

Hello residents of Bragg Creek & Area, Brushy Ridge, Towers Ridge, Circle 5 Estates, Jumping Pound and Toki!

Spray Lakes Harvest Plans for the Bragg Creek Area - Public open House Coming to Bragg Creek Soon...

I have received many e-mails regarding Spray Lakes plans for timber harvesting in the Bragg Creek area.

The Bragg Creek Fire Smart Committee continues to work on its final recommendations to Rocky View County Council. The Committee will be recommending that Provincial lands and associated Zone 3 containment areas be planned with collaboration of all parties in the West Bragg Creek Land Users Group - including among many others the Greater Bragg Creek Trails Association represented by **Eric Lloyd**. The responsibility for ultimate approval of timber harvesting lies with Sustainable Resource Development and the strategy will be implemented jointly by Sustainable Resource Development and Spray Lake Sawmills (1980) Ltd. Therefore, it is important that the Province and Spray Lake Sawmills provide the community information pertaining to the process going forward with respect to provincial (Zone 3) lands in order that the community might rest assured that they will be appropriately consulted regarding proposed harvesting and other plans. To that end, I have recently received the following information from Spray Lakes Sawmills; and I quote...

Spray Lake Sawmills will be having an open house in the new year in Bragg Creek where their plans and staff will be available to address residents concerns.... *Spray Lakes Sawmills has developed a road system that will allow all heavy traffic to access the area without having to use the West Bragg Creek Road. This was to accommodate the concerns of the community including the Greater Bragg Creek Trails association. All trails will be protected during the harvest operations and will be made 100% functional once the project is complete.* For more information, please go to:

<http://www.spraylakesawmills.com/Woodlands/ForestManagementPlanning/GeneralDevelopmentPlans/tabid/202/ItemId/91/Default.aspx>

For further information and to get on Spray Lakes contact list wherein you will also be notified of any updates including the open house please contact:

Jordan Dyck, RPFT
Spray Lake Sawmills
Woodlands Operations Planner
(403) 851-3339
Email: jordan.dyck@spraylakesawmills.com

As for the Province itself, here is their latest communiqué: *The West Bragg Creek Area and much of Kananaskis Country area is a multiple-use area that supports a variety of activities, including timber harvesting, cattle grazing, oil and gas production and recreational opportunities. Sustainable Resource Development supports and guides timber harvesting activities throughout the province – including the West Bragg Creek area – within a framework of legislation, regulations and approved forest management plans. The forest*

management plan for the area links the timing and location of timber harvesting activities with various other non-timber assets such as wildlife, watersheds, and recreational opportunities. Timber harvesting, when carefully planned, implemented and followed by legislated reforestation, can maintain or enhance wildlife habitat, biodiversity and recreational activities in an area.... Harvesting has been occurring in the area for many years, in fact, some of the recreational opportunities that you make reference to utilize some of the cutblocks and roads used during previous harvesting operations. For more information from this Provincial s perspective, please contact:

Morgan Kehr
Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
Morgan.Kehr@gov.ab.ca
403-297-8838

As for Bragg Creek Fire Smart, the following link provides a host of information including the latest draft of the proposed mitigation strategy and responses to various questions and suggestions to date: <http://www.rockyview.ca/firesmart>. As I say, the Committee is still in the process of responding to your recent suggestions and questions from last month's community meeting. These will be posted and e-mailed to enquiring residents soon.

County Funding to Bragg Creek Community Association

County Council's most recent meeting approved \$27,358 of Community Recreation Capital Funding from the Rocky View West Recreation Board, to assist the Bragg Creek Community Association with repairs and improvements for the Bragg Creek Centre. The upgrading of the new rink liner will provide safer access to the outdoor rink. In addition the Community Association will save costs in maintenance and utilities with a new industrialized freezer, and increase revenue with a new concession shed and outdoor cold storage building.

County Council also approved the funding from 80/20 Provincial/County funding for Family and Community Support Services to the Bragg Creek Community Association for its Community Program Director (a \$42,000 contribution).

Thanks again to BCCA Board members **Sunil Mattu** (president) , **Kathy Mowley**, **Mike Wattam**, **Blaine Mitchell**, **Heidi Otteson**, **Jane Boyce**, **Glen Smith**, **Lisa Johnston**, **Candace Hendrikson**, **Laura Matthews**, **Karen Baptie**, **Charlie Holschuh**, **Michelle Shewchuk**, **Stella George** for all their good volunteer work. And staff members **Yvonne Smith** (Facility director), **Peg Rupert**, **Lauren Stieger**, **Bob Jackson** and **Dale Lomenda** for their good professional/paid work. Then of course there is our Rocky View West Recreation Board members from Division 1: **Rob Paterson**, our recently selected new Chair, **Robert Sadee**, **Mike Medwind**, and **Helen Clease** who do a great job sorting through the many requests for funding.

Truths and Rumors... Beefs and Bouquets...

- **Beef** - Sorry to those who may have been offended by the e-mail I sent to some residents regarding my endorsement in the upcoming provincial election for our new Banff Cochrane riding. I realize my opinions on the dozens of decisions I make

in a week often offend - including my many e-mails that are meant to inform but sometimes provoke. However, on this one I may have stepped over a line for some of you by making a political endorsement that could have been kept personal. I decided to do this - and still feel okay doing it - in order to be transparent and engage residents in what I thought was an important political matter. But again, sorry to those whom I have offended. And thanks for your comments as always!

- **Rumour** - Although I did make this clarification at a recent community meeting, I did want to repeat here - because of continued misinformation - that the recent Bragg Creek Mall paving was **not** in any way funded in any form whatsoever by the County, Province or Feds. The County (and I) certainly encouraged this long overdue work to be done by the Mall owners, but we did not encourage financially.
- **Truth** - The road allowances that are proposed to be closed under the 2009 Tsuu T'ina-Province land exchange are in fact undeveloped and those road allowances that remain open are in fact legal road allowances and it will be up to the Tsuu T'ina as to whether or not they are developed.
- **Truth** - Some of you, including the Province, have stated that the 2009 Province-Tsuu T'ina land exchange agreement of 2009 was in fact public knowledge well before the deal was rejected by the Tsuu T'ina. The Reeve and I were able to get certain matters, including maps, made more clear; but this was all public information and posted on the provinces website for years - before my time :).
- **Truth and Beef** - The estimates are going up for the Water & Wastewater Utility costs for hook-up and monthly charges. Yes, sorry they are, we took the risk to give you these numbers - always as estimates - at the community meeting and on the web site in order that residents would have some idea of costs. We will hopefully be out with better numbers as we continue to work through the complex challenge of not yet knowing our customer base whilst dealing with fluid input costs.
- **Beef** - The triangle of land is still not a pretty sight at the entrance to Bragg Creek. You ask - Where's that provincial plan for improving the entrance way and roads that I (Rick) talked about? The Province is still working on concepts for improving road safety and the general entranceway. These ideas will be brought to the community for discussion. However, Tsuu T'ina lands and other complexities are involved and this will take some time and process to work through.
- **Bouquet** - County Council will be hard at work the next few weeks considering the 2012 budget. I have received some bouquets from a few of you who support our "zero-based budget" approach. Council will be going through the numbers with greater scrutiny to ensure County's taxes remain among the lowest in its category in the Province and in the region. I have also heard some great suggestions from residents for both spending increases and spending cuts; and will keep you posted as progress is made. Any more suggestions? Please let me know!

Merry Christmas everyone!

If you would like to stay in touch with me on an every-few weeks basis through these e-mail updates, or if you have any comments or suggestions please e-mail me at rbutler@rockyview.ca.

I have added a few people to this edition of my update so **if you wish to be taken off this e-mail distribution**, please let me know. No hard feelings...

Rick

Rick Butler
Councillor Div 1 & Deputy Reeve
Rocky View County
403.863.7425
rbutler@rockyview.ca
rockyview.ca