a month.
- Upgrade older toilets with water efficient models. You could save over 300 liters per day!
- Run your washing machine and dishwasher only when they are full. When shopping for a new washing machine, compare resource savings among Energy Star models. Some of these can save at least 75 liters per load, and energy too.
- Consider upgrading faucets, refrigerators, air conditioners and ice-makers with water-saving aerators and cooling systems. Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap.

### CONGRATULATIONS MILLET

On October 8th 2020, the 26th Edition of the Communities in Bloom National Awards Ceremonies were held virtually, **Celebrating Healthy Communities in Full Bloom** across Canada.



Communities in Bloom is a volunteer & partnership-driven organization that uses multi-tiered competitive evaluation process to foster community strength, involvement and continuous improvement. This is accomplished by nurturing environmental sustainability, enhancements of green spaces, and heritage conservation, in cultural and natural environments encompassing municipal, residential, commercial and institutional spaces.

#### **This years winners are as follows:**

Communities in Bloom **2020 Best Blooming Community** Award: Millet, AB

Scotts **Community of Gardeners** Award: Melfort, SK

Communities in Bloom **Urban Forestry** Award: Pincher Creek, AB

National Capital Commission **Floral Displays** Award: Pincher Creek, AB

Communities in Bloom **Heritage Conservation** Award: Tignish, PE

Scotts Turf Builder **Landscape** Award: Castlegar, BC

Communities in Bloom **Community Appearance** Award: Tignish, PE & Yarmouth, NS

Municipal World **WinterLife** Award: Wood Buffalo, AB

Scotts **Youth Involvement** Award: Coquitlam, BC

The Butchart Gardens **Land Reclamation** Award: Melfort, SK

Canadian Nursery and Landscape Association **Environmental Action** Award: Coquitlam, BC

Equinox **2020 Backyard Contest**: Barry & Susan Armstrong from Chipman, NB

Equinox **2020 Front Yard & Balcony Contest**: Johannes van Akkeren from Rosemere, QC

### **MILLET FIELDHOUSE NOW OPEN FOR BOOKINGS!**

The Town of Millet and the City of Wetaskiwin have teamed up to provide some indoor recreational activities at the Millet Agriplex. We now have the indoor soccer field set up, as well as pickle ball courts, basketball courts and floor curling! You can book your times by contacting 780-916-6586, or by emailing your requested dates/times to [facilities@millet.ca](mailto:facilities@millet.ca).

### **MILLET & DISTRICT MUSEUM, ARCHIVES IS OPEN!**

Wednesday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. by appointment only. Call 780-387-5558 or email [info@milletmuseum.ca](mailto:info@milletmuseum.ca) to book. Masks are required. All guests will be temperature checked and asked for contact information. The Museum will be closed for Christmas break at 4:00 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18th and will re-open on Wednesday, Jan. 6th, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

The Millet Arts and Crafts Guild handcrafted items can be viewed online at <https://www.milletmuseum.ca/Gift-Shop> and purchased through the Redwagon Store within the Millet Museum. We accept credit or debit, cash or e-transfer. All that Buzz Honey is also available. Twelve quilts were donated to the John A. Smith Manor residents. The handicraft displays are available to be seen at the Museum until Nov. 13th, 2020.

### **Kids program kits by the Museum**

Remembrance Day kids program kits will be picked up November 3rd to be on display November 10 at the Millet Cenotaph. Take a walk through the Millet Cemetery and St. Norbert's Roman Catholic Cemetery with the Veteran Tour brochure [https://files.townlife.com/public/uploads/documents/27303/VeteranBrochure2020\\_Better.pdf](https://files.townlife.com/public/uploads/documents/27303/VeteranBrochure2020_Better.pdf). Thanks to the Millet Royal Canadian Legion #229 and the Millet Museum and Archives partnership there are Canada flag stands at each gravesite.

### **Christmas Event**

Register your child now for the Millet Museum's Christmas Scavenger Hunt and Open House on Thursday, December 17th. Find the registration form at [milletmuseum.ca](http://milletmuseum.ca) from Nov. 16 - Nov. 27th, 2020.

The Millet Museum welcomes Allison Easton, our new Archives Intern through the Young Canada Works Building Careers in Heritage program.

### **SNOW REMOVAL SIGNS**

Yes, it's that time of year again when crews will be setting up those snow removal signs (weather dependent). Please keep an eye out for these reminders and ensure vehicles are removed so that we can keep the streets of Millet as cleared as possible.

### **UTILITY AND TAX PAYMENTS**

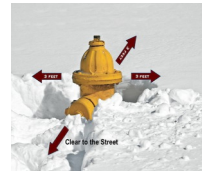
The Town of Millet Administration kindly requests that when making any online payments to the Town of Millet, please ensure the account number matches the account you are paying in order to avoid it being applied to the wrong account.

### **MESSAGE FROM PUBLIC SERVICES**

All residents - if you have a bleeder valve on your meter, please ensure it is 'on' prior to a major drop in outside temperatures to avoid freezing. Thank you.

### **MESSAGE FROM ENFORCEMENT SERVICES**

Help us to help you! With more snow on the way, please ensure that there is at least three (3) feet around each side of the fire hydrant on your property and cleared to the street to allow access in the event of an emergency. Built up snow can result in delays getting water to a fire which may cause serious damage and injury.



Enforcement Services will be monitoring the situation this winter which can result in fines.

### **A MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR**

What a year 2020 has been! When COVID-19 struck in March, we all found our lives turned upside down. Getting through 2020 has presented challenges to each and every one of us in our personal, family and working lives, and it has been no different for those involved in running the Town's operations.

With a small compliment of staff, we struggled hard to maintain the everyday services that our residents rely on us for. Beginning with the example set out by our new CAO, Lisa Schoening, each and every one of our staff members went above and beyond what was expected of them in attending to their respective tasks from their home base, often working unusual hours, as became necessary to avoid interacting with others. They all did a tremendous job and we thank and commend them all!

Also, many congratulations and thanks to all of our residents for the fantastic job you all did in the clearing up of the debris and fallen trees in town after the horrendous windstorm that hit us in July. Your efforts were noted, highlighted and admired across Canada when it was announced that the Town of Millet had become the first-time recipient of the National CIB Best Blooming Community Award!

As we see how the pandemic has affected the entire world, I have reflected upon how fortunate we all are to be living in Millet. We have, so far, been spared any of our residents falling victim to the virus, and if we can all continue to be careful, let's hope we can keep it that way, no matter how long the social restrictions may last.

There will be some things happening in town next year that we can all look forward to. By the end of summer, we will have new Town facilities operating out of the refurbished Millet School building and, of course, new flooring and ice in the Millet Agriplex. With the move and expansion to the Millet Library, they will soon be able to accommodate so many more patrons and participants in our children's programs. I am also hoping to see a daycare and preschool open up in town somewhere before the beginning of the next school year.

While we all must wonder when, or if, our lives will ever return to 'normal' again, we must all think positive and as we approach the end of this year, I join with each of you in hoping for better things next year.

***Happy Holidays ,  
Mayor Tony Wadsworth***

# TOWN OF MILLET

## Recreation Update

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### **Recreation Survey Results**

Of the 46 surveys returned to the Town of Millet Administration office, the survey says.....

- On average, the Town's parks and recreation facilities including the trail system are often used and residents feel the Town of Millet offers sufficient green space.
- Opportunities to improve upon have been noted and the Town of Millet will be working on these items going forward.

The Town of Millet greatly appreciates those that took the time to fill out the survey as the results will help us to understand areas of needed improvement and provide us with some goals to work towards. The comments that have been received also help us to understand the use of our parks, playgrounds and trails that we did not have information on previously.

The Recreation Survey will remain on the Town of Millet website ([www.millet.ca](http://www.millet.ca)) until the end of the year for those that still wish to participate.

### **Town of Millet - Outdoor Rink**

The Town of Millet has received a generous donation from Fresh Market to rehabilitate the outdoor rink. In honor of this donation, the outdoor rink will be re-named to the 'Millet Fresh Market Outdoor Rink'. The Town will be re-using some materials from the Agriplex which will be replaced during the renovations. Some of the work will be commencing on the outdoor rink immediately to ensure it is up and running for the upcoming winter season. Weather sensitive work will be completed in the spring of 2021.

### **Phillips Park - Additional Outdoor Rink**

Phillips Park (on the corner of 51st Avenue and Range Road 244) will be used as part of a pilot project for an additional outdoor rink within the Town of Millet. Since this is a pilot project, the barrier of the rink will be constructed of straw bales which have been generously donated by Shelley and Arlie Dreger. Weather permitting, this rink will also be operational this upcoming winter season.

### **Agriplex Parking Lot - Skating Area**

The Town of Millet Recreation Department is also planning on being able to offer residents an additional 'public skating' area which will be designated for 'public skating only'. No shinny or hockey will be permitted on this ice surface and again, weather permitting, this ice surface should be up and running for the upcoming winter season.

### **Agriplex Floor Update**

The Town of Millet Development department is planning on going to tender to receive bids for the necessary repairs to the arena floor in the near future. This tender opportunity will be posted on the Alberta Purchasing Connection and our plan is to have all tenders in by the end of the year. This will provide ample time for us to start working with the selected contractor to ensure the arena is ready for use in September of 2021!

### **Agriplex Floor Update**

Our temporary field house has been very busy with many activities and is currently being used for seniors floor curling, soccer, football, basketball, birthday parties, baseball and pickleball. We are very thankful to the City of Wetaskiwin for the opportunity to partner with them and use their turf. To book your event or for rental inquiries, contact [facilities@millet.ca](mailto:facilities@millet.ca) or call 780-916-6586.