



Photo by Frank McTighe

Rowan House Society chief operating officer Timmi Shore explained the new Safe at Home domestic violence pilot project in Claresholm.

Rowan House has project to address domestic violence

FRANK MCTIGHE

MACLEOD GAZETTE EDITOR

A pilot project in Claresholm will support families experiencing domestic violence.

The Rowan House Society's Safe at Home program removes the abuser from the home, allowing victims to stay in place.

The abuser is housed in a four-bedroom complex where counselling and education is provided around the clock.

"The purpose of the project is two-fold," Rowan House Society chief operating officer Timmi Shore said. "To create safety and stability for women and children exposed to domestic violence and to address the behavioural aspects of the abuser."

Shore was a guest speaker Thursday at the release of the Vital Signs report by the Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta.

Shore thanked the foundation for its financial support of the "Women Leaving Domestic Abuse Transitional Housing Project."

"The foundation saw a need for being innovative in how our communities approach housing for those fleeing domestic violence," Shore said.

Traditionally, the victims of domestic violence are removed from the home and housed in a shelter where they receive support and counselling.

"But nothing is ever addressed with the abuser," Shore said.

The Rowan House Society's pilot project instead removes the abuser, allowing the spouse and children to stay in their home.

"This allows the women and children to avoid having their lives disrupted," Shore said. "They will be provided with counselling and education as well, so the whole family receives support."

Based in High River, Rowan House is a 24-bed emergency shelter serving a region that extends to Claresholm from Okotoks, and from Vulcan to Bragg Creek.

"Within the emergency shelter we work with the women and children to support their next steps away from abuse through program and counselling supports," Shore said.

Rowan House also provides education on domestic violence in the communities it serves, and does school presentations on topics such as kindness, boundaries, healthy relationships and bullying.

"We're talking to them about how they can be better citizens," Shore said of presentations to students.

Last year Rowan House was able to house 225 women and children in the shelter, but had to turn away 469.

The reasons people didn't come into the shelter are varied, including lack of room, personal choice, issues such as drug use, and that their presence compromises the safety of staff and people in the shelter.

"We make sure the women are safe and sometimes they need to be farther away from their communities because their abuser knows where they are," Shore said. "If there is a safety issue we won't accept them. We'll find somewhere else for them to go."

Rowan House set out to find different ways to support women and children if they can't be housed in shelters.

That led to the development of the four-year pilot project Safe at Home in Claresholm.

"Our goal, and that of the community foundation, is to decrease the barriers to supports and strive to secure safe housing, especially for our rural clients," Shore said.

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Notice of Application

Confined Feeding Operation

Arie & Willemina Muilwijk have filed application LA19036 with the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) to obtain an approval to expand an existing confined feeding operation (CFO) on the NE 10-9-27 W4M in the MD of Willow Creek of Alberta. The application is to convert the existing swine feedlot operation into a cattle feedlot by removing 100 swine and adding 3,000 beef feeder calves. The applicant is also proposing to construct a new covered shelter (82 m x 15 m), a new catch basin (25 m x 17 m x 1.5 m), permit two existing feedlot pens and permit the construction of a new third pen (bringing the total foot print to 92 m x 37 m).


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 November 8, 2019. Submissions should be made to the NRCB 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.

Your statement of concern should include your name, the legal land description of your residence or landholdings, mailing address, phone number, fax 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.

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 on line at www.nrcb.ca or during regular business hours at the Lethbridge office of the NRCB until November 8, 2019. If you require further information, please contact the approval officer listed below.

Adria Snowdon, Approval Officer 100, 5401 1st Ave S Lethbridge AB T1J 4V6 Adria.snowdon@nrcb.ca T 403-381-5208 F 403-381-5806	The closing date for submissions: November 8, 2019 Dated at Lethbridge AB, on October 9, 2019 www.nrcb.ca
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 **NRCB** | Natural Resources Conservation Board