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**Town of Milk River**

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Office: 403-647-3773  
Fax: 403-647-3772  
[www.milkriver.ca](http://www.milkriver.ca)

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T2H 0T3

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# WELCOME!

Welcome to our community! I invite you as a visitor, tourist, future resident or business to join us in taking part in a vibrant community and a remarkable quality of life.

Located in the beautiful southern region of Alberta, we are blessed with an original history, warm climate, and an abundance of natural beauty. A short, picturesque drive away is Writing-On-Stone Provincial Park, which is home to the largest collection of Plains Indian writings and inscriptions. At Gold Springs Community Park visitors can fish, hunt, canoe and observe rare wildlife and plant life and just up the road in Warner is Devil's Coulee, which boasts the first dinosaur egg discovery in Canada.

Milk River offers all the amenities of a large centre, affordable housing, one of the lowest cost of living indexes in the province and a strong economy. That's exactly why more than 892 people call the town less than 10 minutes from the U.S. border home. A close-knit community, we understand the need to provide our friends and neighbors with a friendly, clean and safe place to call home. We are also proud of the fact that our children can safely walk the streets, and that our senior citizens provide a sense of heritage and foundation for the community.

Milk River is truly a community built on friends, families and small town charm.



# REGIONAL DATA

## LOCATION

The Town of Milk River is settled in the County of Warner #5 next to the Milk River, for which the town is named. Milk River is only 85 kilometers (53 miles) south of Lethbridge and 20 kilometers (12.5 mi) from the border. Milk River is centrally-located, accessed by two highways: Highway 4 (connected to Interstate 15) and Secondary 501.

## CLIMATE

Milk River has an average of 192 frost free days per year. It receives 34 cm of annual precipitation, 26 cm of the total coming in the form of rainfall. Annual snowfall is an average of 160 cm.

### Seasonal Mean Average Temperatures:

January -7 C 19 F  
April 12 C 54 F  
July 26 C 79 F  
October 14 C 57 F

The warm westerly winds (also known as a Chinook) tend to melt any snowfall throughout the winter.

## GEOGRAPHY

The Milk River Formation has three main components:

- Deadhorse Coulee Member
- Virgelle Member (Upper and Lower)
- Telegraph Creek Member

The Virgelle Member of the Milk River Formation consists of magnificent sandstone cliffs. Upper Virgelle, being softer, is characterized by the presence of impressive hoodoos. Lower Virgelle, bottom of the cliffs, is characterized by relatively dense (hard) rock on which there is native rock art.



# HISTORY

The Town of Milk River area was first settled around the beginning of the 20th century. The Town of Milk River was incorporated as a village on July 1, 1916, and declared a town in 1956. Lying north of the 49th Parallel and within the area of the Mississippi-Missouri river systems, Milk River is unique in Canada. The Town of Milk River motto, “Under Eight Flags”, makes reference that, no less than eight flags representing six governments and one great company could have flown over this land.

The Milk River was given its name by Captain Meriwether Lewis, of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, who described the river in his journal:

*“... the water of this river possesses a peculiar whiteness, being about the colour of a cup of tea with the admixture of a tablespoonfull of milk. from the colour of its water we called it Milk River.”*



## THE TOWN CREST

The Town Crest was adopted in 1988. The top of the crest represents the Sweetgrass Hills, which are visible from Town. The flags refer to the area having been under the flags of seven governments and the Hudson’s Bay Company. The bottom of the crest represents the hoodoos found around the Badlands area in which Milk River is a part of. Finally, the wheat shafts and cow demonstrate the fact that Milk River is an agricultural-based town.





# RECREATION

The Milk River and District Swimming Pool is an outdoor facility open in the summer from about the last week of June to the end of August. Swimming lessons are offered as well as aquafitness, conditioning swims, and public swims. The community has a number of baseball diamonds, complete with bleachers and washrooms for patrons to utilize. Our athletic teams continue to make the community proud!

### **Milk River Curling Rink**

The 3-sheet curling rink is open during the winter months with mens, ladies and mixed leagues.

### **Milk River Bowling**

In addition to golf, Riverside Golf Course provides a 4-lane 5-pin bowling alley. Great for parties and tournaments at very reasonable rates. A winter mixed-league provides a fun night out on those cold winter nights. Sign up at the clubhouse.

### **The Milk River Civic Centre**

The Milk River Civic Centre is a quality facility for recreation, including a large gym, stage, kitchen, bar and rooms for gymnastics and other pursuits. Rollerskating, basketball, and other sports are common to this facility.

### **Milk River Skateboard Park**

The Milk River Skateboard Park is enjoyed by many Milk River youth, on the grounds of the Erle Rivers High School.

### **Kinsmen Playground**

The recently upgraded Kinsmen Park is excellent for young families with its safe and fun equipment, and proximity to residential areas and schools. With the new equipment and our safe and friendly community, your kids will love it!

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# COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **Bonanza Day** (August long weekend)
- **Fall Supper**
- **Duck's Unlimited Banquet and Auction** (Usually last Saturday of November)
- **Christmas Craft Fair** (Usually the first Friday of December)
- **Businessman's Customer Appreciation Night** (Usually at the end of November)
- **Annual Senior's Christmas Supper** (Second Thursday in December)
- **4H Pancake Supper** (Spring)
- **Kinettes Ladies Night Out** (Once every 18 months)
- **Kinsmen Corvette Dance** (Usually the Saturday of Easter Weekend)

## MILK RIVER CABLE CLUB

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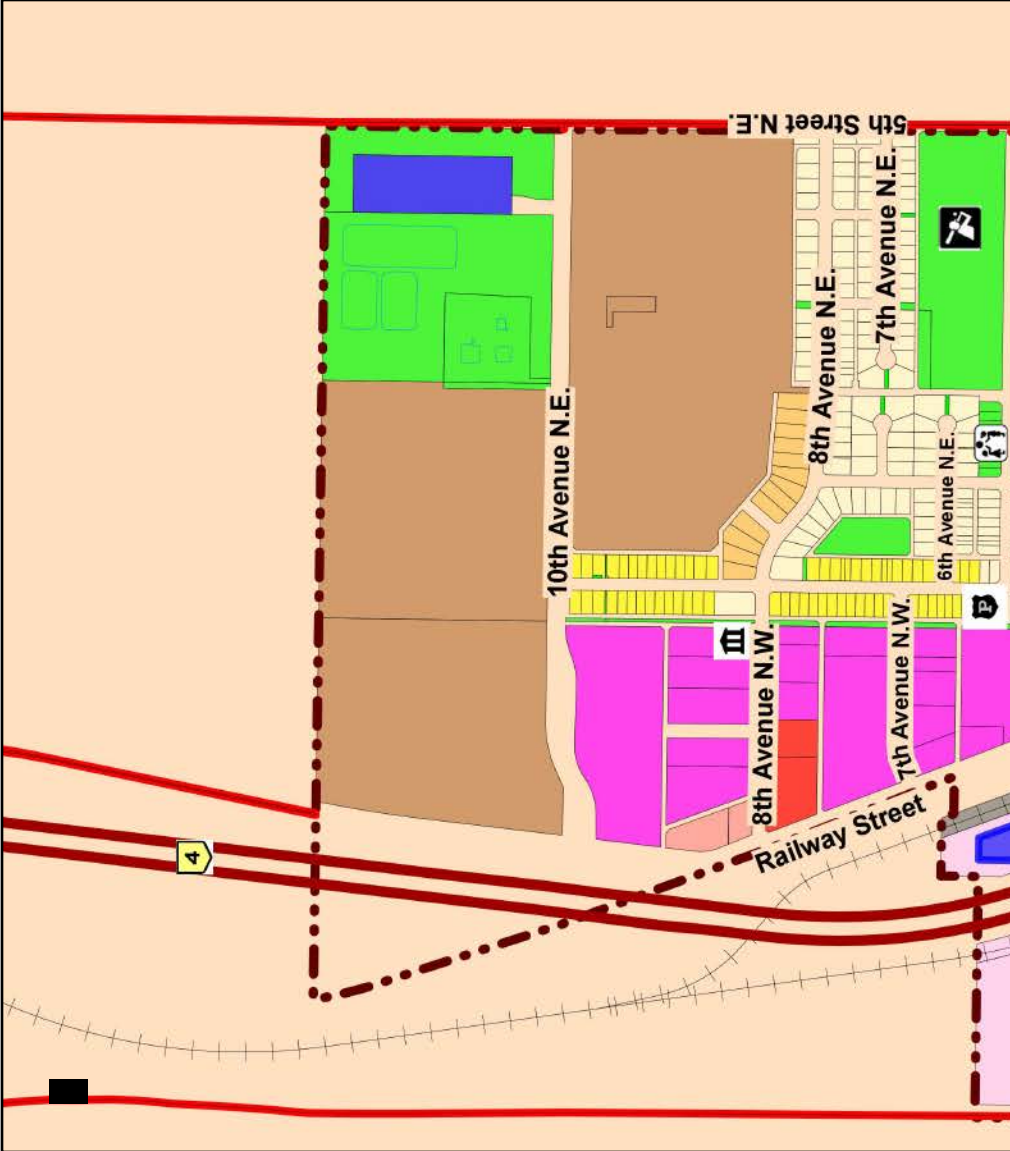
403-647-2115

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- Gift Baskets

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- Boundary
- Adjacent Roads
- Railway
- Milk River
- '501'
- Highways
- Admin Building
- Ball Diamonds
- Campground
- Cemetery
- Churches
- Civic Centre
- Curling Rink
- Fire
- Golf Course
- Hospital
- Museum
- Playground
- Police
- Schools
- Shop
- Swimming Pool
- Street Text
- Golf Course
- Water
- 'Public & Institutional PI'
- RESIDENTIAL R1
- MANUFACTURED HOME RESIDE
- LARGE LOT RESIDENTIAL R3
- CENTRAL COMMERCIAL C1



- DRIVE-IN COMMERCIAL C2
- LIGHT INDUSTRIAL I1
- GENERAL INDUSTRIAL I2
- RAILWAY RY
- PUBLIC & INSTITUTIONAL PI
- URBAN RESERVE UR
- DIRECT CONTROL DC





# KEY CONTACTS

## EMERGENCY CONTACTS

*Dial 911 to report an emergency*

### Police RCMP Detachment

403-647-2427 (Office)  
605 Main Street – Milk River

### Fire Hall

403-642-7901  
[milkriverchief@hotmail.com](mailto:milkriverchief@hotmail.com)

## HEALTH

### Milk River Health Centre

403-647-5511 (Main Line)  
517 Centre Ave

### Milk River Medical Clinic

403-647-3599  
517 Centre Ave

### Milk River Dental Centre

403-647-2273 (leave a message)  
240 Main Street (in the Town Hall)

### Chiropractic (Dr. Harold Murray)

403-647-2175  
240 Main Street (in the Town Hall)  
Mondays and Wednesdays

## MUNICIPAL

### Public Works Shop

403-647-2339 (Office)  
After Hours: 403-421-0140  
[publicworks@milkriver.ca](mailto:publicworks@milkriver.ca)

### Transfer Station

403-642-7311  
Tues., Fri. & Sat., 9 am - 5 pm

## UTILITIES

Include water, sewer, garbage. Utility charges can be pre-paid in January for the entire year to receive a reduction of one month's basic charges.

### Telephone

Telus  
403-310-2255  
[www.telus.com](http://www.telus.com)

### Cable Television

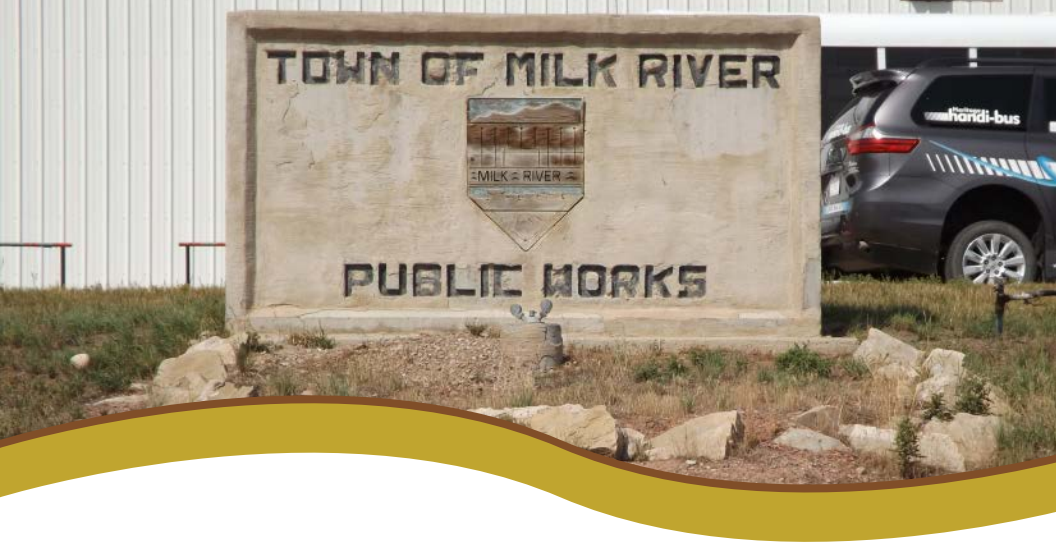
Milk River Cable Club  
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[www.milkriver.mrcable.ca](http://www.milkriver.mrcable.ca)

### Water/Sewer/Garbage

Town of Milk River  
403-647-3773  
[www.milkriver.ca](http://www.milkriver.ca)

### Electricity and Natural Gas

The Province of Alberta's Utilities Consumer Advocate provides advice on choosing your Natural Gas and Electrical Provider.  
403-310-4822  
[www.ucahelps.alberta.ca](http://www.ucahelps.alberta.ca)



# AROUND TOWN

## EDUCATION

### **Milk River Elementary School**

From Kindergarten to Grade 5  
Phone: 403-647-3747  
Fax: 403-647-2404

### **Erle Rivers High School**

From Grades 6-12  
Phone: 403-647-3665  
Fax: 403-647-2054

## SENIORS' SERVICES

### **Ridge Country Housing Authority**

Low-cost housing & Prairie Rose Lodge  
403-647-3531

### **Heritage Handibus**

Wheelchair accessible. Available for trips around town and private/group charters. To book, call the Town Hall at 403-647-3773.

## RECYCLING

The Town provides a Recycling Trailer that is located at 201-8th Ave NW, which accepts:

- Newspapers and Magazines
- Mixed Office Paper
- Tin Cans
- Clear Glass Jars
- Milk Jugs and any Opaque (Cloudy) Plastic Containers (Plastic #2)
- Plastic Colored Jugs and Pails (Plastic #2)

## GARBAGE

The Public Works department picks up garbage on Tuesdays from residential areas, and on Tuesdays and Fridays from commercial areas. Please box or bag all refuse. Don't place in alleys, as there's no pick-up there.

## PROPERTY TAXES

Municipal Property taxes are based on a calendar year. Each year council establishes a rate of taxation, based on assessed values, sufficient to pay for expenditures that are not recovered from other revenue sources. Taxes are assessed and mailed out in June and are due by August 31. Penalties are assessed at 5% on the first of September. A further 1.5% penalty is assessed on the first of each following month on any outstanding balances.

Taxes can be pre-paid up to the amount of the previous year's tax amount in the first three months of the year to receive interest applied to your tax account. Payment in January will receive 5%, February 4% and March 3% interest. There is also a Monthly Tax Installment Plan available for those who wish to make monthly payments.

Payments can be made with cash or cheque or through on-line banking with most banks.





# GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

1st Milk River Guiding Unit  
Bonanza Days Committee  
Booster Club  
Bowling  
Community Learning Connections  
Curtain Call  
Erle Rivers Parent Council  
Food Bank/Thrift Shop/Community Garden  
Gold Springs Park Society  
Heritage Handibus Association  
Historical Society/Museum  
Kinette Club of Milk River  
Kinsmen Club of Milk River  
Knights of Columbus  
Masinasin Fitness Club  
Milk River 4-H Multi Club  
Milk River Ag Society  
Milk River and District Pool Society  
Milk River Cable Club  
Milk River Cemetery Board  
Milk River Community Business Association  
Milk River Curling Club  
Milk River CWL  
Milk River Elementary Parent Council  
Milk River Fire Department Society  
Milk River Gymnastic Club  
Milk River Hospital Auxiliary  
Milk River Minor Baseball  
Milk River Regional Library Board  
Milk River Senior Citizen's Society  
Milk River Watershed Council  
Milk River Weavers & Spinners  
Prairie Rose Lodge Auxiliary

Quad Municipality Dr. Recruitment  
Quilt Club  
Riverside Golf Society  
Southern Alberta Outdoorsmen  
St. Matthew's Lutheran Women's League  
St. Paul's United Church Women's Group  
St. Peter's Catholic Women's League  
Warner Minor Hockey  
Writing-on-Stone Riding Association

## CHURCHES

**River of Life Fellowship**  
401 Main Street, Milk River  
403-647-2250

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church**  
113 - 1 Ave. SE, Milk River  
403-647-3580

**St. Paul's United Church**  
201 - 2nd Street NE, Milk River  
Manse Ph: 403-647-3983

**St. Peter's Catholic Church**  
321 Main Street NW, Milk River  
Rectory Office: 403-647-3541



# TO SEE AND DO

The Town of Milk River is at the center of a great tourist attraction area. At the Southern entrance to town off Highway 4, you'll be greeted by the Travel Information Centre Dinosaur and whether you are visiting the majestic Writing-On-Stone Park, or engaging in the many outdoor pursuits in the areas such as camping, golfing, canoeing, fishing, hunting, swimming, viewing wildlife, or searching for dinosaur eggs, we'll have what you'll need! The community has all the services necessary, including hospital, pharmacy, restaurants, auto services, groceries, and an RCMP detachment.

Throughout time, this area has been revered as mysterious and magical – the native people inscribed their experience in the rock. Writing-On-Stone Provincial Park has the largest collection of Plains Indian Writings (pictographs, petroglyphs) in North America. You'll feel their presence.

Come golf at the Riverside Golf Course. This 9-hole publicly-owned Golf Course that is near the banks of the Milk River is a dream

to experience. The Clubhouse facility houses 5-pin bowling, golf cart storage, a licensed restaurant, kitchen and lounge with patio.

Open year-round, nestled between the Milk River and Riverside Golf Course is the Under 8 Flags Campground. This 34 sites campground which includes 22 serviced sites and 12 dry sites has a washroom shower facility and offers free Wi-Fi. A great site to launch canoeing and kayaking adventures down the scenic Milk River. Stay and Play golf packages are available as well. Daily, weekly and monthly packages are always available.

Today, easy-does-it Milk River kayakers and canoeists who float through a magical, mystical landscape of towering hoodoos and sculptured rock lands are likely to sense the sacred spirit of place that inspired the Aboriginal artists of Writing-On-Stone. The Milk River is recognized for its canoeing excellence -- the river is rated from novice to intermediate. The Town of Milk River is the center of your holiday experience!

**A Paddler's Guide to The Milk River** can be picked up at the Town Office.

**Milk River Raft Tours:** 1-403-647-3856

The Milk River is an uncommon Canadian river, set apart by its landscape, its pale and sediment-laden hue, its rugged ranching history, and most of all, its southern-seeking drainage. The meandering Milk claims dual citizenship, originating in the mountains of northern Montana, flowing north and east for 385 kilometres through the plains of southern Alberta, and turning south again to end its 1,005 kilometre run at its confluence with the Missouri River. With its cottonwoods and its coulees, its cottontails and its coyotes, the Milk is a grassland oasis, a sheltered, serene refuge in a dry and windswept land.

**Devil's Coulee Heritage Museum**

Located 20km from town in the Village of Warner, you can experience the museum, which features a Hadrosaur (duck-billed dinosaur) nest and embryo, ancient fossils, dinosaur models, and a mural depicting dinosaurs caring for their young.

In the Heritage Gallery, you will find yourself exploring the "more recent" past through artifacts and stories from the most recent "early days" of the Warner region.

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