

office@mras-track.com

(403) 931-3411

www.millarvilleracetrack.com





#### **OFFICE HOURS**

Tuesday - Friday 10 AM - 2 PM, CLOSED MAY 22nd

#### **OUR VISION**

Millarville Racing and Agricultural Society is dedicated to building community spirit.

#### **OUR MISSION**

Millarville Racing and Agricultural Society provides authentic family experiences and exceptional facilities which celebrate our agricultural heritage, inspiring a sense of belonging for the community.



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Seeking Volunteers

## PRESIDENT'S Message



Anna De Paol President

Dear MRAS Members,

This year we decided to share writing the Track Watch board updates amongst the Directors. Many thanks to lan Hathaway for providing the updates for the past few months. We heard from members that you enjoyed reading updates from different Directors, so we will continue this throughout the year.

Spring is here at last and it is so wonderful to feel the sun's warmth and be back in the garden. On the subject of spring, thank you to all who attended our Spring Market on April the 29th. We had a glorious day and welcomed 1,150 customers and over 125 vendors. Melonie and the market committee selected several new vendors for the spring market. We hope that you enjoyed sampling their wares, and interacting with some new faces.

Brad Carter and Carter Ventures will be operating our concession this season. Brad and his team are very experienced in concession operations and catering. The feedback from our guests about Brad's food at the spring market was overwhelmingly positive, so we look forward to working with Brad this season. Melonie is now working feverishly on the final plans for the summer market season, which will run from June 17th to October 7th.

June 17th is going to be a very busy day at MRAS, the Millarville Run to the Farmers' Market will take place on this day and we will also be hosting the grand opening of our Agriculturally Themed Playground. There is still a chance to register for the race events here: https://millarvillehalfmarathon.com/.

On the subject of the playground, we are currently under construction and have approximately 100 volunteers working to assemble the giant puzzle that is our new playground! Huge thanks to Blaine Clark for leading the charge on this project, along with the ever supportive maintenance committee. Our playground supplier BDI Play Designs are providing supervision and oversight and a number of local contractors including Varga Custom Welding, Rolling Mix Concrete and Jason Rawn's construction company, are offering their services in support. We are very excited to unveil the playground and look forward to seeing children from our campers, market and event visitors all playing on the facilities. This initiative has been discussed at MRAS for over 10 year so we are very proud and happy to see it finally come to fruition. Thanks to the Government of Alberta for providing funds from the Community Facility Enhancement Program and to our corporate sponsors and individual donors. We will be unveiling our recognition structure later this summer to ensure that we recognize all those who have contributed to this project. We would also like to thank MLAs Miranda Rosin and RJ Sigurdson who both came out to the site to help with the construction, your support is truly appreciated.

Initial stages of construction for the new MRAS playground.

I hope that you have had the opportunity to meet Dan Heyde, our new operations manager. Dan is proving to be a valuable asset to MRAS and is rapidly building rapport with all of our members and stakeholders. Dan helped us to secure radios from the Black Diamond Fire Department and has also coordinated our annual tenders for the provision of services such as water and rental washrooms. It's great to have Dan's experience and ideas to help us to improve our operations and efficiency.

We were successful in our application to the Canada Summer Jobs program for 3 summer student positions. Ava Samuelson will be returning to the office in June, and we are currently recruiting for 2 summer student general labourer positions. If you have a student in your household who is looking for a summer position, details on the positions can be found here: https://www.millarvilleracetrack.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Summer-Maintenance-job-description.pdf

We are always looking for volunteers to help with our market and events season, so if you are interested in lending a hand, please email office@mrastrack.com and we will find an activity that fits with your interests.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our summer markets or events.

Yours Truly,

Anna De Paoli MRAS President



Enjoying the spring blooms in London, April 2023



## Canada Day



#### **Tickets**

- General Admission & VIP Tent to go on Sale <u>April 10, 2023</u>
- Tickets available through our website
   www.millarvilleracetrack.com

#### Sponsorship

 If you are looking for opportunities to sponsor this event, contact email address below

#### **EQUINE NEWS**

Questions about the MRAS Equine Facilities and memberships, email: <a href="mailto:mras.equine@gmail.com">mras.equine@gmail.com</a>

The MRAS riding rules and sign-up sheet have been developed to help our members have a safe and enjoyable time riding while also maintaining or building in good condition.

The maintenance and riding committee volunteers are still facing regular issues with:

- Cleanup of manure both inside the arena and outside beside trailers, etc.,
- Dogs in the arena Dogs are NOT Allowed, and
- Booking sheet misuse i.e., booking and not cancelling if you are not going to use the time, booking more riders than are actually riding, booking more than two one-hour slots in a day.

Help us take pride in our arena and its use by following the rules that we have in place,





## UPCOMING EQUINE ACTIVITIES:



#### INTRODUCTION TO DRESSAGE CLINIC with KIMBERLY COX

Kimberly is returning to MRAS to offer this amazing intro to Dressage Clinic. The clinic is open to both western and English riders. Participants will be divided into two groups with a morning and afternoon session for each group.

**Maximum 12 Riders** 

MRAS Arena Members \$100 Non-Arena Members \$125 (All prices are inclusive GST) Dates:

May 20

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

To register contact <a href="mailto:mras.equine@gmail.com">mras.equine@gmail.com</a>

Additional details available on the MRAS website under Equine.

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#### **WORKING EQUITATION CLINIC with DEB ERICKSON**

MRAS is so pleased to have Deb Erickson come and teach at our facility. This is a great opportunity to learn the ins and outs of working equitation whether you are experienced or just new to the sport. All levels, any breed, any tack is welcome.

#### **Maximum 12 Riders**

Pricing and registration details available on the website soon.

#### Dates:

**TBD** 

Or contact <a href="mailto:mras.equine@gmail.com">mras.equine@gmail.com</a> if you are interested and would like more information.

#### **COWBOY CHALLENGE PRACTICE**

Join us for a Cowboy Challenge Practice - a time to practice your skills with obstacles and have fun. All ages and skill levels are welcome!

Maximum 12-14 Riders

MRAS Arena Members \$20 Non-Arena Members \$30 (All prices include GST) Dates:
June TBD

Email <u>epi4animalhealth@gmail.com</u> to register. If you have any questions, please contact Sylvia at (403) 629-2960.

Once you have registered, payment instructions will be sent to you. Payment then confirms your spot.

#### **JUST FOR FUN GYMKHANA**

This event is great for all ages and skill levels. There will be no timing and we will run two riders side by side on a variety of events including poles, keyhole, stake race and flag race. You will have the opportunity to work on your riding skills all while having endless fun!

#### Maximum 12 - 14 riders

\$ 15/person for current MRAS riding members \*registration open soon \$ 20/person non-members

If you are interested, please contact <a href="mras.equine@gmail.com">mras.equine@gmail.com</a> for more information.

#### Dates:

**May 14** 

TBA

June 11

**TBA** 

Registration will open following each previous event.

#### OTHER ACTIVITIES, CLINICS, EQUINE EVENTS

The MRAS Riding Committee is working on a variety of clinics to offer our riding membership and equine community. See below. Check the website regularly to see what is available at: <a href="https://www.millarvilleracetrack.com">www.millarvilleracetrack.com</a> Facilities > Equine > Upcoming Events.

If you have ideas or suggestions for any clinics or activities that you would like us to explore, please send us the information to mras.equine@gmail.com. One of our goals is to incorporate activities that our members are interested in.

#### THANK YOU!!!



Thank you for your willingness to volunteer your time and effort to help build the playground. Your participation is greatly appreciated and will make a difference in the lives of the children who will use it. Thank you again for your support.







- terry@terryallwarden.com
- Cell: 403.540.0486
  Office: 403.278.2900
  Toll Free: 1.800.896.4361
- file 115 8820 Blackfoot trail se Calgary, ab t2j 3j1

#### NEW ON THE MARKET L

9 ACRES SE OF THE MILLARVILLE FARMERS MARKET

HARD TO FIND THESE BARE LAND LARGER PARCELS, ESPECIALLY ONE WITH NICE MOUNTAIN VIEWS, A HAY MEADOW PLUS SOME TREES AND WILLOWS. DUCKS ARE ALREADY BACK IN THE EARLY SPRING PONDS. WATER WELL IN PLACE AT 5 GPM AND NEW APPROACH ON 370 AVE WEST AT 48 STREET WEST. VERY QUIET LOCATION WITH MINIMAL LOCAL TRAFFIC. ASKING \$469,000

## A TRIBUTE TO THREE MRAS LIFE MEMBERS

Submitted by Lorretta Stabler - Millarville Historical Society

The Millarville area lost three very special community-minded individuals this month. We would like to pay tribute to Bill Powell, Lois Milner, and Bill Winthrop by sharing glimpses of their incredible involvement, their positive energy, and their dedication to bettering our community. Individual obituaries can be found online.

#### Bill Barry Powell 1941-2023



Bill loved working with kids of all ages and coached hockey and baseball for many years. His passion led to a ten-year commitment from 1974-84 with Peter Fisher, Norma Dawson, and other community members of the Millarville Sports Association, conducting a community survey, creating a Master Plan, and publishing the results for recreation development in the Millarville area. The end result was a riding arena and a ball diamond at the Millarville Racetrack for everyone to enjoy.

Bill was President of the Millarville Racing and Agricultural Society twice and served three terms as a Board Director. He worked to make the society financially stable as this venue was the centre of the community, endlessly supporting every event.

Bill was Chair of the Priddis and Millarville Fair Committee and was a Fair donor for many years. Bill was a great negotiator, patient, perceptive in reading the situation and listening to community members before making final decisions. His well-known phrase of "Let's do it!" spoke volumes to his positive attitude, and boundless energy and enthusiasm.

Chairing the Race Committee for 6 years helped ensure there were adequate horses and track improvements to satisfy the horse owners and Western Canada Turf Association. In 2001, Bill was awarded Life Member status of MRAS for his resiliency and commitment.

Bill and his wife, Judi were adamant volunteers and supporters of events. To recognize their generous energy, leadership, and expertise as proactive community builders, Bill and Judi were awarded Foothills 150 Award in 2017 by John Barlow MP.

Bill helped strengthen community connections that continue to inspire others today!

#### Bill Winthrop Jr. 1942-2023



Bill Winthrop Jr. lived in the Millarville/Calgary area all his life and was an enthusiastic volunteer for the Millarville Racing and Agricultural Society for many years, following in his parent's footsteps. For over a decade, Bill was an announcer for Millarville Races and Priddis & Millarville Fair. On July 1st, Bill's voice would cheer on the jockeys, the race horses, and share betting information too. On Fair Day, his pleasant resonating voice could be heard all over the Racetrack grounds, coming from the "sky", giving a play-by-play description of events taking place and congratulating winning exhibitors from Bench and Livestock Classes. He also served as a Fair Director.

Bill actively participated in countless work nights for several years, joining other community members ensuring the Racetrack was ready for upcoming events. He was awarded Life Member status in 2002 for his excellent community contributions.

Often Bill was asked by neighbours to help them locate a good area to drill a water well. He would drive up in his "seasoned" work truck, walk over the area with his witching stick and would indicate when the stick pointed down. For \$50, this was an accurate method to locate an underground water source for a new water well.

Bill was very passionate about local history and enjoyed sharing stories about our incredible area.

#### Lois Milner 1929 - 2023



Lois started volunteering for the Millarville Racing and Agricultural Society in 1987. She was a Director in the Fibre Arts Division of the Priddis and Millarville Fair for many years organizing exhibits, contacting judges and volunteers, and attending monthly meetings. To recognize her long-standing volunteerism in MRAS, Lois was awarded Life Member status in 2001.

Lois devoted more than four decades organizing and participating in the Sheep to "Shawl competition at the Priddis & Millarville Fair. She was passionate about this event where teams of five people including a shearer to shear the sheep, 3 spinners to spin the fleece and a weaver to weave the shawl in 3 hours would compete.

The shawls when finished were washed and measured for the required size and judged for creativity, colour of warp, texture, richness, and pattern. They were auctioned off with the funds going to each team. More recently, actual garments were woven with previously colorful hand-dyed fleece and stitched together into a ruana, a Mexican poncho, or a fashionable shrug.

In 2012, Lois was awarded Fair Outstanding exhibitor/Contributor Award for her outstanding contributions and leadership skills.

Lois will be remembered by community members for her contagious laugh and sharing favorite and humorous readings from literary works.

Thank you for your dedication to our community.



# COMMUNITY DOCUMENT SHRED & ELECTRONIC DISPOSAL DAY!

## JOIN US!

Saturday

May

## **13TH**

11am - 3pm

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!** 



#### Millarville Community Library

April was a very busy month at the Millarville Community Library with books coming and going and workshops helping people get ready for spring. Thanks go to Sharon and Bill Bieber who gave us encouragement for gardening in our higher altitude with the use of raised beds. And to get everyone started with gardening before they could raise any beds, we had a workshop on Sprouts and Greens at the end of April.

Then we celebrated National Canadian Film Day with a double feature. Kids came to watch "Snowtime" and adults then watched "Peace By Chocolate". Our warm and wonderful quilts came down to be replaced by paintings from a Millarville artist, Tamara Rutherford. Do stop in to see her eclectic works.

This merry month of May your library will begin with a workshop on decorating cupcakes with our very own Natasha Grusendorf (May 12). It seems cupcakes have replaced the favourite sweet at many events these days, and this workshop has been requested by many.

Each year we celebrate the book clubs in our area with a wine and cheese evening. Then we hear the favourite book picks of each of the ten plus book clubs in Millarville, Priddis and Bragg Creek. Mark your calendar for May25. If you are in a book club in this area that hasn't been contacted already, do call the library (403-931-3919) and leave us your book club name and a contact person. Who needs Indigo book picks when we have our own!

Our library has just completed a survey of patrons which will help us plan for your needs. If you didn't get a chance to send in your information, please let us know so that we can incorporate your comments and wishes. We may be little but we consider ourselves to have a mighty big footprint.

For more information and events and to see just a few of the new books coming in, check our Facebook and Instagram pages. Millarville Library Facebook/Instagram. Here are a couple of suggestions for you and your family.

#### **Endlessly Ever After** by Laurel Snyder and Dan Santa

This is a choose your own adventure style book with all of your favourite fairy tale characters. There are tons of different paths to take through this book. You can read it many different times and come up with a different story every time. This book is best for 7+ as some of the story can get a little dark at times depending on the path you take. Very entertaining with lots of twists and turns.

#### **Demon Copperhead** by Barbara Kingsolver.

The novel borrows its structure from the Charles Dickens novel **David Copperfield**. Named one of "The 10 Best Books of 2022 by The Washington Post and The New York Times, Demon Copperhead is the story of a boy born to a teenage single mother in a single-wide trailer with no assets beyond his dead father's good looks and copper coloured hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. This book speaks for our generation of kids lost to poverty and addiction. Set in rural Appalachia, **David Copperfield** was required reading in one of Demon's English classes. Books are mostly a time suck, Demon declares, but some held his interest. "Likewise the Charles Dickens one, seriously old guy, dead and a foreigner, but Jesus Christ did he get the picture on kids and orphans getting screwed over."

## GATHERING THE COMMUNITY AROUND GARDENS

#### SUBMITTED BY LOUISE PATTERSON BRUNS MILLARVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Last week I had lunch and a very enjoyable afternoon with my friend and neighbour Kathleen Higgins and Landscape Designer Jon Lowry, who has a long history with the Millarville Hort Club.

Jon showed us his initial designs in Gardening Under the Arch for the plantings and shrub borders around the perimeters of Christ Church Millarville in 1975.

There was great enthusiasm for this project from the community, as the church sits in a magnificent landscape in the foothills and a panoramic mountain view. Its only possible disadvantage is the persistent west wind.

There were a couple of objections however. Mary Dover stated that she thought the church should remain a 'Little Church on the Prairie,' kind of bare bones as it had stood since 1896, with hitching posts out front, and the graveyard to the side. Also, a letter arrived from the Alberta Department of Historic Resources, stating that if this was to be an historic site, no changes could be made to the building or grounds without approval from the department.

But the people wanted trees and shade and protection from the wind, and seating areas and picnic spots and flowers. So, members wrote to the Department of Historic Resources and respectfully declined their kind offer of historic designation.

So, the people embraced Jon's design, and in the spring of 1976, over 60 people showed up with shovels and hoes to start planting. Bill Jackson, ever the great organizer, stepped forward to form groups to do the work under the direction of Jon Lowry and his design.

PG. 15

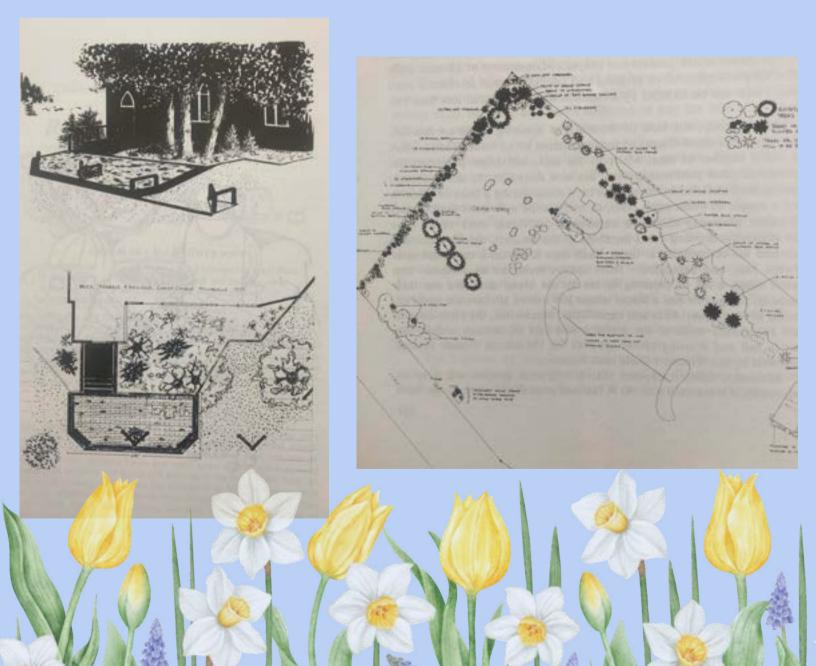
Jon had imagined Lodgepole Pines behind the church to show off the red roof. Betty and Leonard Nelson donated native spruce from their land, plus a professional tree planter to plant them. Jon Lowry located dozens of Silver Buffaloberry, Mugho Pines and Red Osier Dogwood for the shrub beds.

The west border of the graveyard was planted with Native Spruce trees, plus many Northwest Poplars under the direction of Art Patterson. Art had got bundles of Northwest Poplar cuttings from the PFRA at Indian Head, Saskatchewan. Indian Head was supporting the Alberta-Saskatchewan Nursery Trades Association who were sourcing and propagating hardy trees and shrubs from North Dakota that were suitable for harsh prairie climates of Zones 2 and 3.

The planting committee also found numerous native junipers in the wild to plant in front of the church behind the interlocking brick pavement Jon had planned, along with several small 'hitching posts.' This installation kept people from parking too close to the church and causing deep ruts and mud. It also served to make space for a wheelchair ramp.

Some time later, Mary Dover supplied a number of crabapples and apple-crabs, whose pink and white June flowers would create a 'Bridal Path' between the Church and the Church House.

After planting the beautiful tree and shrub borders, the large group of enthusiastic community members decided to keep their energy going by forming a horticultural club. And so the Millarville Horticultural Club was formed in the fall of 1976, and has been going strong ever since. The community came together around gardens, and continues to tap into the many excellent gardeners in the foothills.





The Millarville Half Marathon Committee is hosting a booth at the Calgary Marathon Expo on May 26 and May 27, to raise awareness of the Millarville Run to the Farmers' Market event on June 17.

We are seeking volunteers to staff the booth at the Expo, which is located at the Calgary Stampede grounds on those two days.

If you are able to help out, please sign up at https://volunteersignup.org/WWHFW or email millarvillefarmershalf@gmail.com with your time

preference and contact information. No prior experience is required."



## On Track for 2023

The Millarville Run to the Farmers' Market Half-Marathon is just over a month away! With registration tracking on par with our pre-COVID events, we are expecting 600-700 participants on Saturday, June 17.

Now in its tenth year, the race is a favourite among runners of all levels. As well as a half marathon--starting at the Diamond Valley Oilfields Arena and ending at the Millarville Racetrack-runners can choose the half marathon two-person relay or the famous COBS Cinnamon Bun Run 8-Miler, with its unique and fun "Bunners" and "Runners" divisions.

If you are planning to run this year, take note of the early bird registration deals:

- Half Marathon \$95 until May 31, \$105 until June 10
- Half Marathon Relay \$155 until May 31, \$175 until June 10
- COBS Cinnamon Bun Run 8-Miler \$85 until May 31, \$95 until June 10

The registration fee includes excellent swag and a unique finisher's medal, a breathtaking run through the (former) Black Diamond and Turner Valley to the Millarville Racetrack, and bragging rights, of course! Net proceeds benefit the Millarville Racing & Agricultural Society.

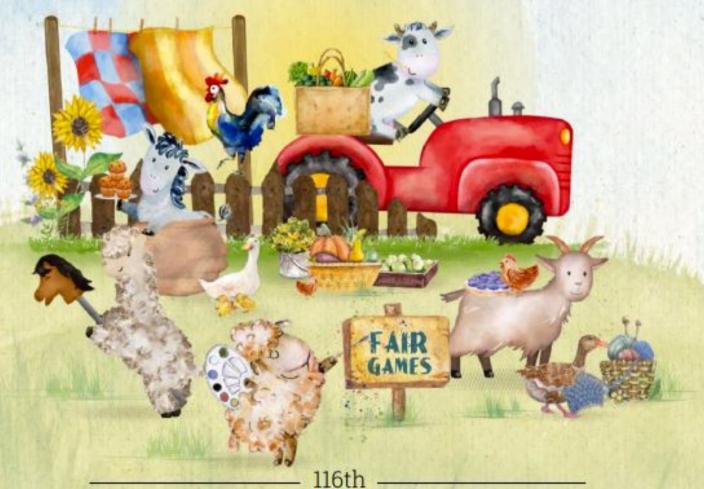
Runners and spectators alike enjoy wrapping up the day with shopping and relaxing at the season opening of the Millarville Farmers' Market.

Check out the details on our website: www.millarvilleracetrack.com/run-to-the-market/



August 19 & 20, 2023

9am - 4pm ~ Admission \$5/Person, Children 8 & Under Free



#### Priddis & Millarville Fair

Farm Animals · Bench Exhibits · Equine Events · Antique Tractor Pull Competitions · Activities for All Ages · Millarville Farmers' Market (Saturday Only) Fair Pop Up Market (Sunday Only) . World Fair Fun Race Championships (Sunday Only)

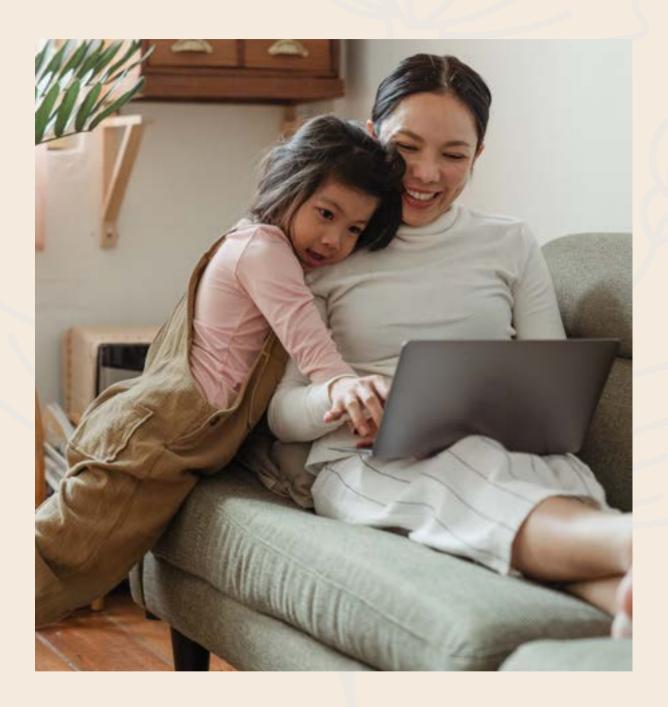








### MOTHER'S DAY



FOR AMAZING MOMS AND CAREGIVERS

We're very lucky to have you looking after and caring for us every day.

Our happiness is yours and your happiness is ours.

Thank you so much!



# MILLARVILLE HORTICULTURAL CLUB

Newsletter

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month, September to May, at 7:00 p.m. The meetings are held at the Millarville Anglican church house.

Our next gathering is May 9, 2023. We are having a potluck starting at 6:30 pm.

Please bring your favorite dish to share. We will be having a meeting afterwards. A

question and answer session as we have a wealth of information with in our club.

Also new members are seeking tips to growing in a difficult climate.

June 1 is our annual plant sale at the Millarville Race Track. If you have extra plants, annual or perennial, to donate, bring them by between 2 pm and 6 pm. Please label the variety and colour. The plant sale starts at 7 pm sharp. Don't be late or the plants will all be gone.

We are always looking for volunteers for the plant sale, and the horticultural section of the Priddis Millarville Fair August 19 and 20.

If you are interested in attending any of our presentations, please contact Gail Dziuba (587-578-3798) at millarvillehorticulturalclub@gmail.com. The presentation is free for members and \$15.00 for non-members. Whether you are a novice or expert in landscaping or gardening, join our club; \$15/year for singles or \$20/year for a family. Check us out on Facebook as well

# July I Canada Day



The Millarville Race Committee is looking for volunteers! We need help in the VIP Tent as well as someone to be main contact to the security team the day of (training prior to)

If you or someone you know may be interested, please let us know by email: races@mras-track.com



#### Calgary Foundation Agriculture Awards



Apply by June 1 at calgaryfoundation.org

Smillie Family Education Award



Friends of the Stockmen's Memorial Foundation Award



Dr. Scott Rairdan Memorial Agriculture Award



Shannon Burwash Award for Leadership and Excellence in Equine, Agri-Business and/or Agricultural Studies





at office@mras-track.com



#### IRONWOOD

#### BUILDING

#### CORP

Ironwood Building Corp. is a company specializing in the design, manufacturing and construction of steel based buildings. A second generation company, our head office in Calgary has grown into a diverse team of engineers, designers, technicians, project managers, administrators and constructors working in a collaborative environment. Additionally, we maintain a dedicated network of dealers throughout Western Canada. **www.ironwood.ca** 

the



