

Track Watch



December 2023



306097 192 St W, Millarville, AB T0L 1K0



office@mras-track.com



(403) 931-3411



www.millarvilleracetrack.com



OFFICE HOURS

Nov 1st-5th, 8th-12th : 9am to 4pm

Nov 6th & 7th, 13th & 14th: **CLOSED**

Remainder of month post 14th, Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm

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.

Track Watch

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SOLACE GRIEF SUPPORT SOCIETY

Director's *Message*



Anna De Paoli
President

Thank you to all who joined us for our volunteer appreciation evening on September the 23rd. We enjoyed a great evening of delicious food from Brad Carter Ventures and some time to celebrate our collective achievements together. It reminded me how grateful I am that we are able to host these in person celebrations together again after those long covid years of missing the simple pleasure of being together.

It's an exciting time at MRAS as we prepare for our Christmas market, taking place from November 2nd to 5th and 9th to 12th. Please remember to secure your timed entry tickets early as this event is typically a sell out. You can find tickets here: <https://www.millarvilleracetrack.com/christmas-market/> . Thanks to Melonie and Ty for leading the preparations and to all of the many volunteers who are working tirelessly to prepare for the big event. Your efforts are truly appreciated.

Thank you to all who completed our membership survey. We took the feedback from the survey as a key input to our October strategy session. We will share the full outcomes at the AGM in December but a brief update is that our focus for 2024 will be on investigating the progression of 4 important projects at MRAS:

1. Arena phase 2 to include washrooms as a priority
2. Solar photovoltaic for utility cost control
3. The possible conversion of the concession building into offices and meeting rooms
4. The riding committee are looking into options for the arena footing

We will be forming a new sustainability committee to assist in obtaining pricing, fundraising and managing the above-mentioned projects. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Lorraine Cathro at mrassec192@gmail.com .

Our annual general meeting will take place on Monday December 4th at 6:30pm at the MRAS hall. Please join us to hear about the year in review and to vote for the new board for the 2023/24 year. We are still looking for candidates for the new board, so if you are interested or know someone who may be, please contact Barb Parker or myself.

I look forward to seeing you at the Christmas market!

Anna De Paoli
President

2023 MRAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Anna De Paoli
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Barb Parker
Vice President

Lai Chen
Treasurer

Sylvia Checkley
Director

Shelley Pym
Director

Janice Tranberg
Director

Ian Hathaway
Director

Roy Mathis
Director

Nov 2-5 & Nov 9-12, 2023

make it,
bake it,
grow it!

Over 300 Vendors
PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE IN ADVANCE



MILLARVILLE CHRISTMAS MARKET

Daily
9AM - 4PM

ENTRY FEE

\$6.00 +tax

12 & UNDER FREE

millarvilleraacetrack.com



Building the MRAS Playground Legacy: A Brick for Christmas

Our agriculturally themed playground is much loved by children and adults alike. Many stories have been shared about delighted children and their families enjoying our playground so much that the children don't want to leave! From the barn play structure to the tractor, farm animals and every other piece of equipment, our playground is a hit. It is a credit to all the volunteers who worked to make it a reality and to everyone who donated funds.

Is there someone on your Christmas list that is hard to buy for? The MRAS may have the perfect solution for you! For \$200 a brick, you can not only give a long-lasting and meaningful gift but also help MRAS continue to build our playground legacy. Please consider buying a brick and having your choice of a name or names engraved as your individual or family legacy.

Thank you for your consideration of a brick for Christmas.

The purchase forms are on the MRAS website under Facilities/Playground and also available at the office. For more information, please contact the MRAS office at 403-931-3411.

Thank you for your kind consideration of continuing to build our playground legacy one engraved brick at a time. Here is the link to buy a brick: <https://www.millarvilleracetrack.com/MRAS-Name-a-Brick-Donation/>



EQUINE NEWS

Questions about the MRAS Equine Facilities and memberships,
email: mras.equine@gmail.com



The MRAS riding rules, and sign-up sheet have been developed to help our members to have a safe and enjoyable time riding while also maintaining our 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,

Thank you!



UPCOMING EQUINE ACTIVITIES:



Upcoming Activities

JUNIOR RODEO

The Junior Rodeo Fun Series is back for its third year!

The MRAS Junior Rodeo Series is a 12-night series of gymkhana and rodeo events offered to junior riders throughout the winter months. This series brings all levels of riders together ages 2-17 to participate in 4 events (barrels, poles, Thread the Needle and a Wildcard).

Pre-registration required

Early registration for 2023/2024 MRAS
Riding members begins October 20th.
Registration for non-riding members starts
November 1st

If you are interested in attending, contact
mras.equine@gmail.com to register.

Additional details available on the MRAS
website under Equine

Questions about the series can be directed
to JRodeo@mras-track.com

We would like to thank all participants and their families, volunteers and our sponsors for making the 2022/23 JR. Rodeo Series a huge success!

LINDY BARRON - PROGRESSIVE LESSON SERIES

This series is designed for the intermediate to advanced horse and rider. Reining maneuvers, transitions, guide, and speed control will be some of the elements in this program. Ride time will be 1.5 hours in a group of five riders or less. Ride times will be assigned once class is full. No auditing, riding participants only.

**Saturdays: Nov. 25, Dec. 2 & 9
10am to 1pm**

Current MRAS riding members - \$200.00
Non-Members - \$230.00
(Prices include GST)

To register or for more information contact
lynnbrunton@gmail.com.

More details about these lessons can be found on
the MRAS website Equine page.

RANCH RIDING EQUITATION AND PATTERNS

MRAS Ranch Riding program is a great way to work on your equitation skills with the goal of riding a pattern at the end of the day. Skills will include riding transitions, walk, trot, lope, speed control as well as an exercise that will enhance you and your horse's performance in the pattern. The patterns sometimes include obstacles.

Sundays: December 3rd and 17th

1:30 to 3:30pm

Register for one or both.

Maximum 10 Riders

MRAS Current Riding Members - \$22

Non-Members - \$32

(Prices are per ride and include GST)

Any questions or to register please contact Lynn Brunton lynnbrunton@gmail.com 403-651-4301.

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

WESTERN/ENGLISH DRESSAGE LESSON SERIES

Returning in January, registration details will be available later in the month.

COWBOY CHALLENGE PRACTICE

Keep an eye on the website and your email for upcoming dates in the New Year.

Once available registration details can be found on the MRAS website under Equine tab, then Upcoming Events

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: www.millarvilleracetrack.com 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.

Original Homesteaders of Millarville and Kew

By Gene Blakely – Millarville Historical Society

Many original homesteaders of the district came, settled, and left behind hardly any sign. What they brought to the community is mixed into what the district is now.

LEWIS CHARLES EUSTACE

One of the original settlers of the Millarville district. He homesteaded NE34-20-2-W5 in 1887. On this property the North and South Sheep Rivers join to head east. In 1888, he was in partnership with Aubrey Hodgson, with their range the North Fork of the Sheep and their band SX registered in late 1888.

In 1890 he was charged with “furious riding on the streets of Calgary”, he was fined \$5.00 and costs. He was also registered at the Alberta Hotel at that time and his name was misspelled “Eustache.

PATRICK CURRY

On July 30, 1886, Pat entered NE14-21-3-W5, which would be straight north of the Millarville School today. His is reported to be the first entered homestead in the Millarville district. You enter and then over time proved up and then was registered. He also entered on SE34-22-2-W5 but was not proved so was later entered by John Cleland in 1900.

EDWARD ROSS CHANCE

Edward homesteaded #61773 SE36-21-3-W5 which is near the Leighton Center today in 1894 and this property eventually became part of the Knights estate. He was a guest of the Royal Hotel in February 1895 and in October 1896 the Calgary Herald reported he killed 19 coyotes “and intends to carry on the warfare still more vigorously in the future.”

W. J. H. Barlow settled on this land in 1891 but was shot and his assailant never known.

The slough on the property is still know as “Chance’s Slough.”

JOSEPH F. CANBY


Joseph appears on map of 1894 as homesteading No256208, SW 28-21-3-W5 which ended in the Winthrop name. Little is known about Joseph, but this property shows an entry and patent as of 1907 with William Williams as original entrant.

We will be making entries like this in the future as little is know about these men but having the quality and resilience to take on a property in a wild country tells us much of them.


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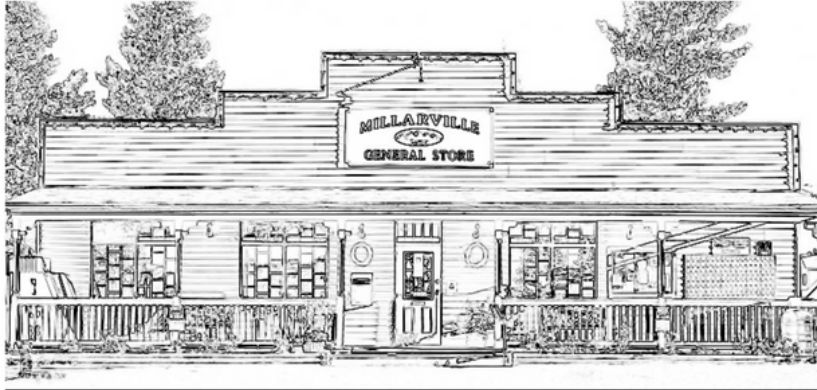
The Lines run in all directions, and get into most Canada towns from Toronto and the Pacific
 to a new Great Highway from coast to coast.

7 June 25, 1902; 10 June 25, 1902
 10 June 25, 1902; 10 June 25, 1902

ARCHER BAKER,
 European Traffic Agent.

Read more historical articles on Facebook - Millarville Historical Society or
 email us at millarvillehistoricalsociety@gmail.com
 if you have photos, information, or questions.

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\$550,000

Millarville Community Library

Exciting and fun workshops continue this fall at Millarville Community Library. Get a head start on your Christmas and make December a more relaxing month by enrolling in our pre-Christmas workshops.

First up, Sheila Woolner will show you how to make personalized crackers for Christmas or New Year. The workshop is offered on Nov. 3 from 7-9 p.m. at the Millarville Library OR Nov. 4 from 10-12 a.m. at Sheila's house in Priddis. You will make one to three crackers at the workshop but with the skills learned, you will be able to make crackers for all your guests at home. It's a lot of fun and a great way to kick off the holiday season, plus recipients will smile at the little surprises chosen just for them.

The cost for the workshop is \$30 plus a nominal charge for hats and snaps. Sheila is generously donating the course fee to the Millarville Community Library.

On Nov. 18, Sara Young will teach you how to make a needle-felted cardinal ornament. These handmade crafts make excellent gifts or brighten your tree. The workshop from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the library and costs \$40. Wool will be provided and needles will be available at cost.

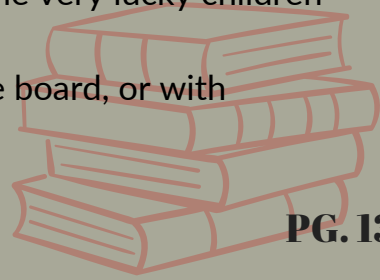
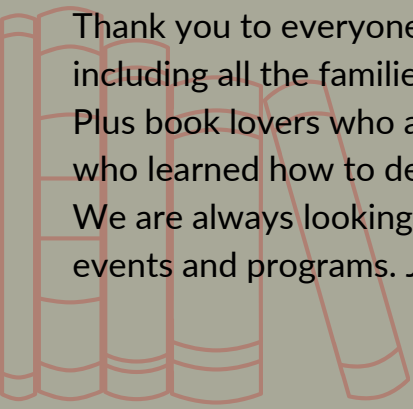
Call to register 403-931-3919 for these programs. More information will be available on the Millarville Library Instagram and Facebook pages or on our website, millarvillelibrary.ca.

p.s. Instagram is back online!!

You may have read Louise Penny's newest novel, *A World of Curiosities*, in our library already. But if you haven't, you are in for another fascinating journey in *Three Pines* as Chief Inspector Gamache uncovers secrets hidden in a bricked-up attic room. As the bricks are removed, Gamache, Beauvoir and the villagers discover a world of curiosities. But the head of homicide soon realizes there's more in that room than meets the eye. There are puzzles within puzzles, and hidden messages warning of mayhem and revenge. Reserve your next thrilling read on our website.

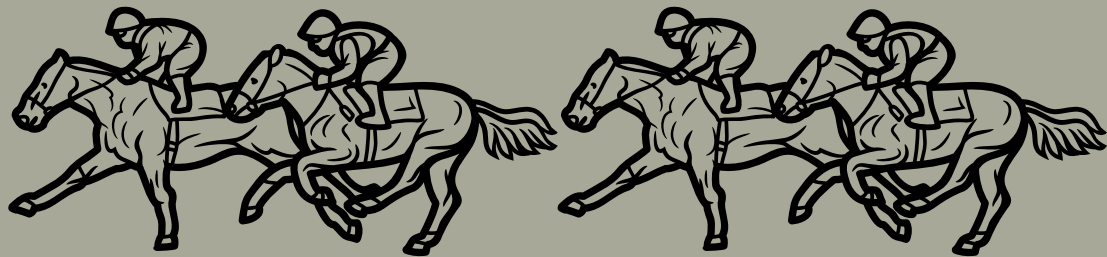
Thank you to everyone who attended our exciting selection of events and programs in October including all the families who dropped by our open house for VIP storytime, music and goodies. Plus book lovers who attended the popular Lecia Cornwall author talk, and the very lucky children who learned how to decorate their spookiest cupcakes.

We are always looking for enthusiastic residents to help at the library, on the board, or with events and programs. Join us! Check our website for details.



THE RACE COMMITTEE IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

We need people to lead and co lead the 2024 July 1st Races!
If this is something you are interested in please don't hesitate to contact
the office at office@mras-track.com or the races email at races@mras-track.com for more details.



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR 2023 VOLUNTEERS!

The work you did for us was extremely
appreciated and we look forward to the 2024
season and hope to have you all around
again!

REMEMBER THEM

GENERATION TO GENERATION



“PASS IT ON”
“LEST we FORGET”

MILLARVILLE RACING & AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, December 4, 2023, at 6:30 pm at the MRAS Hall
306097 192nd St West, Millarville:

Memberships for the 2023/24 year are available to purchase at the AGM. Current membership is required to vote. We encourage you to purchase your membership in advance of attending the AGM to reduce the backlog at the door.

Items for discussion include:

Fiscal year end review, election of Directors & proposed bylaw changes.

For more details, please email us at office@mras-track.com or call 403-931-3411

Purchase your membership online at:

<https://mras.getcommunal.com/memberships>

We would encourage you to pre-purchase your membership online

<https://mras.getcommunal.com/memberships> in advance of attending to avoid lineups the night of the AGM.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED!

Are you looking to get more involved in the leadership of MRAS? Do you know a member who would be a great addition to the board?

The Board of Directors will be looking to fill several positions at this year's annual general meeting.

If you're curious about this role, would like to run for a position or just have questions, please reach out to an existing board member, or email the board directly at mras.feedback@gmail.com



KIDS ONLY SHOPPE NEWS!

The Kids Only Shoppe is excited to be back both weekends of the Millarville Christmas Market!

Kids ages 5-12 are welcome on Saturday and Sunday only - November 4 & 5 and November 11 & 12. The Shoppe is open from 9 am to 4 pm. We are located in the picnic shelter at the south end of the grounds across from the Racetrack Hall. Look for our Kids Only Shoppe flag. Come join Mrs. Claus and her elves for some kid's only shopping. We have over 5000 mostly handmade items for sale. All gifts will be wrapped and tagged for those special people on your shopping list, so your secret is safe until Christmas Day.

We look forward to welcoming both our returning shoppers and all new shoppers to The Kids Only Shoppe! See you soon!

Mrs. Claus & Her Elves





Buy Now

2024 MRAS MEMBERSHIP



Family - \$ 75.00

Individual - \$60.00

Senior/Student/User - \$45.00

Dependant - \$10.00



<https://www.millarvilleracetrack.com/membership/>

Millarville Horticultural Club

<http://millarvillehortclub.com>

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.

Lexi Farmer was a wealth of information on wild bees. Who knew there so many types of bees and wasps right in our back yard. She has donated some bumble bee houses for a draw at our AGM .

Another reason to attend.

Tuesday November 7 at 7 pm is our AGM. Please note this is the first Tuesday of November. Please attend and consider volunteering to be on a committee. We have a number of openings on the executive committee . Please consider the President or vice president position.

We need everyone to give their recommendations for upcoming meetings as well. Memberships will also be available at the AGM.

If you are interested in attending any of our presentations, please contact Lorraine Cathro (403-651-4327) or 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



Solace Grief Society Provides Individual and Group Counselling Free of Charge

Group Counselling (via Zoom) – Third Thursday of each month at 6 pm

Group Counselling (in person) – First Wednesday of each month at 6 pm at the Okotoks Library

Men's Group (in person) – 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 pm—Okotoks Library; 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 pm –High River Library

Individual – By arrangement between client and counsellor

Clients must register prior to attending. Call or phone the following:

Intake Coordinator at 403-601-3312

Or

Email: solacegrief1@gmail.com

Solace is looking for people interested in helping. Board and Committee positions available. Please call 403-601-3312 for information or to volunteer.

NOW OPEN



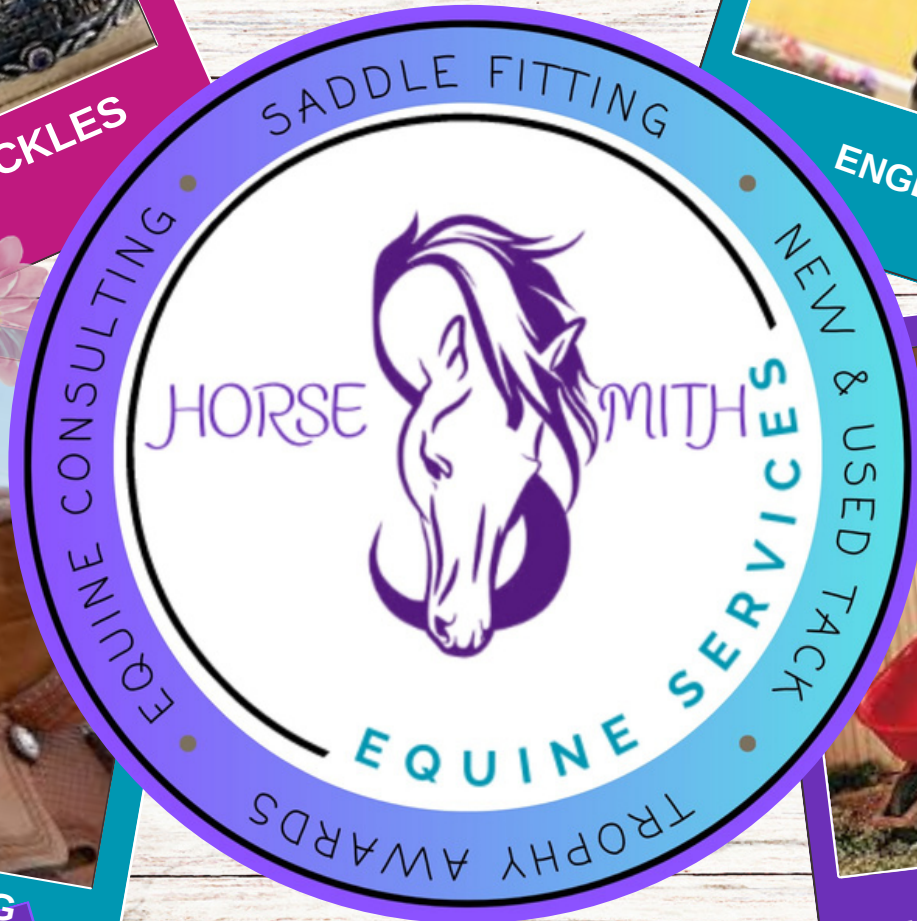
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Memory Cafe



**An opportunity for people with memory loss and their caregivers to meet
for mutual support**

**Griffiths Center
122 Government Road, Black Diamond
1:00 - 2:30 pm
Fourth Friday of the month starting June 23, 2023**

**Contact
Jennifer 403 969 6040**





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Ramps Flat Deck 18ft with
Ramps

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Advertising Opportunities in the Track Watch!



CONTACT THE OFFICE
at office@mras-track.com

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