

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
BEAVER COUNTY SEED CLEANING CO-OP  
**Held at 7 p.m. on**  
**Thursday, February 1, 2024**  
**at the Holden Complex**  
**COFFEE & DONUTS WILL BE PROVIDED**

Serving all the farms, ranches,  
acreages and towns in  
Beaver County

Bruce, Holden,  
Kinsella  
Ryley, Tofield, Viking

# The Beaver County Chronicle

A Free Weekly Publication Serving All of Beaver County

Wednesday, January 31, 2024, Volume 17, Issue 05



## Beaver County municipalities all under severe water restriction

Patricia Harcourt

The most severe water use restrictions have been imposed on residents of Beaver County, including its town, villages, hamlets, and rural areas.

The Highway 14 Regional Water Services Commission has posted on its website that a Water Demand Advisory Condition 'C' is in place as of Jan. 29.

The commission falls under the auspices of Strathcona County from where it gets its water. From there, a pipeline adjacent to Highway 14 to delivers water to local municipalities and county residents.

Some residents locally may have missed the proclamation since it came from Epcor in Strathcona County, not

realizing Beaver County falls under its mandate.

"This means there is a ban on non-essential potable water use for all users and mandatory water restrictions for the general public," states the notice.

"The ban is expected to last until Epcor is able to complete repairs at the EL Smith Water Treatment Plant and restore normal operations."

All truck fills in Beaver County will be out of operation until the ban is lifted.

A Condition 'C' order means a ban on all municipal operations, and a water ban prohibiting the general public from non-essential use.

The notice states: "Epcor is still working on the repair and so does not have a timeline at this point. They are

issuing the Condition 'C' to be conservative at least until timelines can be established."

In the meantime, the Regional Water Services Commission is asking that people remain patient while Epcor tries to repair the problem with its water treatment plant.

"We understand that the ban is inconvenient and appreciate your cooperation in adjusting your operations for the duration of the Water Demand Management Condition. This restriction will help reduce our demand on the water supply," while repairs are being undertaken.

The commission states that water restriction measures can be put in place by Epcor, Strathcona County or the Highway 14 Regional Water Services

Commission due to any situation that prevents the water supply from meeting the current water demand such as prolonged hot weather or a failure in the water treatment or distribution systems.

A Demand Measure 'C' category means that regional reservoirs are forecasted to be below 35 per cent of capacity within the next five days.



## Open house at Holden Lodge to discuss vacancies, facility's future

Patricia Harcourt

Beaver Foundation is holding an open house and information session Feb. 6 at the Holden Lodge to discuss high vacancies and the future of the lodge.

"Beaver Foundation is facing real struggles with funding due to inflation, carbon tax, and, in general, costs across the board," said the Foundation Chairman Gene Hrabec. "We have been advocating for our residents to try and find a balance on the level of service we provide as well as strategies to fill all of our facilities."

It started in late November last year when the foundation board voted to defeat a motion by former board member Clint Nearing to close the facility (as reported in the Chronicle on Nov. 29, 2023). The vote was two in favour of closure, including Nearing and current Tofield Mayor Deb Dueck, but the rest opposed the motion.

"I will say that as the chair and a board member I have put my heart and soul into advocating for all of our facilities, staff, and especially the seniors

who utilize our great facilities," said Hrabec, after the vote.

He also noted that, "Beaver Foundation is critical to employment and viability in all of the municipalities."

Since then, the issue has grown with a CBC-TV Edmonton crew travelling to Holden to interview foundation Chair Gene Hrabec and residents, and take a tour of the facility.

Hrabec stated at the time that closure could be an option if the situation doesn't change.

"There's going to be a line in the sand and, unfortunately, we're getting to that," said Hrabec, in the CBC interview.

Seven residents currently reside at the lodge which has room for 33 seniors, an occupancy rate of about 20%. In Central Alberta as a whole more than 25% of spaces in lodges are vacant.

Beaver Foundation has tried attracting people to live in the lodge, including lowering rent by \$200 a month, allowing pets, holding a monthly medical clinic, and having a room set aside for the use of marijuana.

But it doesn't seem to have worked or to have countered the problems that appear to be preventing people in general from moving into lodges - including rural depopulation, especially in smaller communities like Holden.

With the lack of seniors in the lodge and the costs for utilities and other expenses rising, Hrabec said the building may have to be closed and given back to the province.

Hrabec, who is Deputy Reeve and county councillor for Division 3, reported the visit to Holden Lodge at the Jan. 17 regular county council meet-

ing.

Calling it a "good news, bad news" kind of situation, Hrabec said the publicity succeeded in "getting that word out," about the lodge's plight.

He expressed a wish that "people would reach out and take a look at Holden Lodge," because of this coverage.

The public information session on Feb. 6 is hopefully going to be another way to get the word out. There will be a tour and speakers, a visit from local MLA Jackie Lovely, and is an event that will run from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.



Gene Hrabec, Deputy Reeve of Beaver County (far right) is shown at the recent Provincial Agricultural Service Board convention in Lethbridge alongside Agriculture Minister R.J. Sigurdson (centre) and Reeve of Two Hills Murray Phillips.

## OPEN RFP'S / RFQ'S

Beaver County is currently accepting submissions for the following:

- RFP2024-01INFR – Black Nugget Lake (BNL) & Camp Lake (CL) Campground Operation and Maintenance
  - Closes Feb 5, 2024 – Beaver County is looking for campground hosts who will both operate and maintain BNL and CL campgrounds.
- RFQ2024-02INFR – Landflood & Beaver Control Services
  - Closes Feb 5, 2024 – Beaver County is looking to obtain contracted services for Landflood and Beaver control.
- RFQ2024-04INF - Road Reclaimer/Soil Stabilizer
  - Closes Feb 12, 2024 - Beaver County is inviting the submission of non-binding offers for the provision of a Road Reclaimer/Soil Stabilizer.
- RFQ2024-05INFR Tandem Highway Tractor Trailer
  - Closes Feb 12, 2024 @ 10 AM

Please find complete information for all requests on our website > Business > Requests for Proposals & Quotes



## CALLING ALL SKILLED TRADES!



Are you a skilled trades person? Plumber, carpenter, electrician, water hauler, vac truck operator, etc.? If so, Beaver County invites your organization to join our Approved Contractor List! Your organization can apply for pre-approval by completing a simple form and submitting to us!

Find the form on our website under Business > Requests for Proposals & Quotes (or scan the QR code above)



## Claystone Waste Ltd

### Landfill & Ryley Transfer Station:

50117 Rge Rd 173 (HWY 854) Box 322, Ryley, AB T0B 4A0  
Weekdays 9:00am - 4:30pm;  
Saturdays / STATS 9:00am - 3:00pm; Closed Sundays

**NOTE: customers must arrive at least 15 minutes prior to closing;**

Administration building  
Mon to Fri 8:00am – 4:00pm, Closed from 12:00 – 1:00pm  
Toll Free: 1.855.221.2038 Ph: 780.663.2038

### Lindbrook Transfer Station:

51008 Rge Rd 201 Ph: 780.662.2704  
Tues 10:30am – 5:30pm; Thurs 11:30am – 6:30pm;  
Sat 10:30am – 5:30pm

### Tofield Transfer Station:

51032 Rge Rd 191 Ph: 780.662.2731  
Wed, Fri & Sat 10:30am – 5:30pm

### Viking Transfer Station:

12503 Twp Rd 480 Ph: 780.718.7956  
Tues 10:30am – 5:30pm; Sat 10:30am – 5:30pm

### Kinsella Transfer Station:

46418 Rge Rd 113 Ph: 780.226.6802  
Wed 11:00am – 5:00pm; Fri 11:00am – 5:00pm

**Please note:** All transfer stations except for the Ryley Transfer Station are closed on Statutory holidays.



BEAVER COUNTY

## VIKING/BEAVER FCSS BEAVER COUNTY EAST DROP-IN DATES

Do you have questions about:

- Financial benefits programs for seniors?
- Community resources, such as mental health supports?
- Home Help services?
- Community engagement opportunities?
- Caregiver supports? -Anything else support services related?

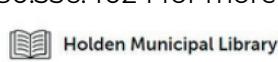
### Kinsella:

Dates: February 2, 16, March 1, 15  
9 a.m. - noon  
Kinsella Library (located in the Kinsella Community Centre)

### Bruce:

Dates: February 9, 23, March 8, 22,  
9 a.m. - noon  
Bruce Library (located in the Bruce Community Centre)

Come chat with us, no appointment necessary! Please contact VBFCSS at 780.336.4024 for more information.



Kinsella Rec and Ag Society

## LIVESTOCK DROUGHT RECOVERY SUPPORT EXPANDED



- Beaver County is now included in the Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance initiative.
- The deadline for submissions has also been extended from January 15 to February 22.

Livestock producers in eligible regions who altered their usual grazing practices due to drought conditions for more than 21 days this season can apply for financial support to cover losses incurred to manage and maintain female breeding animals such as cattle, bison, horses, elk, sheep, goats, alpacas, yak, musk ox, deer, water buffalo and llamas. A minimum of 15 animals per type of livestock are required to qualify.



More info: [www.afsc.ca/income-stabilization/agrirecovery](http://www.afsc.ca/income-stabilization/agrirecovery)

## BEAVER COUNTY EAST

## ... Stay & Play! ...

### For families with kids ages 0-6

Join us for active play, story and song time, crafts, activities, parent resources, family support and more!

Free of charge, no pre-registration required!

[Now in 2 locations!](#)

**Viking:** Carena Complex  
Indoor Playplace  
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
**February 2, 16**  
**March 1, 15**

**Bruce:**  
Community Hall Gym  
11 a.m. - noon  
**February 9, 23**  
**March 8, 22**

Brought to you in partnership by:



## THE PARAGON THEATRE

Movies temporarily moved to Holden Hall:  
**4919 49 Ave, Holden AB.**

Saturday, February 17th:

- 3 PM: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles - PG 99m
- 7 PM: Meg2: The Trench - PG 116m

Admissions:  
Donations to theatre repairs

CASH ONLY

Info:  
[paragontheatre.ca](http://paragontheatre.ca)

Next Movie:  
February 10 (TBA)





## IMPORTANT DATES

### February 7th:

- 9:30 AM: Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting

### February 19th:

- Office closed for Family Day

### February 21st:

- 9:30 AM: Regular Council Meeting

## WHATS HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

### Book Club - February 6th

Location: Ross Creek Community Hall, 531041 Rge Rd 191  
Rural book club that meets the first Tuesday of each month.  
Meetings run from 7PM - 8PM, all ages welcome!



### Darts Night - Wednesday evenings at the Ryley Legion

7:30 PM- 10:00 PM  
Legion membership not required, and all skills levels welcome! Darts available to lend if needed.

### Food for Thought - Give a Can Today - Food Drive

Tofield-Ryley Food Bank desperately needs cans of fruit.  
Call 780-662-3511 and leave a message if you wish to donate - a volunteer will return your call.

### Caregivers Drop-In Group - Feb 6, 13, 20 & 27, 10 AM - Noon. Viking Seniors Centre. More info: Viking/Beaver FCSS - 780-336-4024

### Music Jam/Open Mic - Feb 18, 2 PM.

Holden Community Hall. More info: beaverhillplayers17@gmail.com

### Tofield AA - Thursdays, 8 - 9 PM

Basement of Bardo Lutheran Church, 4737 57 Ave, Tofield.

### Viking AA - Wednesdays, 7:30 PM, Zoom option also available.

Golden Valley Lutheran Church, 5327 56 Ave, Viking.

<https://area78aa.org/meetings/147-3/>



Submit your event/s, meetings and/or gatherings to our events calendar on the website! Just head to the website, scroll down to the calendar, click to view all events, then hit the **Submit an event button!**

## JOIN OUR TEAM!

We're looking for some dynamic, motivated team members to join our team! What's your superpower?!

- Assistant Agricultural Fieldman - Agricultural Services
- Human Resources - Manager
- Project Coordinator - ERP Finance
- Seasonal Crew Member - Agricultural Services

For more information, and details on how to apply, visit our website > Government > Careers

SCAN  
ME!



## IS IT TIME TO UPGRADE YOUR SKILLS?

GET STARTED WITH CALP



CALL  
780 663 3732

EMAIL  
CALP@BEAVER.AB.CA

CALP ALSO OFFERS

RESUME DRAFTING SUPPORT  
PATHWAYS TO EARNING YOUR GED



### Mailing list

Get news, meeting highlights, the road construction schedule, the Chronicle, and more - direct to your inbox!

### Website

Information on County programs and services can be found on our website, along with the latest news.

### Social media

Find us on Facebook, X (Twitter), Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn.



## DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

The following Development Applications have been APPROVED (except where otherwise noted) by the Development Authority under the provisions of Land Use Bylaw No. 98-801, subject to the right of appeal to the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board/Land and Property Rights Tribunal.

### APPEAL DEADLINE FEBRUARY 7, 2024

Appeal Body LPRT  
Application No. 020020-24-D0004  
Applicant MAGA Energy Ltd.  
Landowner BCR Farms Ltd.  
Location Plan 212 2928; Block 1; Lot 3 located in NE-15-51-19-W4  
Development Discretionary Use – Natural Resource Extraction Uses and General Industrial Uses – Type II – Four (4) Natural Gas Generators combined capacity of 990 kW (sea cans - each being 1.5m x 2.4m) and One (1) Data Processing Facility (sea can - 2.4m x 12.4m) – added to existing wellsite with well and compressor

### APPEAL DEADLINE FEBRUARY 7, 2024

Appeal Body SDAB  
Application No. 020020-24-D0005  
Applicant Fluent Solar  
Landowner Gordon Aitken and Darlene Svendsen  
Location Plan 782 2988; Block 4; Lot 2 located in NE-27-50-20-W4  
Development Discretionary Use – Solar Collector, Roof Mount (336.29 ft<sup>2</sup> in area to be mounted on existing garage)

### APPEAL DEADLINE FEBRUARY 14, 2024

Appeal Body SDAB  
Application No. 020020-24-D0003  
Applicant Brent Picard (Ammomento)  
Landowner Hubert and Julie Giese  
Location Plan 752 0508; Block ; Lot 7 located in NW-32-50-20-W4  
Development Discretionary Use – General Commercial Use – 12' x 36' pole shed within a 23m x 22m outdoor handgun/pistol shooting range with 10m in height berm and minimum 8' in height perimeter fence

### APPEAL DEADLINE FEBRUARY 14, 2024

Appeal Body SDAB  
Application No. 020020-24-D0006  
Applicant Brian Hrabec  
Landowner Hrabec Farms Ltd.  
Location NW-18-50-15-W4  
Development Discretionary Use – Second or Additional Dwellings (3,594 sq.ft. two-story house with attached garage)

### APPEAL DEADLINE FEBRUARY 21, 2024

Appeal Body LPRT  
Application No. 020020-24-D0007  
Applicant Lahrmann Construction Inc.  
Landowner Joseph Lazaruk  
Location NE-24-52-19-W4  
Development Discretionary Use – General Industrial Use – Type II - Temporary Asphalt Plant and Stockpile Site (90m x 100m in area) with Work Campsite (50m x 80m in area)

Any person wishing to appeal an application may do so by serving written notice on the prescribed form (stating reasons for the appeal) to the relevant appeal body. For information on how to appeal can be found on our website under **Services > Planning & Development > Appealing Planning Decisions**

Further information regarding the above decisions may be obtained from the County Office, Ryley, Alberta.



# Beaver Foundation speaks out about Holden Lodge

*Editor's Note: The following is a general response from Foundation Chair Gene Hrabec and CAO Owen Lisgard to questions posed by the Chronicle on the issues at Holden Lodge and other senior facilities in Beaver County.*

Beaver Foundation was approached for an interview by CBC as they were completing a story about the increase in vacancies in Supportive Living Level 2 lodge facilities in rural Alberta. They just happened to pick Holden Lodge from the ASCHA Housing Directory as the vacancies are very high. Currently Beaver Foundation is experiencing 68 vacancies out of 203 units in our SL2 lodges.

Beaver Foundation held a meeting on October 24, 2023, where a motion was presented for administration to look into beginning the closing process of Holden Lodge. This motion was defeated. Following the vote, Beaver Foundation felt that it would be in the best interest of ratepayers to have the opportunity to voice concerns about Holden Lodge and

to research the possible interest in supporting Holden Lodge. Also, to let the fact be known that we need more seniors to move in or show intent they will move in before the facility reverts back to the Alberta Social Housing Corporation as a surplus building.

The Holden Lodge is a very important facility to the Village of Holden and the seniors that call it home. The current situation at Holden Lodge is definitely not optimal with 7 residents and employing approximately 13 employees. This may seem like a lot of employees although the lodge must follow the Alberta Accommodation Standards for SL2 facilities which includes a manager, kitchen staff, housekeeping staff, activity staff, and facility maintenance staff. The site must also have staff on duty 24 hours per day to ensure the safety of the residents.

The Holden Lodge currently has 26 vacancies out of 33 units, Vialta Lodge has 27 vacancies out of 64 units, Sunshine Villa in Tofield has nine vacancies out of

46 and Tofield Lodge has six vacancies out of 60 units.

Beaver Foundation has also created a promotion to attract new seniors contemplating moving to Holden Lodge by discounting the rent portion by \$200 per month. Rent packages at our lodges consist of two portions, one is the actual rent of the unit and the other portion is the service package that includes meals, housekeeping and activates. The Board has decided to reduce the unit rent portion as transportation is also another hurdle in the Village of Holden and it costs more to have seniors access forms of transportation. This reduction in rent also now aligns Holden Lodge with the rent amounts for the small inside rooms at Vialta Lodge in Viking. Unit sizes average 222 square feet in Holden Lodge and the inside rooms at Vialta Lodge are 224 square feet.

We hear that many seniors are reluctant to move to Holden Lodge as the Village of Holden does not have a hospital - although we would like to remind local seniors and families that Primary Care has opened a clinic in the Holden Lodge and is accepting patients. Currently the PCN organizes a doctor and staff to Holden Lodge every second month and would increase the schedule as demand is warranted. For further information on the Holden Lodge Primary Care Remote Clinic please call 780-336-4780.

The open house and information session to be held at the Holden Lodge on February 6 will entail a short speech from the Chairman of Beaver Foundation with a question and answer period to follow

with the chairman, attending board members and CAO of Beaver Foundation. MLA Jackie Lovely will also be in attendance. It has not been confirmed she will be providing a speech but the MLA will be available to take questions in regards to seniors housing.

The goal of this information session is to determine the potential future demand for Holden Lodge.

Another topic to be discussed at the information session is a hope of initiating creative ideas on how to improve the current SL2 housing framework as today's seniors are moving in at a later age and now have increased needs and wants.

Beaver Foundation is lobbying for support to increase the Alberta Health assistance to seniors living in SL2 facilities so they can age in place longer before being reassessed to higher levels of care and end up being placed in a hospital waiting area as long-term care space is tight in Alberta.

A lot of seniors are reassessed to higher levels of care due to light cueing, personal health assistance and mild mental health issues. Currently Homecare assists residents in our lodges on a scheduled basis for required needs and, unfortunately, do not have the means to help seniors on an unscheduled basis, such as for unscheduled wound care and unscheduled personal hygiene assistance.

With a team approach between Alberta Health and Beaver Foundation, we feel we could keep seniors in our SL2 lodges longer and free up space in our hospitals and Long Term Care facilities.

## Beaver County now included in drought recovery support program

Patricia Harcourt

Beaver County officials lobbied and helped achieve success in the expansion of a livestock drought relief program to help their local producers after last year's drought. The result is that the county is now included, along with 22 other municipalities, in the program after previously being excluded.

Beaver County was not initially eligible for the relief, but officials from the region were able to persuade Agriculture and Irrigation Minister S.J. Sigurdson that this part of the province needed to be included in the aid package.

Beaver County's Deputy Reeve Gene Hrabec confirmed a meeting with Sigurdson at the Provincial ASB Conference in Lethbridge, which was held from Jan. 22-24.

After that meeting, Sigurdson issued a statement on social media: "We're expanding the 2023 Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance program. Starting Jan. 29, producers in 23 additional regions can apply for financial support to maintain breeding herds."

The support is in the nature of up to \$150 per head of breeding animals for producers affected by last year's drought.

Local municipal officials lobbied for the expansion and got results, said Hrabec, calling it "a great news story for advocating to have our counties included in the Ag Drought Assistance program after (initial) exclusion."

"This was excellent work by all of the municipalities working together," he said. Hrabec said a case for inclusion was also made to the minister at an ASB meeting last November.

"In early November the Alberta Ag Service Board, which I attended as the alternate, presented to R.J. and one of our topics was parity for the program where there is significant drought in our area."

The program is designed to help livestock producers who were forced to alter their usual grazing practices due to drought conditions for more than 21 days this past season.

Producers who fit that description in Beaver County can now apply for financial support to cover losses incurred to manage and maintain female breeding animals including: cattle, bison, horses, elk, sheep, goats, alpacas, yak, musk ox, deer, water buffalo, and llamas. A minimum of 15 animals per type of livestock are required to qualify.

"I'm pleased the Alberta government was able to work with the federal government to expand this financial support to additional regions impacted by severe drought and extreme heat conditions," stated Sigurdson. "I will continue to look out for the interests of our hard working livestock producers."

And Lawrence MacAulay, federal minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, added: "We're also updating the designated regions for the 2023 Livestock Tax Deferral to give more producers access to the support they need."

Funding for the 23 new regions opens on Jan. 29 with payments of up to \$150 per head possible. The application deadline is Feb. 22, "and extraordinary costs can be incurred until March 31," stated the expansion announcement. "This expansion also gives producers who were already eligible another opportunity to apply."

The program will be administered by the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC), and producers can get more information and apply through the AFSC website.

"Going into 2024 AFSC is ready to help producers manage their risks and support Alberta's agriculture industry," said AFSC CEO Darryl Kay, calling last year "a tough one for Alberta's livestock producers."

