

# THE MD CONNECTION

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER**  
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Ph 403 223 3541 [www.mdtaber.ab.ca](http://www.mdtaber.ab.ca)



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## REEVE'S REFLECTIONS

*MERRILL HARRIS, REEVE*

On November 24th the province declared a state of Public Health Emergency due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic we are experiencing. Over the past several days, we have seen a consistent decline in the number of active COVID-19 cases in our region, and we hope to see this trend continue. As public servants, we have consistently questioned ourselves on what additional steps could we take in addition to the existing province-wide restrictions already in place. Someone recently commented, "getting back to the basics is the easiest way to find calm amid the storm and chaos". Yet, there is nothing I would consider 'normal' about the situation we are facing. If we all do the simple, although admittedly sometimes difficult things that the Chief Medical Officer for the province has asked us to do, I feel that that is our best course of action to take at this point. I will not outline each of the measures that have been asked of us because they are readily available. As a Council, we have received letters and phone calls asking to enforce heavier restrictions concerning mandatory face coverings in public places than that of the province. A meeting between all elected officials within the region of the towns, village, and the MD of Taber was held to discuss whether to proceed in that direction. The consensus was to continue with a temporary bylaw for a specific period to observe any effects it might have on reducing the spread

of the COVID-19 virus. Nobody wants to see the economy shut down again, and if we can slow the spread and reduce the number of active cases, then I see no reason to put hardworking business owners into further risk and financial hardship.

With the continued downturn in the oil and gas industry, many landowners continue to deal with the pain of unpaid lease agreements, while carrying the burden of dealing with neglected and unwanted weed vegetation on lease properties. The MD Staff are available to help direct landowners on how to receive help with these issues. As of the tax deadline this year, again we are seeing millions of dollars in unpaid taxes that are left outstanding. As a municipality, we have had to trim our spending budgets to offset this loss in unpaid taxes. Although budget trimming was necessary, I want to ensure residents that we will continue to maintain similar levels of service that we are accustomed to:

- Every grader district will continue to have an operating grader.
- Water treatment plants will remain fully staffed.
- Waste transfer stations will remain open to accepting solid waste.
- Shoulder pulling maintenance will occur on gravel roads to help draw off water during rain and snow events.

# STORM DRAINAGE COMMITTEE RECEIVES \$9.8 MILLION FOR HORSEFLY EMERGENCY SPILLWAY PROJECT.

Municipal District of Taber



**The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, and Merrill Harris, Reeve of the Municipal District of Taber announces \$9.8 million in approved funding for Phases 2 and 3 of the Horsefly Regional Emergency Spillway Project.**

The Municipal District of Taber received a much-welcomed announcement from the federal government. During a live stream event, Minister McKenna reaffirmed the Government of Canada's ongoing commitment to the safety and well-being of Canadians.

*"The Government of Canada is helping communities across Canada better manage the risks of disasters triggered by severe weather events and a changing climate. This important project in the Municipal District of Taber will help make over 60,000 people across the region more resilient to flooding. Through our Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund, we're investing more than \$9.8 million to help protect residents, their properties, and crops from flooding."*

**- Minister McKenna.**

In the last 10 years, the Municipal District of Taber and surrounding southern Alberta region has experienced five 100-year flood events resulting in millions of dollars in widespread property, farmland, and infrastructure damage, while forcing several residents to evacuate their homes, causing undue emotional distress for many across southern Alberta.

In 2010, the Southern Regional Drainage Committee was formed for the purpose of developing a long-term solution to the ever-increasing stormwater runoff events occurring in the area. Municipal and other partners on this committee include the Municipal District of Taber, the County of 40 Mile, Cypress County, Lethbridge County, Warner County, Cardston County, the Town of Taber, the Town of Bow Island, the Town of Coaldale, the City of Medicine Hat, the St. Mary River Irrigation District, and the Taber Irrigation District.

*"SMRID would like to thank all of our collaborating partners. We all recognize the importance of controlling storm drainage to prevent damage to homes and infrastructure. This extra layer of water security will highlight continued diversified investment in agricultural and food processing right here in western Canada."* – Gary Franz, Co-Chair of the Southern Regional Stormwater Drainage committee.

The irrigation water delivered by the Main Canal of the St. Mary River Irrigation District (SMRID) supplies approximately 200,000 ha of irrigated farmland in southern Alberta. In the past, as stormwater runoff would overwhelm and threaten the Canal's structural integrity, an immediate shut off of the Main Canal was the only preventative measure against a potential breach. The shut off, however, results in the loss of vital irrigation water needed to maintain high-value specialty crops and essential drinking water to many residents across southern Alberta. A 2015 published report titled "Economic Value of Irrigation in Alberta" by the Alberta Irrigation Projects Association estimated a total of \$230 million in direct farm loss (if the Main Canal were to breach), with a further indirect loss of \$585 million to Alberta's economy.

*"All of the value-added industries that have come to southern Alberta have done so because of water security. They know that each year, the irrigation infrastructure that is in place and the water security the infrastructure guarantees results in the continual supply of raw product needed for their factory or plant. The announcement of this funding under the DMAF program provides one more layer of water security for farmers, residents, and the agri-food industries that call southern Alberta home."* – Reeve Harris.

The Horsefly Regional Spillway is a three-phase project totaling \$47 million, intended to divert water at a rate of 55 m3/s from the SMRID Canal to the Oldman River.

## Phases of this project include:

- Construction Phase 1) Upgrades to the Taber Lake to the Oldman River
- Construction Phase 2) Upgrades to the Horsefly Reservoir to the Taber Lake
- Construction Phase 3) Upgrades to the SMRID Main Canal to the Horsefly Reservoir

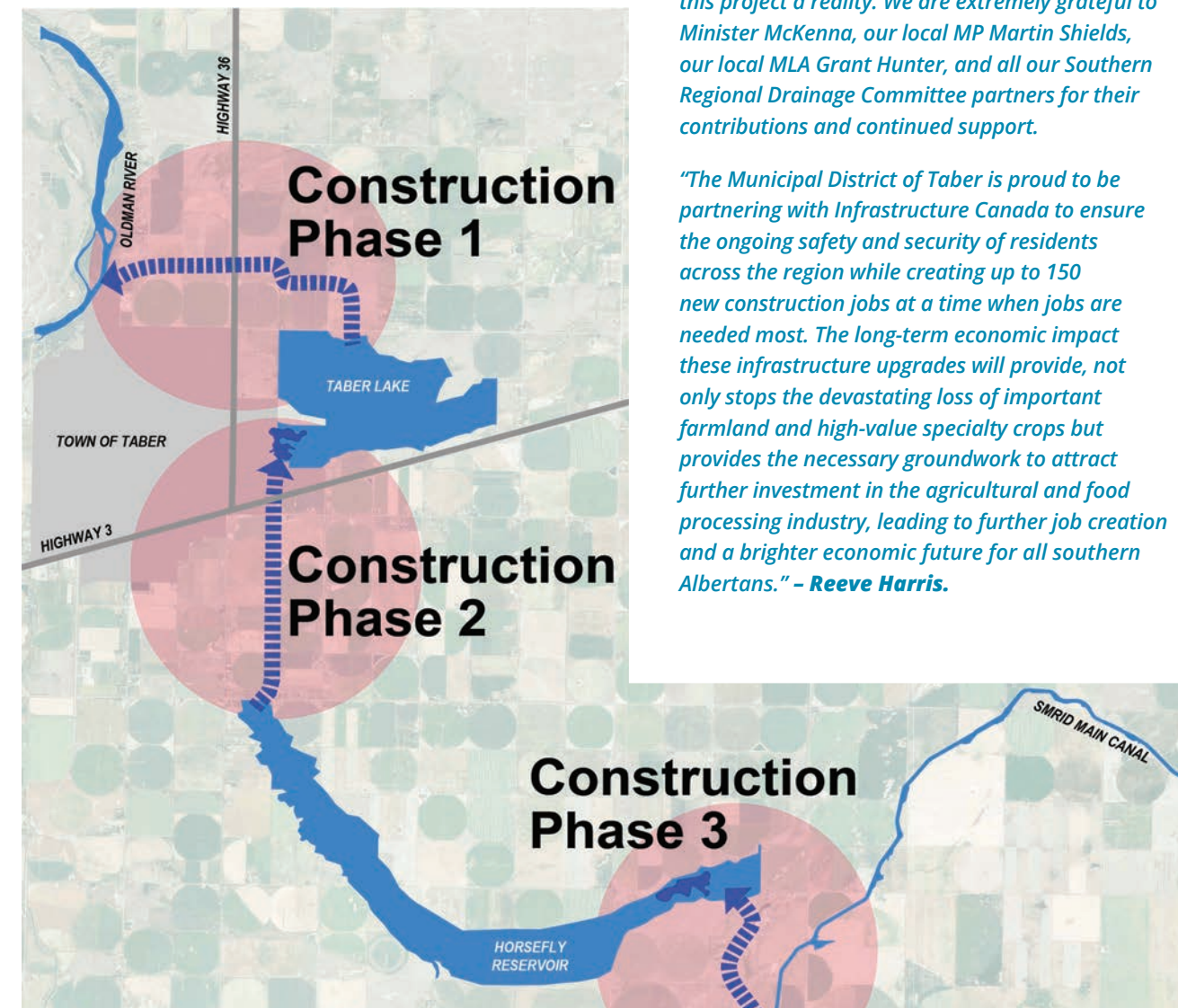
In the last 4 months, the Municipal District of Taber has received a total of \$39 million in grant money from both the provincial and federal governments. This latest

contribution of \$9.8 million from the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) for phases 2 and 3 builds on the \$8.8 million already invested for Phase 1 through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) by the Government of Canada.

Contributions from the Province of Alberta include \$7.4 million for Phase 1 and nearly \$13 million for Phase 2 and 3 through the Alberta Communities Resiliency Program (ACRP) TIER Fund. Municipal partners are responsible for funding the remainder.

*"This latest contribution from Infrastructure Canada helps bring us one step closer to making this project a reality. We are extremely grateful to Minister McKenna, our local MP Martin Shields, our local MLA Grant Hunter, and all our Southern Regional Drainage Committee partners for their contributions and continued support."*

*"The Municipal District of Taber is proud to be partnering with Infrastructure Canada to ensure the ongoing safety and security of residents across the region while creating up to 150 new construction jobs at a time when jobs are needed most. The long-term economic impact these infrastructure upgrades will provide, not only stops the devastating loss of important farmland and high-value specialty crops but provides the necessary groundwork to attract further investment in the agricultural and food processing industry, leading to further job creation and a brighter economic future for all southern Albertans."* – Reeve Harris.



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## REEVE'S REFLECTIONS

*Continued...*

For now, the province has made no changes to the assessment model affecting oil and gas wells and pipelines and instead has provided different incentives to help attract investment to the oil and gas sector once again.

On Nov 23rd, we participated in a public announcement with the Federal Minister of Infrastructure and Communities. Under the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund program, the Honourable Katherine McKenna, committed a federal contribution of \$9,880,000 towards the Horsefly Emergency Spillway project. This is a 40% contribution to the total cost of phases 2 and 3 of the project, with additional funding received from the provincial government for the same two phases. Phase 1 has received contributions from both levels of government, and we are currently in the process of securing a commitment from our municipal partners on the projects. The Southern Regional Stormwater Drainage Committee is now seeking to procure engineering services for project commencement. This project will add another layer of water security to the region.

During intense summer rain or snowmelt events, the SMRID Main Canal will be protected by diverting water from the Canal at the Horsefly Turnout, through the Horsefly Lake, through the Taber Lake, until finally draining back into the Oldman River. New infrastructure and expansion from the Horsefly Turnout to the Taber Lake are scheduled to take place to help direct water flow from the Taber Lake and into the River.

On Oct 14th an Open House for the Inter-Municipal Development Plan was held with the Town of Taber. Comments and concerns from citizens of the MD and from the Town were taken into consideration. A public hearing will be held again in the very near future where final thoughts and considerations will be heard before the adoption of the Plan, so stay tuned.

All of the infrastructure projects the MD is involved in are progressing towards completion. These include the Vauxhall Rest Stop, the Township 8 and Range Road 16 Drainage project, the RenuWell project, Bridge File removals, and shoulder pulling on roadways. We have highly exceptional and capable staff who are prideful in their work and perform what is asked of them and beyond.

On behalf of your MD council and staff, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please abide by our Provincial Chief Officer of Medical Health's recommendations and guidelines to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

# NEW TEMPORARY MANDATORY FACECOVERINGS BYLAW IN EFFECT

Municipal District of Taber

Due to the rise in COVID-19 cases across our region, the Council of the Municipal District of Taber has enacted a temporary mandatory face coverings Bylaw No. 1969, effective December 1, 2020 until further notice.

Everyone ages 10 and over are required to wear a face covering at all times while in an indoor, enclosed, or substantially enclosed public setting, or in a public vehicle except where exemptions apply. View Frequent Questions below for full details and exemption information.

This bylaw does contain enforcement for violations with a \$100 fine. The Municipal District of Taber's intention is not to be punitive, but those who refuse to comply with the mandatory measures can be subject to a fine.

Visit the provincial government website for more information on mask requirements or to help prevent the spread along with practicing good hygiene, maintaining physical distancing, getting tested, and monitoring for symptoms.

# BRUSH CLEARING & VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Department of Agricultural Services

Each fall and winter, the Agricultural Services crew spends time in the MD ditches and rights-of-way to clear brush and trees. The purpose of this activity is to create safer roads and travel for residents within the MD of Taber. Clearing brush and trees from the ditches helps to mitigate drifting snow and improve visibility on the roads, especially at intersections.

Brush and smaller trees are cut and chipped. Larger trees are cut down and used for firewood for local parks and campgrounds, and the branches are also chipped. Sometimes the larger trees must be knocked down onto the road, but our Ag Services crew has extensive training to safely perform this task.

A variety of equipment is used to clear brush from the ditches. Chainsaws are used to cut down the

brush or trees. The crew will pile the branches or brush, and a loader tractor will then pick up the pile and transport it to the chipper. The chips are thrown into a large trailer for transport and the wood chips are made available for residents in the municipality.

If you see the Ag Services crew working in the ditches this fall and winter, please give them plenty of space to work. Slow down and follow any directions from the crew or on signage. If you see brush or trees that should be cleared from the MD ditch to make the road safer, feel free to contact the Ag Services department. Also, if you are interested in a load of wood chips, contact the Ag Services department for more information.



Crews clearing brush in the ditch.



The same ditch after clearing.



## MAKE YOUR PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT SIMPLE

Sign up today for our monthly Tax Installment Payment Plan (TIPP)

Call 403-223-3541 or visit [mdtaber.ab.ca](http://mdtaber.ab.ca)

# NOTIFICATION OF ACCESS & REQUEST

Department of Property Assessment

The Assessor will be visiting properties throughout the municipality this year to verify property information to ensuring fair and equitable assessments. The Assessor carries picture 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):

- When the owner/occupant is present: An inspection will include an outside measurement/inspection of each building as required, a socially distanced interview (preferably outside) with a review of the existing assessment information during the visit for any other information required by the assessor.
- When 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 leave a call-back card at the residence's front door, or send a letter, requesting any additional information required to prepare the assessment.

If you receive a callback card in your front door, or 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.

## DEMOLITIONS & REMOVALS

Throughout the year, the Assessor responds to inquiries regarding the demolition or removal of buildings from a property. Unless you notify the Assessor of a building demolition or removal change to your property, it will continue to be assessed it until the next scheduled site inspection of your property. The condition of the property is effective December 31 of the year prior to taxation. If you remove a house, shop, garage, etc., please call the Assessor with the blue sign address or your land location so he can verify the removal and update your assessment record prior to December 31st of the Assessment Year.

## ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL US!

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 the 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.



As the year draws to a close, The Taber & District Health Foundation would like to thank the supporters, sponsors and donors for their contributions towards the success of the 2020 Drive-In Concert with George Canyon and Aaron Pritchett. Thanks for your enthusiasm and generosity.

Thanks for being you. Your support will fund 7 overhead ceiling lifts to complete lifts in all active and long term care wings, renovations to the maternity suites and bariatric equipment to support patient care.

We send you strength, health, love and joy for this holiday season.

Stay safe!



horizon<sup>+</sup>  
school division

## 2021 - 2022 EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

Kindergarten & Early Learning

WATCH FOR REGISTRATION DETAILS IN JANUARY

# SIGN, SIGN EVERYWHERE A SIGN

Department of Planning & Economic Development

Driving on Highway #3 the other day, listening to the song "Signs" by The Five Man Electrical Band when suddenly it dawned on me, lots of signage on the roadways leading into and out of the Municipal District of Taber. As the Development Officer, part of my responsibility is to ensure compliance with our Land Use Bylaw (a copy of which is available on our website), and that includes the placement of signs, billboards and advertising platforms in the region.

Under Schedule 10 of the Land Use Bylaw, is an entire section dedicated to signage. The first paragraph simply says "billboards are prohibited". Billboards include; the traditional free-standing billboards, monument style (monolithic) signs and those plastered to the side of buildings, transport trailers or hay bales. Often, signs posted on items advocating sale of a local product, such as a tractor for sale by the owner, are often compliant with the bylaw as they are seen as "temporary" and unobtrusive. However, larger advertisements for products such as casinos, services, and so forth, fall under the bylaw and are not permitted.

Directional signs, those that advertise an establishment, such as a local welding shop or large feed mill, have been permitted in the Municipal District, with a permit, provided that the signs is logically placed to direct someone to the facility. That means that a directional sign pointing towards the township road where the business is situated is allowed, and those placed on the other side of the Municipal District are not. How do you go about getting this type of signage? Well, you need to attend the M.D. Administration Office and speak to a member of the Development Team, or you could go on-line and email in an application. Once the application is received and deemed complete, it'll go to the Sub-Division Development Authority (SDA), comprised of 5 members of Council, meeting twice a month, and a decision will be made on it's permissibility. If the application is successful, a permit will be issued and the sign is good to be placed.

Highway frontage is always a hot piece of property for advertisers, and it makes sense that a variety of signs are placed in right of ways, often in violation of the Highway Development Control Regulations. Placing a sign adjacent to a highway has to confirm to, not only the M.D. of Taber Land Use Bylaw, but also various regulations from Alberta Transportation. These rules exist to prevent snow accumulation, visual distraction, sightline obstruction and drainage issues from interfering with the transit of vehicles on our major roadways. Now, that said, there are times when highway signs are permissible, but there are conditions that have to be met, including terms set out by Alberta Transportation within 1000 feet of the highway. Like all signs, it requires a permit from the Development Authority, and application should be made for approval prior to constructing or erecting any advertisement in these areas.

Now what happens if a sign is already in place and the owner doesn't have a permit? That's when the matter becomes a compliance issue. To avoid that, the Development Department encourages any and all sign owners, property owners with signs on their property, or anyone contemplating a sign, to contact the M.D. of Taber and determine what has to be done to move the matter from "non-compliant" to "compliant". This is the preferred method of gaining compliance. The other is to transfer the complaint to the Regional Enforcement Services and have them begin the process of removing the sign, issuing a stop order or a lien against a property. Obviously, this is the least desirable option, and makes additional work for all parties.

Ideally, if a sign has to be placed in the Municipal District of Taber, it's always best to contact the Development Department and ask the process. A few minutes on the phone could save you money, frustration and problems. Plus, if you call us, you might get a good tune or two while you wait on hold during the phone transfer - and maybe, just maybe, you'll get that same song stuck in your head as I do "sign, sign, everywhere a sign" even places they shouldn't be.

## FALL 1958 IN THE MD OF TABER

Taber Irrigation Impact Museum

The fall of 1958 appeared to be a good one according to articles in the Taber Times. The first ever Sunflower crops were grown and harvested on the Elmer Conrad farm. The article mentioned that there were two types of sunflowers grown being tried. The first was "the kind you buy for littering theatre floors and a black strain with high oil content." The crop grown by Mr. Conrad was the eating kind but they weren't too worried about it flooding the market as his average was 400 pounds to the acre at most with the very best patch going at 750. This was the beginning of a new crop for his farm, as the entire yield was destined to be seed for next year. His seeds graded as No. 2 when delivered to the Government Elevator in Lethbridge where the seed processing firm had rented storage space for the winter. A special sunflower pickup attachment was used on his combine to harvest.



Sunflower Pickup Attachment



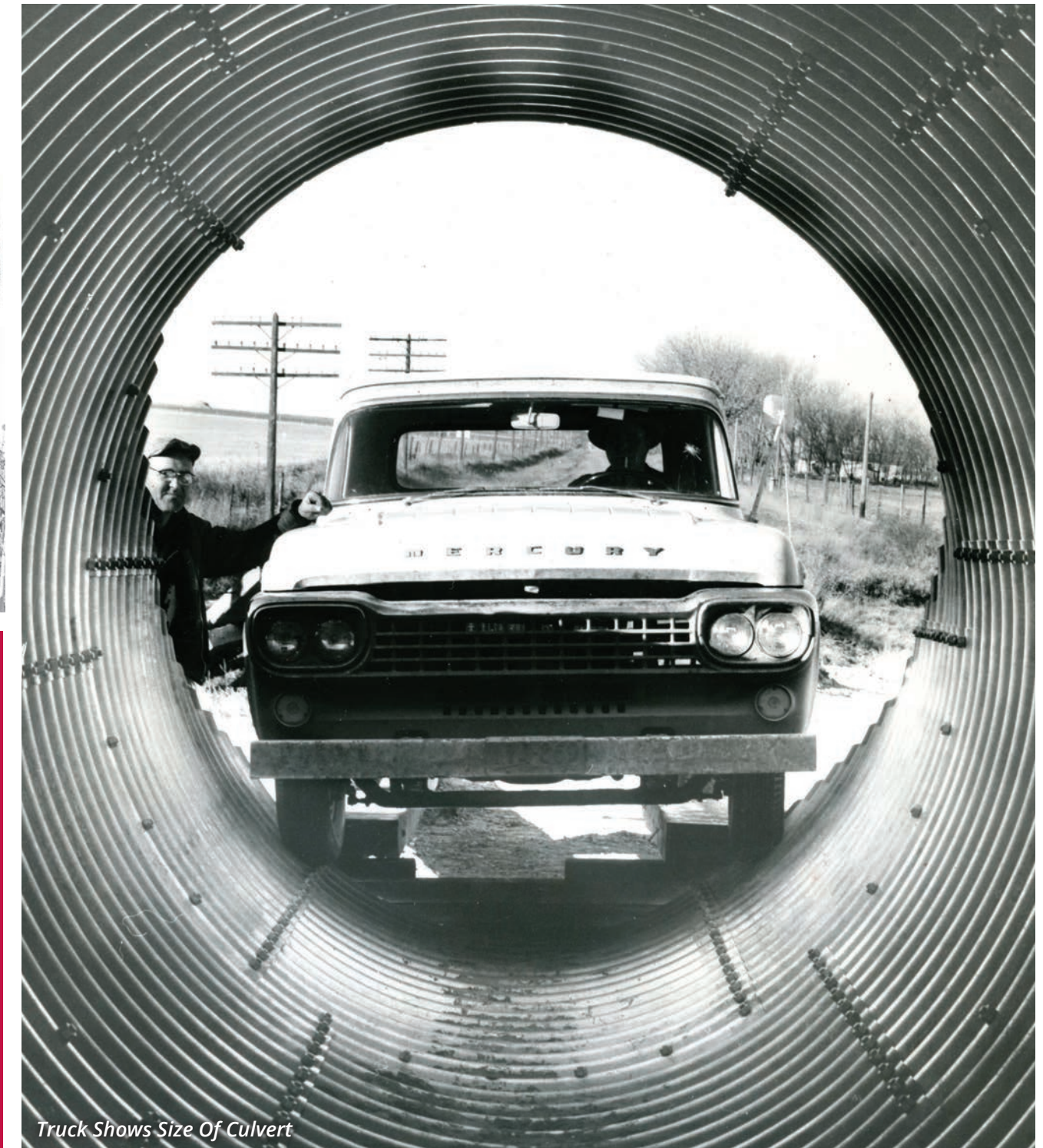
Sunflower Crop



Old Cranford Bridge

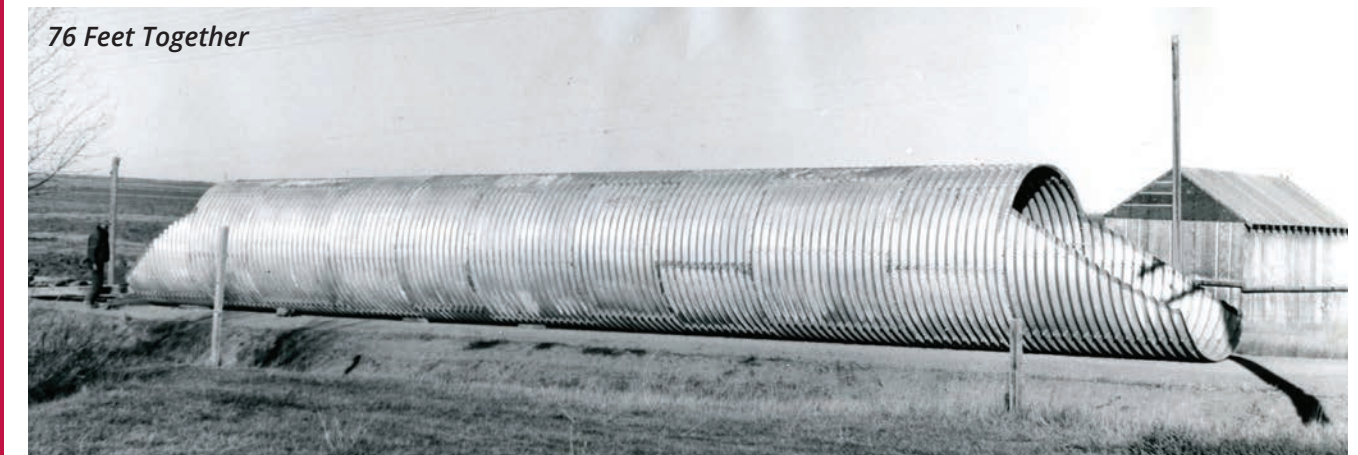


Culvert Assembly



Truck Shows Size Of Culvert

The sugar beet crop turned out better than hoped, the estimated 560,000 tons turned out to be 600,000 tons after all the beets were delivered, much higher than last year's crop at 492,000 tons. The Bow River Irrigation Development, centering in the Lomond, Traverse and Enchant areas was being developed to cover up to 50,000 acres with water. This project was noted as being the fifth largest of the fifteen irrigation districts in Alberta. The bridges over the Old Man and Bow Rivers for highway 36 construction were opened in the fall of 1958. The M.D. committed to purchasing a new Fire Truck to service the area south of the Old Man River and west of Purple Springs, after being petitioned to do so by the farmers of the area. This came in response to the Town of Taber not guaranteeing fire service in the area once their "out of town" truck became obsolete. In December there was a "flare lighting and valve turning ceremony" held in Vauxhall, officiated by Mayor Herman Feldbusch along with the Canadian Western Natural Gas Company to mark the beginning of natural gas service for Vauxhall and Enchant. This was to service 203 homes in Vauxhall and 28 in Enchant. They became the 50th and 51st southern Alberta communities to receive natural gas through C.W.N.G. The old bridge north of Cranford was being replaced by a large culvert that would measure 8 feet high and 76 feet long.



76 Feet Together



# MD PROJECTS

## Ongoing Bridge File 80175 Project

The M.D. of Taber received 75% funding from Alberta Transportation for the removal and replacement of an aging approximately 67-year-old concrete bridge that crosses the Bow River Irrigation District (BRID) main canal system east of Enchant. The M.D. has approximately 160 bridge size structures that we are responsible for within our district and replacement and some maintenance is cost shared with Alberta Transportation. The contract was awarded to Venture Holdings Ltd. Out of Taber and has a completion date of the end of March, 2021.

Earlier this year, the M.D. removed 6 bridges in the Enchant area that are no longer required as the BRID went from open canal to pipelines to convey water in the area. This project also received 75% funding from Alberta Transportation and has been completed.



## Range Road 16-5 to King Arthur's Lakefront Resort

Range Road 16-5 going south of Township Road 13-0 (Vauxhall Golf Course Road) to King Arthur's Lakefront Resort was base / paved in 2020. The project involved preparing the existing gravel road (which was constructed by M.D. of Taber Public Works crews in 2019), adding base course gravel and a final lift of asphalt paving.

The project has been completed with still a few small deficiencies needing to be fixed.



## West Township 8 Range 16 Drainage Project

The West Township 8 Range 16 Drainage Project involves construction of a wetland area and roadside drainage ditches to allow the M.D. of Taber to control overland flooding in this area. Drainage ditches have been constructed to convey the flood waters toward the SMRID Main Canal as well as under the canal and into TID Horsefly Reservoir. Prior to entering Horsefly Reservoir, they will travel through the newly constructed wetland area in an effort to add to the quality of the drainage water. Roadside drainage will have culverts installed at strategic places with some of these culverts having control gates installed to aid in the control of the water prior to entering the Main Canal or Horsefly Reservoir. A water act approval was required by the M.D. of Taber as a part of this project.

This has been a collaborative effort between the M.D. of Taber, landowners in the area, SMRID, TID and Alberta Environment and Parks. The project received 90% provincial funding under the Alberta Community Resiliency Program and with winter setting in, will now be completed in early spring 2021.





# 2021 CALL FOR NOMINEES

## Do you have an interest in influencing local government policy decisions?

Nominations for the 2021 municipal election will open between January 1 – September 20, 2021 for each division.

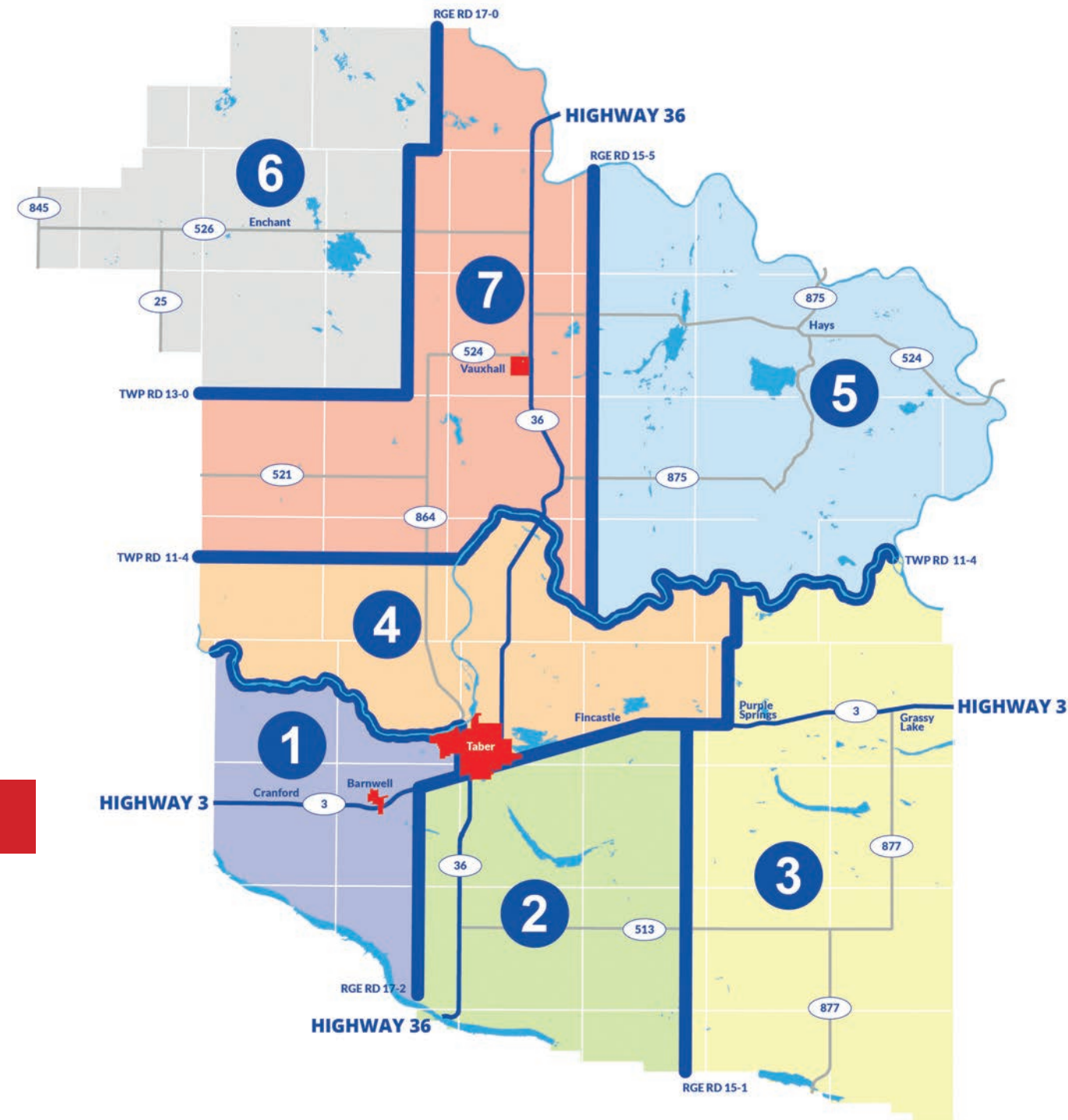
To qualify:

- You do not have to own land/property, but you must reside in the local jurisdiction or the division you want to represent for the 6 consecutive months immediately preceding nomination day (September 20, 2021)
- You must be 18 years of age
- You must be a Canadian citizen

**Election day is October 18, 2021**

For more information visit our website: [mdtaber.ab.ca/p/election](http://mdtaber.ab.ca/p/election)

For more information on detailed qualification requirements visit: [alberta.ca/municipal-elections-overview.aspx](http://alberta.ca/municipal-elections-overview.aspx)

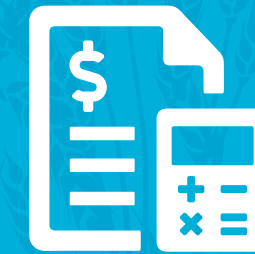


## 12% PENALTY ON ALL UNPAID TAXES

All property taxes remaining unpaid after December 31, 2020 will be subject to a **12% penalty on January 1, 2021.**

Information on how you can make payments to your property taxes is available at:

[mdtaber.ab.ca/p/property-taxes](http://mdtaber.ab.ca/p/property-taxes)



## 2021 BUDGETS & PLANS



The Municipal District of Taber's **2021 Interim Operating & Capital Budget** along with the most recent Operating & Capital Plans are available on our website:

[mdtaber.ab.ca/p/operating-capital-budgets](http://mdtaber.ab.ca/p/operating-capital-budgets)

**ENTER TO WIN**

**A \$100 MD BUCKS**

Monthly Survey Draw.

# Survey Says!

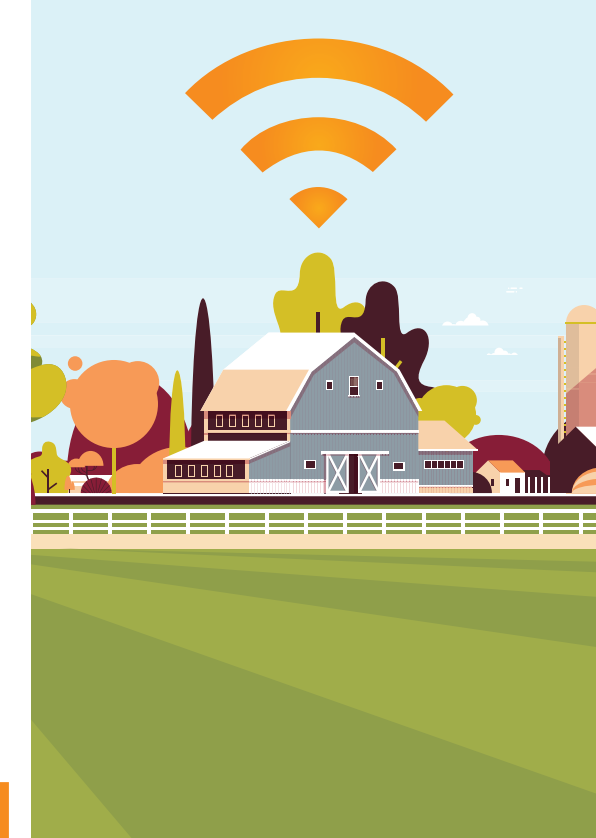
**Would you like to access internet speeds of at least 50 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload?**

**The Municipal District of Taber High-Speed Internet Survey would like to hear from you!**

High-Speed Internet (Rural Broadband) is becoming increasingly vital to the MD of Taber residents. From online meetings, to video and audio streaming, to online banking, and on-demand television, higher speeds and quality internet access provides an improved range of services throughout rural Alberta.

The MD of Taber is seeking information through a short survey to define underserved areas as we work to expand and improve rural broadband access in the MD of Taber.

To complete the survey, visit: [mdtaber.ab.ca/p/surveys](http://mdtaber.ab.ca/p/surveys)



# SNOW PILE HAZARDS - MD ROADWAYS AND DITCHES

Department of Public Works

During the winter months, the Municipal District of Taber understands that no one likes getting stuck on snow-clogged-roads, so our crews are quick to respond when a snow event happens. Plowing prioritizes initial opening of routes; widening when permissible, while ensuring the safety of residents and motorists.

We also understand rural residents are often faced with the same challenges of snow removal around blocked farmyards and entrances. Pushing excess snow across MD roads and piling it in ditches and along the opposite shoulder would seem like an acceptable approach.

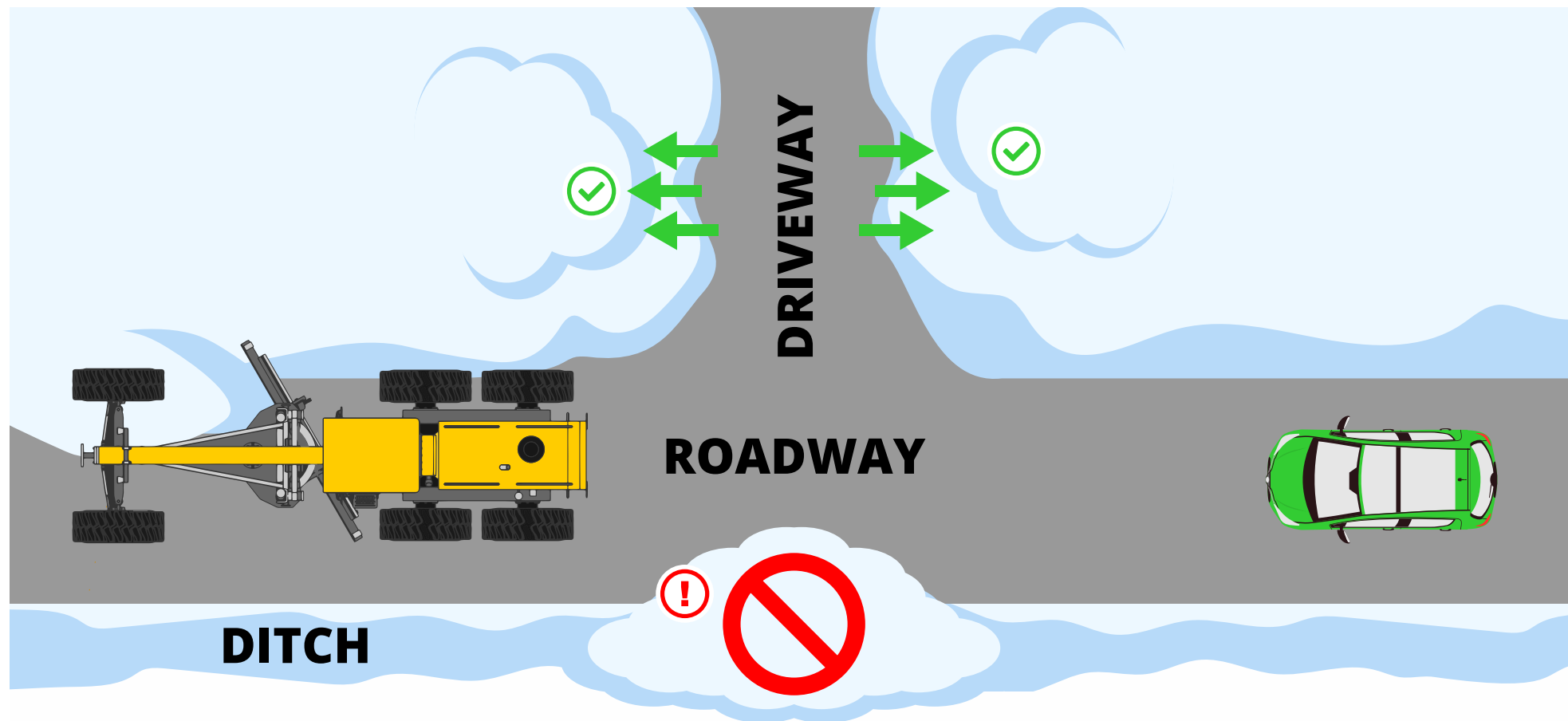
However, leaving snow piles in this manner often creates problems and road safety hazards for both motorists and snow removal operators:

- Snow piles often cause narrowing of roadways

caused by snow ridges left behind, making it hard to keep lanes passable.

- Blowing winds can cause piles to drift, creating chronic maintenance issues as winter progresses.
- Crusted snow piles can also cause direct damage to graders, or in some cases, spin them directly into the ditch putting operators at risk.
- Come spring time, these piles can block water from flowing freely down our ditch system which can lead to spring flooding.

To help keep you moving, and to help keep operators and motorists safe, we kindly ask our residents to refrain from pushing snow across roadways as much as possible. We thank you for your cooperation and wish everyone a safe and healthy holiday season.



## Did you know?

Space heaters are responsible for 32 percent of house fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association.



- \* Place your space heater on a level, non-flammable surface.
- \* Make sure your space heater has an auto shutoff function.
- \* Never pair your space heater with an extension cord.
- \* Never leave a space heater unattended when in use.
- \* Purchase space heaters that are cool to the touch.

## FACTS

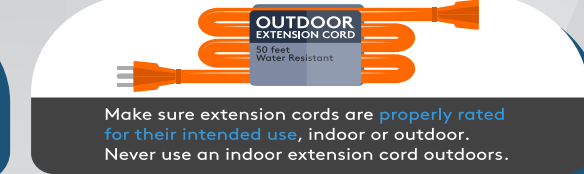
- ! On average, a candle fire in the home is reported to a U.S. fire department every 30 minutes.
- ! Roughly **two-fifths** of home candle fires started in the bedroom.
- ! More than half of all candle fires start when things that can burn are too close to the candle.

## Extension Cord Safety Tips

Roughly **3,300 home fires** originate in extension cords each year. Extension cords can overheat and cause fires when used improperly, so **keep these important tips in mind** to protect your home and loved ones.



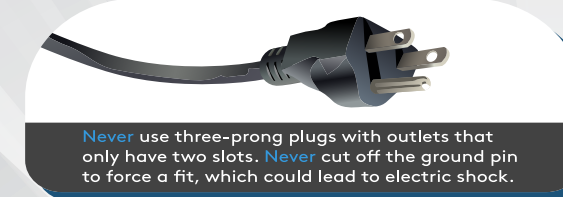
Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord.



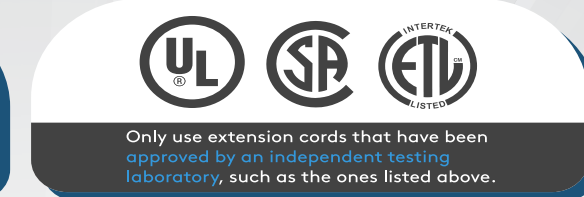
Make sure extension cords are properly rated for their intended use, indoor or outdoor. Never use an indoor extension cord outdoors.

### Extension Cord Designations

S: Designed for General Use      W: Rated for Outdoor Use      J: Standard 300 Voltage Insulation  
 T: Made from Vinyl Thermoplastic      P: Parallel Wire Construction (Air Conditioner Cords and Household Extension Cords)  
 O: Oil-Resistant      E: Made from TPE



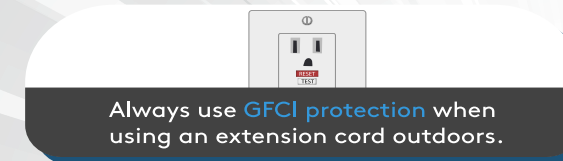
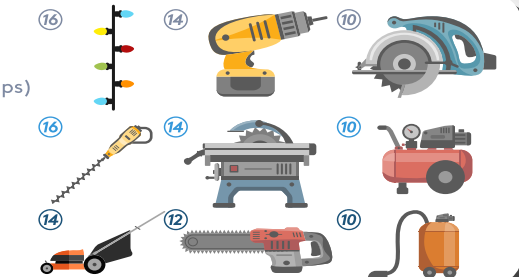
Never use three-prong plugs with outlets that only have two slots. Never cut off the ground pin to force a fit, which could lead to electric shock.



Only use extension cords that have been approved by an independent testing laboratory, such as the ones listed above.

### Cord Length and Amperage Limits

**25 - 50** Feet Extension Cords: 16 Gauge (1-13 Amps), 14 Gauge (14-15 Amps), 12-10 Gauge (16-20 Amps)  
**100** Feet Extension Cords: 16 Gauge (1-10 Amps), 14 Gauge (11-13 Amps), 12 Gauge (14-15 Amps), 10 Gauge (16-20 Amps)  
**150** Feet Extension Cords: 14 Gauge (1-7 Amps), 12 Gauge (8-10 Amps), 10 Gauge (11-15 Amps)



Always use GFCI protection when using an extension cord outdoors.



Inspect cords for damage before use. Check for cracked or frayed sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections. Discard damaged extension cords.

! Extension cords are for temporary use only. A heavy reliance on extension cords is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have additional outlets installed where you need them.

Please share this free resource to save lives  
[www.facebook.com/ESFI.org](http://www.facebook.com/ESFI.org)    [www.twitter.com/ESFI.org](http://www.twitter.com/ESFI.org)    [www.youtube.com/ESFI.org](http://www.youtube.com/ESFI.org)

**SPACE HEATER SAFETY**  
**DO NOT USE AN EXTENSION CORD OR POWER STRIP WITH AN ELECTRIC ROOM SPACE HEATER. IT CAN OVERLOAD THE CIRCUIT OR OVERHEAT THE EXTENSION CORD AND CAUSE AN ELECTRICAL FIRE!**

**HOME CANDLE FIRES**

**11,640 HOME FRIES STARTED BY CANDLES EACH YEAR**

**↑ Fatality ↑**  
 RISK OF FATAL FIRES APPEARS HIGHER WHEN CANDLES ARE USED FOR LIGHT

**12-6AM**  
 50% of home candle fire deaths occur

**\$438 Million**  
 Estimated yearly property damages

**+ 953 home candle fire injuries each year**

**TOP 5 days**  
 For home candle fires:  
 1. Christmas Day  
 2. Christmas Eve  
 3. New Year's Day  
 4. Halloween  
 5. December 23

**20%**  
 Young children and older adults have the highest death risk from home candle fires

**4% Children playing**  
**2% Bumped/knocked**  
**2% Improper container**  
Fires started because the candle was unattended or abandoned

**55%**  
 of fires started because the candle was placed too close to something that could burn

**36% home candle fire begin in the bedroom, caused 42% of associated deaths & 45% of the associated injuries**

**One Hundred Twenty Six**  
 Is the number of deaths caused by home candle fires each year

**Zzz**  
Falling asleep causes 11% of home candle fires and 42% of the associated deaths.

A house can be filled with smoke in 3 minutes, completely engulfed in flame in 10 minutes, and reduced to smoking ash in just 45 minutes

# Care for the Caregiver

According to Stats Canada, one in four Canadians (or 7.8 million people) provide care for a family member or friend. Most of the care is provided for a spouse, child or parent with an illness, frailty or disability. While caregiving can be rewarding and beneficial to the caregiver, care recipient, family and to society, it can also be demanding and challenging. Overtime, the demands and challenges can lead to psychological distress and burnout. Caregiver burnout can be described as a state of physical, emotional, and mental exhaustion, with symptoms of exhaustion, anxiety, irritability, sleeplessness and trouble concentrating and focusing.

Here are some potential ways to prevent or reduce the impact of caregiver stress or burnout:

**Take regular breaks.** Ask a friend or relative to fill in for you for a few hours weekly (if possible) so you can take a walk, garden, read, watch a movie you recorded or go out to dinner with a friend. Don't underestimate the value of taking just 15 or 20 minutes of time for yourself!

**Connecting and Communicating with others.** The most important advice in this regard is to "nurture positive relationships" with your closest friends and family members. The key word here is "positive". Limit time spent with others who are negative at this time. You will know the difference. It may not always seem obvious, but those closest to us want to help. Also, think about keeping extended family and friends up to date through group emails, rather than individual calls or emails.

**Take care of your own health.** Making time for yourself must not be viewed as optional. Seeing it this way is the slippery slope to burnout - period. It can help to set goals, perhaps around sleep routines or getting regular exercise. Get some sunshine! Get your flu shot and recommended screenings. If you have health concerns, go see your doctor. Journal. Nurture yourself by staying connected to those things you love, and which feed and nurture your spirit. Identify leisure and routines that matter most to you and make them a priority, for example meditation, prayer, yoga, painting, crafting, woodworking, gardening, reading, bird watching, music, sports and the arts and education.

**Online resources.** Some online resources that may be helpful include:

- Individual Counselling: [FCSS.ca](http://www.fcss.ca)
- Caregivers Alberta - Caring for the Caregivers: <https://www.caregiversalberta.ca/>
- Caregiving.com: <https://www.caregiving.com/>
  - Alberta Health Services: <https://caregivercollege.ca/>

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

For more information call 587-370-3728 or email [counselling.services@fcss.ca](mailto:counselling.services@fcss.ca).

Visit [www.fcss.ca](http://www.fcss.ca) for more information.

**SERVING: Barnwell | Barons | Coaldale | Coalhurst | Lethbridge County  
County of Warner | Coutts | Milk River | M.D. of Taber | Nobleford**



**Submitted by:**  
**Laura Devlin**  
FCSS Counsellor

# TABER IRRIGATION DISTRICT UPDATE

Taber Irrigation District

The Annual Meeting that was postponed due to COVID-19 was held October 21st, 2020. The 2019 Annual Report and the PowerPoint presentation are published on the TID website at [www.taberirrigationdistrict.ca](http://www.taberirrigationdistrict.ca). Please be sure to check this out, including new policies on Ditchrider hours and more adaptive irrigation season startup procedures.

TID will be one of the beneficiaries of the investment in irrigation infrastructure announced on October 9th, 2020. Alberta's government, together with the Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB) and eight irrigation districts are investing in irrigation infrastructure to expand agriculture production capacity and value-added processing. This generational investment of \$815 million will help ensure continued growth and success for agricultural producers in this region for generations to come. Alberta's government will be contributing \$244.5 million and the irrigation districts will initially contribute \$163 million. A Memorandum of Understanding between all parties and agreement in principle has been signed for the CIB to invest about \$407.5 million in this project, to be paid back by the irrigation districts.

The MD of Taber has secured provincial and federal funding, and South Regional Stormwater Drainage Committee partner agreements, for Phase 1 of the Horsefly Emergency Spillway. This system of enlarged canals and existing TID reservoirs will convey the capacity of the SMRID main canal from a point upstream of Horsefly Check, through upsized TID infrastructure, to the Oldman River. The project will involve a total of three phases. Building from downstream to upstream reaches, Phase 1 conveyance is from Taber Reservoir to the Oldman River, Phase 2 conveyance is from Horsefly Reservoir to Taber Reservoir, and Phase 3 conveyance is from the SMRID main canal to Horsefly Reservoir. TID

recognized that with the SMRID main canal coming to a pinch point at Horsefly Check, the shortest and least cost route to the river would incorporate TID works, and so the board agreed to collaborate on this project early in the process. Irrigation infrastructure was designed for delivery of irrigation water, dropping in size along its conveyance system. With no regional drainage system, it made sense to integrate irrigation conveyance infrastructure for this purpose. The irrigation canals will be enlarged to handle the much larger drainage flows, and two constructed wetlands will mitigate water quality impacts. Phase 1 is scheduled to be completed by 2024, and with federal funding announced November 23rd for Phase 2 and 3, it is anticipated that the entire spillway project will be in place by the end of the decade.

TID projects expected to be completed in 2021 include Phase 2 of the Lateral 7 pipeline (pending on-schedule CP Railway casing installation), Geo-form lining of a short reach of Lateral 7 canal, 3D Taber inlet structure (SMRID main canal siphon) turnout replacement, Magnacide H® storage and loading system, and installation of an overshot gate with upstream level control on the Taber main canal. Ongoing capital improvements include pipeline turnout replacements, walkways and handrails, check plates, and driving bank rehabilitation. Projects starting in 2020/21 include dam consequence classification and update of the TID Emergency Preparedness Plan, a formal asset management system, a SCADA system, East Horsefly Water Quality Improvements, and a water re-use system downstream of Bonette Lake. TID will also be working with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry to complete the second and final year of sampling and analysis of a tile drain bioreactor pilot project. This information will be used to guide TID's direction in placing conditions on tile drainage consents where the discharge enters TID open systems.



**TABER IRRIGATION DISTRICT**  
*Responsible Water Management*

## IN MEMORY OF DAVID BENNETT



TID mourns the loss of Ditchrider, David Bennett, who passed away peacefully on November 3, 2020 at the age of 74 years.

David served TID for 11 ½ years operating Area 2, south and west of Taber during the irrigation season, and providing excellent welding expertise during the off-season. A kind-hearted man, David was always willing to help. He will be missed by the folks at TID, including his water users, and especially by his fellow Ditchriders.





# Thanks to Everyone!

Thank you to the MD of Taber, our amazing sponsors, volunteers, and landowners for making the 10th Annual Taber Pheasant Festival (October 17–24, 2020) a success.

And of course, thank you to each of the 627 hunters and novice shooters who came together in southern Alberta to celebrate conservation.



We look forward to seeing you all again in 2021 for the 11th anniversary of the **BIGGEST** hunting festival in Canada!

