

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER

MD CONNECTION

Reeve's REFLECTIONS

M.D. settles in under Pandemic "New Normal"

As I begin to write some notes about the goings on in our Municipality, our MD offices have been closed to the public for over a month now with many of the MD's administrative staff working from home. Our last council meeting was held thru a conference call, and while it was challenging, it appears that this is the way things will have to be done and this will be the new norm in the near future. As a council we appreciate all the staff efforts and the public's effort to "Social Distance" and "Self-Isolate" to bring a halt to this pandemic as quickly as possible.



MERRILL HARRIS, REEVE

It is absolutely amazing what a microscopic virus can do to the world, both in terms of human health and the economy. I think we are all in utter amazement the number of people who have been infected and truly saddened by the number of lives lost. The devastation to the economy locally, provincially, nationally and internationally is overwhelming. I sincerely hope everyone affected, and in one way or another that is all of us, will be able to survive this and that once the outbreak is over, all the businesses and employees can get back to work.

As I mentioned in the our last newsletter, the downturn in the oil & gas sector has left the municipality with \$2.4 million in unpaid 2019 taxes, and close to \$5 million since the oil downturn started. The likelihood of ever recovering that tax

revenue is very small. Administration and Council have looked hard at the budget to find savings, while at the same time trying to continue to provide the level of service you have all come to expect.

Many other issues are having a serious impact on our budget. The provinces desire to download costs and services onto municipalities, such as the "Police Model Costing", and changes to the assessment model are a few examples. Beginning in 2020 our MD will be charged close to \$200,000 for policing and by 2025 it will be closer to \$600,000. The province has been talking about changing the assessment model for non-residential properties (Oil and Gas). The talk is that our assessment could drop by at least 30% in this class of properties. This class makes up close to 70% of our tax revenue. A 30% drop could have very huge and serious impact to the municipal budget.

Staff have been busy working on the mandated inter-municipal development plan and the inter-municipal collaborative framework with the Town of Taber. These documents outline where growth in the town is most likely to happen and how we can work together to help facilitate orderly growth in the Town and the area in the municipality surrounding the Town.

■ Continued on Page 2



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
4900B-50th Street
Taber, Alberta, T1G 1T2
Phone: 403-223-3541

We're On the Web:
www.mdtaber.ab.ca

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M.D. launches new communications APP

■ *Reeve's Reflections continued from Page 1*

We have completed the same agreements with all the municipalities that surround the MD and in the MD (Barnwell and Vauxhall). The ICF document outlines services that are shared between the two municipalities and how we can work together (collaboratively) to develop other mutually beneficial service agreements.

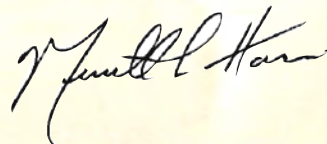
MD staff have developed a couple of new ways for communication from the MD to the residents and from resident to the MD. The first is Service Tracker. If you have any kind of issue, (road maintenance, Water or Sewer issue if you are in a Hamlet), you can submit the issue through service tracker, which is found on the MD website. Once your request is submitted, your request will be followed up with you. The second is SCAR Notify, which will send you the latest news from the MD, emergency Alert messages from Canada's national emergency alerting system (Alert Ready), weather conditions from participating municipalities etc. One example of how this might work is the RCMP might put out a message that a vehicle matching this description was involved in a hit and run. In your travels you may have noticed a vehicle matching that description. You can then phone in the Tip, and help solve a crime. There are many uses for SCAR Notify. You can also sign up for this on the MD website.

Because of the pandemic we are experiencing, there has been a lot of talk about deferring Utilities, mortgages and taxes. Discussions are being held on how we can help those who have lost their jobs or had to close their businesses during this crazy time. If a deferral to utility accounts, or the education portion of your property taxes is granted, you must remember, it is only a deferral, they will still be due at some point in time. It is not a forgiveness of those bills and taxes. The Annual General Meeting that was scheduled for the end of April has been cancelled for a date in the future. The MD audit and other information related to the Annual Meeting will be posted on the MD Website, or alternately you can contact your councillor.

All is not doom and gloom. We live in a wonderful place. Our municipality, towns and hamlets are full of wonderful people, who are doing a lot of good and helping others where and when they can. That is what makes our municipality such a great place to live. There are still many good things happening. Our partnership with Alberta Transportation in developing a Truck stop/rest area on highway 36 in Vauxhall is almost ready to be put out for tender. The Township 8 Range 16 drainage project is also almost ready to be put out for tender for construction. We are gaining support from other municipalities for the Southern Regional Storm Water Drainage project. In cooperation with SMRID, TID and municipalities, a plan has been developed to mitigate damage to property and the irrigation canal system by building a diversion from SMRID main canal thru Horsefly reservoir and Taber Lake and dumping the water back into the Oldman River north of Taber. This will leave the canal empty at the horsefly diversion to pick up storm water and move it further down the canal system to other reservoirs and to another outlet to the South Saskatchewan River near Medicine Hat.

On behalf of council, we wish you the best through these very trying times. If we all heed the advice of our Provincial leaders related to Social Distancing, Isolation and enhanced sanitation measures, we can come through this pandemic ok. When it is over we will all need to do our part to get the economy going again.

STAY SAFE!

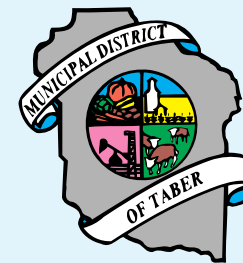


Merrill Harris, Reeve



CAO Croft and family hail from southern Alberta

I'm thankful for the opportunity to introduce myself, Arlos, and my family in the MD of Taber news letter. First, a little about myself and family...I was raised in Southern Alberta, with my hometown being Lethbridge. My wife, Jodi, was also raised in Southern Alberta. Jodi and I are proud and very blessed parents of two amazing kids, Owen and Delaney. When I reflect upon what my hobbies are, I always circle back to spending time with my family. Thus, my hobby is spending time with my family pursuing activities in which they have interest. As of late, some of these activities have included downhill skiing, coaching basketball, playing piano duets, and



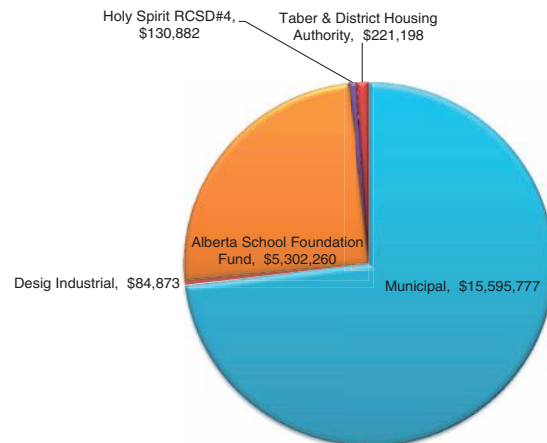
even just visiting around the warmth of campfires.

I have been serving within the local government sector for 11 years and have served in the capacity of a municipal CAO for the last 9 years. Since my commencement as Chief Administrative Officer with the MD on January 2, 2020 it is important for me to express my gratitude and appreciation for the extremely warm welcome that the MD Council, staff, residents, volunteers and many other stakeholders have extended my way. I look forward to getting to know many more MD community members as we progress through this year and into the future. I'm excited to work with MD Council, Staff, and other partners to deliver and develop service delivery programs and policies that will benefit the MD community interest as a whole. Wishing everyone safety and good health during this time.

2019 M.D. OF TABER FINANCIALS

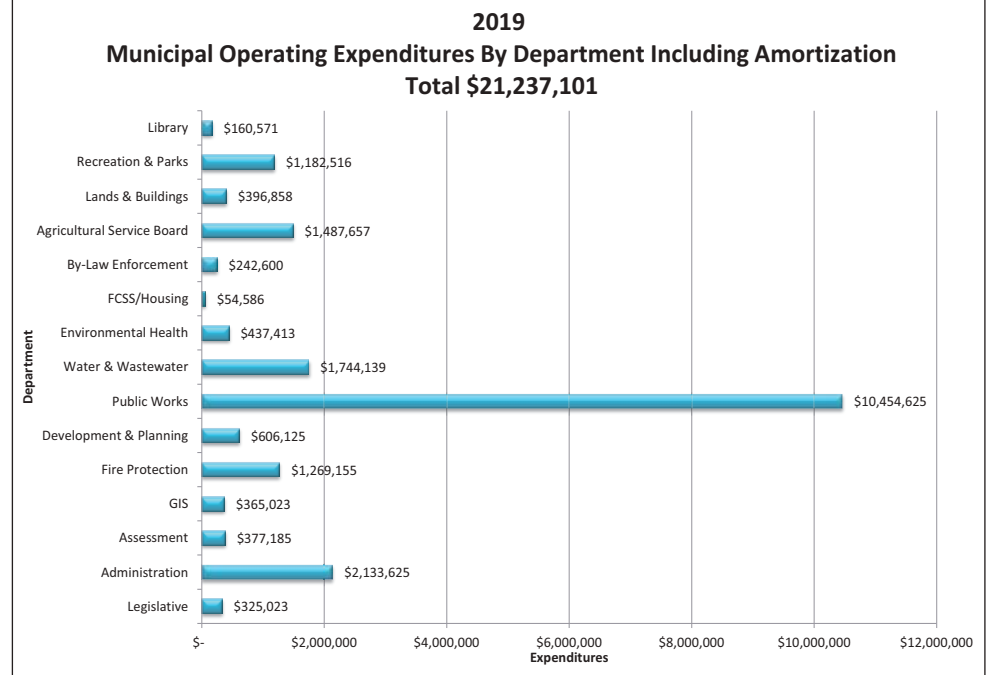
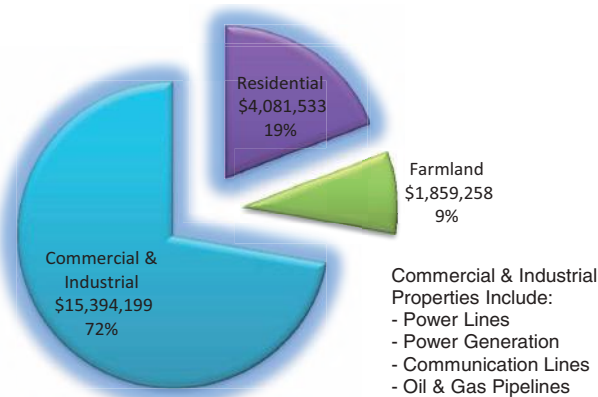
Where Do My Property Taxes Go? 2019 Property Tax Uses Total

\$21,334,990



Who Pays Property Taxes? 2019 Property Tax Sources Total

\$21,334,990



Municipal District of Taber Consolidated Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

	Budget \$	2019 \$	2018 \$
REVENUE			
Net municipal property taxes (Schedule 3)	15,603,626	15,595,777	15,046,923
User fees and sales of goods	1,707,604	2,057,825	1,882,311
Government transfers for operating (Schedule 4)	1,356,681	1,383,929	2,530,735
Investment income	425,000	281,728	237,753
Penalties and costs of taxes	75,000	209,057	223,876
Fines	40,000	50,070	44,087
Rentals	1,893,800	1,855,543	2,002,641
Licences and permits	45,300	48,133	46,342
Insurance proceeds	-	14,273	12,136
Frontage levies	33,191	33,191	33,191
Well drilling taxes	35,000	23,331	66,272
Transfers from local boards and agencies	-	39,723	44,998
Gain on disposal of capital assets	-	-	85,959
Development levies	-	15,000	-
Total Revenue	21,215,202	21,607,580	22,257,224
EXPENSES			
Legislative	391,112	325,023	370,487
General administrative	2,792,326	2,510,810	2,928,504
Bylaws enforcement	231,198	242,600	239,877
GIS	411,127	365,023	334,943
Fire	1,255,400	1,269,155	1,221,035
Roads, streets, walks and lighting	10,490,696	10,454,625	12,632,281
Water and wastewater	1,814,062	1,744,139	1,700,043
Waste management	406,519	437,413	392,238
Family community support services	54,587	54,586	60,942
Agricultural services	1,674,428	1,487,657	1,563,649
Subdivision land development	64,000	40,322	94,044
Land/housing/buildings	386,029	396,858	424,356
Planning and development	579,848	565,803	479,610
Recreation and parks	1,044,389	1,182,516	930,786
Library	154,903	160,571	157,512
Total Expenses	21,750,624	21,237,101	23,530,307
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES BEFORE OTHER	(535,422)	370,479	(1,273,083)
OTHER			
Contributed assets	-	-	-
Government transfers for capital (Schedule 4)	6,017,000	707,842	2,332,340
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	5,481,578	1,078,321	1,059,257
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	151,222,271	151,222,271	150,163,014
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, END OF YEAR	156,703,849	152,300,592	151,222,271

Municipal District of Taber Consolidated Statement of Financial Position As at December 31, 2019

	2019 \$	2018 \$
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Cash and temporary investments (Note 3)	22,677,696	20,287,660
Receivables		
Taxes and grants in lieu receivables (Note 4)	299,266	419,144
Trade and other receivables	1,428,538	2,271,374
Land for resale inventory	1,121,197	1,229,566
Long-term-investments (Note 5)	35,596	34,236
Other financial assets (Note 6)	205,342	293,898
	<u>25,767,635</u>	<u>24,535,878</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	823,298	1,997,475
Deferred revenue (Note 7)	4,886,988	3,956,458
Employee benefit obligations (Note 8)	269,285	325,100
Trust funds (Note 9)	134,120	132,637
Long-term debt (Note 11)	1,986,340	2,275,769
	<u>8,100,031</u>	<u>8,687,439</u>
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS	17,667,604	15,848,439
NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Tangible capital assets (Note 13)	128,103,586	129,107,707
Inventory for consumption	6,293,694	6,001,368
Prepaid expenses	235,708	264,757
	<u>134,632,988</u>	<u>135,373,832</u>
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS (Schedule 1, Note 15)	152,300,592	151,222,271

Contingencies - See Note 20



We've Moved! Community Peace Officers take up residence in old ASB Building

By Sgt. Kirk Hughes, CD

It's been nearly three years since the stand-up of the Regional Enforcement Services in the Municipal District of Taber. A program borne out of the need for increased law enforcement visibility, rural centred education and protection of our public infrastructure has a new home. The program has seen numerous milestones along the way already, but none more important than the repurposing of the old Agricultural Services Building (ASB) located at the old MD Shoppe lands in the north part of Taber.

"To have a dedicated building for our enforcement needs allows us to increase our program's effectiveness," said Director of Community Safety, and Peace Officer Sergeant, Kirk Hughes. "Re-purposing this building to accommodate our needs and free up space in the Regional Fire Hall is solid long-term planning". The Peace Officer's originally worked out of the M.D. Fire Hall #4 located on 64th Avenue. "That caused some cramped working conditions, so now both agencies have much more space to conduct business".

The new CPO Station allows Peace Officers to have more office space to complete administrative task, a large training room for conferences and seminars, as well as dedicated indoor parking for the three "Echo" Peace Officer Trucks. "These trucks carry so much vital equipment" stated CPO1 Henry Peters, "it's nice to be able to pull it all out, account for it and



maintain it without worrying about taking up too much space or getting in the way in case the volunteer firefighters' get a call".

The office will also boast a temporary animal holding pen, some fitness equipment and a large workbench. "Our program is growing in scope and responsibilities, this allows us to better serve our residents into the future" stated Sgt. Hughes, "for example, a program that has been requested by Council, and a few of our local business, is commercial vehicle inspections for farmers". With the new space, those services can now be offered. "A trucker can make an appointment to come in and a CPO will inspect their

vehicle for roadworthiness and issue a certification sticker if compliant. "In the past the Fire Hall just didn't have that room available for these types of complex operations, now we can offer these services at no additional cost to our ratepayers and still maintain our high level of enforcement". The new accommodations will improve the safety of citizens in the M.D. and help our Officers continue to keep our community safe. A wise investment for all.

The CPO Station isn't open to the public due to COVID19 closures, but it is the intention of the Regional Enforcement Service to begin school tours when school resumes.

2020 Municipal Property Assessment

Spring Newsletter

The mailing date for the Property Assessment Notices is May 6, 2020. The mailing date for the Tax Notices are yet to be determined. If you have any questions relating to your Property Assessment, or general questions about Property Assessment, please call the M.D. of Taber Administration Office at (403)223-3541 and ask for Brent.

Annual Herbicide Applications

The Agricultural Services Department will begin its annual herbicide applications in the hamlets starting on April 15. Please watch out for the spray crews and give them space and time to work.

The annual roadside herbicide applications will begin around May 1.

If you have any questions in regards to the MD of Taber's herbicide applications, please contact us at 403-223-8735.

PAYMENTS FOR PROPERTY TAXES, UTILITIES & ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Individuals and businesses who need to pay property taxes, utilities and accounts receivables can use the following methods (postdated cheques are accepted):

- The Municipal District of Taber has a drop box for payments at the front doors of the Administration Office located at 4900B – 50th Street Taber, AB
- Payments can be mailed to Municipal District of Taber, 4900B – 50th Street, Taber, AB, T1G 1T2
- The Municipal District of Taber is now able to accept credit card payments for property taxes, utilities, and accounts receivable invoices through a service called “OptionPay”. “OptionPay” is a user-based fee payment system, which charges an automatic fee to the user based on the value of the transaction.
If you choose to pay by credit card via the Municipal District of Taber’s “OptionPay”, or for additional information about using the “OptionPay” service and the associated fees visit the Municipal District of Taber website at www.mdtaber.ab.ca or call the Administration office at 403-223-3541.
- Property Tax and Utility Accounts are payable in person at most financial institutions or through online and telephone banking.

PLEASE ENSURE WHEN MAKING PAYMENTS THE PAYEE ID/BILLER ID YOU CHOOSE FOR PROPERTY TAX AND UTILITY PAYMENTS IS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER.

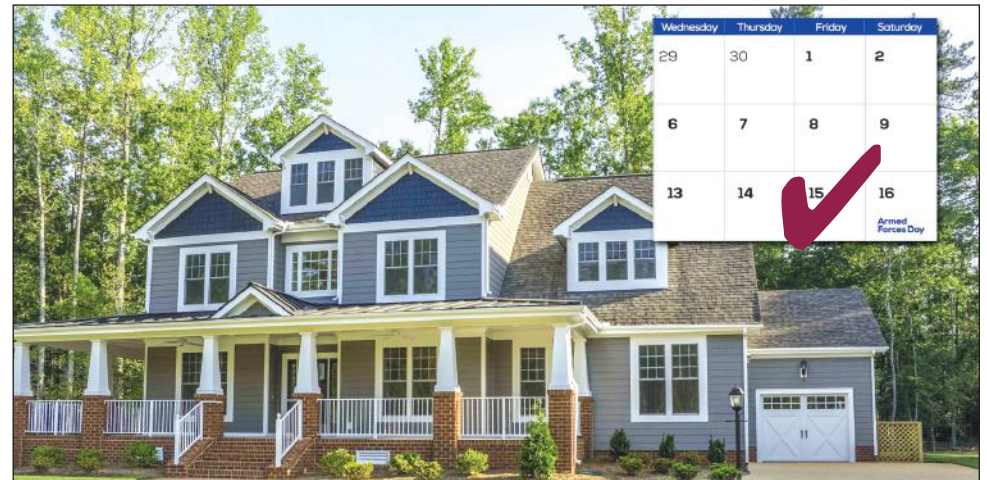
Currently the Municipal District of Taber has only one Payee ID/Biller ID set up with each financial institution. The same Payee ID/Biller ID is used for Property Tax payments and Utility payments

The Payee ID for payments made to the Municipal District of Taber through your Financial Institution appear

Financial Inst.	Payee ID/Biller ID Name Appears as	Payee ID/Biller ID #
ATB Financial	Municipal District of Taber	
RBC	Taber (Municipal District) – Prop tx	009002
Scotiabank	Municipal District Taber Taxes	0569
Credit Union	Taber, Munic Dist	3377
CIBC	Taber (Municipal District) Tax	6473
Bank of Montreal	Taber Municipal District	22009575
TD Trust	Taber (Municipal District of) taxes	8459

Account Numbers may require that they be 10 digits in length. Utility Accounts may require that you enter “0’s” (zeros) prior to your account number to be accepted.

**Assistance with payments is available by calling
(403) 223-3541**



TAX INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLAN (TIPP)

WHAT IS THE TIPP?

TIPP (Tax Installment Payment Plan) is a monthly tax payment plan that allows taxpayers the option to make manageable, convenient, budgeted monthly payment installments for property taxes by pre-authorized bank withdraw on the 15th of each month, rather than a single annual payment.

HOW DOES TIPP WORK?

Upon enrollment in TIPP, monthly payment installments will be calculated by dividing the prior year’s tax levy by the remaining months in the calendar year. Once the current year’s tax levy have been applied to the tax roll the remaining monthly installment amounts shall be calculated by taking the actual current years’ tax levy, subtracting the prior monthly installments that have been received to date (if any), and dividing by the remaining months in the calendar year.

You will be notified on your tax notice of the total amount of installments paid to date and the new installment amount required for the remaining payment in the year, the last being December 15.

All previous years’ taxes and penalties, if any, shall be paid in full prior to being eligible to entering the plan.

Outstanding taxes for property tax rolls that are part of TIPP will not be subject to the 5% penalty applied to current taxes outstanding after November 15th of each year, unless the conditions stated in Bylaw #1915 and Agreement are not fulfilled by the Taxpayer.

HOW DO I APPLY AND WHEN CAN I START TIPP?

Taxpayer’s may enter into TIPP at any time prior to July 1st for payment of the current years’ tax levy. Application made after July 1st will be for the following tax year and installments will begin the following January. A void cheque or Bank Information EFT Form from your financial Institute must be attached to your application. Applications are available at the Municipal District of Taber Administration Office or online at www.mdtaber.ab.ca.

WHAT IF I CHOOSE TO CANCEL TIPP?

Taxpayers may cancel TIPP at any time upon fifteen (15) days written notice. All taxes shall then become due and payable in accordance with the Municipality’s Tax Penalties Bylaw.



Bridge File 84230 – Excavation and base preparation



Bridge File 84230 – Completed upstream end

The M.D. of Taber - Infrastructure

Spring is here and the prime construction season is beginning. Municipal Council has prioritized and approved numerous infrastructure projects to proceed through construction this summer and fall. Through the winter, the municipality replaced Bridge File 84230 which is a bridge sized culvert beneath Range Road 14-5 south of Purple Springs. This project was 75% funded through the Alberta Transportation Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program (STIP). Another project completed is the repurposing of the previous Agricultural Service building in Taber. The Community Peace Officers are conducting business from this location with renovations complete. These projects were completed on time and on budget. Administration has been working diligently to ensure success implementing Council's priorities for construction as outlined below.

Projects scheduled to be constructed in the summer and fall include:

- Jensen Drain – SE 15-10-15-W4
 - This project includes the replacement of an under-drain culvert and is to be completed in collaboration with the Taber Irrigation District.

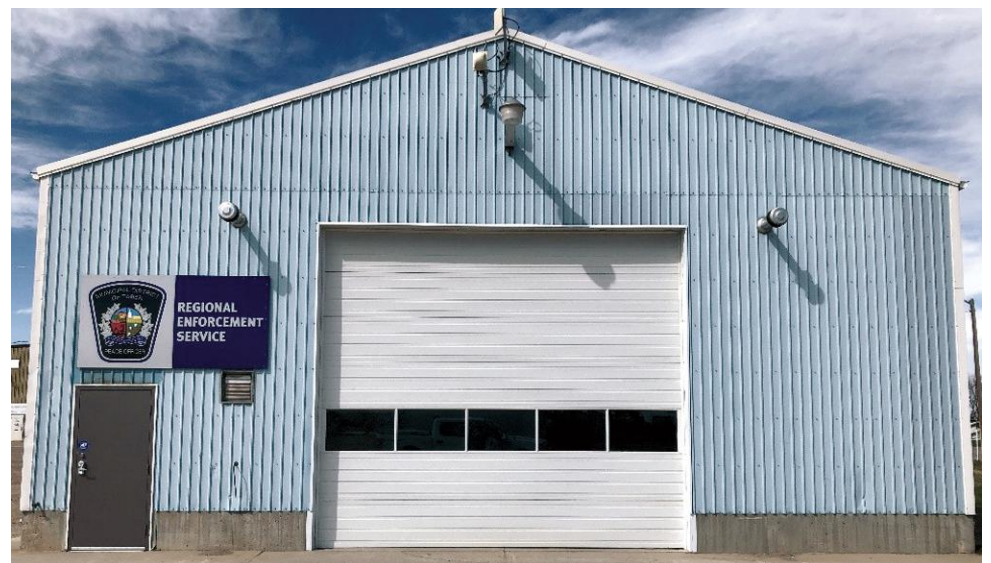
- Range Road 18-2 south of Highway 526
 - This project is 50% funded by Alberta Transportation STIP and is a 1 mile rebuild of the range road complete with a drainage facility. The improved roadway will better accommodate high volumes of heavy traffic.
- Highway 36 Rest Area near Vauxhall
 - This project is a partnership with Alberta Transportation to construct a Rest Area for passenger vehicles as well as large trucks. The rest area is designed to be paved, have washroom facilities and be illuminated.
- Range Road 16-5 south of Range Road 13-0
 - This project will enhance the existing gravelled roadway to a hard surfaced roadway. The finished road top will consist of cement stabilization and a double chip seal riding surface.
- Township Road 13-1A east of Highway 36
 - This project is a maintenance single chip seal for 1200 meters.

- Township 8 Range 16 Drainage Improvements
 - This project will improve the control of overland drainage within the Township 8 Range 16 area southeast of the Town of Taber. This project is 90% funded by the Alberta Environment and Parks Alberta Community Resilience Program (ACRP) and includes a constructed wetland to aid in maintaining water quality.
- Municipal District of Taber Park - Irrigation Water Supply
 - This project will improve the security of raw water availability which will be used to irrigate the campground and park area.

As you come across the inconvenience of construction work this summer please be mindful of the workers. Construction is a necessity to ensure the services you enjoy today can continue to be provided. Don't RIP through construction zones, pass workers as if they were your family.



Bridge File 84230 – Completed downstream



Community Peace Officer Station - Taber

MD CONNECTION

Asset Management

Council has made a commitment to Asset Management through Policy. Currently Administration is working to develop and deliver useable data to equip Council with the information required to assist in decision making.

Asset management is the process of making decisions about the use and care of infrastructure to deliver services in a way that considers current and future needs, manages risk and opportunities, and makes the best use of resources. The infrastructure in our communities is the legacy of a multi-generational investment, made by local, provincial, and federal governments. Increasingly, we are recognizing the value of the investment that has been made in our community infrastructure, and the risks we face by not managing for the long term.

Residents and businesses in our community trust and expect government to be good stewards of the services and infrastructure that they rely on every day. Building resilient communities, with sustainable services, is the ultimate goal of asset management.

Benefits of Asset Management

- Helps to confidently evaluate and communicate trade-offs between service, cost, and risk.
- Provides a defensible method of prioritizing projects and resources.
- Aligns the organization to focus on the things that matter most.
- Helps to decide what infrastructure needs to be replaced or renewed and what the expected useful life is.
- Helps establish how much revenue should be placed in reserve for future infrastructure renewal.
- Helps demonstrate accountability to residents and businesses in the community.

Key Terms

- **Level of Service** is a measure of the quality, quantity, and/or reliability of a service from the perspective of residents, businesses, and customers in the community.
 - How wide should the roads be? How short should the grass be? How often should potable water be available? Which roads should be paved/gravelled? How quickly should snow be cleared? Is a bridge required? Response times and adequacy of emergency services?
- **Risk(s)** are events or occurrences that will have undesired impacts on services. Risk = Impact x Likelihood.
- **Costs** are the financial and human resources required through the lifecycle of the asset.
- **Funding** is determining how to pay for the services delivered.
 - Property taxes, Debt, Exchange of assets, User fees and charges, Development charges, Grants, other...

Evaluating Trade-offs and Making Good Decisions

Service, risk, and cost cannot be fully understood in isolation.

Service and Risk Trade-offs

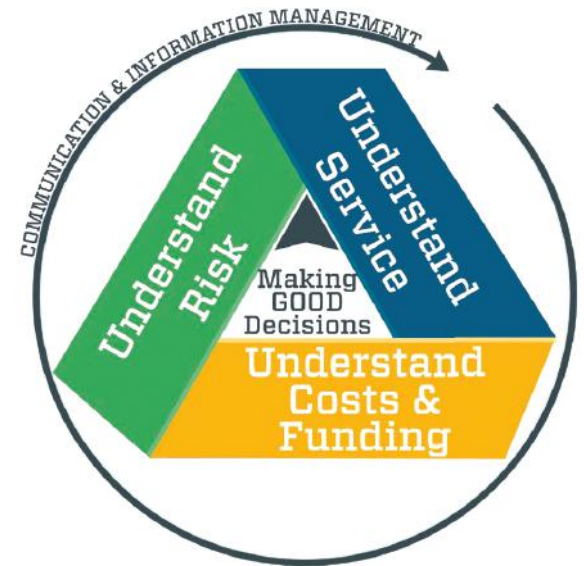
- Accepting greater risk may result in assets not performing as intended. An example is a water main that is allowed to deteriorate, resulting in more breaks, and a lower service level to the community.

Service and Cost Trade-offs

- What level of service can we afford to provide, now and into the future? Naturally, we all want the best, until we understand the associated costs.

Risk and Cost Trade-offs

- Actions required to mitigate asset risks have costs, and decisions need to be made about whether the costs are worth it or whether the risk should be tolerated.



Information sourced from Building Community Resilience Through Asset Management – A Handbook and Toolkit for Alberta Municipalities.



THE BICYCLE.

Costs basically nothing. Gets you moving, but not that fast.



THE BUS.

Entry level option that gets you where you need to go.



THE CAR.

More options for going where you want, but costs more.



THE HELICOPTER.

Gets you wherever you want, quickly. Really expensive and special operations skills required. May be excessive if your needs are basic.



Dust Mitigation Program

The Municipal District of Taber uses a product called MG 30, which is a blend of calcium chloride and magnesium hydroxide solution. It not only suppresses dust, but also helps to bind the aggregate into the roadway, which in turn creates a hardened road surface.

We also use this product as a stabilizing agent strategically at certain intersections, roadways and on hills to help prevent washboard roads and loss of gravel.

If you are interested in having dust suppressant applied on the road in front of your residence the application deadline for Spring is May 15, 2020. Fall application deadline is August 15, 2020. All of our product has to be preordered, if your order form is late you may not receive the service in a timely manner.

Some frequently asked questions include:

I used to have oil in front of my house to control dust, is that an option?

The municipality has migrated away from oil in front of residences as these sections of roadway become difficult to maintain and can become a hazard due to pot-holing. Applied MG 30 dust suppressant is a product that can be maintained through grading intervals when required.

When is dust suppressant applied?

Application of dust suppressant product is done mid-to-late May and mid-to-late August, weather permitting. The applications are done in large batches which are volume controlled, and ratepayers are prioritized on a chronological basis from when they submit their application.

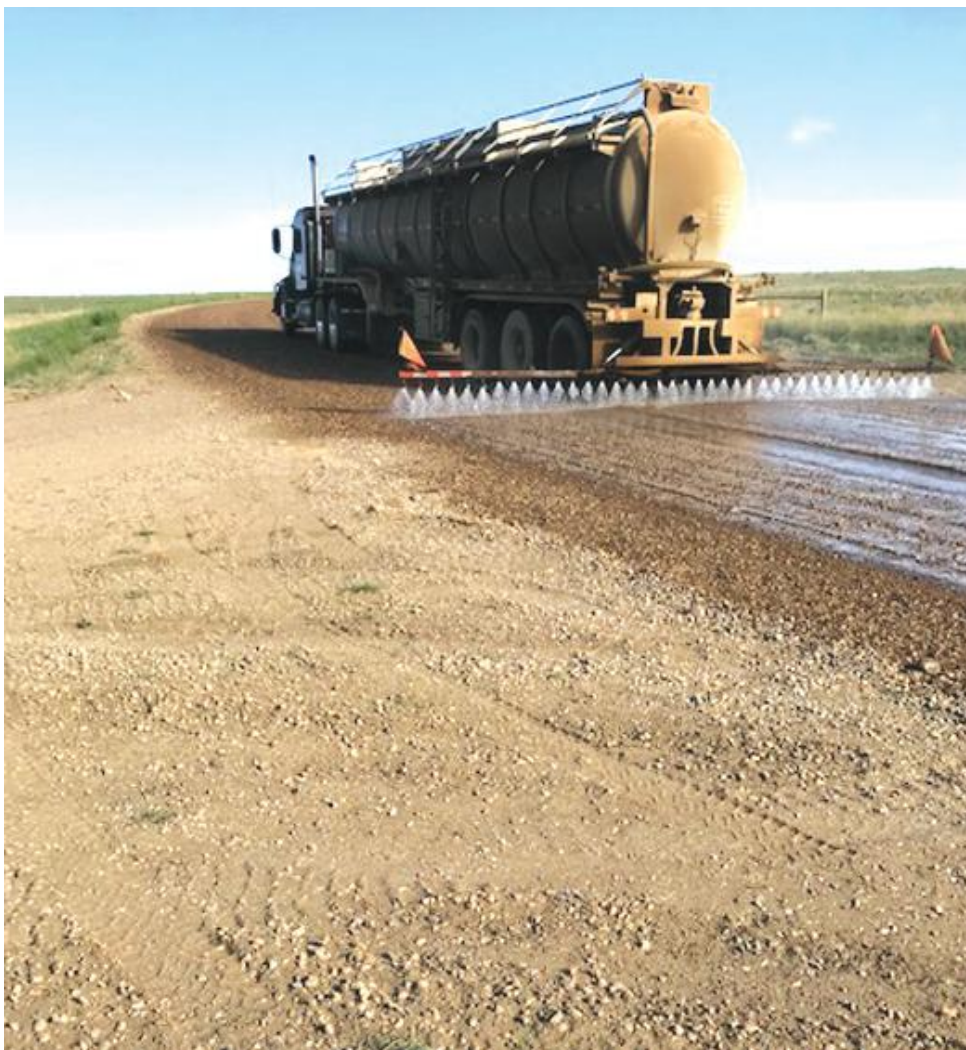
How much does it cost and how can I get some?

The municipality charges \$1.25 per linear foot up to 750 feet, per application. Minimum length of roadway treatment is 400 feet and an overage fee is charged after 750 feet.

Order Forms can be found on our website at or visit us at the following locations to obtain a form:

- Municipal District of Taber - Administration Building at 4900B - 50 Street, Taber - Call (403) 223-3541
- Municipal District of Taber - Operations and Maintenance Facility at 171027 Highway 3, Barnwell - Call (403) 223-3142

For more detailed information on this program, please see the Dust Mitigation Program Policy on our website. Order forms can be found under the "Applications" tab on our website. Also see the next page for order forms.





Municipal District of Taber - 2020 Dust Suppression Order Form
SPRING Application – Deadline May 15, 2020



COST OF DUST SUPPRESSANT APPLICATION IS \$1.25 PER LINEAL FOOT PER APPLICATION. IF THE DESIGNATE ELECTS TO HAVE A SECOND APPLICATION DONE AN ADDITIONAL FORM MUST BE FILLED IN AND THE SECOND APPLICATION WILL ALSO BE AT A COST OF \$1.25 PER LINEAL FOOT. THE MINIMUM LENGTH OF APPLICATION WILL BE FOR 400 FEET (120 METERS).

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS ORDER FORM IS TO APPLY FOR THE APPLICATION TO BE DONE IN THE SPRING (MID TO LATE MAY).

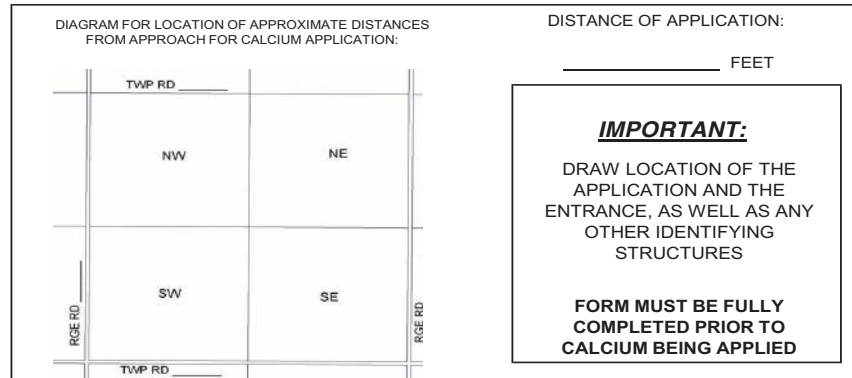
DISCLAIMER: THERE IS NO GUARANTEE AS TO THE LIFESPAN OF THE DUST SUPPRESSION PRODUCT APPLIED. THE DRIVEABILITY AND SAFETY OF THE ROAD WILL TAKE TOP PRIORITY. THE ROAD WILL BE GRADED AS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE GRADERMAN OR HIS SUPERVISOR WHEN WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE SUITABLE.

APPLICANT: _____ LANDOWNER: _____
(IF LANDOWNER NAME IS DIFFERENT FROM APPLICANT NAME, OR IF PROPERTY IS IN A CORPORATE NAME – PLEASE PROVIDE BOTH AND PRINT LEGIBLY)

LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION: _____ 1/4 _____ SEC _____ TWP _____ RGE W4M

RURAL ADDRESS: _____ MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____



BY SUBMITTING THIS ORDER FORM THE APPLICANT AGREES TO PAY TO THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER ALL APPLICABLE CHARGES HERE IN. IF MD OF TABER COUNCIL PASS A RESOLUTION TO CHANGE ANY ASPECT OF THE DUST MITIGATION POLICY, INCLUDING PRICE, THE APPLICANT WILL BE CONTACTED AND MADE AWARE OF CHANGES OR TERMINATION OF CONTRACT. THE APPLICANT ALSO AGREES THAT ANY AND ALL APPLICABLE CHARGES WILL BE APPLIED TO THE PROPERTY TAX ACCOUNT OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION AND/OR RURAL ADDRESS THAT REMAINS UNPAID AFTER 90 DAYS – IF THE APPLICANT IS NOT LISTED AS THE LANDOWNER ON THE TAX ROLL, THE LANDOWNER MUST ALSO SIGN THE DOCUMENT.

DATE: _____ SIGNATURE OF LANDOWNER: _____

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER
RETURN FAX: 223 – 1799

SIGNED BY: _____
(PLEASE PRINT)

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL THE OPERATIONS BUILDING AT 403-223-3142



Municipal District of Taber - 2020 Dust Suppression Order Form
FALL Application – Deadline August 15, 2020



COST OF DUST SUPPRESSANT APPLICATION IS \$1.25 PER LINEAL FOOT PER APPLICATION. IF THE DESIGNATE ELECTS TO HAVE A SECOND APPLICATION DONE AN ADDITIONAL FORM MUST BE FILLED IN AND THE SECOND APPLICATION WILL ALSO BE AT A COST OF \$1.25 PER LINEAL FOOT. THE MINIMUM LENGTH OF APPLICATION WILL BE FOR 400 FEET (120 METERS).

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS ORDER FORM IS TO APPLY FOR THE APPLICATION TO BE DONE IN THE EARLY FALL (MID TO LATE AUGUST).

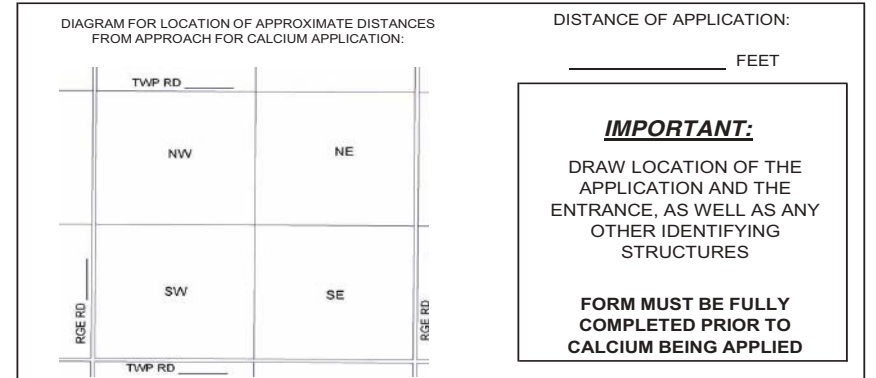
DISCLAIMER: THERE IS NO GUARANTEE AS TO THE LIFESPAN OF THE DUST SUPPRESSION PRODUCT APPLIED. THE DRIVEABILITY AND SAFETY OF THE ROAD WILL TAKE TOP PRIORITY. THE ROAD WILL BE GRADED AS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE GRADERMAN OR HIS SUPERVISOR WHEN WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE SUITABLE.

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(IF LANDOWNER NAME IS DIFFERENT FROM APPLICANT NAME, OR IF PROPERTY IS IN A CORPORATE NAME – PLEASE PROVIDE BOTH AND PRINT LEGIBLY)

LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION: _____ 1/4 _____ SEC _____ TWP _____ RGE W4M

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DATE: _____ SIGNATURE OF LANDOWNER: _____

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER
RETURN FAX: 223 – 1799

SIGNED BY: _____
(PLEASE PRINT)

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL THE OPERATIONS BUILDING AT 403-223-3142

GETTING STARTED WITH ONLINE COUNSELLING: As Simple As One...Two...Three



During these unprecedented times Family and Community Support Services continues to work hard to maintain and grow quality supports for the individuals, families, and communities we support. Presently we are offering free counselling, but with a little twist! All counselling services are offered through either online video messaging or over the telephone.

As a counsellor, I know online sessions are different from in-person counselling sessions. However, the FCSS Counselling Team would like to convey that this alternate form of counselling can be helpful, safe and secure. Getting started is accomplished in 3 easy steps.

Step One – Someone expresses interest in setting up an appointment and agrees to a date and time.

Step Two – A FCSS Counsellor sets up the online appointment and sends an email with a link to access to the scheduled appointment.

Step Three – Log on to your computer and click the link (from the e-mail) at the time of your appointment and you will see the friendly face of your FCSS Counselor. This is a great time to talk with the counsellor about the process and give yourself a chance to decide if you want to move forward.

I can understand and relate to the fact that some may be a little reluctant to participate in online/remote counselling. However, I want residents to know that we are here to help in a safe and secure space to discuss current challenges and struggles. We are all in this together and together we'll find creative ways to move through this period of life.

FCSS offers workshops as well as individual counselling to help you learn more.

Submitted by:
By Bryan Bullock, FCSS Counsellor

SERVING: Barnwell | Barons | Coaldale | Coalhurst | Lethbridge County | County of Warner | Coultts Milk River | M.D. of Taber | Nobleford | Picture Butte | Raymond | Stirling | Taber | Vauxhall | Warner



Soft Roads and Frost Boils – WHY?

Have you ever wondered why roads are soft in the spring? Do you wonder why some portions of roads are nearly impassible and seem to be a bottomless pit of quicksand? If you have travelled the local roads within the municipality as of late you will have likely experienced soft roads and potentially a few frost boils. Here is some of the science behind it.

These road issues are caused by the climate. Each winter the roadways will freeze with frost reaching as deep as 8-9 feet under the road surface. This freezing cycle begins from the surface and works its way downward. Each spring the roadways begin to thaw. The thaw cycle begins at the surface and works its way downward. Depending on the situation and site specifics, the moisture/runoff is perched on top of frost below resulting in a saturated road that cannot drain.

“Frost Boil” is defined as a defective spot in the surface of a road due to the pulverizing and swelling action of frost. Frost boils are created when frost in the gravel roadway melts in the spring but can't drain away due to the frozen ground below it.

Frost boils are a result of poor earth material in the roadway. Poor material typically consists of weak organic soils that can absorb water. The material absorbs water during the summer, then freezes in the road. When it thaws in spring the compaction of the road is lost and is basically mush. The top of the road has a thin layer of gravel. When the frost boils are thawing, traffic pushes the gravel down into the weak soil and the weak soil wants to squish out to the surface. This is why we aim to avoid the use a motor grader until the boil has thawed and dried enough otherwise our heavy equipment can sink suddenly into the soft spots creating an even worse situation.

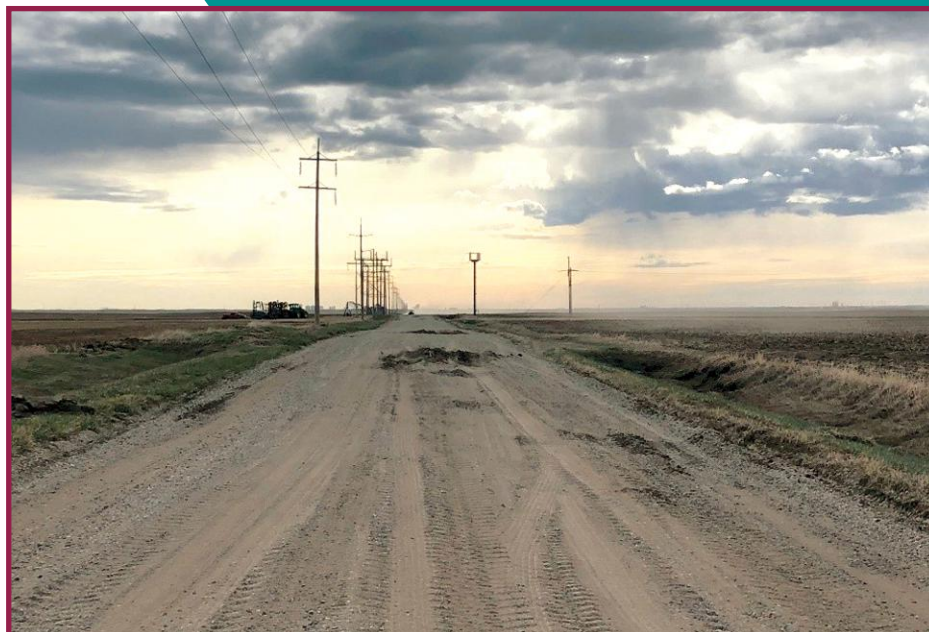
Ideally, the best action is to complete long term repairs on these areas and correct the root of the problem. The root of

the problem is usually one or a combination of inadequate drainage, un-natural saturation, weather patterns, inadequate roadway geometry, or poor building materials such as soil or aggregates.

Typical permanent repairs include digging out the frost boil location. If the road has many failures throughout, escalating expenses can be mitigated by using geotextiles, fabric and weeping tile where possible. The geotextiles and fabric are installed across the whole road about 0.45 - 0.9 meters below the surface to separate the poor material from the new suitable material. The geotextile adds tensile strength to the road and spreads weight over a larger area, basically the same way a snow shoe keeps you on top of the snow. The fabric then ensures that the poor material can't squish to the top under the weight of vehicles/equipment wheels.

Each spring, municipalities place road bans on their local roads to protect the municipality's investment made into the transportation network. The primary method used to protect our infrastructure and public safety is placing road bans on local roads to manage the vehicle loading on the roads. This process along with enforcement aids the municipality to minimize the damage caused by overweight vehicles during vulnerable times. Damaged roadways result in a lesser level of service and/or an unbudgeted cost that is incurred by the community.

The M.D. of Taber manages and maintains approximately 2470 kilometers of local roads and therefore cannot be everywhere at the same time. In an attempt to keep the roads useable and safe the municipality crushes, hauls and dumps crushed aggregate into the frost boil location to aid its structure. This is a temporary or band aid solution to improve the widespread frost boils throughout the M.D. until the full thaw has occurred and subsurface water has the ability to drain. Please, be patient while the roads heal.



FIRE SAFETY

HOW TO PREVENT OUTDOOR FIRES

Our top 7 tips...



1. Ensure cigarettes are completely out



2. Do not throw cigarettes out of car windows onto grass verges or vegetation

3. Put disposable barbecues on bricks, do not place directly on grass



4. Do not leave glass bottles lying on the ground - the sun's rays reflect through the glass and can start a fire



5. When camping, do not leave campfire unattended and make sure it is completely out before you leave it



6. Use barbecues on a hard, flat surface away from grass, shrubs or fencing



7. Talk to your children about the dangers or starting fire outside



GRILLING FIRE SAFETY

KNOWING A FEW FIRE SAFETY GRILLING TIPS WILL HELP EVERYONE HAVE A SAFE SUMMER.



Only use your grill outside.

Keep it away from siding and deck rails.



Keep a 3-foot safe zone around your grill and campfire.

This will keep kids and pets safe.

Clean your grill after each use. This will remove grease that can start a fire.



Place the coals from your grill in a metal can with a lid once they have cooled.



Open your gas grill before lighting.

Keep an eye on your grill, fire pit or patio torches. Never leave any of them unattended.



STAY FIRE-SAFE THIS SUMMER!

For more information and resources, visit www.usfa.fema.gov and www.nfpa.org.





South Central Alberta Rural Crime Watch Association

The SCAR Crime Watch Association is tremendously grateful to all the people serving our communities in essential services. Join us thanking these essential workers during COVID 19 in a variety of ways. The simplest and easiest way – just say thank you.

Our goal is to increase and strengthen crime prevention activities in the Municipal District of Taber, Town of Vauxhall, Village of Barnwell through broad citizen participation. Being a mem-

ber does not take up a lot of your time, but goes a long way helping our RCMP detachment, while making the MD of Taber and area safer to live in. The more members and signs throughout the municipalities, the more effective we are in stopping crime.

The right knowledge is the best way to protect your family and property. Becoming aware and educating yourself on the current and emerging threats. Be informed using reputable sources, such as your local RCMP or Rural Crime Watch

Association. We are here to help you, but we need you to join and become extra eyes and ears against crime.

There are a number of simple and successful steps you can implement right away to help keep your property safe. Start by ensuring you, your family and employees learn about potential threats and how to recognize red flags.

One way is by becoming a member of the South Central Alberta Rural Crime Watch Association. Secondly, place one or more rural crime watch member signs on your property. Sign up for the SCAR Notify system at <https://SCARNotify.ca>



Rural crime is costing millions of dollars every year. These costs are not only reflected from property loss and increased insurance premiums, but also lost production time and the replacement and repairs to equipment.

For more information on becoming a member or getting involved on our board and/or committees, please email the SCAR Crime Watch Association at Info.SCARCWA@gmail.com or contact our local RCMP detachment or the MD of Taber office.

See next page for SCAR Crime Watch Association membership application.



Regional Notification System Sign Up!

South Central Alberta Regional (SCAR) Notification System is a Regional partnership between the Municipal District of Taber, the Town of Vauxhall, and the Village of Barnwell, the RCMP and South Central Alberta Rural Crime Watch Association in providing valuable information notifications to the public.

Now more than ever, we're seeing the importance for sharing information quickly and directly. With this in mind, the MD of Taber is using this notification system as its primary method to communicate timely and important information.

Types of notifications include:

- Emergencies Notices
- Road Bans
- Road Closures
- Rural Crime and Rural Crime Watch Notices
- Fire Bans
- Municipal Information including Meeting Agendas and Minutes, Development Permits notices!



Signing up is easy! It only takes 2 minutes!
Go to www.scarnotify.ca/register to register for your account and select the types of notifications you want to receive and how you want to receive them.



South Central Alberta Rural (SCAR) Crime Watch Association



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

* Please print clearly *

Last Name: _____
 First Name(s): _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 Rural Address (Blue Sign): _____
 Town: _____ Postal Code: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
 E-mail Address: _____
 Legal Land Description (Range Road / Township Road): _____

Fan out area: Taber Vauxhall RCMP Detachment

I, the undersigned, agree that if my participation with South Central Alberta Rural Crime Watch Association (SCARCW) is found to be unsatisfactory by the Association's Executive and/or the Taber RCMP, for any reason, my membership will be terminated and the material supplied to me by the Association, including my membership sign will be surrendered. I understand that in order to maintain the integrity of the program, Rural Crime Watch Signs are for members of the Association only. I agree to remove all Crime Watch signs from my property and notify SCAR CW when I am no longer the owner of the above mentioned property.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

Please attach a cheque for \$25.00 annual fee per household/business payable to South Central Alberta Rural Crime Watch Association.
Mail or drop off cheque and application to: 4900B – 50th Street Taber, AB T1G 1T2

South Central Alberta Rural Crime Watch is in partnership with SCAR Notification System. It is highly recommended that all members sign up online at www.scarnotify.ca to receive notifications related to both Rural Crime in the area and your local municipality.

Office Use Only		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sign provided	Membership Paid (date):	Invoice #

Working Together with the RCMP Taber/Vauxhall Detachment



EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

REGISTER NOW FOR 2020-2021

EARLY LEARNING

If your child is **3 on or before September 1**, they are eligible to be enrolled in Early Learning.

Funding may be available for children who are learning English as a second language or identified with a developmental delay.

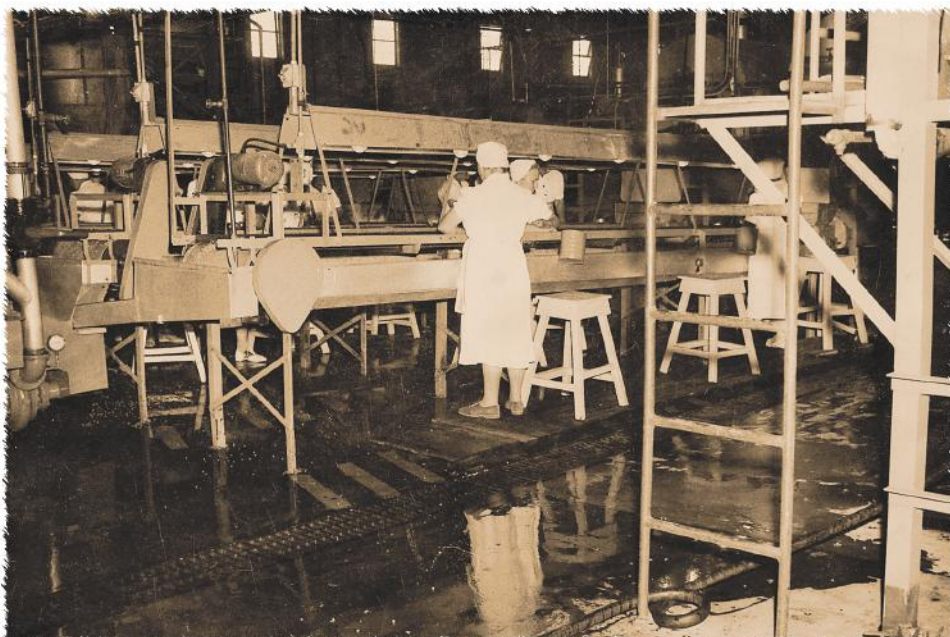
KINDERGARTEN

If your child is **5 on or before December 31**, it is time to register for Kindergarten!

Registration forms are available at your neighbourhood school and online at www.horizon.ab.ca/parents-students/registration.
Bring your child's Birth Certificate or Canadian Citizenship status card and Alberta Health Care card.

If you require clarification of your neighbourhood school, please contact Horizon School Division office at 403-223-3547 ext. 10145.

www.horizon.ab.ca



SUN-ALTA

*Instant Mashed &
Dehydrated Sliced*

By: Karen Ingram for the Taber Irrigation Impact Museum

It was 1960, the Taber Chamber of Commerce, under President Jerome Platt felt it was time for another industry to come to Taber. Thoughts went to potatoes as there were nearly 10,000 acres of potatoes being grown in Southern Alberta. The Chamber of Commerce began campaigning to attract a potato processing plant to Taber or Vauxhall.

All the hard work done by the Chamber of Commerce must have been heard. The Taber Times of January 19, 1961 announced "Potato Processing Factory to be Established Soon". The article told us that the announcement was made by the Chamber of Commerce saying: "plant to be the first of its kind in Western Canada to be built in Taber or Vauxhall." They stated that the Chamber of Commerce had pushed for the project over the past year.

Joining the Chamber in the announcement were Alfred Oseen of Lethbridge, president of the new company and S. Arnold Odland of Taber, vice president and general manager. Sun-Alta Potato Processors Ltd. was to become a reality. It would be a family owned company with \$1,000,000 capitalization, no shares to be sold. The intent was to make dehydrated potato products. Expectations were for the plant to have a capacity of 125 tons/day and for the plant to hire 120 employees at peak capacity. They went on to say that the plant would likely operate 200 days at 24 hrs/day for the first year of operation and to increase to 300 days during the second year. They expected that anywhere from 25,000 to 37,500 tons of potatoes would be required to meet the demand for the plant and about half of the commercially grown potatoes in Southern Alberta would be sold by contract to the new Sun-Alta plant.

Ed Shimbashi was present at the announcement and represented the Southern Alberta Certified Seed Potatoes Growers Association was also at the announcement. Mr. Oseen, Mr. Odland and Mr. Shimbashi commented that they had made fact finding tours to Toronto and Idaho before deciding to go ahead with the venture. Mr. Shimbashi was named field supervisor at

the time of the announcement.

The paper of February 2, 1961 told us that the site for the new plant had been chosen. "Plant to be in Taber, north of Sugar Factory". Jerome Platt, president of the Chamber of Commerce was credited with this announcement and with assisting the company in negotiating a parcel of 89.5 acres to be sold by the Town of Taber to Sun-Alta. Construction was not to start right away as the group still had to determine which process to use so the building could be built to accommodate the proper equipment. It was felt that the construction would be sometime this spring and that the basic building would be at least 80 feet by 320 feet. They were hoping to be up and running by fall.

Two new processes for dehydrating potatoes had been recently approved by the Canadian Department of Agriculture, known as "crystal" and "flake". The article told us that at least one of these would be used here with the "flake" process considered the best for preparing the instant mashed potato product the company was to concentrate on. The Canadian Government still had to acquire the patent rights to both processes before Canadian companies could use them.

The contract for building was given to Millham Industries Ltd. of Taber. They announced that the building would be steel structure with clay tile and brick exterior. The exact site yet to be determined when CPR constructed the spur line from the Sugar Factory that would be needed to ship product out. The contractor felt the building could be completed within three months once they were able to begin.

On April 11, 1961 a "Sod Turning Ceremony" was held. Officials present at the ceremony included, Deane Gundlocke, Lethbridge M.P., Taber Mayor Carl Cook, S. Arnold Odland, Sun-Alta vice president and general manager, V. Jerome Platt, Taber Chamber of Commerce President, C. Johnson, president of the Alberta Potato Growers Association, Ted Francis, chairman of TID, Ian Angus with Canadian Sugar Factories Ltd., and Alfred Oseen, Sun-Alta president.

Mayor Carl Cook handed over the agreement of sale and the title of the land to Arnold Odland commenting that he "was proud to have a part in the building of the factory" and that this

plant "fist in so well" with the Taber economy. Jerome Platt spoke saying: that his was "a victory for the Chamber of Commerce." Alfred Oseen commented: "We have come a long way in a comparatively short time, but there is still a long way to go." Those words by Mr. Oseen proved true as it was not until January 1962 that the plant was finished and able to take in potatoes.

Temporary buildings were set up for offices with staff moving in the first of May but patent issues were still causing concerns and delays on choosing the machinery needed. Contracts were signed in May with farmers in Taber, Brooks, Picture Butte, Bow Island and Vauxhall areas. A contingent of 25 farmers filled the requirements for the 1961 harvest year. On July 27, 1961 the Taber Times told us that the building was nearing completion but patent issues were still not solved meaning machinery choices were delayed.

Harvest had begun and ended with the plant still not ready for operation. It was November before machinery started to arrive for the plant and things moved forward. The 20 ton, gas fired, 250 horse power Boiler was installed, the gas company completed their hookups, the Town finished the water line to the plant and Calgary Power put in the Sub-station needed to power operations. Employees were being hired with most of the full time men on the employee list by the end of November. The plant was planning for more potato storage on site but for this year the farmers were keeping most of the potatoes in their root cellars.

January 18, 1962 was the day of the grand opening, production had begun the week prior. The plant was making Instant Mashed and Dehydrated Sliced Potatoes for scalloping or frying. "Products being put out indicate a bright future for the new industry" according to the Taber Times. Shareholders not before mentioned were listed as: Richard Evanson, Chester Oseen, Peter Odland, Arvid Oseen, Elmer Oseen, Dean Oseen, Harold Oseen and Russell Christensen.

The plant was sold to Carnation Foods in 1966, still operated under the Sun-Alta name until it closed the plant in Taber in February of 1972. The first of what was to be many potato processing plants showed Taber was worth the investment.



TABER IRRIGATION DISTRICT UPDATE

2019 challenging for producers due to hail, early snow

The Annual Meeting has been postponed until some time after harvest due to the Government of Alberta declaring COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency. TID is letting water users know about the activities of the district in 2019 – and sharing plans for 2020 – through other means. The 2019 Annual Report is published on the TID website (www.taberirrigationdistrict.ca). If you have irrigation

acres and require a physical copy, please contact the office and we will mail it to you. On our homepage you will also find a link to the content of the presentations that were to be made. A quick summary is included in this report.

Don Johnson (Division #1) and Mike Wind (Division #5) have committed to another 3-year term on the board and have been declared elected by acclamation. Congratulations Don and Mike!

2019 was a challenging year with below-target reservoir levels and low snowpack. We started with a 12" allocation, moving to 14" in June and 15" in July as rains slightly out-paced the 90th percentile dry year scenario. Late season storms (hail through Barnwell and early snow with -10oC), lowered demand and allowed reservoirs to restore below-spillway volumes. With current high snowpack we are in good shape for our 2020 water supply. Calls for enhancing reservoir storage and headworks canal capacity from Waterton to St. Mary reservoirs are becoming more acute.

Speaking of reservoir storage, TID's long-time storage champion Keith Francis left our district a few years ago after 46 years of service and passed away in 2019. You will be missed 'Mr. Irrigation' – your legacy endures.

The 2019-20 construction season is an 'up' year for invest-



ment in infrastructure. With Irrigation Rehabilitation Program funding remaining at about half of historic levels, more of this investment is coming from district sources. The key projects are within the East Horsefly System. The East Horsefly Main Pipeline project places a large settling/balancing pond at the top of the Purple Springs hill that feeds a pipeline that ties to an existing line on the north

side of the CPR line. The technical challenges installing a 54" steel casing under the highway and rail line in wet, variable-textured ground conditions are considerable, but we expect to be tied in and running on time. Lateral 7 East Horsefly pipeline will deliver water and free up capacity to divert operational spill to Fincastle Reservoir, fill it faster and sustain levels during peak periods. Delays on receiving a crossing agreement from CPR means the pipeline will be constructed over 2 years. Gates, flow and level measurement, site communications and automation across the East Horsefly system will assist the Ditchrider in continuing to meet demand while reducing operational spill out of the district.

TID continues to work with SMRID and RID. We executed the Forty Mile Pump Station Cost Sharing Agreement that will optimize the use of this system to balance water through the system. This will allow management practices that capture more water during rain events, while meeting peak flows more effectively. That saved water is shared among the partners. With our Irrican partnership, we are now receiving over \$500,000 per year from the Due to Districts loan that will be available for investing in infrastructure. We were in the black again in 2019 and improving revenue from Renewable Energy Credits. Irrican has pursued 2 opportunities so far to invest in



solar projects to offset electrical demands.

We intend to move forward with plans previously shared with irrigators to increase rates \$1/acre per year and other rates proportionally. This will mean we go from \$20/acre in 2019 to \$21/acre in 2020.

Two new operational policies will be implemented this year. Startup in the Spring will be more proactive in our preparations and more reactive to current water availability from SMRID. Water order requests will be received by Ditchriders at the earlier of SMRID receiving TID water orders, or the first day of the advertised startup week. Minimum Ditchrider hours of availability have been established. Water order requests will be received from 7:30 am to 7:30 pm Monday-Friday and 7:30 am to 11:00 am on Saturday. Ditchriders are provided a 3-hour window (within the water order request window), to respond. Please read through the New Policy Explanation for these 2 policies posted on the TID website.

We are preparing as best we can to protect our ability to deliver this essential resource to all of our water users in 2020.





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

Entries submitted by July 15, 2020

NOMINATION FORM

I nominate

Name: _____

Residence/land Location: _____

Phone number: _____

Nominated for Division # _____

Category #: _____

Nominator _____

Phone: _____

Entries to be mailed to
MARGARET BULLOCK
4823 - 41st Street, Taber, AB T1G 1C8

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

