

# MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER

# MD CONNECTION

## Reeve's Report..... Interdependence key in regional flood mitigation

**A**s we begin to see the beginning of the end of this extraordinary overland flooding event as an organization we wish to extend our gratitude and thanks to the following:

The staff of the Municipal District of Taber. Over the past 35 days we have witnessed your dedication and commitment to the organization and to the citizens we serve. At all levels and in all positions you have demonstrated this. From the pre-planning, the 20 hour days and the seven day a week commitment you made us all proud.

To our partners at the three irrigation districts; the Taber Irrigation District, the St Mary River Irrigation District and the Bow River Irrigation District thank you for your commitment and dedication as we worked together to move the millions of cubic metres of water that fell upon us.

A special thank you to Alberta Environment and Parks staff and Alberta Emergency Management staff that assisted with undertaking the regulatory processes that needed to be completed in such timely fashion.

A huge thank you the six fire stations of our MD of Taber Regional Fire Service and our community Peace Officers for answering 31 public assistance calls during the flood; from water rescue to barricade placement and wellness

checks to traffic control. The value of our regional fire service is beyond question.

Thank you to all of our partner agencies including the school divisions and first student, the RCMP, Alberta Health, FCSS, Samaritans Purse, Red Cross (Lethbridge), Taber Heritage Inn for hosting our evacuees, Alberta Transportation and Volker Stevin.

During the 35 days that our Emergency Operations Center operated during this flooding event we had many organizations participate in our daily (and for three weeks – twice daily) briefings.

These partner agencies included the Alberta Emergency Management Agency, the Town of Vauxhall, the Village of Barnwell, the Town of Taber, Cypress County, County of 40 Mile, Provincial Emergency Social Services, Canadian Natural Resources, Utility companies and others. We thank each of them for their participation and assistance as we mitigated this emergency event.

To our citizens for your patience we thank you for your patience.

Finally – to the Council I thank you for your unwavering support during the dire hours of the flooding event and for your dedication now in seeking to bring awareness to Provincial Authorities and Agencies of this event and the impact it has had on so many.

Water continues to flow and



**BRIAN BREWIN, REEVE**

pumps continue to run dealing with the water but we shall endure.

The work has just begun on restoring our transportation network and we have begun reviewing the 424 sites we have identified where damage has occurred – we are sure our staff will bring the same level of commitment in addressing these issues as they did the past 35 days.

As a Council we will be reviewing the recommendations being brought forward on repairs to infrastructure as well as to improvements that can be made. I have heard the past month that all we need is bigger culverts – well that is not the case. The cul-

verts couldn't be large enough to deal with this event, and we have to remember that we are all uphill from someone – speeding up the water will only make matters worse downstream for neighbors. Examining the capacity at the outlet is how drainage is designed – our process will include a review of these outlets and their capacity.

Our state of local emergency will continue until our emergency pumping operations have ceased and we are satisfied that our road network has been reasonably restored.

As the work on evaluating this event continues we will be bringing to the attention of the Province of Alberta the recommendations from the Southern Regional Stormwater Management Plan. Foremost these is the recommendation of the creation of a spillway to the Oldman River that would take not only the flow from the SMRID main canal but also the excess water created within the Taber Irrigation District and other areas in the MD of Taber which currently have no where to flow – except within existing irrigation district infrastructure. It is our hope to revisit this plan with the Province.

Sincerely,  
Brian Brewin  
Reeve  
Municipal District of Taber

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER

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We're On the Web:  
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### Council Members

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**JOHN TURCATO**  
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**BRIAN BREWIN** (Reeve)  
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**TAMARA MIYANAGA**  
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**JENNIFER CROWSON**  
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**MURRAY REYNOLDS**  
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**LEAVITT HOWG**  
Division 7 ..... **403-622-1408**

### Municipal District of Taber Staff

- Derrick Krizsan** – Municipal Administrator
- Bryan Badura** – Director of Corporate Services
- Patrick Hanson** – Director of Assessment
- Angel Svenes** – Assessor
- Brent McQuaig** – Assessor
- Bryce Surina** – Director G.I.S./I.T.
- Tanya Peterson** – Lands and Reception
- Joanne Bronsch** – Development Clerk
- Corry Moline** – Utilities Clerk
- Candice Robison** – Administrative Clerk
- Jill Speer** – Tax Clerk
- Sherry Crombez** – Payroll/Benefits Clerk
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- Jeremy Wickson** ..... **403-634-2713**  
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- Ginger Rose** ..... **403-634-2732**  
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- John Giesbrecht** ..... **403-634-2944**  
*Hays Hamlet Foreman*
- Blaine Francis** ..... **403-634-3410**  
*Grassy Lake Hamlet Foreman*
- Brian Schafer** ..... **403-654-4359**  
*Regional Fire Chief*
- Joe Bruyere** ..... **403-223-1180**  
*Deputy Regional Fire Chief*

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## Comments from M.D. Councillors .....

*As a regular feature in the MD newsletter municipal councillors will be regular contributors. In this issue Councillors Howg, Turcato and Miyanaga have provided articles.*



**Councillor John Turcato**  
Division 2, M.D. of Taber

I would like to commend the MD of Taber's administration and staff for the work they have put in plowing snow after the many snow storms, it seemed like the winter that would never end. When the warmer temperatures arrived the MD administration and staff switched to over-land flood mitigation and at times snow plowing at the same time. The cooperation we have received from all of the

neighbouring municipalities, irrigation districts and government agencies has been amazing. The priorities remained constant 1-Life 2-Homes 3-Property. Through the last month we have relied heavily on the consistent hard work of all of the staff at the MD, including the MD fire departments and our professionally trained volunteer fire fighters.

I would also like to thank the citizens and businesses of the MD of Taber for the patience you have shown through

these times, in many instances thinking of your neighbours ahead of yourselves.

Troubling times bring out the best in good people!

The MD of Taber has an administration and staff that reflects and serves us well!

Thank You

John Turcato  
Division 2 Councillor  
jturcato@mddtaber.ab.ca



**Councillor Tamara Miyanaga**  
Division 4, M.D. of Taber

#Flood2018 demonstrated the dedication of the MD Staff and the collaboration of the irrigation districts, MD communities, RCMP, Volker Stevin, govern-

ment agencies and most importantly the land owners. It is devastating to see the damage Mother Nature caused, but with patience roads will be restored and infrastructure repaired. Special shout-out to the MD Regional Fire Service for going above and beyond with rescues, wellness checks and barricade replacement.

With seeding underway, please take caution on the roads as the MD works through the rebuilds and repair. If you identify an area of concern please notify the MD Office.

The committees I sit on for the MD and the community have a common concern – transportation. I will continue to

work with these boards and the community to find efficient and feasible ways to help people get to medical appointments and allow them to maintain a high level of community involvement.

Our libraries are a community life force. Take time to visit your local library and check out the amazing programs, as well as the online Chinook Arch Library resources including books, music, academic courses, homework help and exam preparation, consumer reports, movies..... the list is endless. If you have a library card you can access the resources at <http://www.chinookarch.ca/eli-brary>. The MD of Taber pro-

vides library cards for every resident.

Taber and District housing is doing a housing needs assessment. Your opinion matters. Do you believe there is adequate housing for all income levels and ages? The goal of the assessment is to review the entire housing spectrum to determine any areas of concern regarding availability and affordability of housing. If you have thoughts on this matter please contact myself or TDH at 403-223-2767.

Six months as Division 4 Councillor, I have had the opportunity to engage Ministers, our MP, MLA's and many municipal colleagues, as well as

chair the Foothills Little Bow District advocating for the MD and to find a solution for rural crime. I have always been proud of the MD, but seeing it from the inside makes one understand the efficiency of the quality programs like the Regional Fire Department and Community Peace Officers and the infrastructure. The administration and staff's experience and forward thinking is the basis to help Council advance the MD.

Please call me with your concerns or questions 403-308-6538.

Tamara Miyanaga  
Division 4 Councillor  
tmiyanaga@mddtaber.ab.ca



**Councillor Leavitt Howg**  
Division 7, M.D. of Taber

I would first like to thank the staff at the MD for the tireless work and effort through the winter months plowing snow, and dealing with the flood event. I would also like to thank the families of the staff as there have been many evenings and weekends without their loved ones. I would like to make sure this does not go unnoticed, so next time you see an MD employee, please thank them for their hard-work and commit-

ment.

I would also like to thank the residents of the MD for being patient and understanding through these stressful times.

In my short time so far as being a Councillor I have learned a lot and I know there is a lot more for me to learn. If anyone has a concern, comment or question don't hesitate to call, text or email me. I will be more than happy to help. I can't promise that I will have the answer, however at the very least I can steer you in the right direction.

Seeding is just around the corner, please be mindful on the roads with all the extra heavy equipment and farm machinery. I hope you are able to get the seeds in the ground in a timely manner. Have a safe seeding season. All the best.

Leavitt Howg  
Division 7 Councillor  
lhowg@mddtaber.ab.ca



# MD CONNECTION

## 2018 Overland Flooding

A considerable amount of damage to public and private property resulted from the recent overland flooding events caused by the melting of snow this spring.

MD of Taber residents are directed to the considerable body of information available on the M.D. of Taber website at this location:

<http://www.mdtaber.ab.ca/FloodRecoveryResources>

Resources include:

- Alberta Health Services: returning home safely after a flood
  - cisterns and drinking water safety
- Alberta Emergency Management Agency recovery advice

- Insurance bureau of Canada
- Samaritans purse
- M.D. of Taber drainage policy and links to irrigation district policies

The M.D. of Taber has made an application for Disaster Recovery funding from the Province of Alberta. At this time of printing of this newsletter no information on whether or not funding will be provided for uninsurable losses has been made.

Municipal staff will complete an evaluation of all damages and will provide this information for Council to review. Work began immediately following water levels dropping on repairing damages caused by flooding.

### Flooding Summary of Municipal Infrastructure

- 831 sites logged during the event where flooding was occurring
- 465 sites recorded damage to infrastructure
- 78 new culvert installations required
- 58 damaged culverts that will require replacement
- 424 damaged sections of roads
- As of May 1 – 155 of these sites have been repaired by municipal crews

### M.D. OF TABER - DAMAGE NORTH OF THE RIVER



Range Road 18-3 – North of Enchant – Water covering 800m of Road



Range Road 16-3 – South of Vauxhall



Township Road 15-0, Range Road 17-0 – Washout under Road



## M.D. OF TABER - DAMAGE NORTH OF THE RIVER



*Enchant Park*



*Highway 864 - North of Taber – Yard Flooded out, Highway damage – During and after flood*



*Township Road 15-0, Range Road 17-0 – Washout under Road*

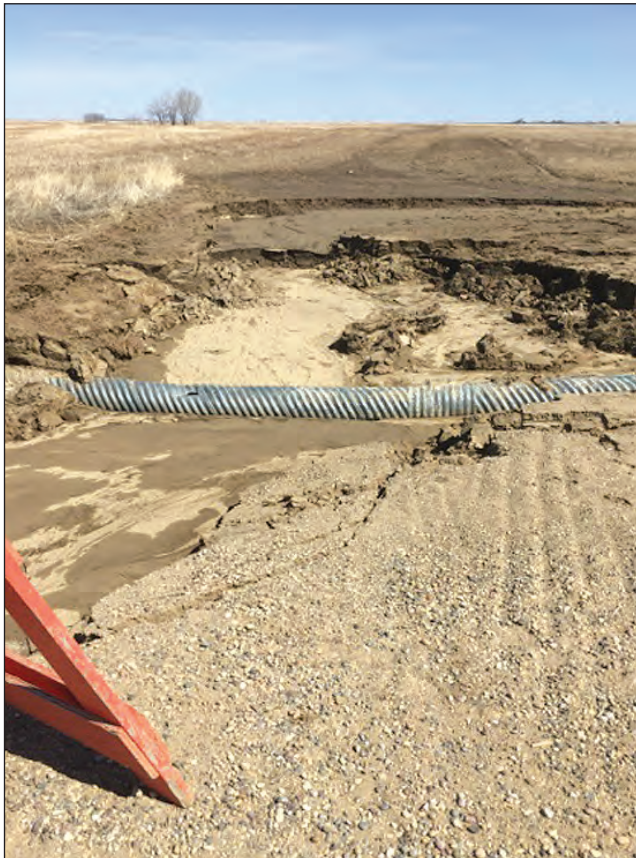


*Township Road 15-2, East of Range Road 17-3*





## M.D. OF TABER - DAMAGE NORTH OF THE RIVER



*Range Road 19-0, Highway 521*



*Township 14-2 , Range Road 16-0 and 15-5 – Culvert washout and repair*



*TWP RD 10-2 West of Taber Airport – Road washout*

## M.D. OF TABER - DAMAGE SOUTH OF THE RIVER



*Range Road 16-2 between Township Road 9-4 and 10-0 – Cut approaches to save residences*



*Range Road 17-2 North of Township Road 10-0 – Road Erosion*



*Range Road 17-2 North of Township Road 10-0 – Road Erosion (after)*



## M.D. OF TABER - DAMAGE SOUTH OF THE RIVER



*Stafford Lake - Regional Fire Service*



*Intersection of highway 877 and Route 513, south of Grassy Lake*



*Flooded roads abounded across the M.D.*



*Damage to Bow River Irrigation District (BRID) infrastructure*



## BOW RIVER IRRIGATION DISTRICT DAMAGE



TOP: Damage to Bow River Irrigation District (BRID) infrastructure



RIGHT: Bow River Irrigation District main discharge chute at Hays

## TABER IRRIGATION DISTRICT FLOOD DAMAGE

### Examples of Damage to TID Infrastructure 2018 MD of Taber Overland Flooding Tour – April 23, 2018 1. Lateral G Big in Bend in SW 2-11-16-W4M



Figure 1.1: Major Slough on South Bank of Lateral G Big Bend Canal Due to Overland Flooding



Figure 1.2: Drain Inlet Culvert on South Bank of Lateral G Big Bend Washed Out by Overland Flooding



## TABER IRRIGATION DISTRICT FLOOD DAMAGE

### 2. Lateral G-7 Big Bend in E 1/2 2-, SE 11- and SW 12-11-16-W4M



Figure 2.1: Piping Failure and Bank Sloughing at Lateral G-7 Big Bend Culvert Crossing (from South)



Figure 2.2: Piping Failure and Bank Sloughing at Lateral G-7 Big Bend Culvert Crossing (from North)



Figure 2.3: Erosion and Sloughing Around Culvert Inlet on Lateral G-7 Big Bend (from South)



Figure 2.4: Lateral G-7 Big Bend/Range Road 16-1 Culvert Crossing Washout



Figure 2.5: Lateral G-7 Big Bend/Range Road 16-1 Culvert Crossing Washout (from West)



Figure 2.6: Lateral G-7 Big Bend/Range Road 16-1 Culvert Crossing Washout



## Taber Pheasant Festival 2018

**Register Online June 4 – 15; SPOTS ARE LIMITED!**



Can you believe it's our eighth year?! We can't wait to mentor and teach over a 100 novice hunters, release 5,000 pheasants on reserved sites, and host events throughout the week—including a culinary evening dedicated to the birds we harvest.

But more than that, the festival emphasizes upland game bird habitat and positive hunter/landowner relationships. Sponsorships, big prize raffles, merchandise, a silent auction, and banquet ticket sales do a big part in continuing upland game bird research and conservation efforts.

# Get your wingman.

# Get your wifi.



photo: ACA, Randy Lee

# [taberpheasantfestival.com](http://taberpheasantfestival.com)

**Register online for Canada's largest hunting festival running October 20 - 27, 2018.**

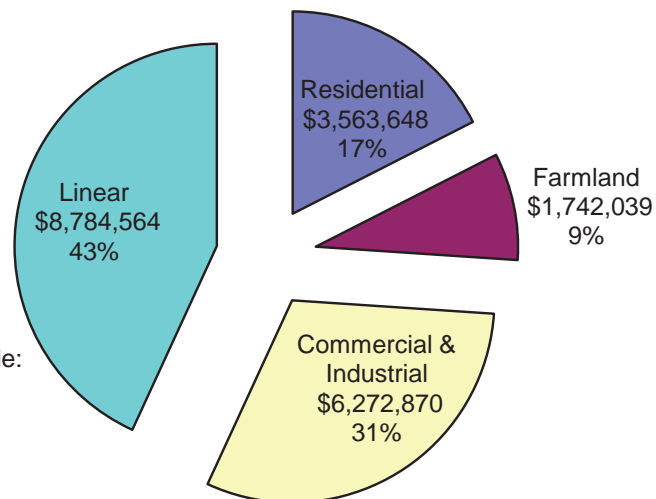




## Who pays Property Taxes?

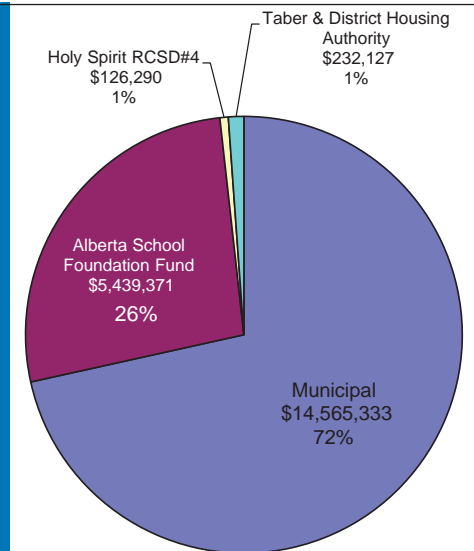
2017 Property Tax Sources  
Total \$20,363,121

Linear Properties Include:  
- Power Lines  
- Power Generation  
- Communication Lines  
- Oil & Gas Pipelines



## Where Do My Property Taxes go?

2017 Property Tax Uses  
Total \$20,363,121



# 2018 MUNICIPAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

## - Spring Newsletter -

### 2018 Project List - Property Assessment

The MD of Taber is committed to maintaining accurate assessment records to ensure a fair and equitable assessment. To meet this commitment various property inspections are completed each year, beginning in the early spring through year end. We are trying to display a map of the planned properties to be inspected on our website, but it's not up and going yet. However, the planned 2018 property inspection projects throughout the MD of Taber include:

- **General Municipal Re-inspections.** Each year, the assessment department looks at all properties in a general area of the municipality with the goal of ever-increasing accuracy of the municipal assessment roll.
- **Sale Verification Inspections.** A property owner(s) who sells or purchases a property in the MD of Taber may receive a letter requesting information about the sale and/or notification of an inspection of the property.
- **Annual Municipal Property Inspections.** A site visit is performed to accurately record newly constructed buildings or other property improvements started or completed in the assessment year. Other changes such as renovations and/or changes in the use of the property are verified by the assessor during these inspections.
- **Annual and General Inspection of Designated Industrial Properties on behalf of the Provincial Assessor.** Primarily within the energy industry and related properties.

Information necessary for any of the above projects may also be gathered from aerial (orthographic) photos or other relevant sources such as Land Titles, AER, AUC, and MLS.

### Notification of Access & Request for Information

Assessors will be visiting properties throughout the municipality this year to verify property information for the purpose of ensuring fair and equitable assess-

ments. Assessors carry identification and will present it upon request. If you have questions or concerns, please contact us at the MD of Taber Administration Office.

A physical inspection of a property is necessary to collect accurate property assessment information about certain characteristics (such as size) of the land, buildings (houses, garages, shops, etc.), and their uses (e.g. residential, non-residential, farm).

- The owner/occupant is *present*: an inspection will include a walk-through of each building and a review of the existing assessment information during the visit for any other information required by the assessor.
- The owner/occupant is *not present*: an outside inspection of the property will be completed, verifying or recording the size and other characteristics of all buildings and other structures on the property. The assessor will enter onto the property, not into buildings, when the property owner/occupant is not present, the assessor may also send a letter requesting any additional information required to prepare the assessment.

If you receive a letter requesting information from the municipality, please remember property owners are responsible to provide any information requested to prepare the assessment and tax rolls. Failure to provide the requested information may result in the loss of the right to appeal the assessment or failure to receive notification of taxes owing.

### Property Assessment Notices

This year, the MD of Taber has separated the Property Assessment Notice from the Property Tax Notice. Prior to mailing out the Property Assessment Notices, mailers were sent out to MD residents informing them of the change in the delivery of assessment and tax notices to property owners. An informative preview of the new assessment notice was also sent out. Property Assessment Notices were mailed mid March along with an information sheet explaining the contents of the new

notice. We are currently in the midst of the assessment consultation period and the most common question we are receiving is: "Is this a tax bill?" The Property Assessment Notice is not a bill; it is the annual statement of the value assessed to the property in the MD of Taber. The MD of Taber must assess a value to your property each year to be used for the purpose of levying a property tax. Your property taxes for 2018 are yet to be determined. Council is currently discussing the budget and mill rates. Property tax notices will be mailed in May. The MD of Taber encourages all property owners to review their Property Assessment Notice(s).

**If you have any questions or concerns about your Property Assessment, please contact the Assessment Department prior to May 22nd, 2018.**

### Demolitions & Removals

The Assessment Department has had questions regarding the removal of buildings from a property. Currently, there is no process in place that requires you to apply for a permit to remove a building. Unless you notify the Assessor a building has been removed from your property we have no way of knowing, and it will continue to be assessed until the next scheduled inspection of your property. The condition of the property is effective December 31 of the year prior to taxation. If you have removed a house, shop, garage, etc, please call us with the land location so we can verify the removal and update your assessment record for taxation purposes. Your assessment cannot be updated without verification of the removal.

If you have any questions or concerns about your property assessment, or property assessment in general, please contact the MD of Taber office and ask to speak to a Property Assessor. You can also visit the Property Assessment section of the MD of Taber website for information and on-line resources to learn more about Property Assessment in the Province of Alberta.



## Annual General Meeting Report

### Agricultural Service Board Report

#### Spraying

- 11,000 km of MD road right of ways were sprayed
- 21 days spent quad spraying difficult areas including hamlets, parks, recreation areas, train tracks, river basins, and airports
- Inspected and found 30 new sites of various Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weeds
- Sprayed trees and shelterbelts in 50 - 60 yards for insects and fungus

#### Mowing

- 10,000km of MD roads mowed
- 100's of km of secondary highways mowed
- 2 airports mowed and maintained annually
- Campgrounds, hamlets, cemeteries and recreation areas mowed
- Helped mow two local shooting ranges
- Mowed Regional Water Commission main water line

#### Crop Surveys/Inspections

- 38 potato fields inspected twice throughout the growing season for Bacterial Ring Rot
- 16 canola fields were inspected for Clubroot
- 16 canola fields were inspected for Virulent Blackleg
- Weed survey completed for the Province
- 47 fields were inspected for grasshoppers
- 16 Skunks tested for rabies
- 4 Dutch Elm Bark Beetle traps were set and replaced twice throughout the year

#### Recreation

- Refurbished an old baseball diamond in Hays
- MD has two tree nurseries where they grow many varieties of trees to replant into recreation areas within the MD
- Planted trees in Grassy Lake and area
- Installed a section of underground sprinklers in the MD of Taber campground
- Installed a raw water line in Hays to the Baseball diamond area
- MD Taber Park & Campground has over 60,000 visitors a year
- Assisted the Vauxhall Ag. Society to plant trees around their rodeo grounds

#### Miscellaneous

- Helped the MD fire departments by moving old vehicles around for their training.
- Cut and clean borrow pits of trees and brush. The good wood is saved and distributed to the campgrounds around the MD. The wood chips are given to ratepayers in the area.
- Held 5 Farmer Pesticide Courses throughout the winter of 2016/17 teaching about 100 people involved in agriculture the safe use and handling of chemicals.
- 876 bottles of Strychnine were sold to farmers for the control of Richardson Ground Squirrels
- A tree pruning course was held for our MD ratepayers
- Hosted Drone School training for all those that were interested

### Director of Hamlets & Utilities Report

#### Enchant

- New industrial lots on Railway Ave to be constructed.
- Performed the annual flushing program for distribution and sewer collection.
- Sent away bi-weekly bac-t samples and quarterly THMs.
- Kept the grass mowed.
- Performed snow removal.

#### Grassy Lake

- Extended the water mainline to service the industrial lots on the east side of Grassy Lake.
- New sewer connection for the Taber Seed Plant.
- New residential services were installed for a couple of purchased properties.
- Performed the annual flushing program for distribution and sewer collection.
- Sent away bi-weekly bac-t samples and quarterly THMs.
- Kept the grass mowed.
- Performed snow removal.

#### Hays

- Some of the roads received new paving.
- New raw water pipeline installed to irrigate the ball diamonds.
- Performed the annual flushing program for distribution and sewer collection.
- Sent away bi-weekly bac-t samples and quarterly THMs.
- Kept the grass mowed.
- Performed snow removal.

#### Bow Island Water Plant

- Installed four (4) new membrane cartridges into the filter system.
- Had a record summer for water production.
- Bow Island pulls water off the irrigation canal thru the summer months. The high flows on the canal caused the operators to deal with high turbidity and particle counts, but maintained quality drinking water for the residents.
- Had the annual inspection from Alberta Environment & Parks.
- Performed weekly bac-ts and biannual water sampling as per the approval.
- Flushed the transmission line that feeds Burdett and Grassy Lake.

#### Vauxhall Regional Water Plant

- Communication power failure to the backup UPS (*uninterrupted power supply*) system caused us to lose power to the operational equipment. We had to use potable water trucks to maintain water levels in the clearwell. This was done to service potable water to Vauxhall, Enchant and Hays.
- We were in talks with PGP, to service them with potable water.
- Had the annual inspection from Alberta Environment & Parks.

- Performed weekly bac-ts and biannual water sampling as per the approval.
- Flushed the transmission lines that feed Enchant and Hays.

#### Johnsons Addition

- Nothing to report
- We currently employ eight (8) certified operators.
- All operators attended courses to maintain their certification for WT, WD, WWT and WWC.
- On October 2, 2017 we lost power to all facilities for approximately 30 hours. During this power outage, we had an operator(s) at each location until power was restored.

### Director of Municipal Lands and Leases Report

#### Tax Recovery and Grazing/Cultivation Lease Lands

- Tax Recovery land transfer from Province to the MD of Taber now complete. Titles from last 4,800 acre transfer received in March 2017. Inventory of MD of Taber owned land comprised of over 82,000 acres. Land cover primarily grassland. Approximately 6,200 acres is under cultivation and leased to MD residents.
- M.D. of Taber Leases
  - 87 agricultural leases
  - 10 airport leases
  - 6 commercial leases
  - 5 recreational leases
- Cultivation land leases renewed in 2017 for 2018-2020 term.
- MD grazing leases renewed in 2017 for 2017-2027 term.
- Administered the sale of 4 quarters of MD cultivated land
- Tendering of several grazing and cultivation leases throughout 2017
  - 3,105 acres of Tax Recovery grazing lease rights reassigned (5 leases)
  - 660 acres cultivation leases assigned or tendered (3 leases)
  - 320 acres of MD grazing lease surrendered and reassigned (2 leases)
- \$1,700,000 generated from oil and gas surface rentals and agricultural lease rentals on MD owned lands. \$200,000 returned to leaseholders by virtue of oil and gas rental share agreements.
- Range health assessment protocol ongoing.
- Grazing stock return process implemented to monitor grazing intensity on MD lands

#### Oil and Gas

- Undertaking comprehensive assessment and inventory of oil and gas infrastructure on all MD of Taber owned lands. Data being compiled in GIS database
- Continual administration of oil and gas processes, including reconciliation of oil and lease surface lease rentals and 5 year lease

- rental reviews (n=68 in 2017).
- Worked with reclamation companies to achieve reclamation certification status on 15 oil and gas locations on MD owned lands.
- Administered lease holder oil and gas share payouts for on all tax recovery and traditional MD owned lands.
- Three new wells proposed in 2017. Twelve pipelines projects completed on MD owned lands in 2017.
- 16 active Surface Rights Board (SRB) rental recovery files from three bankrupt companies. M.D. has received \$60,310 in delinquent rental payments from the Province through the SRB process in 2016/2017

#### Recreation:

- Boat launch construction completed on Oldman River site north of Taber
- Recreation Lease renewed with Vauxhall Agricultural Society for riding facility
- New lease executed with Vauxhall Fish and Game Association for shooting range.

#### Airports:

- New leases drafted and executed for lot rental at both the Taber and Vauxhall airports.
- Additional lot development at the Taber and Vauxhall airports.
- Regular maintenance items at airports (runway lighting, terminal buildings, fencing, wind socks, landscaping, etc.)
- Administer contract for annual maintenance/calibration of GNSS system (Global Navigation Satellite System) at Taber airport
- Coordination of spring and fall airport committee meetings.

#### Gravel Pits:

- M.D. successful in assignment of crown gravel pit in Hays area in 2017. Conservation Reclamation Business Plan in development with a consultant to double the size of the existing Surface Material Lease (SML).
- Reclamation completed on crown gravel pit in North of Vauxhall.
- Reporting of aggregate utilization on 3 provincially owned gravel pits.
- Continued exploration and testing of potential new gravel sources.

#### Other:

- Correspondence with several renewal energy companies investigating the M.D. of Taber as a location for new projects.
- Administration of several land purchases for municipal purposes
- Road closure/parcel consolidation projects throughout the M.D. of Taber
- Involvement in Prairie Gold Produce water line project
- Securement of easement agreements for utilities, drainage, and other projects
- Work with the development department to coordinate survey and land title registration for subdivisions on various projects throughout the MD of Taber



## Annual General Meeting Report

❖ Continued from Page 11

- Undertaking regulatory approval for expansion of the dry cell at the Enchant landfill
- Working with rate payers and Alberta Environment and on Water Act approvals.
- Coordinating with non-government conservation organizations to undertake ecological assessment of MD grasslands and habitat projects.
- Involvement in West Township 8 Range 16 drainage project
- Board member with the Prairie Conservation Forum
- Respond to many requests from M.D. residents and external entities in regards to land use issues.

### Director of Planning and Infrastructure Report

#### HAMLET PROJECTS:

The Hamlet of Grassy Lake saw a new seed cleaning facility being constructed within the Hamlet boundary. To accommodate this business, the M.D. did a water line extension to provide treated water to the property to provide fire protection and water for domestic use. In 2016, 1st street north saw a drainage project completed to handle storm-water drainage and in 2018, the final portion of this project will be undertaken. Base / paving of 1st street north is scheduled to be completed. Residential lots are at a premium in Grassy Lake and the M.D. is investigating where the newest residential sub-division will be constructed to accommodate this growth in the Hamlet.

The Hamlet of Hays had some of the streets within the Hamlet paved and at the same time, the M.D. partnered with Horizon School Division to complete some paving on the basketball court and parking lot on the school grounds.

The Hamlet of Enchant will have three new Industrial lots developed with construction to begin in 2018.

As part of emergency services, the M.D. of Taber will be installing emergency power generators at water plants in the Hamlets of Hays and Grassy Lake in 2018. This is the completion of a long term plan to have back-up power in the Hamlets for water treatment facilities, lift stations and emergency back-up generation capabilities at all the Hamlet Hall centers.

#### GRAVEL:

The M.D. staff continue search for new gravel sources within the M.D. boundary both on private and public lands.

#### ALBERTA TRANSPORTATION:

The M.D. was successful in being awarded funding for 4 local bridge files in 2017. Using M.D. forces to do the work, 2 of these projects have been completed and due to the winter/spring weather we have had, the

remaining 2 will be completed in the fall of 2018. This program allows for 75/25 funding from the Province with the M.D. paying the 25%. Currently, the M.D. is responsible for approximately 160 larger bridge/culverts in our Municipality and every year, the M.D. will be applying for funding under this program to assist in replacing aging infrastructure.

Another partnership the M.D. is currently working with Alberta Transportation on is constructing a Truck Stop / Rest Area on M.D. owned lands immediately east of the Town of Vauxhall along Highway 36. It has been identified that there is a lack of places where larger, over-dimensional trucks have the capability to pull off Highway 36 in Southern Alberta. The conceptual design has been done for the property which will include a large paved parking lot along with 2 – 2+ acre Highway Commercial lots for development purposes. Final details of the partnership agreement have yet to be completed.

M.D. staff have been participants on an Alberta Transportation Technical committee investigating possible routing for the twinning of Highway 3 from just east of Grassy Lake to Barnwell area. Final report is due to be completed by November 2018.

#### DEVELOPMENT:

Development was again very strong in the Municipality in 2017. There were 23 Home Occupation Permits, 116 Development Permits (Housing, Shops, Residential Garages, Signs etc.), as well as 24 sub-divisions last year throughout the entire M.D. area.

Contact with the M.D. was made from several companies interested in solar energy in our Municipality and staff continues working with these companies. Development permits were approved for 5 solar energy projects in the M.D. of Taber and a few more are expected anytime soon.

Following Alberta Government legislation, the M.D. is required to enter into Inter-Municipal Development Plans with adjacent Municipalities/Counties as well as Towns and Villages within the M.D. of Taber boundaries (9 plans in total will be required). These plans will assist both parties when dealing with development within their respective boundaries to ensure co-operation when considering development that may impact one or the other municipalities.

#### DRAINAGE:

Both surface and underground (tile) drainage continue to be occurring in the M.D. of Taber. The M.D. of Taber has a drainage policy in place and continue to work with residents, landowners, Irrigation Districts and Alberta Environment in dealing with drainage concerns within our Municipality.

The M.D. applied for funding under the Community Resiliency Program for a drainage project south of Taber and were successful in obtaining funding for this project. An

Engineering Consultant has been hired and are in the preliminary design stage for the project.

Two drainage workshops were held in 2017 (Vauxhall and Taber) and were very well attended by landowners, Government Department staff, Irrigation Districts, neighboring Counties and many other interested parties. The objective of the workshops was to assist residents in understanding the approval process that is required to drain land either below or above the surface. There are approvals that may be required from Alberta Environment and Parks, Irrigation Districts and the Municipality depending the drainage that is being constructed. We have and will continue to work residents when asked to assist them in this process.

### I.T. and GIS Department Report

#### Summary of 2017

Technology has become a very important toolset relied upon by a majority of M.D. of Taber operations in creating notable efficiencies. IT \ GIS Department has the unique opportunity to work very closely with all departments to provide necessary software, hardware, networking, mapping, communications, mobility, and custom configurations that contribute to department workflows. The M.D. of Taber is a very progressive municipality that embraces technology near cutting edge while avoiding the bleeding edge challenges.

#### Primary Server and Network Infrastructure

We currently maintain 11 Windows Servers in a fully virtualized server environment. As a virtual environment we are able to separate hardware and software from each other to be managed independently. We benefit from the added flexibility and the ability to provide nearly 100% up time throughout our operations. Outside of the Windows environment we support an IBM AS400 Tax Roll server that runs our critical day to day finance operations. Our goals with respect to servers is to provide efficient and easy access to critical applications and required data. Meanwhile behind the scenes we take the necessary steps to secure daily, weekly, monthly and annual data back-ups in the event of a disaster or failure.

Our networks are no less important as we provide secure gigabit switching throughout most of our main operations. Network Security, Virus Detection and Access to systems are critical components to be managed as we protect the personal and private information that we maintain. In support of these directions we have completed the following upgrades in 2017 and continue to maintain our systems with some of the best practises listed:

- IBM Finance Tax Roll Server Upgraded (Hardware and Operating System)

- System Centre Manager Application Upgraded (Primary Management Application)
- Planning and Design for scheduled Windows Server Infrastructure Upgrade 2018
- Server system maintenance and patching
- System backups and data recovery
- Regular troubleshooting and repair of networking issues
- Support Virtual Private Network user access ongoing
- Support all wired and wireless networking ongoing

#### User Support and Training

Supporting 86 Windows Domain and Exchange Email Users comes with daily requests for assistance including but not limited to accessing information, permissions, data storage, new users profile creation, maintenance and removal of old user profiles, printer access and VPN access. Support also includes hardware and software support, training, troubleshooting errors, upgrading applications, as well as researching needed technology solutions. A few specific areas of work completed in 2017 include:

- Setup new users for Assessment, Administration Reception, CPO's, and Fire Services
- Plan and facilitate training both 1 on 1 and group\department training
- Training related to iPhones, Mapping, Email, Printing, Microsoft Office etc.
- Communication of IT Internet Email and Digital Media Use Policy through staff orientations and general meetings

#### Department Work Stations and Tablets

A majority of our computers both workstations and tablets fit into a 5 to 7 year replacement cycle. Systems are reviewed annually for upgrade under regular operations. As part of regular operations we support 51 workstations, 42 Microsoft Surfaces \ Panasonic Toughpads, and 20 iPads that are spread out physically throughout 12 locations. Having said this, we rely heavily on support products that provide remote access to each of these locations through internet. Having operational requirements for the internet at all these sites also means that we maintain and support 12 remote Internet Service Provider (ISP) connections. The following groupings of work provide and support hardware and software throughout operations:

- Coordinate, Setup, Configure New Workstations, Surface Tablets, Toughpads tablets
- Support all existing hardware and software related to MD of Taber Operations
- Support Emergency Services units moves through system configuration

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## Annual General Meeting Report

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### Communications (2 Way, Cellular Phone, Modems, Website and Social Media)

Communications has always remained a priority at the MD of Taber. As a means of communicating both internally and externally we utilize a number of methods related to both Verbal and Digital communications. Verbal communications consist of 2 Way Radio, Cellular and Web Audio Video Applications including Skype, Facetime, and Teamviewer. Digital communication strategies are mostly internet based including Messenger Systems, Email, Website Postings, Facebook and Twitter Social Media Postings, Web Mapping Applications, and Remote Access systems. In order for our digital communications to function we maintain a number of mobile based communications including 27 Operations Modems, 24 Fire Modems, 37 iPhones, and 3 Turbo Hubs. In support of these strategies the following efforts were completed in 2017:

- Research and Coordinate AFRRCs Start-up for new CPO program
- Participate in regional Emergency Services partnerships in search of grants and volume purchasing for future AFRRCs Transition
- Train and Provide System Administrator Role and Technical Administrator role to our AFRRCs Systems
- Negotiated the purchase of AWC Radio Tower NE-6-12-17-W4M
- Coordinate communication tower maintenance for existing Emergency Services towers
- Support Fleet Services with 2 way radio licencing and modem activations
- Provide front line support for troubleshooting Emergency 2 Way Fire Communications
- Troubleshoot ISP Connection issues at all 12 MD locations

The past couple years there has been a broad acceptance of web based and social media communication across the industry. The MD of Taber has embraced this technology as an effective means of communicating with the public and internal staff. The following IT efforts are directed at continuing to support these methods:

- Site Administration and Website Posting of MD Announcements, Alerts and Content
- Sites Administration and Posting to Social Media Sites including Facebook and Twitter

### Operations Departments (Public Works, Ag Service Board, Assessment, Administration, Land, Planning and Development)

As mentioned, IT works closely with all

departments and takes part in a number of areas of work:

- Maintenance of AVL System including unit changes, additions and deletions
- Annual Maintenance of Road Side Spray Program System
- Respond to AVL inquiries with digital reporting of Roadside Spraying, Grading, Mowing and Graveling
- Published Elections Mapping Application
- Published Public Address Checker Map Application
- Published Mobile Data Collector Applications for Operations
  - Asset Management Data Collector (Survey Grade)
  - Road Calcium Project Collector
  - Overland Drainage Collector
  - Irrigating Road Collector
  - Fire Event Collector
  - Weed Spraying Collector
  - Tree Spraying Collector
  - Development Sites Collector

### Fire Departments and Dispatch/Net Dispatch

A close working relationship has been formed between IT and Emergency Services in providing a critical service to our ratepayers. Our Regional Fire Partnership has grown over many years and is currently supporting a cutting edge recognized Emergency Services Group and Dispatch center at Taber Police Services.

- Support of MD of Taber\TPS Dispatch Partnership as MD Representative
- Coordinate Taber area data updates related to Fire Dispatch Mapping Application
- Build and Publish data services including map tiles, locators, and routing
- Support and troubleshoot Fire Pro record management application for Fire Services
- Facilitated a Battery recall on all Toughpad Tablets
- Support INet Mobile application troubleshooting, upgrades, and repairs
- Conduct weekly system checks and restarts to all Fire INet Mobile Applications and Modems

### Community Peace Officer (CPO) Program

As a new addition to our operations in 2017 we took on a number of new challenges related to CPO technology. Our role is specific to maintaining digital video and audio recording devices, AFRRCs troubleshooting and repairs, coordinating technology repairs related to truck equipment, administration of records management system and of course computer support.

- Research, planning and coordination of

install of CPO Technology (Hardware and Software)

- Supporting change requests and data access for CPO Record Management System and Audio Video Data
- Coordination of repairs to truck hardware including computer docks, camera system, radar guns, gun locks etc.

### Water Treatment Plants and Commissions

IT remains involved with the Water Plants and Commissions as an adviser and coordinator of efforts related to technology based inquiries and upgrades.

- Supported Emergency Operations related to Vauxhall Water Plant Power Outage
- Participate in technology based inquiries related to data communications, computer access, and upgrades to plant software

### Organizational GIS Web Mapping Applications

We had a huge GIS Mapping year with respect to the development and release of our new ArcGIS Online Organizational Mapping Platform. We have implemented a full integrated mapping application that combines a mobile application synchronized with our internal web based mapping platform. In getting to this point we completed a few key developments that are listed below:

- Parcel Inquiry Widget Integration ArcGIS Online development
- Automotive Vehicle Locator Widget integration ArcGIS Online development
- Continued to support existing ArcReader Internal Mapping Application during transition

### Health and Safety

As a department of the MD of Taber and supporter of our Health and Safety Program, we continue to take part in all aspects of our H & S program.

- Provide coordination effort of Administration office health and safety
- Participate in MD wide facility inspection program
- Participate in MD Health and Safety Program with audits, general meetings, toolbox meetings and training

### Scheduled and Routine Tasks

As a technology center we assist other departments with specialized tasks, customizations and automation of certain tasks. These items represent a few tasks that we complete regularly making good use of tools intended to create efficiencies throughout the MD:

- Monitoring of developments and assignment of addressing through GIS and Mobile Apps
- Provide selections or ownership requested through SDA using GIS and QC checks
- Support and facilitate ongoing changes for Fuel Download and Fob Systems
- Support MD Buildings Fob Access System ongoing changes
- Support ongoing changes to Taber Shooting Foundation (TSF) Fob Access System

### Special Projects

Throughout the year we assist in a number of ways by providing additional coordination efforts, specialized data processing, and general support for our Industry

- New MD Campus FFE Product Research, Quoting and Budgeting
- Municipal Addressing Data Cleanup (Serenic, Camalot, Emergency Services, Mapping)
- Landuse and Sub-divison Data Cleanup (Serenic, Camalot, Emergency Services, Mapping)
- Researched Meeting Management Software options
- Research, Purchase and Setup Council iPads, Printers and Accessories
- Provided Story Map Application to Community Futures
- Assisted in start-up team for MD Drone Training and program application for SFOC
- Management of Alberta Data Sharing Partnership (AMDSP) as Board Chair Role
- Continue to Support Geomatics Program LCC as Advisory Board Member

### Looking Forward to 2018

Moving forward into 2018 we have a very aggressive plan in place with respect to both IT and GIS. After completing our ArcGIS Online mapping platform integrations and preparing for the new Campus start-up in 2017, we see 2018 as a unique opportunity to start fresh with detailed IT\GIS department planning and map training. Throughout the year we plan to continue to grow our mapping application and add valuable tools for both our staff and the general public. As we develop our products and our system utilization increases our requirements for server resources increase, as well. In planning for this growth we have scheduled a full Windows Server Hardware upgrade for 2018 that will satisfy our needs throughout the next 5 to 7 years. We look forward to 2018 and hope everyone has a great experience with technology and takes the opportunity to help guide our direction to best meet the needs of the Municipal District of Taber.

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### Municipal Administrators Report

At the conclusion of each business year each municipality within the Province of Alberta is required to provide an audited financial statement. This statement provides details on the financial position of the municipality including information on municipal cash flow during the past year along with details of liabilities, municipal assets, government transfers and debt obligations. The purpose of this reporting is to provide transparency of your local government.

A complete electronic copy of the audited statement can be found on the MD of Taber website at [www.mdtaber.ab.ca](http://www.mdtaber.ab.ca) or paper copies can be found at the municipal office, or at various stores / post offices throughout the municipality.

2017 was a very busy year for your municipal organization. Major projects included the following:

1. 20 kilometers of roads constructed or rehabilitated.
2. The negotiation of Intermunicipal development plan agreements with 6 rural municipalities – 3 of which are now completed.
3. The negotiation of 2 Intermunicipal collaboration framework agreements with the Town of Vauxhall and the Village of Barnwell and initiation of 3 rural ICF agreements.
4. In response to citizen concerns about rural crime the M.D. of Taber Peace Officer program was initiated.
5. 2 major incidents pertaining to municipal utilities including a widespread extended power outage and major electrical failure resulting in implementation of significant and successful municipal emergency responses.
6. Initiated construction of the M.D. of Taber Maintenance and Operations Building due for completion in June 2018.
7. Received grant funding for the West Township 8 Range 16 stormwater project.

The M.D. of Taber continues to implement its long term capital infrastructure plan which addresses key infrastructure needs including: bridge replacement, road rehabilitation, residential and commercial lot development, industrial lot development, airport expansion, recreation development as well as many other initiatives that will ensure that our municipal district remains financially and economically sustainable into the future.

The M.D. of Taber Council has approved a 2018 work plan that includes;

1. Repair of roads and municipal infrastructure damaged by overland flooding.
2. Completion of the M.D. of Taber

Maintenance and Operations Building.

3. Installation of electrical generators at the Hamlet of Hays and the Hamlet of Grassy Lake water treatment plants, the Vauxhall Fire Hall and the MD administration building in Taber.
4. Road repair and paving of roads in the Hamlets of Grassy Lake and Hays.
5. Replacement of a local road bridge SE of Enchant in coordination with Bow River Irrigation District.
6. Construction of traffic lights at the intersection of Highway 3 and Highway 864 in a cost sharing agreement with the Town of Taber and Alberta Transportation.
7. Construction of a walking trail at the M.D. of Taber park to connect the park to the Town of Taber walking trail.
8. Assist in the construction of a baseball diamond at Ken Macdonald's sports field in Taber and construct a baseball diamond in Grassy Lake.
9. Complete the design and water act approvals for the West Township 8 Range 16 stormwater project and construction of the project in 2019.
10. Service with water and waste water 3 industrial lots in the Hamlet of Enchant.
11. Complete the design of an industrial park and truck parking east of Vauxhall.

There will be significant challenges in the future for our municipality. A significant portion of the assessment base of our municipality - near 70% - is 'linear assessment' which includes oil and gas wells, pipelines, power generation and distribution, telecommunication and railway infrastructure with the largest portion attributable to oil and gas. We are all aware of the consolidation that is occurring within the oil and gas industry in Alberta and indeed globally at this time. It is a challenging time for businesses and individuals alike.

In 2017 property tax revenues from oil and gas decreased approximately \$535,000.

Approximately \$982,000 in property taxes remain uncollectable due to the bankruptcy of oil and gas companies. Likewise many landowners have unpaid surface lease rentals and lease sites which have fallen into disrepair.

In 2018 an amount of \$317,000 has been budgeted for uncollectable property taxes.

Due to the downturn in the oil and gas industry the M.D. of Taber linear assessment in 2018 has decreased 1.66%. This will result in approximately \$186,000 less property tax revenue for the M.D. in 2018.

Despite the property tax increases approved by Council, the decrease in property tax assessment which has occurred over the past number of years, the M.D. of Taber is expected to operate with less revenue in

2018 than it did in 2015. This is being accomplished by focusing on core municipal responsibilities and by doing what every business has had to do the past number of years – tighten the belt and find ways to do more with less.

An increasing emphasis is being placed upon internal municipal capacity for the construction and rehabilitation of municipal infrastructure as this is the most cost effective way to perform these important capital projects.

The MD of Taber will continue to publish quarterly newsletters each year which keep you apprised on the business of your local government as well as other community organizations which operate within the municipality.

As demonstrated by our 2018 financial statement, the Municipal District of Taber continues to effectively utilize the financial resources the citizens and businesses within the municipality contribute by way of property taxes as directed by your elected representatives through an open and transparent decision making and reporting process.

### Municipal Statistics As Accumulated by Alberta Municipal Affairs

(Based upon 2016 Budget Year)

- Total area of the municipality 426,861 hectares
- Total length of roads 2,518 kilometers
- Total length of water mains 108.02 kilometers (including water commissions)
- Total length of waste water mains 19.32 kilometers
- Total length of storm drains 1.5 kilometers
- Total of 2,204 dwellings containing 7,216 citizens
- 75 full time and seasonal employees
- 8 contract employees
- Equalized Tax Rate: Net Municipal 6.9% (8.9% median for municipalities in Alberta of comparable size)
- Equalized Tax Rate: Non Residential 11.0% (15.6% median for municipalities in Alberta of comparable size)
- Non-Residential Equalized Assessment as a % of Total Assessment – 68.8% (68.8% median for municipalities in Alberta of comparable size)
- Net municipal property taxes per capita \$2,127 (compared to municipalities with similar assessment which average \$3,602 per capita)
- Provincial grants per capita \$542 (compared to \$818 for similar sized municipalities)
- Municipal property taxes as a percentage of

operating revenue – 64%

- Provincial grants as a percentage of operating revenue – 10%
- Sales and User charges as a % of operating revenue – 2%
- Expenditures per capita: MD of Taber vs Comparable municipalities:
  - General government \$354 per capita vs \$609 per capita median for municipalities in Alberta of comparable size
  - Protective services \$240 per capita vs \$266 per capita median for municipalities in Alberta of comparable size
  - Transportation \$1,429 per capita vs \$2,534 per capita median for municipalities in Alberta of comparable size
  - Environment \$301 per capita vs \$301 per capita median for municipalities in Alberta of comparable size
  - Recreation \$227 per capita vs \$193 per capita median for municipalities in Alberta of comparable size
  - Salaries / Wages Benefits \$988 vs \$1,274 median for municipalities in Alberta of comparable size
  - Major expenditures per capita – contracted and general services \$320 vs \$761 median for municipalities in Alberta of comparable size
  - Major expenditures per capita – materials, goods, supplies and utilities \$707 vs \$642 median for municipalities in Alberta of comparable size
  - Net book value as % of Total Capital Property costs 63.8% vs 55.9% median for municipalities in Alberta of comparable size
  - Ratio of current assets to current liabilities – 12.19
  - Total equalized assessment (in millions) – 2,243  
(Municipalities deemed to be comparable by Alberta Municipal Affairs include: Woodlands County, Lac La Biche County, County of Wetaskiwin, Ponoka County, Kneehill County, County of Vermillion River, Northern Sunrise County, Mackenzie County, MD of Provost, MD of Wainright, Athabasca County, Lac Ste. Anne County, Lethbridge County, County of Camrose, County of Stettler, MD of Lesser Slave Lake, MD of Pincher Creek, Saddle Hills County and MD of Big Lakes)

In 2012, the Government of Alberta adopted the recommendations in the MSS (Municipal Sustainability Strategy) Working Group Report "Building on Strength: A Proposal for Municipal Sustainability in Alberta".

One of the report recommendations suggested the development of quantifiable KM (Key Measures) of municipal viability to be used as an initial screening tool for identifying municipalities that may benefit from additional ministry support. The most recent results for your municipality are detailed next page.

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### Key Measures of Municipal Viability (2016)

Has your municipality reported an accumulated deficit, net of equity in tangible capital assets, for the past three fiscal (calendar) years?  
 2016 - \$28,911,610  
 2015 - \$29,458,946  
 2014 - \$29,236,703 .....No

Does your municipality have less than a 1:1 ratio of current asset to current liabilities?  
 Ratio = 12.19/1 .....No

Has your municipality received a "qualified audit opinion", "denial of opinion" or an "adverse opinion" with respect to your most recent annual financial statements .....No

Has your municipality reached 80% of its debt or debt service limit?  
 Debt - 9%  
 Service - 8% .....No

Based on the annual audited financial statements, have provincial & federal grants accounted for more than 50% of your municipality's total revenue in each of the past three fiscal (calendar) years?  
 2016 - 9.90%  
 2015 - 16.23%  
 2014 - 21.49% .....No

Has your municipality's non-residential assessment base declined over the past 10 years?  
 2016 - \$1,542,399,701  
 2006 - \$813,333,325 .....No

Does your municipality have more than 5% of current property tax unpaid for the most recent completed fiscal year?  
 2016 - 3.6% Unpaid .....No

Has your municipality experienced a decline in population of the municipality over the last 20 years?  
 2016 - 7,173  
 1996 - 5,317 .....No

Is the remaining value of the tangible capital assets less than 30% of the original cost?  
 63.78% Remaining .....No

Has your municipality missed the legislated May 1 reporting date for the annual audited financial statements in each of the last 2 years?  
 April 01, 2017  
 March 28, 2016 .....No

### Public Works Report

#### Public Works: 2017 in Review

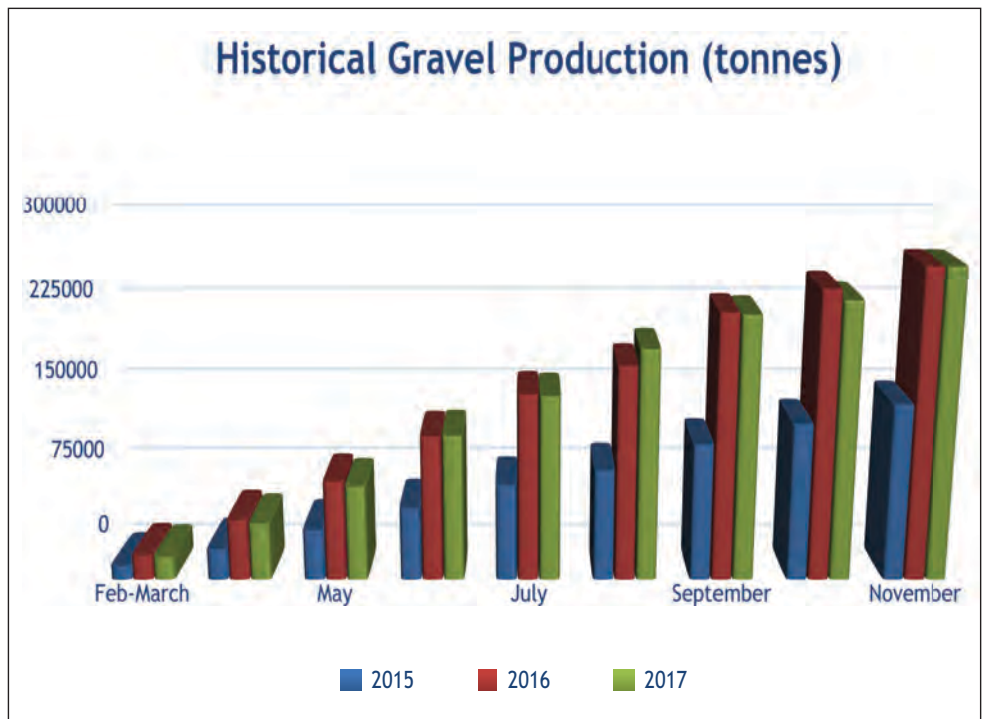
The Public Works department of the MD of Taber has had a productive year for construction and maintenance operations in 2017. The maintenance and construction operations had favourable weather conditions throughout the course of the year and workload was consistent through all seasons. The Public Works (PW) department produced a combination of construction and maintenance projects that involved road infrastructure, recreation and economic development within the MD of Taber.

The MD of Taber has considerable high and intensive traffic on our road surfaces, from agriculture and livestock to oil and gas. The aggressive nature of this traffic means we have to be more diligent and accommodating with our maintenance tactics and standards. Ongoing road difficulties include washboard, high shoulders holding water, and lack of gravel to name a few of the concerns faced by staff on a daily and yearly basis. In order to address these concerns, the Public Works department is logging these areas and structuring our road prioritizing for our grader operators, to reflect the primary travel corridors and increase the focused maintenance of these roadways. Larger equipment is being purchased to cut out washboard and be more aggressive in our maintenance tactics to provide quality roadways for all residents of the MD of Taber. In conjunction with this, the PW department is working on year to year surface gravelling schedule to keep our roadway structures intact. Infrastructure is the largest portion of the service provided to residents and our PW and ASB departments work very hard to provide a level of service and quality to the MD of Taber that is exceptional for its residents and visitors. Construction operations are focused on these high traffic roadways as well, constructing and rehabilitating roadways to establish a solid network.

#### Highlights from 2017 Public Works Department

##### Construction Operations

- Road building (6 miles/9.6 kilometers): TWPR 8-4 (2 mile) from RR 17-2 to Highway 36, TWPR 8-2 (2 mile) from RR 17-2 to Highway 36, RR 17-2 (2 mile) from TWPR 8-4 to 8-2
- MD Campus and Shop Location Civil Construction, roadways, storm ponds
- Victoria and Ottawa square gravel base construction
- Oldman River Boat launch



- MD Campus site preparation – Winter 2017
- Gravel Pit Reclamation – Reti Pit

#### Project Operations

- Drainage work throughout the MD which involved ditch work, culvert installations (75 +), hamlet infrastructure repairs, etc. (1500 meters of culvert installed)
- Victoria and Ottawa square gravel base construction
- Oldman River Boat launch
- Bridge infrastructure inspections and repairs
- Bridge File # 80177 removal
- Bridge File # 80044 removal

#### Gravel Operations

- Primary gravel crew hauled gravel to every division in the MD during 2017, including capital road projects over 425 miles or 680 kilometers gravelled. Total amount of gravel hauled was over 150,000 tonnes

#### Crushing Operations

- Productive year for crushing operations with total crushed material being 270,000 tonnes of 1 inch gravel in 3 separate pits (Reti, Barnwell and Speaker)
- Second shift was added to summer operations to maximize crusher running time in 2017

#### Grader/Maintainers

- Prioritizing and evaluations of enhanced, arterial, collector and local road structures to provide an optimal maintenance sched-

- ule for grading operations
- MG30 aggregate stabilizer treatments for dust control (+100 application sites for residents and intersection improvements)

#### Maintenance Crew

- Calcium applications throughout the MD (100 plus different site locations, 25 kilometers of combined coverage)
- Crack sealing, spray patching and pothole repairs
- Victoria and Ottawa square gravel base construction
- Extensive work rehabbing oiled roads that have deteriorated with asphalt inlays

#### Fleet Maintenance Department

- Shop maintenance staff services all MD fleet operations and regional fire departments which range from light and heavy trucks, construction equipment, tractors, etc. (200+ units)
- 50+ Commercial Vehicle Inspections performed by MD staff
- MD Regional Fire Services – inspection and servicing of 6 departments, Taber, Vauxhall, Grassy Lake, Enchant, Hays and Barnwell
- Service trucks allow us to be mobile and in the field for general repairs to equipment

#### Snow Maintenance

- Snow plowing on MD hard surfaced and gravel roads, combination of 14 graders, 4 truck snow plow units and 2 loaders



## Annual General Meeting Report

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### Looking into 2018

Building on the continued success our PW department had in 2017, 2018 is shaping up to be another year of progressive and productive results, though due to the weather it will be a later start than usual. Snow maintenance from October 2017 to April 2018 and the current flood mitigation work has kept MD staff very busy with extended hours of operational work. Over the course of the winter we have kept our construction crews working on projects and utilizing our staff strength and equipment on the new MD campus site and Operations facility location into the spring months and now in late spring on major culvert repairs and road projects in conjunction with the flooding that has been widespread. Public Works has an extensive list of capital projects for the coming year that involves all our forces in some aspect working on road building and rehabilitation.

- Road construction (Total of 7 miles) – RR 13-1 (3 miles) from Hwy 3 to TWPR 10-0, RR 19-0 (2 miles) from TWPR 10-2 to 10-4, RR 16-0 (2 miles) from TWPR 11-2 to 11-4
- MD Campus site final preparation – spring 2018
- Bridge File # 79921 replacement
- Bridge File # 80259 replacement
- Gravel Pit Reclamation – Snake Pit
- Data collection on existing infrastructure, roads, culverts, signs, etc.

Additional work will include crushing operations of 250,000 tonnes of material and subsequent gravel hauling of 150,000 tonnes covering over 600 kilometers of road surface. MD forces will be continuing to work on a sustainable maintenance strategy that puts focus on grading and graveling of high traffic roadways.

Providing high levels of service for maintenance and construction is the Public Works department's primary goal which allows the residents of the MD of Taber to have a quality infrastructure network for their purposes.

*For ongoing pictures of our projects please go to the MD website.*

### Facts and Comparisons Related to the MD of Taber

- The MD of Taber has 2400 kilometers of developed road allowances, this is the near equivalent to the driving distance from Taber to San Diego
- The MD has built or rehabilitated over 280 kilometers of roadway infrastructure from 2013 to 2017 (just over 10% of all roadways in the MD) this is the near equivalent to building a road from Taber

to Calgary

- Grading maintenance accounts for approximately 22,000 kilometers to be graded each year, in comparison that is over halfway around the earth (40,075 km)
- Gravel operations cover 680 kilometers or more per year, this is the near equivalent to graveling the distance from Taber to Whitecourt, NW of Edmonton
- Crushing operations produced 270,000 tonnes or 160,000 cubic meters of gravel, this is the equivalent of having material to fill a CFL football field box 20 meters high

### Regional Enforcement Report

In September 2017, the Regional Enforcement Service initiative implemented and became fully operational with the employment of our first Community Peace Officer.

The Regional Enforcement Service – Community Peace Officer Program completed the following number of patrols and calls for service:

<b>Total Calls For Service</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Total Community Patrols</b>	<b>183</b>

Peace Officers also were jointly dispatched with M.D. of Taber Regional Fire to assist in the fires in both Hilda (Cyprus County) and Waterton National Park.

The Regional Enforcement Service initiative has resulted in the following significant accomplishments since implementation started in July 2017:

- Received Authorization to Employ Peace Officers from the Solicitor General
- Terminated our Enhanced Officer position with the Taber RCMP
- Hired 2 experienced Peace Officers from the M.D. of Taber area
- Sent 1 Peace Officer to the Solicitor General Academy for Law Enforcement
- Promoted a Peace Officer to Sergeant
- Swore 3 Peace Officers in as Bylaw Officers under the Municipal Government Act
- Purchased and fully stocked 2 Dodge Ram pick up trucks to Peace Officer Act standards
- Fully kitted out 3 Peace Officers with operational uniforms, tools and materials
- Purchased necessary safety equipment such as; bullet resistant vests, defensive weapons, etc
- Set up a functional modernized office space complete with mobile terminal

technology

- Qualified on various defensive weapons, including; shotgun, OC spray, baton and handcuffing
- Graduated from Lethbridge College 1 Peace Officer in the Weights & Measures Course
- Brought in and installed the newest radar/lidar technology for speeding infractions for vehicles
- Granted access to the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) for person/vehicle query
- Monitored Municipal Elections as “constables” under the Local Election Act
- Implemented an agreement with the Taber Police Service regarding dispatching
- Issued the new AFFRCS Radio System – first in Southern Alberta for a Peace Officer employer
- Implemented the new Report Exec documentation retrieval system
- Received training and certification on the LEADS/WITS program for anti-bullying in schools
- Initiated the volunteer Range Patrol program
- Ensured Victim Services referrals process
- Brought aboard a volunteer co-ordinator
- Fostered an agreement with a search & rescue company to provide training at no cost
- Created a Narcan © preventative policy for Peace Officers
- Attended the Alberta Association of Community Peace Officer Association in Lake Louise, AB
- Signed Memorandums of Understanding with Taber RCMP for municipal enforcement

2017 budget included all operating costs to implement the Regional Enforcement Initiative:

- Budget for the RCMP Enhanced Officer Position was: \$178,000
- Budget for Bylaw Services was: \$24,853
- Total Budget: \$205,853
- Cost to Implement the Community Peace Officer Program: \$142,097

2018 budget

- Total cost to operate the Community Peace Officer Program: \$192,514
- Potential Revenue: \$30,000
- Total Cost: \$165,814

### Regional Fire Service Report

In 2017 the Regional Fire Service initiative which was initiated February 29, 2016 was fully implemented.

Total fire and rescue calls for the 5 fire stations operated by the MDT Regional Fire Service was 272. These calls included providing a task force consisting of 10 firefighters and 4 apparatus to assist the Provincial Operations Center with the Kenow (Waterton) Fire and a task force consisting of 16 firefighters and 7 apparatus to assist Cypress County with the Hilda Fire.

The Regional Fire Service initiative has resulted in the following significant accomplishments since February 2016:

- Increased the number of volunteer firefighters from 53 to 103
- Increased the number of professionally trained firefighters certified to at least a level 1 NFPA 1001 (Hazardous Material operations) standard from 9 to 85
- The level of service provided by all 6 fire stations in the MD of Taber is now similar – all residents have access to qualified fire and rescue responders capable of providing vehicle extrication, offensive firefighting and rescue services
- Replaced and modernized all personal protective equipment for volunteer firefighters
- Replaced obsolete SCBA equipment
- Added equipment and tools necessary to each fire station to meet the stated level of service
- Initiated vehicle maintenance process utilizing M.D. of Taber mechanical staff. All vehicles inspected twice yearly.
- Acquired new vehicle extrication tools for the Vauxhall Fire Station and provided the Vauxhall Fire Station tools to the Grassy Lake Fire Station
- Implemented the Barnwell Fire Partnership agreement with the Village of Barnwell
- Implemented the joint Quality Management Plan for Alberta Safety Codes Council for fire inspection
- Implemented the joint Municipal Emergency Management Plan
- Implemented 12 Intermunicipal mutual aid agreements with neighboring municipalities. All but 3 provide for the exchange of fire services in an emergency at no cost to the receiving municipality
- 2017 budget included all operating costs to implement the Regional Fire Initiative
  - Revenue was projected at \$132,000 – year ended with \$390,606 in revenue
  - Expenses were projected at \$1,105,905 – year ended with \$1,370,380 (before amortization)
  - Net expense before amortization was projected at \$973,605 – year ended at \$979,774

◆ Continued on Page 17



## Annual General Meeting Report

Continued from Page 16

- 2018 budget net expense before amortization is projected at \$848,477 (\$131,297 less than 2017)
  - The 2018 budget includes increasing the number of volunteer firefighters to 125 from current 103 for the 6 fire stations
  - Net expenses in 2019 budget year expected to be below 2018 budget as Regional Fire Service initiative to be fully completed

Multiple calls have been fielded and meetings conducted with municipalities from across the province seeking information on the MD of Taber Regional Fire Service initiative inquiring how to duplicate the success of the initiative in their community.

### Economic Development Report

In September 2017, the Municipal District of Taber hired a full-time Development Officer, a succession planning step for the pending retirement of the Director of Planning and Infrastructure. The Development Officer assists with land development, sub-divisions and leads the economic development of the Municipal District of Taber.

The Economic Development portfolio contributed greatly to some successful initia-

tives that occurred or are planned to occur within the Municipal District of Taber:

- Review of previous Joint Economic Development initiatives within the Southgrow Region
- Preparation Report on the pending Food Cluster Initiative (Federal Government)
- Reinforced relations with the Regional Economic Development Services of the Alberta Economic Development and Trade Department
- Toured the Roger/Lantic Sugar Factory
- Discussed causes and concerns with the Sugar Beet Growers Association
- Participated in a presentation by Martin Shields, MP regarding the pending Carbon Tax
- Attended the Lethbridge Grows Trade Show and Conference
- Conducted detailed SWOT analysis of the Municipal District of Taber economic growth
- Continued joint economic development meetings with the Town of Taber, Village of Barnwell and the Town of Vauxhall
- Involved with the Community Housing Needs Assessment (Social Housing Study)
- Monitored the Highway #3 Twinning project to determine potential economic impact
- Attended the Food & Drink Conference (Calgary) to discuss food security issues
- Convened with the Town of Taber regarding the Food Clustering Initiative
- Prepared preliminary expansion plans for industrial lots in Enchant and Vauxhall which potentially could add business and commercial revenue to the M.D. of Taber
- Assembled information for potential Solar and Wind (Alternative Energy) investors
- Working with Taber Economic Development completed a C.A.R.E.S. grant for future strategic planning for the region. (Grant awarded in 2018).
- Monitored economic trends; provincially, nationally and internationally, that potentially affected the Municipal District of Taber and region including; Maple Leaf Meats acquisitions, Amazon bid (Calgary & Edmonton), Cannabis legislation, etc
- Anticipate future environmental trends that could effect agriculture and business such as; drought, flooding, transportation cost and climate change conditions.
- Aided in the Protein Industries Cluster (PIC) submission for the Federal Supercluster
- Supported the work of the Agri-business Supply Chain report for region
- Spearheaded the creation of a working group for the Highway #3 Agri-business corridor
- Met with prospective clients for business, commercial and industrial usages with the M.D.
- Joined the Alberta Economic Developers Association (EDA)

Future trends in economical development within the M.D. of Taber include;

- Planning stages for industrial lots in Enchant and east Vauxhall (#36) areas
- Proposed solar and wind farms
- Prospective construction of a multimillion dollar Cannabis growing/packaging facility in the Hamlet of Grassy Lake
- Awarded a C.A.R.E.S. grant with the Town of Taber for a strategic plan
- Won the Supercluster Bid as part of the Protein Innovations Cluster (Prairie)
- Application submission for a TGIF grant for tourism
- Creation of a submission under the FCM for grant monies to combat agricultural climate change impacts on farming operations.
- Supporting local small business through development permits

We develop the conditions that allow economic growth to prosper in the M.D.



### Media Release

**SouthGrow hires new Manager**  
Lethbridge, Alberta, January 16, 2018.  
For Immediate Release

The SouthGrow Regional Initiative is pleased to announce the hiring of Peter Casurella as our new manager to replace our outgoing Manager, Peter Lovering. In the fall, Mr. Lovering announced his retirement after four productive years. He will be missed and we wish him a fond farewell as he and his wife relocate to be close to their extended family in Manitoba.



Peter Casurella is an alumnus of both the University of Lethbridge and McMaster University, and holds three post-secondary degrees, including a graduate degree in the Philosophy of Science. Mr. Casurella is passionate about community building and has reflected this passion throughout his career, working with refugees, serving as a communications and fundraising professional for Lethbridge Family Services, and then serving as the Communications and Policy Strategist for the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce. Casurella also has extensive experience in the world of digital marketing, and serves on numerous committees including Vibrant Lethbridge (poverty reduction), the Highway 3 Twinning Development Association, and the Human Subject Research Ethics Committee (U of L).

His personal motto is 'always improve' and he looks forward to bringing his energy and wide range of experience to the service of the SouthGrow region.

Please join us in welcoming Peter Casurella to our family.

The SouthGrow Regional Initiative was formed in 2003 and is a member-driven, volunteer-supported, not-for-profit Regional Economic Development Alliance for south-central Alberta. SouthGrow encompasses twenty-four communities with a total population of approximately 70,000. It also includes the City of Lethbridge as an Associate Partner. SouthGrow encourages collaboration, focuses on regional economic development and ensures the region has equal opportunity for growth and development.

**For more information contact our Chair, Greg Robinson**  
Mr. Greg Robinson  
SouthGrow Regional Initiative  
Chairperson  
robinson@raymond.ca

### Municipal District of Taber Regional Fire Services – 2017 Statistics

Department	Fire 2017	MVC 2017	EMS Assist 2017	False Alarm 2017	Inspections 2017	M/A Calls
Enchant	10	4	0	1	0	5
Grassy Lake	17	8	0	3	0	7
Hays	10	4	0	1	0	0
M.D. Regional	73	47	3	7	7	20
VFRD	19	17	3	3	8	10
<b>Total Regional Fire Service</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>42</b>

**Total 2017 Fire and Rescue calls: 272 (Not including Inspections/Investigations)**



## M.D. OF TABER Library Board

The M.D. of Taber Library board would like to announce the new representative for Vauxhall, Murray Peters. We look forward to working with him in the future and thank him for taking time out of his busy schedule to be on our board.

The current M.D. of Taber library Board: The Board is comprised of Diane Wickenheiser (Hays), Sharon Hagen (Enchant), Deb Brewin (Grassy Lake), Sharon Holtman (Taber), Jane Porter (Barnwell) and Murray Peters (Vauxhall). The M.D. representative sitting on the board is Tamara Miyanaga. Tamara recently came on the board and we look forward to working with her.

At the same time, we would like to thank Ben Elfring who sat on the board as the M.D. representative for several years. Thank you for your service and may you enjoy your retirement.

## Beth Brandics

*The M.D. of Taber Library Board would like to express its sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Beth Brandics. Beth was a M.D. of Taber Library board member representing the Vauxhall Library from 2003 - 2018. She always put her family, friends and community first. She had a passion for books and learning and was so proud of the new Vauxhall Library. Beth passed a way on March 8, 2018*



# M.D. of Taber SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Taber Public Library is open six days a week: Mondays from 1:00 to 5:30 pm; Tuesday, Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10:00 am to 5:30 pm; Thursdays and Fridays from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm. Our e-collection is available 24/7 on our website.

Our mission is to meet the informational, educational, recreational and cultural needs of the community, so stop by for a visit or in person

at 5415 50th Ave, or online at [www.taberlibrary.ca](http://www.taberlibrary.ca).

Well, it happened again this winter at the annual Southern Alberta Library Conference on March 2, 2018. Taber Public Library won another READ Award for a program we ran last summer called Low German Mennonite Story Time. Congratulations and Thank you to Mrs. Benita Peters who led the program for us.



## New for Summer 2018

**Staff** – We will have a new Assistant Manager shortly and will begin work before summer is in full swing! Stop by to say hi!

**Summer Reading Program** will be happening again this year. Registrations are usually in the first week of June but please call or stop in for full details. Remember to register early as there is limited space.

**Princess Party** - Calling all princesses to a royal party with a very special guest on Friday June 8. Please attend in your royal attire and be prepared for story telling and cupcake decorating. We don't want to give all the secrets away but please come to the Program Room by 2:00 pm.

**Deconstruction Day** will be Saturday, June 16. This is where dads and kids can come here to take apart discarded electronics and appliances to see what is inside. Try to put them together again if you wish. We will try to have as many items to take apart as we can but special tools you might have to bring with you! Deconstruction begins at 10:30 am in the Program room.

Thursday, June 21 is National Indigenous Day and we will be in attendance with a booth for this special event. Watch our facebook page for further info.

**Discovering Dinosaurs!** Is a video conference from the Royal Tyrell Museum of Palaeontology on Thur August 23 beginning at 11:00 am. We will be touring Dinosaur Hall and have time for questions. This is perfect for 5 – 10 year olds but everyone is welcome to attend.

**Campfire Fun!** S'more songs and Stories at the Library video conference on Tuesday, August 14 at 2:00pm. Songbooks will be available. This is a free presentation of the Okotoks Public Library and is meant for 5 to 10 year olds but everyone is welcome to attend!

• Cornfest Book Sale will take place the week of Aug 20. Please check our website if you are considering donating books to the library for the sale.



## Barnwell Public Library News May & June 2018

The summer reading program will begin on July 3 and run on Tuesdays and Thursdays until mid-August. Judy Wolf and Jenna Rozendaal will be running the program this year and it is sure to be lots of fun! It is a free program but we do require registration. Drop by the library to pick up a registration form. The program includes reading, crafts and fun games and is for kids ages 5 to 11. If you have any questions, talk to Kim at the library.

Moms & Tots is such a fun program for everyone. All are welcome to come play, learn and read with your kids. This is a great activity to bring your toddler to. There are stories, songs and crafts! It is free and held every Thursday at 10:30 am in the Barnwell Library. The Program Coordinator is Sadie Anderson

Apr 26 ..... Butterflies (snack day)

May 3 ..... Frogs  
 May 10 ..... Mother's Day  
 May 17 ..... Spiders  
 May 24 ..... Skunks  
 May 31 ..... Pizza (snack day)  
 June 7 ..... Summer  
 June 14 ..... Last Day Party! (snack day)

**Here are a few of our new books for adults:**

- The 17th Suspect, A Women's Murder Club novel by James Patterson
- A Conspiracy of Bones, A Temperance Brennan novel by Kathy Reichs
- Life Inside my Mind, 31 authors share their personal struggles
- When Life Gives You Lululemons by Lauren Weisberger
- The Romanov Ransom, a novel by Clive Cussler
- The Shape of Water by Guillermo Del Toro
- Spymaster : A thriller by Brad Thor

Some young adult books for the summer:

- Haunted Canada, books #4, #5, #6 and #6
- Not if I Save you First by Ally Carter
- I Have Lost my Way by Gale Forman



And some new books for kids:

- Unplugged by Steve Antony
- Timo goes Camping by Victoria Allenby
- I am Canada by Heather Patterson

Spring Cleaning? We love donations! We can take books that are ten years old or less. We will send older books to **Better World Books**. We also accept movies and audiobooks. Thanks to everyone who donates to our library!

**BARNWELL LIBRARY HOURS**

**Tuesday 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm**  
**Wednesday 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm**  
**Thursday 10:30 am – 5:00 pm**  
**Friday 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

## Grassy Lake Library News

The Grassy Lake library has been very busy this winter. The patrons enjoyed the numerous new books and DVD's. The computers and Ipads continue to be a popular item in the library. Now that spring has finally arrived, we are preparing for our summer programs. Below you will find the libraries summer hours and the hours of the Summer Reading program. The Summer Reading program will be for patrons

between the ages of 5-12. No sign up is necessary. Please come and join us for reading, games, crafts and a whole lot of fun!

**LIBRARY SUMMER HOURS:**

TUESDAY, JULY 3 ..... CLOSED

TUESDAY, JULY 10 ..... 8:00am-4:00pm  
 READING PROGRAM: ..... 10:00am-11:30pm

TUESDAY, JULY 17 ..... 8:00am-4:00pm  
 READING PROGRAM: ..... 10:00am-11:30pm

TUESDAY, JULY 24 ..... CLOSED

TUESDAY, JULY 31 ..... 8:00am-4:00pm  
 READING PROGRAM: ..... 10:00am-11:30pm

TUESDAY, AUG. 7 ..... 8:00am-4:00pm  
 READING PROGRAM: ..... 10:00am-11:30pm

TUESDAY, AUG. 14 ..... 8:00am-4:00pm  
 READING PROGRAM: ..... 10:00am-11:30pm

TUESDAY, AUG. 21 ..... 8:00am-4:00pm  
 READING PROGRAM: ..... 10:00am-11:30pm

TUESDAY, AUG. 28 ..... CLOSED



**LIBRARY HOURS STARTING  
 TUESDAY SEPT. 4, 2018**

**OPEN THE SAME DAYS AS  
 SCHOOL  
 MON.-THURS.  
 8:30am-3:40pm**



TID Canal Full of Ice, Snow and Flowing Runoff on March 31, 2018

TID Lateral 18 Taking Extra Runoff Water, April 15, 2018



## Taber Irrigation District **UPDATE**

### TID Participation in Overland Flooding - Behind the Scenes Look

Taber Irrigation District went straight to work when the melting started. Once the MD of Taber announced the State of Local Emergency (SOLE) for overland flooding, our District Superintendent Barry Jensen set crews to work to keep melting flows running to reservoir inlets and river outlets. The inflows often exceeded the capacity of our snow-filled canals.

Barry worked closely with MD of Taber staff who immediately prioritized Protection of Life, Protection of Residential Property and Land. We announced no diversions to TID works except under the MD's priorities. This approach allowed the MD to save houses under immediate threat while allowing TID to protect downstream properties from overbank spill. It also helped minimize damage to TID works.

Our team rallied together to coordinate operations, communications, and regulatory processes to share the load. The regular Emergency Operations Centre meetings were well-organized and allowed all agencies to work together. The MD of Taber Public Works Department was excellent to work with and assisted on both an operational and administrative levels.



Knowing that seeding was going to be delayed and that there would be a lot of anxious farmers wanting to pump ponded water off their fields, the MD helped work through the process for TID to obtain a temporary blanket Alberta Environment Approval under the Water Act. Instead of requiring each landowner to go through AEP and creating potential delays, TID took on the collective needs of our water users in administering these pumping consents under the conditions of this Approval. The administrative team has been carefully processing consents, reviewing them with Barry to coordinate pumping starts within the capacity of our sys-

tems to handle the flow. Thanks to the vast majority of our water users who understood this and followed the rules. Your cooperation allowed the Approval process to work and in turn get you out in your fields as quickly as possible. And as a reminder, please make sure to call our District Superintendent whenever you have a concern with TID infrastructure. Leave it with the experts and keep your tractor/excavator at home. Thanks though to all of you who stepped up to help the MD of Taber under their direction. These pop-up contracted helpers made a real difference.

### 2018 Startup and Allocation

The Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) headworks canals are full of snow and ice much as ours were. Waiting for these to melt while SMRID and TID assess and repair critical damage from flooding means we aren't certain when we will be able to start. We are anticipating water will be available for irrigation deliveries sometime in the second half of May. Please check with us prior to seeding any crops relying on early irrigation water to ensure it will be available when you need it.





*TID Lateral Overflowing at Highway Crossing Due to High Inflows, April 15, 2018*

❖ *Continued from Page 20*

The Waterton Reservoir is far too small to capture the runoff within its watershed, so AEP relies on the Waterton to St. Mary River reaches of the headworks canal to send significant volumes across to the much larger (and mostly empty) St. Mary Reservoir. The Kenow fire changed the landscape and runoff characteristics and we may lose much of this water over the Waterton spillway. TID will be announcing the annual allocation sometime after the capture rate is known, but the much higher than average snow pack assures us that there will be at least 12" per acre available for our irrigators.

### **Construction Activities**

In the last issue TID highlighted the plans for a gabion fence and deflector boom for the Big Bend Main Canal. Here are photos of work completed thus far:

### **TID Rates and Acres**

The TID board approved the third planned increase in irrigation

rates to bring them in line with costs to operate. Irrigation rates will be \$18 per acre for 2018, with most other rates increasing proportionally. Household and Rural rates remain unchanged. The Capital Assets Charge for new acres is now \$1,200 per acre, but due to high demand, these are only available to be added to existing parcels. The board set aside a reserve of acres for this purpose and will no longer be accepting applications to add new parcels to the TID.

### **IRP Funding**

The Irrigation Rehabilitation Program of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry has been supporting irrigation infrastructure since 1969. 2018 brings a cut of 25% to this cost-share program, with a further 25% cut for 2020. TID will be reviewing how we will address the shortfall to our construction program which may involve doing less or raising rates. Feel free to let us, and your MLA, know your thoughts on this.

*Filling TID Big Bend Main Canal Gabion Fence in Taber Reservoir*



*TID Lateral M Gabion Fence at NE Corner of Taber Reservoir*







*Bank of Commerce located on west side of main business street*

## From Eureka to Taber

By: Karen Ingram, Taber Irrigation Impact Museum

It was 1946, R.F. Brewin was the Reeve of the M.D. of Eureka. According to reports, the Minister of Municipal Affairs was considering changes to the municipalities in the south east portion of Alberta. The plan for 1947 was that there would be three large municipalities created to comply with the boundaries of irrigation districts. The M.D. of Eureka sent out circulars asking the people of the district whether they would rather be joined with the districts to the east or the west. As with many government decisions, this one seemed to take a great deal of time. We saw nothing more in the Taber Times until October of 1953.

The headline read: Eureka being replaced by larger unit in January. Nephi J. Jensen was now the Reeve for the M.D. of Eureka. The plan was now to set out the new M.D. to correspond with the Taber School Division No. 6 boundaries. The present M.D. of Eureka included areas made up of Barnwell, Taber (excluding inside Town Limits) and Grassy Lake. The proposed new M.D. would be enlarged to take in "Enchant, Travers, Retlaw, Grantham, Vauxhall and other areas likely

including the new school division at Hays." This was to increase the size of the municipality from "20 townships to 49 townships with an increase of population from 3,000 to 6,337 based on the census of 1951". "The assessment would increase from \$3,500,000.00 to \$5,638,244.00 and include 2,370 school pupils instructed by a total of 96 teachers within the School Division area."

By December the M.D. of Eureka was said to have maps showing the new boundaries "as recommended by the commission." The M.D. of Eureka council were protesting the changes. They did not "wish that area of the present district be disturbed, but if there is no choice in the matter, then they object to the new boundaries, which do not take in the Sundial School area."

Council wanted the boundary to conform with the "Little Bow River" and take in the "Sundial area, this it is felt would give a better balance of the good and bad spots in the district."

The Taber Times of January 7, 1954 reported that "the ministerial order creating the Municipal District of Taber No. 14, had been

received at the local M.D. office and was to become effective on January 1, 1954." All this meant it was necessary to hold an election at which seven councillors would be voted in, "from which number a reeve would be elected." Nominations were set for February 2, election to be March 2 and the first council meeting of the new M.D. of Taber to be held on March 18, 1954. This was an increase of two council members from the current number of five, including the Reeve. The Sundial district was excluded from the M.D. with the Alberta Government not taking local concerns into consideration.

There were enough nominees for the seven electoral divisions of the municipality that elections were needed, division # 5 with nominee Sidney W. Bryant being the only one in by acclamation. Election results were posted in the March 4th Taber Times: Division 1 – David A. Ferguson, Division 2 – James

Graham, Division 3 – Nephi J. Jensen, Division 4 – Ivan E. Harris, Division 5 – Sidney W. Bryant (acclamation), Division 6 – Clarence Rombough and Division 7 – Robert T. Snaith. The first council meeting was held on March 11, at this meeting the councillors elected Nephi Jensen as Reeve with James Graham elected as Deputy Reeve. Business conducted at that first meeting included, committee set ups, voting for an assessment of all properties within the new boundaries, terms of office were determined for council members by a draw of names from a hat. At that time there were 1 year, 2 year and 3 year terms in place. Today, all councillors are voted for at the same time and all serve the full term as set by Government policy.

The brand new Municipal District of Taber was born in 1954 and is an example of good governance more than 60 years later.



*Another section of main street*



*The Canadian Bank of Commerce - 1955*





## Communities in Bloom Rural Beautification Competition

### Eligibility:

- Must be residents of the M.D. of Taber
- Must be actively involved in the landscape design and maintenance of the yard
- Must not be a member of Council or an employee of the M.D. of Taber

### Competition Categories:

- Category 1 - Residents must be located on at least 39 acres
- Category 2 - Residents must be located on 38 acres or less, includes residents of hamlets of the M.D.

### Awards:

- Awards presented in each of the seven divisions within the M.D.
- One award per category
- Residents may win only once

### Nomination Form

I nominate Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Residence/Land Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nominated for Division # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Category # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nominator \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Entries to be mailed to  
 Jean Holman  
 Box 4385 - Taber, AB T1G 2C8  
 or email: gjholman2@gmail.com  
 For Questions or Information  
 call Jean Holman at 403-223-3179

Brought to you by:  
 Taber Communities in Bloom Society  
 M.D. of Taber



## Questions?

Contact the Summer Games  
Office:

Grey Room of the  
Community Centre  
403-223-5500 ext.5561  
SASG2018@taber.ca

## Registration Begins May 3!

Registering for the Southern Alberta Summer Games is EASY! Come down to the Grey Room of the Community Centre in Taber to fill out a registration form and pay the \$15.00 fee and you're done! Each person can enter in up to 3 different sports and there are so many to choose from! All ages and abilities welcome, there is something for **EVERYONE!**

3/5/10 KM RUN · 3 ON 3 BASKETBALL · 5 PIN BOWLING  
 · ARCHERY · ATHLETICS · BADMINTON · BALL HOCKEY · BASEBALL  
 · BEACH VOLLEYBALL · CYCLING · CRIBBAGE ·  
 EQUESTRIAN · GOLF · HANDGUN · MINI SOCCER · MOTOCROSS ·  
 PHOTOGRAPHY · RUGBY · SOCCER · SMALLBORE · SWIMMING ·  
 TENNIS · TRAPSHOOTING

Visit [www.southernalbertasummernames.com](http://www.southernalbertasummernames.com) for more info!

## How can YOU Get involved!

### VOLUNTEER

It takes over **300 volunteers** to make the Summer Games happen and we need your help! There are a variety of volunteer jobs from helping at sporting events to being part of our first aid team!

To register as a volunteer visit:  
[www.southernalbertasummernames.com](http://www.southernalbertasummernames.com)  
 and click on the "volunteer" tab, or come on down to the Games Office to register in person!

For more information, please contact the Games Office!

### SPONSOR

We are looking for local businesses that want to be part of the upcoming Southern Alberta Summer Games!

There are numerous ways to become a **Games Sponsor** including donations of cash, products, and even workers to volunteer during the Games! Every contribution helps in making the Summer Games possible!

If you are interested in becoming a Games Sponsor, please contact Aline Holmen for more information!

403-223-6019







## HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC SCHOOL DIVISION



Registration begins January 8, 2018

For new students registering for the 2018/2019 year, please contact your neighbourhood school:



**St. Patrick School -  
Early Learning to Gr. 5**  
5302 - 48<sup>th</sup> Street, Taber  
(403)223-3352



**St. Mary School -  
Grade 6 to 12**  
5427 - 50<sup>th</sup> Street, Taber  
(403) 223-3165

Remember to bring your child's birth certificate. For information about school programs, visit the division website at [www.holyspirit.ab.ca](http://www.holyspirit.ab.ca).

### Early Learning and Kindergarten Registration:

- Our **Early Learning Program** is designed to stimulate the growing curiosity of children 3 and 4 years of age.
- **Kindergarten** is designed for children 5 years of age on, or before, December 31, 2018.

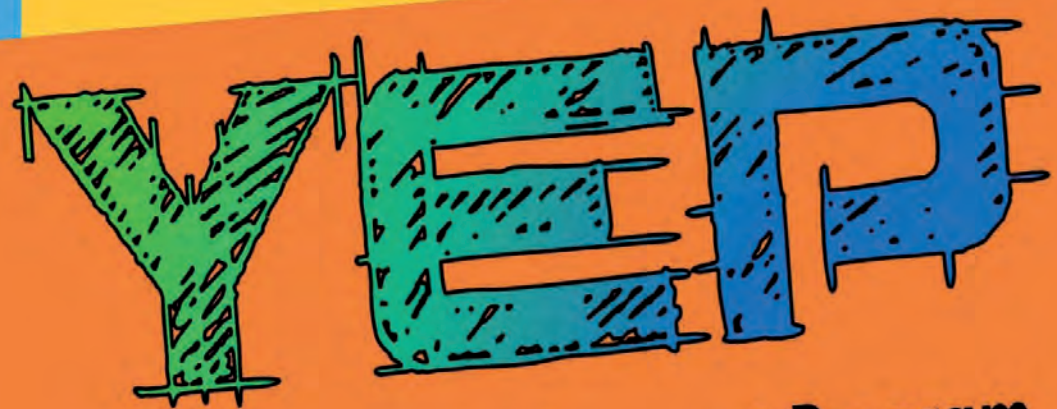
If you have questions, or feel free your child requires specialized programming, contact the Early Learning Coordinator, Lynn Saler, at (403) 327-9555 or [salerl@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:salerl@holyspirit.ab.ca)

*Holy Spirit Catholic Schools...  
Christ-centred learning communities  
where students are cherished and  
achieve their potential*

## Now Accepting Applications!

ARE YOU FACING OBSTACLES TO EMPLOYMENT  
AND/OR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION?

THE TABER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM ASSISTS  
YOUTH WITH DEVELOPING EMPLOYMENT SKILLS AND  
GAINING PRACTICAL ON-THE-JOB WORK  
EXPERIENCE.



## Taber Youth Employment Program



**2018 Start Dates**  
Jan 2 / Apr 23 / Aug 13 / Dec 3

←----- **APPLY ONLINE TODAY!**

### Eligibility:

- Ages 15-30 & not in school
- Work in Canada legally
- Not receiving E.I. benefits
- Have barriers to employment

### Contact:

P: 403-416-5115



The Taber Youth Employment Program is a project under the  
Taber & District Community Adult Learning Association.

This project is funded by the Government  
of Canada's Skills Link program.

