



TRACK WATCH

December 2021



MILLARVILLE RACING & AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

OUR VISION:

MILLARVILLE RACING & AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY IS DEDICATED TO BUILDING COMMUNITY SPIRIT.

OUR MISSION:

MILLARVILLE RACING & AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY PROVIDES AUTHENTIC FAMILY EXPERIENCES AND EXCEPTIONAL FACILITIES WHICH CELEBRATE OUR AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE, INSPIRING A SENSE OF BELONGING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

WINTER OFFICE HOURS: *By Appointment Only: Please Call or Email*

For all general inquiries please email office@mras-track.com and for
all market related matters melonie@mras-track.com
www.millarvilleracetrack.com - 403.931.3411

Dear MRAS Members,

We welcomed over 18,000 visitors to our Christmas markets between November 4th and 14th. Thank you so very much to all our volunteers who helped with market operations, you are an amazing team, and we truly appreciate all your efforts. Thank you to Melonie for your leadership through this event, there were some challenges with changing Alberta Health Services regulations around sampling, but you handled them all in your stride.

Feedback from both customers and vendors on the timed entry ticketing was again extremely positive, so we will be keeping this for future years. It really helps in our operations to have a steady flow of patrons rather than a crush of cars backing up the highway and overwhelming our gate.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Colina Clark, Brad Ward and Lara Wiebe who are completing their board terms. Thank you for your ideas and leadership on the MRAS board. Jake Braconnier will also be leaving MRAS in mid December to pursue other new ventures, thank you very much Jake, it has been a real pleasure to work with you over the past few years. We wish you much success in your future endeavors.

Our **Annual general meeting** will take place on December 6, 2021, at 7pm via zoom. Pre-reading in the form of the financial statements and minutes of last year's AGM will be sent via constant contact. If you would like a printed copy, please email Jake at office@mras-track.com

Zoom details for the AGM are as follows:

Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88435985223?pwd=M2sxVnlvUkgyVWZDRTdGVjB1eJodz09>

Meeting ID: 884 3598 5223 **Passcode:** 433646

Or join by phone: +1 587 328 1099 **Meeting ID:** 884 3598 5223 **Passcode:** 433646

*****Active 2022 MRAS Membership required in order to vote at AGM*****

We are looking for new board members to join our team, particularly those with IT expertise, please contact myself at mraspresident@gmail.com if you are interested in joining the MRAS board.

Finally, MRAS has a casino on December 19th and 20th, we are looking for volunteers to help us with this important revenue generating opportunity for MRAS. Please contact Sylvia Checkley if you are able to help: epi4animalhealth@gmail.com

Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Anna De Paoli

MRAS President



BOARD MEMBER BIOS



Sylvia Checkley: Sylvia has had the pleasure to serve on the Board of Directors of MRAS since 2019. She moved to the MD of Foothills in 2009 to join the new Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Calgary where she teaches and does research. She was a 4-H Leader with the Millarville Saddle Sores Light Horse Club and has spent a lot of time at MRAS events. Previously, Sylvia worked in veterinary practice in the Edmonton area.



Lai Chen, CPA: Lai is a long-time south Calgary resident and a proud wife and mother of two lovely tween-aged kids. She brings to the board of MRAS her support for our agricultural heritage, dedication to community volunteer work, and passion in board governance and financial stewardship. She is a seasoned management professional with a 20-year progressive career in the energy sector. She holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration, the Chartered Financial Analyst designation and the Chartered Professional Accountant designation.



Anna De Paoli, CMC, ICD.D: Anna has served as MRAS President since 2020 and was previously Chair of the Millarville Races for 5 years and was MRAS Vice President during a previous term on the board of Directors. In total Anna has volunteered at MRAS for 11 years. Anna is a Certified Management Consultant and runs her own company, De Paoli & Associates where she consults to some of the largest Agricultural producers in Alberta. Her consulting specialities are negotiation and Agribusiness.



Roy Mathis, P. Eng: Roy has been associated with the Millarville Racing & Agricultural Society for the past four years as a Director on the Board as well serving on committees for the Heritage Rodeo, Golf Tournament and Chucks & Chariots events.

Roy has a degree in Civil Engineering from Queen's University in Kingston and for the present is essentially retired but in his working career has participated in many major industrial projects both domestically and internationally.



Barb Parker: Barb is a retired Human Resources professional who worked in the oil and gas company in Canada for 36 years. Barb has been an active volunteer both during her working career as well as since retirement. She was a performer in the opening ceremonies of the 1988 Winter Olympics, was co-manager on the accreditation team for the 1997 Calgary Police/Fire Games in Calgary, and also volunteered for 4 years organizing the Ladies Night Out event in support of the Calgary Firefighters Burn Treatment Society. She is currently a volunteer for The Magic of Christmas in Okotoks, which I've been supporting for the last 6 years.

Barb has been a MRAS member since 2013 and began volunteering in the office in 2016. She volunteered for the 1/2 Marathon, and worked in the VIP Tent for the Millarville Races. She's been the Treasurer on the Fair Committee for 6 years, on the organizing committee for The Kids Only Shoppe as well as a member on the marketing, financial stability and campground committees and am the historical committee board liaison. Barb became an interim member on the MRAS Board of Directors in July 2019 and an official board director in December 2019 and is currently the vice-president of MRAS.



Janice Tranberg: Janice her husband and family settled into Millarville three years ago. She excited to be part of this community and brings to the MRAS Board a broad agricultural career with a current role of President and CEO of the Alberta and National Cattle Feeders' Associations. Previously experience includes the Executive Director of SaskCanola, Assistant Deputy Minister of Regulatory and Innovation for the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, and vice president Western Canada for CropLife Canada. Janice holds a diploma in horticulture from Olds College, and a Bachelor's of Science and Masters of Science from the University of Saskatchewan.

MILLARVILLE RACING & AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, December 6, 2021

7 pm via Zoom.

Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88435985223?pwd=M2sxVnlvUkgyVWZDRTdGVjB1eJodz09>

Meeting ID: 884 3598 5223 Passcode: 433646

Or join by phone: +1 587 328 1099 Meeting ID: 884 3598 5223
Passcode: 433646

*****Active 2022 MRAS Membership required in order to vote at AGM*****

MRAS 2022 General Memberships: Available Online!

To Renew/Purchase a membership, visit:

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

2022 Memberships are valid until October 31st 2022.

Casino volunteers needed for Dec 19 and 20, 2021!

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered already! We need seven more volunteers to work the late shift, 11 pm to closing at about 3:20 am, in the count room (sorters, counters etc). Training will be provided onsite. This is an important revenue opportunity for MRAS, that only comes around every 2-3 years.

Please contact Sylvia Checkley ASAP at 403-629-2960 or epi4animalhealth@gmail.com for more information.

2021 MRAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Anna De Paoli
President

Barb Parker
Vice President

Brent Foster
Treasurer

Patt Peterson
Secretary

Sylvia Checkley
Director

Colina Clark
Director

Darcie Jensen
Director

Brad Ward
Director

Nancy Seaman
Director

Lara Wiebe
Director

Roy Mathis
Director

Feedback for Executive Board
mras.feedback@gmail.com

Bill Jackson - "Stars of Alberta Volunteer Award Winner"



The "Stars of Alberta Volunteer Awards" recognize extraordinary Albertans whose volunteer efforts have contributed to the well-being of their community and fellow community members.

MRAS was founded in 1905 and has a mission of dedication to community spirit. Our organization is one of the largest and oldest Agricultural Societies in Alberta and is a volunteer-based society. No one exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism better than Bill Jackson.

Bill has dedicated more than 75 years to volunteering for the betterment of MRAS and our rural community. Bill's service for our society began when he was 6 years old and his achievements for MRAS and the community are numerous.

As a leader, Bill led our organization as President on a number of occasions, first in 1972 to 1973, then later in 1992 and 2013. Only one other person has served as President for 4 years in our 116-year history.

The Priddis and Millarville Fair is one of the events that Bill has assumed a leadership role in for decades. When he was 16 years old, he was a director on the Beef Cattle committee. This role included deciding which classes to have, prize money and ribbons for winners, creating pens for livestock and continued to do so for six years. Then he became involved with the Sheep committee for 15 years showing animals, organizing classes, prize money and ribbons. In the 1980's, Bill initiated new special attractions for the Fair including: weed displays, field crops, dancing "bobcats" performance, and musicians to provide entertainment for fair attendees.

In 2000, Bill was nominated and received a lifetime membership at the MRAS, validating his volunteer service as a leader on the board of directors, president, worker, and visionary expert.

Bill's other community volunteer efforts include membership and leadership in the Millarville beef and multi-4H Clubs, involvement with the Millarville Christ Church, The Calgary Stampede, Southern Alberta Pioneer Association, Sheep River Hospital Health Trust and numerous local school programs.

This year Bill almost single-handedly raised over \$50,000 to pay for a legacy mural to celebrate life members and past presidents of MRAS from 1907 to 2020.

Generations of volunteers have been recruited by Bill and have come to learn the values of work ethic and dedication to community from volunteering alongside Bill. Bill is always available to help to find contacts for projects at the racetrack and is first to arrive and last to leave for any event.

Bill has taught us the true value of volunteerism and the friendships that result from building our community and, for this reason, he was nominated for the Stars of Alberta Volunteer Awards.

*"To volunteer is **to give of yourself in service to a cause**. It is about freely giving your time to help an organization, your community, or an individual. To volunteer means to act on behalf of something or someone else. It is done by people with a desire to do good. It is done willingly - by choice."*

CONGRATULATIONS Bill for this well-deserved award. You are a shining example of what a volunteer is and should be. We honor you and thank you for your many years of volunteer support to MRAS and to the surrounding community.

Submitted by Barb Parker – MRAS Vice-President. December 2021

Celebrating Tony Campbell as a MRAS Life Member

The MRAS Board and Historical ask all successful Life Member nominees to submit their biography and photo.



I was born and raised just 4 miles south of the Racetrack. Both my parents are life members of the MRAS. I took over for my father as gate director of the fair, where I served for 32 years. I was on the Rodeo committee and Race committee and well as the main board. I was the site supervisor for 15 years at the Millarville Farmers Market. My wife and family helped me many times, volunteering, setting up for events such as funerals, weddings and Appreciation night. I was often the go to man when people needed to get into buildings after hours, as I lived close. Often times my wife and 4 children were called to pick rocks on the track before races, or water plants on weekends, when no one

else was available. Our family spent many hours in 2005 with the flood, helping out with clean up and sandbagging. Even though our own basement had water running through it at time.

Congratulations, Tony. Many remember his work on the Farmers Market Committee. Tony was a valued person, working more than twelve years on this committee. All the Vendors loved him, as he was very helpful, and a hard worker.

JOHN QUIRK

Submitted by Gene Blakley, Millarville Historical Society

Born in Wexford Eire he and Mrs. Quirk left home around 1860 and settled at Detroit Michigan. John went West to California and Virginia City for the gold-rush years. Here he met men who talked of the North. He and his wife started ranching near Missoula Montana around 1877.

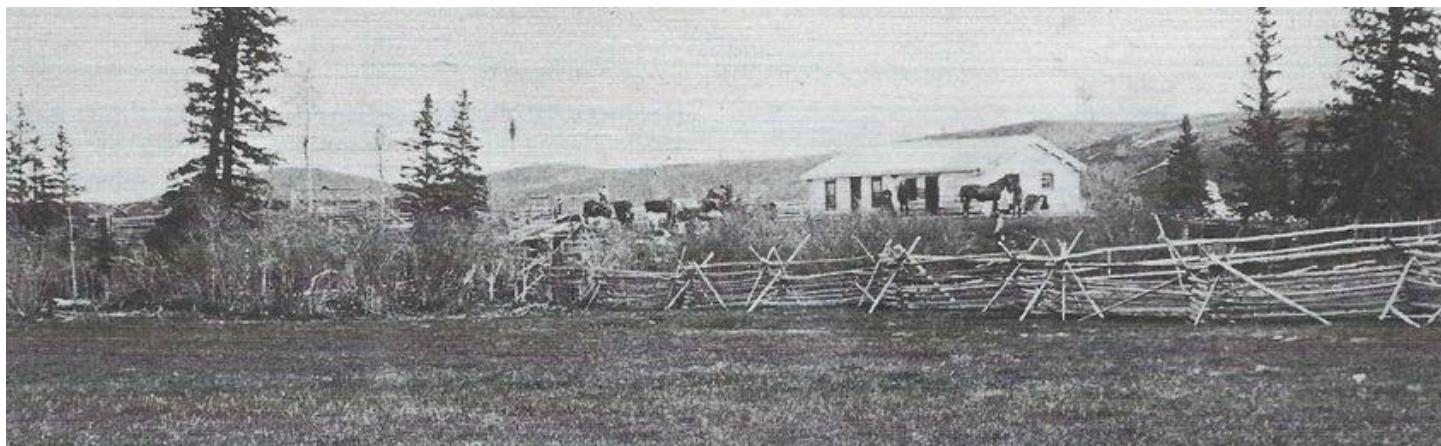
In 1882 he started out and was the first white man to settle on the Highwood. But, after a couple of dry years he took the advice of Joseph Fisher and came to settle the Q ranch. Here he prospered and ran 2000 head of cattle on 6000 acres of deeded and 6000 acres of lease.

He built a house that was Mrs. Kendall's home wherein the walls were filled with gravel to keep it from blowing away in the Chinook winds. Some said that it was for insulation but it did feel like an old English stone house.

Much of his land was gained by putting irrigation to CPR land but irrigation officials said he was a difficult man to deal with as because of his lack of education he could not understand what was required of him. Personally, I think that he dealt with the bureaucracy as was dictated by the times.

He sold his land to Pat Burns in 1917 and retired to Detroit where they still owned property. The property was sold to J.F. Dole then to E.H.C. Rawlinson then to the Kendalls and now owned by the Ball family.

John Quirk and his wife are symbolic of the type of individuals that saw the opportunity of the Eastern Slopes and had the type of "DO IT" attitude that built this country. From the gold fields of California, to the Hills of Montana. to a failed attempt at the Highwood River. they forged one of the largest ranches on the Slopes. He and Kate never had children so it does seem unfortunate that all their hard work would not see succession. But they did put a beautiful ranch together that has been appreciated by many.



Early photo showing original buildings at Quirk Ranch at Kew.



Photo taken in 1900 at Quirk Ranch, Kew. L to R: John Quirk, Harry Sinnott, Mrs. Quirk, W.H. King

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

MRAS EQUINE NEWS

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

2021/22 MRAS Riding Membership available NOW

Membership information and registration forms available at www.millarvilleracetrack.com under the membership tab.

2021/22 Riding Membership Rates:

Annual (November 2021 – October 31, 2022):

Family	\$450
Individual	\$310

Quarterly Memberships (per quarter):

Family	\$150
Individual	\$100

Early Spring Start (valid Feb 1 thru Oct 31, 2022)

Family	\$365
Individual	\$245

FOB deposit required \$20

**General membership required in order to purchase any of the Riding Membership options above.*

Riding calendars, which reflect open riding times, are available to the current membership ONLY in order to book your riding times.

Membership discounts on MRAS hosted equine activities.

For more information or any questions, email MRAS.equine@gmail.com

How the current public health orders affect MRAS operations moving forward:

Following the Government of Alberta's announcement of Record of Decision CMOH 42-2021 on September 16, 2021, the team at MRAS has been working hard to understand the impacts of the health order on the various facilities and activities at MRAS. As a result of consultation with Alberta Health Services and with the Alberta Farmers Market Association, the board of Directors of MRAS has elected not to implement a Restrictions Exemption Program (REP). This means that capacity at our indoor facilities will be restricted. Below is a summary of the impacts on our operations and facilities for the foreseeable future. More information on the restrictions can be found at: <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-public-health-actions.aspx>

MRAS Equine members

- Continued use of riding sign-up sheets in google drive, max 6 riders in the indoor arena at any time. Masking* and social distancing is required.
- Adult (18-plus) indoor group classes and activities are not permitted in the arena at this time.
- Indoor solo or family member activities are allowed with 3-meter physical distancing.
- Youth (under 18) indoor group classes, training, and competitions are permitted, but participants are required to:
 - screen for symptoms
 - maintain 2 meters distancing, except youth while engaged in physical activity
 - wear a mask, except youth while engaged in physical activity
- Spectator attendance is restricted to 1/3 fire code capacity, attendees are limited to a single household or 2 close contacts if living alone and must be masked and maintain 2 meters physical distancing.
- No restrictions on adult or youth outdoor equine activities

Hall and Quonset rentals: Open for meetings and bookings with restrictions

- Hall capacity is restricted to 66 people (1/3 fire code capacity)
- Quonset is limited to 33 people (1/3 fire code capacity)
- Masking* and social distancing required in all indoor spaces.

Office Opening Hours

- The MRAS office will be open Thursdays & Fridays from 10 am to 2 pm and Saturdays from 9 am to 2 pm until October 9th and then via appointment only.

* Anyone unable to wear a mask due to a medical condition will require a medical exception letter from an authorized health professional.

Thank you for your continued support of MRAS. If you have questions, we can be reached at office@mras-track.com or 403-931-3411. Or Mras.equine@gmail.com for all equine inquiries.



FOR ALL OF OUR UP-TO-DATE LISTINGS GO TO.....

WWW.TERRYALLWARDEN.COM

IF YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT SELLING OR BUYING, CALL ME!

EVALUATIONS ARE FREE!

*During the Christmas Season
more than ever,
our thoughts turn gratefully
to those who have made our progress
possible. This includes our families,
friends and valued clients who have
kept our spirits high and our direction
forward.*

Millarville Horticultural Club

[\(millarvillehorticulturalclub@gmail.com\)](mailto:millarvillehorticulturalclub@gmail.com)

"In person meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month" September to May. Due to COVID-19 restrictions however, we have been holding Zoom meetings starting at 7:00 p.m.

Speaker arrangements are still in the works for our December meeting and we would ask that you please check our website, <https://www.millarvillehortclub.com/> or Facebook page to confirm our speaker information, meeting place and time due to changing Covid restrictions.

We hope to make it an in person Christmas decoration depending on interest.

A friendly reminder that membership dues are now payable; \$15.00/single person and \$20.00/family. E-transfers can be sent to millarvillehorticulturalclub@gmail.com. If you are a new member, please be sure to include your address and telephone number.

The Millarville Community Library

We'll be well into winter reading season when you read this and the Millarville Library's avalanche of books (audio books, dvds, magazines and more)) for all ages, tastes and interests and of course there are lots of holiday books celebrating all faiths. So drop by and stock up for those cold, snowy days and nights. (We have enjoyed an amazing fall but we all know it's coming!) Of course you can order online through Marigold and pick it up at your convenience. See below for Christmas hours. If you visit the library be sure to check out the art display featuring the Grade 5 dreamcatchers.

Our library will be closed from December 20 - January 2 (open on Wednesdays from 1-7.30).

Our lobby is full of donated books (a buck for a bag with proceeds going to the library). Great for stocking stuffers!

Many of you will have followed the Giller Awards. The winner *What Strange Paradise* by former Globe and Mail journalist Omar El Akkad. The Giller jury wrote of this book:

"Amid all the anger and confusion surrounding the global refugee crisis, Omar El Akkad's *What Strange Paradise* paints a portrait of displacement and belonging that is at once unflinching and tender. In examining the confluence of war, migration and a sense of settlement, it raises questions of indifference and powerlessness and, ultimately, offers clues as to how we might reach out empathetically in a divided world."

And some reviews from our younger readers:

The Enchanted Wood by Enid Blyton

"I like to read the book at night with my dad. I like the levels above the tree. I like the adventures the characters go on in the different lands and the slippery slip (slide) the characters can go on to get to the bottom of the tree. I like when the old lady in a shoe puts a sofa on top of the slippery slip."

-Review by Lorelei Goerzen. Age 4

The Duckling Gets a Cookie by Mo Willems

"I like to read this book with mom. I like this book because the duckling is kind. I like the pictures, especially the cookie with nuts.

Dragons Love Tacos by Adam Robin

"I love tacos just like dragons love tacos. I like to read this book with dad. The dragons have a taco party but you can't give them spicy salsa. Adam Rubin"

-Reviews by Corban Motz. Age 5

Wishing you all best wishes for Christmas, your holidays, and the New Year!

CONTACT
MELONIE at
melonie@mrastack.com for
advertising
opportunities in
the Track
Watch!



The MRAS is looking for 1 new volunteer Board of Director member. Preference will be given to those that can fill some of the specialty gaps we currently have such as IT or financial expertise (CPA or equivalent). If you are interested in joining the Board, please contact Anna De Paoli – MRAS President at mraspresident@gmail.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

THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR SPONSORS

