



# Action for Agriculture



## PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

On May 9, 1996 Action for Agriculture will mark its' sixth anniversary! Since its' inception, I have been on the Board of Directors and must say that it seems like only a short time since a dedicated core of individuals met to discuss the possibility of developing an organization that could become a voice for all issues related to agriculture. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our past directors who gave so much of their time to set a pattern for the fledgling organization to follow. A special thanks goes to the late Gordon Stehr who formatted our by-laws and appropriately named the organization-ACTION FOR AGRICULTURE. Since our by-laws wisely state that no director may serve more than two consecutive terms (three years each) this will be my last year as a director BUT I would like to close with the following conclusions.

1. Although effective in many areas concerning agriculture, all of the directors past and present have been somewhat disappointed in our progress.
2. Our membership needs to be more extensive and larger in numbers than the 70 members living west of Calgary. We have now been able to generate some interest in the agricultural community north and west of Calgary.
3. Action for Agriculture must take a proactive rather than reactive position on all issues. To do this we must have a constant supply of volunteers who are prepared to volunteer their time. At this annual meeting we must fill six vacancies in our directorship. At this time we have all but one of these positions filled- so those of you who avoid annual meetings for fear of being placed on the Board, please feel safe to come. **NOTE: "It is a proven fact that you have a better chance of filling a bus for a tour of a leprosy colony than for an annual meeting."**

Most of us think that the future is somewhat off, but the future for this organization is now! While some gurus say the country is in an economic decline, the Municipality of Rockyview and the Province of Alberta are in for a minnie boom! An increased population with available dollars is already looking to reinvest in this Province. You can be sure that the pressures to expand housing throughout Rockyview and onto agricultural lands will increase. Our schools, recreation facilities, water resources, waste disposal methods and road systems will be burdened to accommodate these new residents and the municipalities will be obligated to expand these services. The increased demands by the new residents and their unwillingness to pay as you go will force the local municipalities to raise the mill rate on the agricultural land OR tax agricultural land on its' inflated value. Finding a balance or preventing any of this from happening is the **FUTURE OF ACTION FOR AGRICULTURE:**

**\*See More News On The Back\***

**ANNUAL MEETING: FEBRUARY 7, 1996**

**GOLDENROD HALL  
7:00 P.M.**

**GUEST SPEAKER: HON TOM THURBER  
MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS**

**BOX 382, COCHRANE, ALBERTA T0L 0W0**

**PRESIDENT: ALVIN KURLIN  
PH. (403) 932-5862**

**SEC./TREAS.: HARVEY BUCKLEY  
PH. (403) 932-5561 FAX (403) 932-4569**

## OUR MOTTO "LAND IS A RESOURCE NOT A COMMODITY"

### WHERE HAVE WE BEEN IN 1995:

- \*We supported the Municipality of Rockyview in their support of the provincial Range Management Improvement Program.
- \*Delivered input into the review of the new Provincial Planning Act.
- \*Met with interested parties in High River representing the municipalities of Foothills, Willow Creek and Pincher Creek. Present were producers and councillors from those areas.
- \*Presented a submission in person to the Hon. Tom Thurber, Minister of Municipal Affairs re. the new Alberta Planning Act.
- \*Met with the Rockyview Trails Association NOT to be confused with Canada 125 Trails. The later is definately a non starter!
- \*Assisted University of Calgary graduate student, Mr. Glen Pauley in his survey about Conservation Easements. Thanks to all our members who participated. This is a most interesting concept.
- \*Hosted a full Candidates Forum prior to the fall municipal elections. Positive feedback was received from candidates and members who were present.

### WHERE ARE WE GOING IN 1996:

- \*Encourage Agricultural Service Boards throughout the Province to expand their mandate to include land use reclassifications and subdivision approvals.
- \*Notification of all land reclassification must be expanded to include more than just adjacent landowners. We recommend that the notification be to all landowners within a radius equal to two times the distance of the longest border of the land in question.
- \*Become involved in the review process of the General Municipal Plan which are now mandatory since the new Municipal Act was introduced. "Hear more about this first hand at our Annual Meeting-February 7."
- \*Meet with the full Council of the M.D. of Rockyview and with the Agricultural Service Board, to outline our goals and objectives. These meetings are scheduled for February 6th and 16th respectively.

**ANNUAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 7,1996  
GOLDENROD HALL - 7:00 P.M.**

**GUEST SPEAKER: HON. TOM THURBER  
MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS**

**TOPIC: "YOU, YOUR INPUT AND THE NEW MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT"**