



Christopher Northcott,
Councillor, Division 6
(403) 423-0158
Christopher.Northcott@vulcan.ca

COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor activities and updates for November 2024.

- The November edition of “Notes from Council” is on my website:
<https://christophernorthcott.com/category/notes-from-council/>
- Attended Regular Meeting of Council on November 13th.
- Attended the RMA Fall Convention from November 4th through to the 7th. It was a good conference with some good contacts made at the trade show. I thought the Minister meetings went well. Minister Todd Lowen with Forestry and Parks seems receptive to the marina project. Met with Ministers Mike Ellis and Joseph Schow were receptive to our delegation, although there seemed to be a misunderstanding on how provincial decisions were impacting local victim services agencies. Other councillors brought up rural crime, repeat offenders and concerns about residents taking matters into their own hands. Discussion with Joseph Schow was wide-ranging but he committed to seeing the Lomond Arena and apologised for not making an earlier meeting.
- Councillor Doug Logan had a prior commitment on November 14th and he could not re-schedule; he was notified last-minute that Joseph Schow would be able to see the Lomond Arena. In his absence, Councillor Logan arranged for me to attend a meeting with MLA Joseph Schow, Greg Honess and Kelly Murray at the Lomond Arena. The standstill in construction was explained, as well as how the current impasse with the insurance provider came to be. I inquired about the grant funding opportunities and relayed that we were looking at ways to find money as well as municipal support for the project, to finish it sooner rather than later, while the dispute with the insurance provider is ongoing. Minister Schow said that it might be a challenge to get the maximum funding under the grant program he oversees (\$1.5 million) and that we would have to apply in 2025. He also mentioned that he would not be able to write a letter of support because he is the minister for the ministry overseeing the program. However, Minister Schow said that he would have no trouble getting a colleague in cabinet to write a letter of support. Additionally, Minister Schow committed to relaying the matter to the Insurance Bureau of Canada for review; I am not aware of any further update. Greg Honess is continuing on the board for the society and Kelly Murray recently re-joined the board.



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- Attended two meetings for the ORRSC Executive Committee, one on November 14th and the other on November 19th. The committee has put a lot of work into the proposed 2025 budget. I am helping present the budget to the board on December 5th and reviewing the presentation was the focus of the three-hour meeting on November 19th.
- Attended Southern Alberta Energy from Waste board meeting. A vendor review has been completed. The association is now figuring out next steps. It is looking like SAEWA will continue to operate into 2025 as it navigates what the future holds for it, as an association, and the work it has done to narrow the search for how member-municipalities could access an energy from waste facility.
- Attended Staff Appreciation Christmas Party on November 30th. Thank you to the organizers for a very nice meal and event.

Constituent Matters:

- Laid a wreath on behalf of the County at the Champion Remembrance Day Service on November 11th.
- Attended the District 20 Champion Fire Association meeting on November 13th. They discussed the success of the fundraiser, prepared thank you cards for donors, and then discussed building a community storage facility that would also store fire department equipment.
- Participated in a Zoom meeting with Village of Lomond Council and Milo's CAO on November 20th to discuss a project proposal they planned to submit for a Community Growth Initiative for post office service in their communities. My views on the matter have been on my website since October of 2021 as it relates to Community Growth Initiatives. They were aware that I have experience in navigating municipal support for post office service in Arrowwood and Milo. I also have ratepayers that rely on both villages for regular services, including the post office.
- Received a lot of phone calls regarding snow plowing during the last week of November. Mike Kiemele and Nels Petersen were very helpful in addressing all concerns. Learned that we plow 1800 miles or 180 miles per grader operator. It takes about 4 days to move that much snow and open the roads.