

Krista Gardner Councillor Report

April 2025

April 1st- Lead Volunteer for Children's Drop in Programming- April Fool's Day Fun

I am so grateful that the Town gave me the opportunity to organize and participate in spring break programming for the Town. I planned and purchased the supplies needed as well as recruiting and supporting the other volunteers. This event had 27 participants. Children ages 4-12, mostly 5-9, who were primarily Calmar families with one family from the County. We had 3 adult volunteers help out. Everyone attending came with a parent (or another supervisor). We had 2 crafts, jokes, toys, the older kids played Exploding Kittens (which I had brought from home). I welcomed people at the door, signed them in, and then thanked them for coming when they left. I also asked them some questions about what kinds of things they would like to see moving forward. The feedback I received was that this type of low cost, no registration, drop in programming was much appreciated and attendees would like to see more. There was discussion about being willing to pay for larger scale activities, once we are able to accommodate that.

April 2nd- Towns West Zone Meeting and CEO Outreach (as Alberta Municipalities Board Director)

April 3rd- Lead Volunteer for Children's Drop in Programming- Spring Break Era

Similar to April 1st, this event was based on a Taylor Swift theme. We did see more girl attendance than boys, but it was well attended and enjoyed by all there. There were 35 participants, children ages 3-12, mostly 6-11. This event had a split closer to half Town/half County. We had the same 3 adult volunteers. This time, there were lots of parents but also 5 girls dropped off (9-, 10- and 11-year-olds). We made friendship bracelets, a trivia contest, colouring and activity sheets, hair tinsel and temporary tattoos. About half the total participants attended both sessions. So, there were probably 45-50 unique individuals out of 62 attendees.

April 4th- Leduc, Nisku, and Wetaskiwin Chamber of Commerce State of the City of Leduc Luncheon

April 5th- Calmar Royal Canadian Legion Meat Draw

While only attending as a resident and supporter of the Legion, I was impressed with the efforts of the Legion board to provide social events to the community. I hope it was financially successful and look forward to more events in the future.

April 7th- Regular Council Meeting

April 14th- Rural Municipalities of Alberta Pembina River District Meeting (as Alberta Municipalities Board Director)

April 15th- RMA and ABmunis Candidate Information Training for upcoming webinars

April 15th- Alberta Counsel Bill 50: Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act Webinar

This webinar included information on the changes to the Municipal Government Act and the potential impacts to municipalities. As this legislation was unexpected, municipalities and ABmunis are working hard to analyze how this will affect our communities.

April 15th- Calmar Collegiate School Information Session

April 15th- Special Council Meeting

April 16th- Alberta Municipalities Small Communities Committee Meeting

April 16th- Minister of Municipal Affairs Bill 50: Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act Town Hall

Minister McIver gave a presentation on the changes to the Municipal Government Act contained within Bill 50 and then answered questions from local elected official attendees.

April 17th- Alberta Municipalities Board Meeting: Analysis on Bill 50

April 17th- Advanced Education Minister Sawhney's Rural Engagement Tour Planning Meeting

Calmar was contacted as a potential stop for Minister Sawhney to visit and engage with local businesses and educational opportunities related to the trades. We are looking forward to supporting Minister Sawhney and highlighting the many prospects of Calmar.

April 17th- Capital Region Southwest Water Services Commission Annual General Meeting

The Commission Board, staff and guests celebrated the success of the commission for 2024. We heard from Commission Board Chair Lars Hansen about the activities of the commission as well as Commission Manager Olson and Operations Manager Sereda. The Board approved the audited financial statements and heard a presentation from GS Construction about the importance of preparation and emergency readiness for utility providers.

April 22nd- Regular Council Meeting

April 24th- Alberta Municipalities Board Meeting

April 25th- Subdivision Authority Meeting

April 28-30th- Community Planning Association of Alberta Annual Conference

This year's theme was "From Global to Local." I attended the opening education session on "Planning Isn't Just Paperwork: Demystifying Municipal Planning." We heard a keynote address from Doug Griffiths on the topic of "Global to Local: How does it Effect Your Economy?." We then had a session on Downtown Revitalization, which reinforces for the me that we are on the right path of supporting and expanding our local businesses. Next was a presentation from David Yager on the near future of Alberta's Oil and Gas sector as well as longer term forecasting. I also attended sessions on Public Engagement and Planning as well as Economic Development and the Intersection of Planning Principles. There was also a roundtable on how planning departments can support emergency management staff and activities. On the last day, I participated in an engagement session with the Rural Development Network on addressing housing issues, needs, and opportunities in rural settings. This was very interesting and eye-opening about the goals and challenges of various partners in developing housing. We also heard a number of case studies related to the redevelopment of hamlets. While not directly applicable to Calmar, I took several notes on how to revitalize small communities, particularly related to the concept of getting buy in from the residents and maintaining community character. While this conference has a strong County and MD perspective, I thought there were valuable sessions for Calmar. I'm looking forward to implementing some of the ideas as we attract development and growth.

April 28th- Federal Election

I took the time to get out and vote in the federal election. I strongly believe in the importance of participation in our democratic system. Congratulations to incumbent Member of Parliament for Leduc-Wetaskiwin Mike Lake on his re-election. I look forward to working with him for the betterment of Calmar and our region.

April 29th- Guest Speaker for Municipal Election Webinar

I was thrilled to be invited to participate in a series of webinars aimed at encouraging and educating potential candidates in the upcoming municipal election. The presentation covered a variety of topics related to campaigning and the requirements and benefits of public service. I then spoke on my experience as an elected official in Calmar and answered questions. I was pleased to see a large turnout of people interested in se4rving their communities. For anyone reading this report who is interested in public service, I am always happy to chat!

April 29th- Joint Meeting with Black Gold Regional Schools Board of Trustees

We discussed current successes and challenges as well as future opportunities for both the entire school board and Calmar, specifically.

April 30th- Committee of the Whole Meeting

April 30th- Icer User Group Meeting

In my role as President of Calmar Figure Skating Club, I attended a meeting organized by the Town's Recreation department alongside representatives from many of our arena users. We discussed usage, booking, changes to policies. One key highlight from the report from Recreation Coordinator Miller was that Calmar has some of the highest rates of utilization based on operating hours in the province! I'm looking forward to increased collaboration with the Town and our arena users. Bright things in the future.