

TRACKWATCH



FEBRUARY 2024



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OFFICE@MRAS-TRACK.COM



(403) 931-3411



WWW.MILLARVILLERACETRACK.COM



OFFICE HOURS

TUESDAY TO FRIDAY 9AM-3PM

OFFICE CLOSED JAN 31, FEB 1 & 2, 2024

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*This month's message is from Brent Foster,
MRAS President*

6

EQUINE NEWS

Lessons, Clinics and more!!!

10

ROMANTIC VALENTINES DESSERT

Easy Chocolate Fondue for Two

12

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

15

KIDS ONLY SHOPPE NEWSLETTER

1st Edition Newsletter

16

MILLARVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

19

MILLARVILLE HORTICULTURAL CLUB

20

SOLACE GRIEF SUPPORT

23

MEMORY CAFE

President's *Message*



Brent Foster
MRAS President

Dear MRAS Members and Volunteers,

Greetings from the Track and I trust the 2024 year is starting off well for you and your family.

Your MRAS Board of Directors and staff will be meeting in early February 2024 to set goals for the current year, review the initiatives that came out of the AGM and will be looking at longer term plans for the organization.

Board and staff are busy gearing up for the year ahead with several board members and staff attending the annual Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies (AAAs) conference in Edmonton to leverage the knowledge of other agricultural societies and attend various workshops.

The updated MRAS Bylaws approved by the AGM have now been approved by the Province of Alberta.

Finding volunteer leaders for both the board and event Chair and support positions has been a challenge, and so I encourage you all to please help us to identify future leaders in our community who can help MRAS in our next phase. If you think of anyone who may be interested in developing into a leadership position, please refer them to myself at mraspresident@gmail.com.

We have also applied to the Canada Summer Jobs program for a number of student positions for the summer of 2024, we should hear back in April if we are successful. We are already working to identify youth in our community for these roles, if you have a potential candidate in mind for a summer position, please ask them to email their resume to office@mras-track.com

We look forward to the year ahead!

Stay safe and see you at the Track.

On behalf of the board and staff.

Thank you!

Brent Foster, President
mraspresident@gmail.com

2024 MRAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Barb Parker
Vice President

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Director

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Director

Building the MRAS Playground Legacy: Name A Brick

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 in your family 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.

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:

AEF PRESENTATION – RACETRACK HALL

Thursday: February 1 at 7pm

The Alberta Equestrian Federation (AEF) will be presenting to our riding membership, and anyone interested, the benefits for having an AEF membership and what their organization is all about.

NO charge, open to everyone.

Please RSVP to mras.equine@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

LINDY BARRON – PROGRESSIVE LESSON SERIES

Saturdays: Feb 3, 10 & 17

Lessons times: 10am & 11:30am

Cost:

Current MRAS Riding Members \$200.00

Non-Members \$230.00

(All prices include GST)

In this three lesson package riders will build on their skills each ride with the goal of riding smooth and seamless AQHA style Ranch Riding patterns with ease. Speed control, guide, body control and transitions are some of the key elements. This program is designed for the intermediate to advanced horse and rider.

The series is designed for the intermediate to advanced horse and rider.

No auditing, riding participants only.

To register contact lynnbrunton@gmail.com.

RANCH RIDING EQUITATION AND PATTERNS

Sunday: February 11

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.

Maximum 10 Riders

Cost per date:

2023/24 MRAS Riding Members \$22

Non-Members \$32

(All prices include GST)

Upcoming dates:

Sundays, Mar. 3, 17 & 31

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.

KIDS RANCH RIDING

Saturday: February 24

Fun filled way for kids to work on and develop their equitation skills and ride a pattern at the end of the day. Good for any age and level providing they are riding independently, can stop their horse and the horse is good in a group of horses.

Cost: 2023/24 MRAS Riding Members \$15.00

Non-Members \$20.00

(All prices 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.

CORES & EFFECTS PILATES – RACETRACK HALL

Sunday mornings: Feb 25, March 3 & 10

This course will give you a varied and obtainable home practice, help you reduce stress in your body, manage aches and pains as well as improving postural imbalance. Through fascial release, stretch, connection exercises and integrating better movement into your life you will feel the improvement. Learn the basic principles as we add in the Pilates work into our Tool Kit for you.

Exercises to benefit your riding and everyday life.

Cost: 2023/24 MRAS Riding Members \$105.00

Non-Members \$125.00

(All prices include GST)

To register or for more information contact Lynn Brunton lynnbrunton@gmail.com. Once you have registered payment instructions will be sent to you.

KIDS RIDING LESSON SERIES WITH DANIELLE BARTLETT

Saturdays: March 2, 9 & 24

Danielle is a fabulous instructor that has a wonderful ability to communicate with youth and adults of all ages. From learning to ride youngsters to those that are refining their skills. In this three lesson package, riders will have the opportunity to build on their learned skills at each ride developing better communication with their horse. This program is designed for any level of rider.

Cost: 2023/24 MRAS Riding Members \$174.00

Non-Members \$200.00

(All prices include GST)

To register or for more information contact Lynn Brunton lynnbrunton@gmail.com. Once you have registered payment instructions will be sent to you.

MARCH 3-DAY DRESSAGE LESSON SERIES

Wednesday evenings: March 13, 20 & 27

OR

Thursday mornings: March 14, 21 & 28

Work on the fundamentals of Dressage:

- Fine tuning of aids
- Rhythm, balance through suppleness
- Connection and softness through transitions

Lessons are open to both Western and English riders. Participants will be divided into groups based on their riding ability and training needs.

Pre-registration required. Must choose Wednesday evening OR Thursday morning, NO combinations. If interested in both dates, you must pay two registrations fees, no discounts.

Cost: 2023/24 MRAS Riding Members \$160.00

Non-Members \$190.00

(All prices include GST)

No outside auditing or spectating during these lessons. To register contact mras.equine@gmail.com.

ADDITIONAL “SAVE THE DATE” ACTIVITIES ON PAGE 17!

OTHER ACTIVITIES, CLINICS, EQUINE EVENTS

The MRAS Riding Committee is working on a variety of clinics in the upcoming months to offer our riding membership and equine community. Please check the website regularly to see what is available at: www.millarvilleracetrack.com under 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.

Easy Chocolate Fondue

Made with just two ingredients, this chocolate fondue recipe is a decadent dessert perfect for sharing! In less than five minutes you can be dipping into delicious fondue!

INGREDIENTS

FONDUE:

6 ounces chocolate chips or chopped chocolate semi-sweet, milk, dark chocolate are all options

1/3 cup heavy whipping cream more can be used if a thinner consistency is desired

Chocolate Fondue Dippers:

Fresh Fruit – Strawberries, bananas, cherries, grapes, apples, pears, pineapple, kiwi, blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, melon and orange slices are all delicious options.

Crunchy Treats – Graham crackers, pretzel rods, biscotti, Oreos, wafer cookies, Biscoffs, vanilla wafers, palmier cookies, other cookies, rice krispies treats or even potato chips.

Soft Sweets – Pound cake, brownie bites, angel food cake, cheesecake (freeze individual bite size pieces prior to serving), cream puffs, donut holes, macaroons, marshmallows, beignets, stroopwafels, cookie dough bites or churros are all delicious chocolate dippers!

INSTRUCTIONS

- Place chocolate and whipping cream in small microwaveable bowl.
- Microwave on HIGH 2 minutes, or until chocolate is completely melted, stirring well after each minute.
- Serve warm with chocolate fondue dippers.

For more tips and advice for this recipe go to:
lovefromtheoven.com/easy-chocolate-fondue

our "A-TEAM" on your side...



Terry Allwarden

Country Living Specialist

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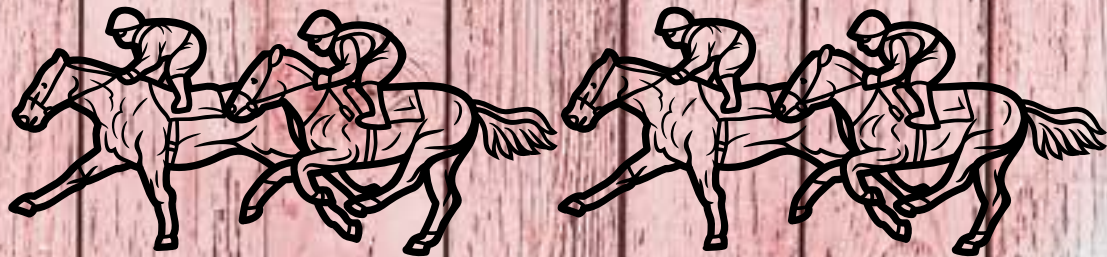
WANTED

We have buyers for the following property:

1. A scenic 1/4 section in the SW of Calgary area as far south as Longview, with or without buildings.
2. 8-20 acres with newer house, prefer bungalow, hopefully a mix of grass and trees with easy closer in access. Millarville/Priddis area would be perfect.
3. 4-6 acres of raw land, close in SW area. Looking for a premium parcel with good water. Restrictive Covenants are ok.

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.



**REMINDER THAT SPRING,
SUMMER AND CHRISTMAS
MARKET APPLICATIONS OPEN
FEB 1ST, 2024.**

[HTTPS://WWW.MILLARVILLERACETRACK.COM/](https://www.millarvilleracetrack.com/)

A hand is shown holding a small blue icon of a family (two adults and two children) in the palm. The background is a rustic wooden surface with a repeating pattern of white family icons (two adults and two children) holding hands.

Happy Family Day!

A top-down view of a desk with a laptop, a cup of coffee, and some pens.

NOTICE

Our office will be closed:
Jan 31st, Feb 1st and Feb 2nd,
2024 for staff training offsite.
The office will re-open Feb 6th,
2024.

The background of the entire page is a light pink color, decorated with a pattern of various-sized, semi-transparent pink hearts. Some hearts are solid pink, while others are lighter and more faded, creating a soft, romantic feel.

Happy
Valentines
Day!

THE KIDS ONLY SHOPPE at the Millarville Christmas Market

Welcome to the Kids Only Shoppe's 1st Newsletter! It includes everything you want to know about what Mrs Claus and her elves are up to and provides helpful information about upcoming workbees. This newsletter will be available monthly and included as a link in Trackwatch. If you'd like to receive a copy directly, please send an email to kos@mras-track.com and we will add you to the distribution list.

You can read the newsletter [HERE](#).

We had a very successful stash and grab day on January 15. Thanks to everyone who participated. We are off to a good start on building up our inventory, but we still have a ways to go. Here's an updated list of items we could use:

Christmas gift bags

Tissue paper

Christmas cards – we use the fronts to decorate gift bags

Christmas themed fabric – larger pieces for making gift bags

Cones – styrofoam or cardboard, up to 6" high

Pine cones – long spruce cones in particular but all types welcome

Yarn – worsted and bulky weights, bright colors welcome

Fabric ribbon – all widths

Small ornaments or figurines for use in snow globes and fairy gardens

Jewelry making supplies

Recycled jewelry

Mugs and tea cups

Buttons

Glass jars with lids – up to 300 ml size

Items can be dropped off at the MRAS office during business hours Tuesday through Friday, 9:00-3:00 pm. There's also a tote outside the office door for after hours drop off.

The KOS committee welcomes any and all ideas for items to make as well as people to organize and run workbees. Or, just come and participate in any of our planned workbees with a fun bunch of volunteers. There are lots of elves behind the scenes that are willing to assist with running workbees too.

Thanks for your support to the Kids Only Shoppe!





MILLARVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Honors Black History Month TOM SPENCER 1841 – 1925

Submitted by Gene Blakley – Millarville Historical Society Vice President



We all know about John Ware, but we had two colored gentlemen in Millarville and the other one was Tom Spencer. He took up a homestead one mile west of Joe Fisher on SW1-21-4-W5. Tom had come from Oklahoma and never forgot his homeland. His favorite expression was “Ah’m going back to Oklahoma next year” but that never came, and he spent the remainder of his life in the hills. He was a popular homesteader in the Kew area.

Tom loved to visit the ranchers and entertained his hosts with tales of his childhood but said little about his adult life. Tom had been born a slave and had scars on his back to prove it. His mother also had been a slave and he told my mother of the cruel beatings she had suffered.

Old Tom was not a bronc rider as John Ware had been and rode only the gentlest of horses. This horse was a long-legged black with a very odd gait that made it easy to identify him in the distance.

Children loved this gentle old man with his stories and sometimes a little gift. At that time playthings were not too plentiful, and a ball or cup was as good as a bejewelled crown. He was not above giving a lecture to young-uns when they talked back to their elders.

The first person that Tom saw when he got off the train in Calgary was Sid Bannerman. He asked where a colored man could get a room. Sid told him to try the Riverside Hotel where he indeed did get a room. Years later when Tom lay extremely ill in an old log shack near Sid's ranch at Kew he was visited daily by Sid. The homestead was sold to Jim Howey (of Howey Hill fame) when Tom died with Sid sitting by him. By Sid's calculations Tom was 84 years old when he died in 1925.

You can read about John Ware To the Rescue, written by Louise Patterson Bruns in the Track Watch April 2023 or on our Facebook group – Millarville Historical Society.

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

Save the Date: EQUINE



MRAS SPRING JUMPER SCHOOLING SHOW

Saturday: March 30th

X-rails to 2'9"

5 Divisions – 3 classes per division

Discounted fees for full division entries.

Registration to open soon.

Please contact mras.equine@gmail.com for more information.

SPRING CLEAN YOUR TACKROOM – USED TACK SALE

RACETRACK HALL

SAVE THE DATE - Sunday: April 21st

Please contact mras.equine@gmail.com for more information.

Buy Now

2023/2024 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP RATES

Family \$75.00
Individual \$60.00
Senior \$45.00
Student \$45.00

2023/2024 MRAS Riding Membership Rates

Annual: November 2023 – October 2024

Family \$475.00
Each additional dependent \$70.00
Individual \$325.00

1/4 memberships (per quarter): (Nov - Jan; Feb - Apr; May - July; OR Aug - Oct)

Family \$225.00
Additional Dependent \$35.00
Individual \$150.00

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. Thank you to Louise for giving a talk on growing onions from seeds. We all will be going and putting this knowledge to work.



Our next event will be **Tuesday February 13, 2024.**

We will be having a speaker on bluebirds , Jim Critchley from the mountain bluebird society. Houses, habitat and what we can do to help the blue birds in our area. We also be looking at seed catalogues so bring your favorite. Garden planning will be discussed.

We will be having a bluebird box building workshop. **March 2-10 am to noon** Registration required to plan for supplies.

March 12 Arden Nering from Wild about flowers will be speaking on wild flower seeds and plugs. Members bring your own seeds to share .

If you are interested in attending any of our presentations, please contact Louise Patterson Bruns (our new president) at

louisepattersonbruns@gmail.com 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

<https://www.facebook.com/millarvillehortclub>



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.

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Terex RO70T 30HP
ASV RT40 40HP
ASV VT70 74 HP
ASV RC100 100 HP

● EXCAVATORS

Mini excavator VTW12 with Bucket
Thomas T25S Excavator

● MACHINE ATTACHMENTS

Buckets , Auger Drives, Auger Bits,
Tree Bit , Forks, Fork Extensions,
Concrete Breaker , Post Pounder

● TRAILERS

Dump Trailer 14th with
Ramps Flat Deck 18ft with
Ramps

7 ft x 16 ft Cargo with Ramp

● PLATE TAMPERS

200 lb 22 " X 17 "
600 lb 32" X 19"



CONTACT US

109 Sunset Blvd. SE
Diamond Valley , AB



403-701-3013



rentalsDVR@gmail.com



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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**



Advertising Opportunities in the Track Watch!



CONTACT THE OFFICE
at office@mras-track.com

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