



## TOWN OF CARDSTON & COUNTY OF CARDSTON

### **Heart of the Southwest**

In the southwest corner of Alberta, fences have been mended. The Town of Cardston and the County of Cardston have found common ground on which to determine their future development decisions and directions; they'll do so from now on in a spirit of collaboration.

The newfound co-operation, they're finding, is easing all sorts of tension, reducing workloads and increasing efficiencies.

"The history between the two councils has been rather combative," says Marian Carlson, the town's Chief Administrative Officer. "Now we're finding we're leaps and bounds above that. We're looking at ourselves as a community, not two separate entities. We're just doing the work that needs to be done for the good of our citizens."

Murray Millward, the county's Chief Administrative Officer, agrees.

"We enjoy working with the town," he says. "This is just another step in the co-operation between us. It's new to both of us; we've never had this before."

The two councils developed an inter-municipal plan to help govern the areas of the county that come within 1.5 miles of the town for which municipal services may be required.

The plan established a committee of two elected representatives of each council which meets on an as-needed basis to decide the best route to take on matters such as water supply, tax-sharing, and whether county projects located close to residential areas of the town should proceed. It covers residential and commercial development.

After a year of negotiations and public input, the agreement was signed in 2007; the committee has met twice since.

"It's been working well," says Carlson. "There's a real spirit of co-operation and it's been well received by our citizens."

The two previously developed a plan for joint economic development; both Carlson and Millward believe this initial effort spawned the collaborative culture from which the inter-municipal initiative sprang.

Millward believes other joint projects are possible, such as a common water treatment facility, which in fact could be the next step.

### **Did you know:**

- There are 4,031 residents in Cardston County.
- The population of the Town of Cardston is 3,578
- Cardston and area is the "Heart of the Southwest"
- The total acres in Cardston County is 833,430.
- Major economic base is Agriculture and Tourism.
- The largest collection of horse-drawn vehicles in North America is located at the Remington Carriage House's 63,000 square foot facility with over 250 carriages, wagons and sleighs.
- The first Mormon temple built outside of the United States is the Cardston Alberta Temple.
- The Town of Cardston and Cardston County were recognized in the Excellence in Collaboration and Partnership Category at SouthGrow's 2007 Recognition Event.

### **For more information contact:**

#### **Town of Cardston**

P.O. Box 280  
Cardston, Alberta T0K 0K0  
Ph: (403) 653-3366  
Fax: (403) 653-2499  
Email: [info@cardston.ca](mailto:info@cardston.ca)  
Website: [www.cardston.ca](http://www.cardston.ca)

#### **Cardston County**

P.O. Box 580  
Cardston, Alberta T0K 0K0  
Ph: (403) 653-4977  
Fax: (403) 653-1126  
Email: [office@cardstoncounty.com](mailto:office@cardstoncounty.com)  
Website: [www.cardstoncounty.com](http://www.cardstoncounty.com)

#### **SouthGrow Regional Initiative**

P.O. Box 1202,  
Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 4A4  
Phone: (403) 394-0615  
Toll Free: 1-888-989-8488  
Email: [info@southgrow.com](mailto:info@southgrow.com)  
Website: [www.southgrow.com](http://www.southgrow.com)

