

Education



TIME TO RED - Teacher Vivienne O'Neil is retiring after a 32-year career that included 18 years at Granum School and the last nine at West Meadow Elementary School. Photo by Rob Vogt

Teacher bids farewell to West Meadow Elementary School

By Rob Vogt
Local Press Writer

A teacher who spent a lot of time handing out books to students at West Meadow Elementary School, will now have some time to read herself.

Teacher Vivienne O'Neill retired at the end of the school year after a memorable 32-year career that started in Calgary, took her to Granum for 18 years and concluded with nine years at West Meadow.

She initially came to the area when her husband of the time was transferred to Claresholm, so she went looking for a teaching job.

"I was lucky," she said. "I was thrilled to be in Granum teaching half time to 10 delightful Grade 1 students.

"It was absolutely amazing."

She loved Granum School, described as the little school with the big heart, because it was family-oriented and she got to know everybody.

"It was a lot of fun," O'Neill said.

She has a lot of memories from her time in Granum including Pioneer Days, teaching Scottish country dancing, and a fine arts festival.

"It was a (great) time," she said.

After 18 years there, she came north to West

Meadow, where the atmosphere was very much the same.

"The staff and the kids and the community are amazing," O'Neill said.

A lot of memories were made in nine years at West Meadow.

"The highlight for me is being able to watch excitement over (a student) seeing something new, learning something new," she said. "Seeing their faces light up."

The majority of her teaching career was with Grade 1 students and some things stand out, such as seeing a student write their first sentence and reading it back.

"They've become a writer," O'Neill smiled.

Or when they learn to read.

"It's that excitement and that pride they experience when they learn to read and learn to write," she said.

The next chapter in O'Neill's life will include time to relax and read lots of books.

"The kids all know I love to read," she said.

As she walks out of the school for the last time as a teacher, she appreciates all the children she's taught, all the parents, and all her colleagues, both teachers and principals.

"We all share that love of education," O'Neill said. "It's been a privilege

to spend my career in that environment."

Finance

Council updated on debentures

By Rob Vogt
Local Press Writer

The Town of Claresholm's \$2.8 million debenture for the new multi-use community building and new day care and play school building took effect on June 15, with semi-annual payments of \$67,835 for 30 years.

At its June 22 meeting by video conference, Claresholm town council was updated on the debenture process as well as provided a summary of the town's outstanding debt by Marian Carlson, the town's chief administrative officer, who was referring to a report prepared by Blair Bullock, the town's director of corporate services.

It stated council approved a bylaw for the borrowing of \$2.8 million for the partial funding of the multi-use buildings project which includes the administration/community building at the old school site, with a new civic address of 111 55th Avenue West, and the daycare and playschool building just north of West Meadow Elementary School, with new civic address of 5895 Eighth Street West. The total project cost, as per the bylaw, is \$3.8 million.

The bylaw does not indicate a date of borrowing, stating the borrowing term is not to exceed 30 years and the borrowing rate is not to exceed four per cent.

Borrowing dates are on a quarterly basis, being March 15, June 15, Sept. 15, and Dec. 15, each year. With construction underway and construction payments starting, administration put in the request to the Alberta Capital Finance Authority to fund the debenture on June 15. On June 8th the town received its debenture certificate which confirmed the borrowing rate they

received, which is 2.638 per cent. This rate is slightly higher than the "indicative rate" provided by finance authority when drafting the 2020 budget, however is still significantly below the four cent noted in the bylaw. It is significantly lower than other long-term, that is 15-plus year debentures, the town currently has, and is locked in for the full 30-year term of the loan.

"Nice rate for 30 years," said Coun. Brad Schlossberger.

"An amazing rate," added Mayor Doug MacPherson.

Payments are semi-annual, therefore the town will have only one payment in 2020 on Dec. 15, with two payments per year thereafter. Semi-annual payments are each \$67,835. The interest portion in the 2020 payment is \$36,932.

The town's current outstanding debt totals just under \$6.4 million.

That is broken down into:

- \$299,903 remaining in a sewer upgrade loan of \$1 million taken out in 2004 and finished in 2023 at a rate of 5.875 per cent;
- \$2,770,521 remaining in the Pine Coulee water project loan of \$4 million taken out in 2008 and finished in 2033 at a rate of 5.24 per cent;
- \$160,049 remaining in a golf course expansion loan of \$970,000 taken out in 2011 and finished in 2021 at a rate of 2.306 per cent;
- \$347,339 remaining in a sewer main upgrade from the airport to the lagoons of \$400,000 taken out in 2018 and finished in 2028 at a rate of 3.007 per cent;
- \$2.8 million remaining in the multi-use buildings project loan of \$2.8 million taken out in 2020 and finished in 2050 at a rate of 2.638 per cent.

Notice of Application Confined Feeding Operation

The Hutterian Brethren Church of Granum has filed application LA20014 with the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) to obtain a registration to construct a new confined feeding operation (CFO) on the SE 25-11-28 W4M in the Municipal District of Willow Creek of Alberta. The application is to construct a poultry barn (78.5 m x 16.2 m) and a manure storage area (18.3 m x 14.9 m) for 20,000 chicken layers.

Filing a Statement

Any person who is directly affected by the application may submit a statement of concern to the NRCB. The statement of concern must be received by the NRCB on or before July 29, 2020. Submissions must be made to the NRCB email address provided below. A copy of the statement of concern will be sent to the applicant for review and comment. Statements submitted regarding the application are public records and are non-confidential.

Your statement of concern should include your name, the legal land description of your residence or landholdings, mailing address, phone number, email address, and a detailed summary that describes how you would be directly affected by this application. For further information please refer to the fact sheet "The Permitting Process for Confined Feeding Operations in Alberta" at www.nrcb.ca. You may also file an application for directly affected party status at this time.

Failure to submit a statement of concern may affect your rights to apply for an NRCB review.

Viewing the Application

A complete copy of the application and supporting documents submitted by the applicant under the Agricultural Operation Practices Act may be viewed only on the NRCB website at www.nrcb.ca (under Confined Feeding Operations / Applications & Decisions / Notice of Applications) until July 29, 2020. Until further notice, the application will not be available for in-person viewing as the Lethbridge office of the NRCB is closed to the public due to COVID-19. If you require further information, please contact the approval officer listed below.

Carina Weisbach, Approval Officer
carina.weisbach@nrcb.ca
T 403-381-5422

The closing date for submissions: July 29, 2020

Dated at Lethbridge AB, on June 30, 2020

www.nrcb.ca



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Conservation Board