

From: LaVerne & Arlene Erickson [<mailto:lavision@rosebud.ca>]
Sent: August 9, 2016 8:39 PM
To: 'al.hogan@kneehillcounty.com'
Subject: Land Use Bylaw #1718

Kneehill County Councillors:

Rather than focusing on environmental concerns raised by Municipal Council adherence to its own directives (Kneehill's Environmentally Significant Areas Final Report, Feb,2010, or Land Use Bylaw #1718, Part IV, #24, (1) (d), let me provide you with this tourism and neighbourly perspective.

The hamlet of Rosebud has fewer than one hundred full time residents who host tens of thousands of guests annually to its theatres, music festivals, gallery shows and hospitality centres, tourists who are attracted by its award winning quality and rural ambience. Perhaps you have been one of the guests hosted by this hamlet. Rosebud's distance from urban centres provides the travel time needed for guests to reset their mental time clocks and suspend their disbelief when they enter this beautiful treasure in the Rosebud River Valley.

Cultural Tourism is the community's lifeline. So is ecotourism, birding, and quiet walks in the valley, golfing along the river, or camping in one of Rosebud's recreational campgrounds. Rosebud is not an all inclusive resort imposed on the rural population. It is the rarest of finds: a historic prairie community intentionally preserved and culturally designed by its own residents for guests from around the world.

The intentions of the residents can be seen in their buildings and homes: None look alike. Some bear Alberta Heritage historical designation. The Alberta Legislature passed the Rosebud School of the Arts Act in 1988 to create western Canada's only guild school to train emerging artists. Rosebud School of the Arts single-handedly, decades ago, developed terms like "Cultural Tourism" to shape the story of using the fine arts for community revitalization through tourism. Rosebud's tourism is built on an historic legacy that traces itself back to members of Canada's Group of Seven who drew and painted here in the 1930's; to storied ranchers that helped found the Calgary Stampede; to the last open range cattle round-up led by Siksika warriors; to indigenous people who set up camp in this place for millennia. These and myriads of stories are told around campfires and preserved by Rosebud's Historical Society.

The challenges faced and overcome by this community are almost things of fable. Local farmers have nurtured the river valley and farmed above it with care. Their farming practices and stories have made national news and have been used by educators to teach youth about rural living.

Flora McDonald, Canada's former Minister of Communication said that Rosebud was the modern day story of David and Goliath. It is a small rural community battling the urbanization of Canadian culture. The brand "Canadian Badlands" was coined in Rosebud and has grown into Canada's largest municipal tourism corporation, of which Kneehill County is a shareholder. The

Canadian Badlands Passion Play, Drumheller, grew out of Rosebud, as did Chemainus Theatre, Vancouver Island's premier tourism theatre. Rosebud's stories could go on...

But most importantly this little hamlet is in a fight to maintain its rural identity. Within earshot and sightlines from the hills overlooking this valley is planned a \$400,000,000 all inclusive urban motor sport resort. Various members of the Rosebud community have tried for years to convince the resort developer that this ecologically sensitive valley is not the place for an urban all inclusive resort. Alternative locations have been suggested, an offer has been made to purchase the land from the developer at fair market value with landowners along the valley committed to creating an ecological land trust. Perhaps this valley could one day be a long park that stretches from Rosebud to Wayne. Other such iconic places in the Canadian Badlands have achieved UNESCO World Heritage designation. These locally nurtured dreams are what rural tourism is all about.

The hamlet of Rosebud is in Wheatland County, but Kneehill's municipal boundary three miles east of Rosebud gives jurisdiction over that portion of the Rosebud River valley to Kneehill County. Since none of Kneehill's representatives are elected by Rosebud hamlet residents, and Kneehill councillors live at a distance from Rosebud, that hamlet of Rosebud is defenceless. I appeal to the Kneehill councillors to study the significance of the distinction between rural and urban tourism and the impact that it will have on the hamlet of Rosebud. Rural communities around the globe have suffered the culturally altering results of unwanted all-inclusive resorts being forced upon them in the name of economic development. Now it appears to be happening to the hamlet of Rosebud.

The growth of the Canadian Badlands as a brand depends on the development of strong tourism clusters that support rural initiatives. It also depends on intercommunity cooperation and mutual respect. Pitting one community against another is not helpful. We must all work at becoming strong rural communities that are true to our traditions. The proposed Badlands Motor Sport Resort would best be developed near Three Hills, which has built an enviable tourism reputation based on car culture as the Cruise Capital of Western Canada. Kneehill County office is located in Three Hills. Why this has not been advocated by Three Hills and Kneehill is a puzzle. This would allow both Rosebud, and Three Hills to expand their tourism identities in keeping with their communities' ethos, and to work cooperatively under the Canadian Badlands banner.

As one of the senior residents of Rosebud I appeal to you to re-evaluate your stance.

Sincerely,

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