



TRACK WATCH

September 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

OFFICE HOURS

Starting June 15th Tuesday- Saturday, 10am – 2pm

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



John Barlow MP, MRAS President Anna De Paoli and MLA RJ Sigurdson cutting the ribbon at the legacy mural unveiling. Photo credit Okotoks online.



Bill Jackson, master of ceremonies at the legacy mural unveiling

Dear MRAS Members,

Thanks to Nancy Seaman and the golf committee for hosting a great tournament on August the 6th at the Turner Valley Golf Club. The numbers are still coming in, but it looks like we raised in the order of \$7,000 from this event! Thank you to all who golfed, donated to the silent auction and to those who bid furiously, especially for Patty's pie! We appreciate all the support.

We had a wonderful day on the 13th of August where we welcomed approximately 150 life members and past presidents for the unveiling of our legacy mural. After such a long period of isolation with the pandemic, it was heartwarming to see and hear the joy of old friends reunited. It was truly a wonderful day, thank you to all who volunteered to make it such a success. The legacy mural was commissioned by MRAS from Michael Perks of Little Monkey Metal Works and is located on the South end of the arena. You can find more photos in this article on Okotoks Online: <https://okotoksonline.com/local/millarville-racetrack-new-mural-and-upcoming-event>

At the event we also unveiled our book entitled "Celebrating MRAS Life Members and Presidents 1907-2020". We sold all the copies we had at the unveiling day but now have more in stock. This is a fantastic record of the stories and people behind MRAS. You can purchase copies for \$25 +GST by contacting the office at 403 931-3411. Thanks again to Lorretta Stabler, Cathie Scatterry and Norma Dawson for all your hard work in producing this book.



MRAS Presidents reunited at the legacy mural unveiling, August 2021

On August 21st and 22nd we thoroughly enjoyed the Priddis & Millarville Fair. Seeing the joy on our children's faces as they met their first llama and hearing them shriek with pride as they collected their ribbons for the exhibits they entered was perfect. Thank you so much to Suzanne Sills and the fair committee. This was a challenging year to plan an event, with so much uncertainty on restrictions and balancing the needs and concerns of volunteers and visitors. The fair is so important to the legacy and future of MRAS; despite the challenges, the fair team pulled it off, thank you all!



The De Paoli & Lyster children celebrating their achievements at the Priddis Millarville fair.

Unfortunately, due to heavy rain in the days leading up to the fair, the equestrian events were postponed to the weekend of October 2nd and 3rd. More details to follow on this as the committee works to reschedule.

I also have exciting news to share with you on the MRAS financial situation. At our August board meeting, your board voted to repay approximately \$210,000 onto one of our arena loans. This is an enormous achievement, and we have now reduced our debt load to approximately \$125,000. I would like to take a moment to recognize the efforts of Brent Foster in this achievement. Brent was the MRAS President during the arena collapse and rebuild and he is currently our Treasurer. Brent's leadership and commitment to fiscal prudence, loan management and grants have been a major contributor to this loan repayment. As a board, we have been very focused on fundraising and closely managing our finances since the pandemic began. Our amazing volunteer group answered the call and have stepped up to take on roles and responsibilities that MRAS had to pay to fulfill in the past. Repaying this loan is a testament to the dedication to our facility by many people. Thank you to Brent for your leadership through a tumultuous time for MRAS. I thought that the unveiling of the legacy mural was the icing on cake, but now I realize that it is paying off the loans!

Our work is never done, of course, we will now be focusing on paying off the remaining debt and fundraising for a playground for 2022 and beyond.

Finally, a word on **Volunteer Appreciation 2021**. We usually host a large volunteer appreciation event at the MRAS hall in November. With the rising covid numbers, we are concerned that restrictions may prevent a November event. There are also volunteers who feel more comfortable outside and in a socially distanced environment. With these factors in mind, we are working on two, smaller volunteer appreciation events; an outdoor lunch, and an indoor dinner, both in October. Volunteers will have a choice of which event to attend. We will provide more details in the coming weeks.

A reminder that tickets are now on sale for the Millarville Chuckwagon, Chariots and Bull Riding events for September 10th through 12th. You can find tickets here:

<https://millarvilleracetrack.ticketspice.com/millarville-chuckwagon-chariot-races>

Anna De Paoli

President



2021 MRAS

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Feedback for Executive Board

mras.feedback@gmail.com

Celebrating MRAS Life Members, Presidents & Donors

Submitted by Lorretta Stabler Millarville Historical Society



Every community project starts with a goal setter, a creative problem solver, a true realist, and a leader. Bill Jackson is indeed this visionary. He believed that the original people who started the Racetrack generally, not only the Races and the Fair jointly, needed to be publicly acknowledged. For more than eight years, Bill has pondered possibilities to recognize and celebrate MRAS long time volunteers, Presidents, and donors. A legacy mural would be a visual representation, showcasing the volunteer energy that has kept this incredible MRAS facility viable for well over 100 years.

Bill envisioned a life- sized horse surrounded by an oval pipe to represent the race track, with names on the rail all the way around, possibly located north of the Racetrack concession. He knew he needed “seed money”. Bill put in \$2500 and convinced Malcolm Sills to match his donation. He hoped that \$10,000-15000 would see this project through. Then discussions began in earnest to find a metal sculptor. Bill contacted several, one was a Farmers’ Market vendor who created a small horse silhouette from metal, and Bill carried it around for a couple of years to see if he could find other metal artists to make a life-sized 3D horse. When the arena collapsed in 2018, that changed the focus so all plans were put on hold.

Then, about three years ago, Bill met with Nancy Seaman MRAS Director, Claire Perks, part of 6 generations (Pattersons & Burrows in the Millarville area), and several community members. Claire showed past commissions that her husband, Michael Perks & Little Monkey Metalworks had created for other communities. Michael, an award-winning artist, has won three Best in Show belt buckles at the Calgary Stampede Art Show. The group brainstormed key elements that were important to the Racetrack: spirit of the horse, agriculture, and community. From that list of brainstormed ideas, Michael created a mural scene. Dates were set and guidelines developed. This magnificent prototype would cost approx.\$50 000. Claire and Michael Perks donated \$5000 and other Patterson estate families donated \$5000.

So, Bill began “bush-beating”, contacting families in the area. Bill’s unique, patient approach involved contacting long-standing area families saying, “Your family deserves to have the recognition!” He was amazed how many people accepted the idea to donate. Well over \$55 000 was donated by fifty donors for this permanent record, a legacy that is here forever and is a lifetime investment. It’s also great advertising for the Millarville Racing and Agricultural Society and Little Monkey MetalWorks, who started many years ago as a vendor at MRAS Farmer’s Market and still are vendors.

August 13, 2021, was the date set for the unveiling of the mural. Covering the mural until the unveiling was the next decision. Bill definitely didn’t want Dollar Store material. Malcolm and Suzanna Sills offered a stack tarp and Bill engineered a cable to be strung across the top. This cable would be pulled simultaneously as several guys using handles would pull the tarp out sideways from the base. Their plan was flawless.

Patty Webb applied her artistic touch with a ribbon which was cut by MRAS President Anna De Paoli, MP John Barlow, and MLA R.J. Sigurdson. The more than one hundred volunteers, Life Members, and donors applauded this dramatic, historic unveiling.

People crowded around the marvelous mural, in awe of the many representations of agriculture - grain bins, a tractor, windmill, cow/calves, cattle drive, cowboy, buffalo, three feathers representing the Blackfoot, Blood, and the Stoney Indigenous people, as well as community and family holding hands, validating family connections. Definitely a visual ode to horses and the "heavy lifting of donors & volunteers".

The Foothills, buffalo run, and Rocky Mountains form the backdrop for the stunning 3-D racehorse with metal cut outs of Life Members and Presidents' names and the impressive 3D heavy horse with donor family names. The other two horses, bucking horse and show horse, are silhouettes for now. They could later become 3D and match the other two horses, part of future fundraising efforts such as: finishing the arena (bathrooms, offices, upstairs viewing area), stripping, packing and resurfacing the racetrack, and constructing a playground over by the Island Campground.

In conjunction with the Legacy Mural unveiling ceremony, Life Members and MRAS Presidents are honored in a biography Celebrating MRAS Life Members & Presidents, compiled by the Millarville Historical Society. Many bios include Life Members who are second & third generation volunteers and supporters. Other members moved here and became immersed in the volunteer community. Amazing dedication, diligence, & collaboration. These biographies have created a written mural, capturing unique stories, so that future generations can appreciate historical perspectives of our rural community. This book can be purchased by contacting MRAS Office, 403-931-3411.

GEORGE BELL

Submitted by Gene Blakley Millarville Historical Society

Born in Carlisle, England came to Canada in 1883. He escorted a group of Bernardo Children to Canada. Bernardo Children were disadvantaged children that it was thought would have improved lives in some of the British Colonies. Unfortunately, it was like many a probably well-intentioned plan turned sour as the children were treated more like slaves than persons. It is unknown what George's involvement was but probably was only an escort as he had moved west after having worked for Joseph and his brother had a farm in Ontario before coming West.

He married Mary Fisher, sister of Joseph Fisher, and moved west to settle next to Joseph in Kew. He and his wife filed on SE9-21-3-W5 and having proved up quickly received SW6-21.3-W5. They filed on May 28, 1887. Like so many other settlers, he installed irrigation ditches to supply water for the farm. His mother Mrs. Bell came west and stayed with them until her death in 1898. Jack Stagg, Mary's cousin, was working for Bell at the time and rode west to the Gate Ranch, where RNWMP officer Oaks recorded the death. From here we carried on to John Ware's ranch to ask him to make a coffin.

George helped build the Rancher's Hall and the Millarville Church and was the first postmaster in the Kew District. Mary died in 1902 and George remarried April 24, in 1905 to Mary Elizabeth Crichton. They had a daughter and son - Mary b-1907 and Miles b- 1908.

Mrs. Bell died in 1914 and George sold his holdings to Bill Patterson. On original settlement of property, the inclusion of mineral rights was an added benefit. These he did not pass on to Patterson and years later the Home Oil Co. bought them from George at a genuinely nice price.

George passed away in Vancouver in 1917 and his son and daughter live there. Bill Patterson sold out to Pat Rodgers and his son Michael lived there until it was sold to Dave Butler.



Are you looking for something do keep you busy?
Are you Social Media savvy? Millarville Racing & Ag Society, along with the Millarville Farmers' Market and The Priddis & Millarville Fair are looking for a volunteer to help us with the 2021 season of event and facility social media!

If you are interested, please contact Melonie at melonie@mras-track.com or call 403-988-4142



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



Millarville Campground Reservations

The Millarville Racing & Agricultural Society is excited to announce the launch of our new campground booking software!

Our Island and Creekside campgrounds have 37 un-serviced, single and group, well-treed sites for your camping pleasure.

We are located at 306097 - 192 St W, Millarville, AB

Please visit www.millarvilleracetrack.com, select the campground tab to book your sites.

Monday thru Thursday sites are \$23/day/unit and there are still lots left to reserve!

We look forward to seeing you at the Millarville Campground this season!

Chucks, Chariots & Bull Riding

Millarville Race Track
September 10 - 12, 2021



Photo courtesy of: Through Tawny's Lens

Friday, September 10

Chuckwagons & Chariots 5:00 pm

Saturday, September 11

Farmer's Market 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Antique Tractor Pull 10:30 am

Chuckwagons & Chariots 3:30 pm

BRC Bull Riding Under the Lights 7:00 pm

Cabaret featuring

Bucking Horse Moon 9:30 pm

Sunday, September 12

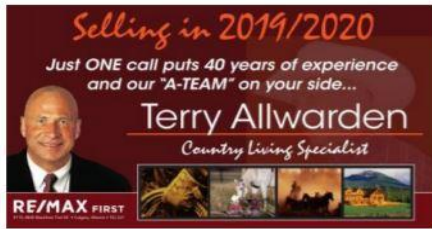
Chuckwagon & Chariot Finals 3:00 pm



Antique Tractor Pull
Saturday
Mini Chuckwagons
Saturday & Sunday



Tickets & Details: millarvilleracetrack.com



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Millarville Horticultural Club

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

Meetings are held at the Millarville Anglican Church House on the second Tuesday of the month, September to May, usually at 7:30 p.m.

Our September 14, 2021 speaker is Gordon Pain, Lodgepole Tree Service, with a presentation on pruning.

There will also be a "Welcome Back" celebration for members starting at 7:00 p.m. with snacks and cake.

WE'RE SELLING PLANTS

If you are interested in attending any of our presentations, please contact Gail Dziuba (587-578-3798) 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. Membership is a great gift for family and friends and is available through our e-mail address as well as in-person at one of our meetings.

Visit us on Facebook for great pictures and gardening tips from local sources.

MRAS Golf Tournament Recap

Submitted by: Nancy Seaman, MRAS Golf Tournament Chair

The 2021 MRAS Golf Tournament held on August 6th at the Turner Valley Golf Club will be remembered as the best weather of the golf tournament to date. I would like to thank the Golf Tournament Committee consisting of: Jean Whyte, Roy Mathis, Bryon Birch and Lara Wiebe for all their work with the tournament and securing the online auction items and door prizes. Thank you to the Turner Valley Golf Club pro shop staff, kitchen and wait staff for making our day fantastic. Thank you to all our golf participants, many of whom support our tournament every year, without you our little tournament would not be a success.

List of the 2021 Sponsors:

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Blinds 2000

Little Black Dress

The George, Traditional House

Pharmasave – Black Diamond

Laura James Photography Ltd.

Patty Webb – Artist, Gardener,

Decorator, Pie Maker Extraordinaire

2022 MRAS General Memberships

2022 General MRAS memberships will be available for purchase starting **October 1st 2021**, and will be valid until October 31st 2022. Memberships for 2022 can be purchased online starting October 1st.

Please call or email the office if you have any questions.

403-931-3411

office@mras-track.com

114th Priddis & Millarville Fair

It's a wrap – almost!

After weeks of hot and dry weather, the clouds produced a downpour that the sand ring and rodeo infield couldn't absorb. The horse events are postponed to October 2 & 3. [Showworks](http://link.primal.fairwire.com) (link primal.fairwire.com) is open for new exhibitors and additional entries until September 26.



On Friday August 20 over 200 excited exhibitors dropped off 800 bench exhibits in the arena for judging that were put on display for Saturday visitors. The exhibits were creative, inspiring and a delight to view. The arena was abuzz with smiles, ooh and aahs, and conversation all day.



The expanded historical display was a treasure trove of information, photos and artifacts relevant to the generations of families who created Millarville and laid the foundation for the strong community it is today.

Photography, Dairy Goats and Digital Drawings were entered and judged online. Go to www.millarvilleracetrack.com/fair to view those exhibits.

New to the Fair was the animal display in the garden. Kathleen & Don Arkes brought their collection of farm animals and spent the day answering questions and sharing information. Dani Bradish's cow-calf pair and the Bevin llamas rounded out the display. Feedback was tremendous. The animals set the stage for the Agricultural Literacy Adventure – a list of questions for which answers could be found on educational signs, in the garden and with the vendors.



On Sunday, the Beef Cattle show was held in the barn area. Several local 4H members showed their past, current and future projects.

What will next year look like? Please share your thoughts and ideas at fair@millarvilleracetrack.com.

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melonie@mrastack.com for
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the Track Watch!



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