

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER

MD CONNECTION

Reeve's REFLECTIONS

Feedback sought on bylaws,
tax impacts at upcoming AGM

Based upon 131 years of temperature data – according to Environment Canada – the month of February was more than 11 degrees Celsius colder than average. A culvert project is underway on the Red Trail (Township Road 10-0) and the contractor is reporting that frost is eight and a half feet down into the roadway. The number of water main breaks being reported across the province in many communities is certainly testament to the type of February we experienced.

With the warming weather we will begin seeing a softening of the roads – as usual we will ask for your assistance in being mindful of the loads being carried in heavy trucks. Please contact our Public Works department when road bans are implemented if you require a permit to haul seed into your farm or grain to the elevator.

This spring's Annual General Meeting on April 30 will have a different look. The meeting will be hosted at the new Operations and Maintenance building (171027 – Highway 3) where tours of the new facility will be held from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. At 7:00 p.m. the municipal auditor will present the financial statements for the past year. Following this presentation, the council is interested in hearing feedback on a number of matters including: a proposed Off Highway Vehicle Bylaw for the M.D. of Taber which will permit the use of quads, side by sides and other all terrain vehicles on M.D. of Taber roads, a discussion about declining oil and gas property taxes and the implication this will have on municipal property owners, a discussion on potentially moving the tax collection date from the current date of November 15th, a review of recycling and solid waste transfer station information, a review of the municipal campus site plan and an update and discussion on the community peace officer program.

This newsletter has information on each of the topics described above for you to review.



MERRILL HARRIS, REEVE

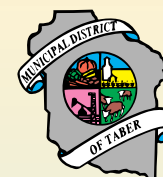
life. Service life is the length of time an asset can provide an acceptable level of reliable service over a period of time. The asset management plan reviews life-cycle costs, risks and full cost accounting for municipal assets with the goal of ensuring responsible stewardship, accountability and transparency.

The M.D. of Taber is engaged in a number of important projects which will enhance Stormwater management. Since 2012 the M.D. of Taber has had a dedicated projects crew charged with installing and replacing culverts. During this time the crew has undertaken projects in size from the standard 600mm culvert up to double 1500mm culverts – on average around 65 per year. The asset management program indicates that the MD of Taber currently has over 4000 culverts. Culverts have been prioritized for replacement and new installs planned.

2018 was certainly a challenging year in many ways. Heavy snowfall followed by overland flooding led to 49 days of a state of local emergency. Over 400 sections of road were at one time closed. Many dozens of culverts and roadways were damaged. We thank each of you not only for your patience during this challenging event but also your assistance. By waiting to pump water off land until drainage channels and irrigation infrastructure was able to accommodate additional flows valuable irrigation infrastructure wasn't damaged. Before the last of the lands were dry enough to seed many irrigation pivots were up and running watering new crops which reportedly for the most part were above average in both yield and quality.

The M.D. of Taber is actively engaged in an Asset Management Project for municipal infrastructure. This project has been underway for many years. Every municipality operates and maintains infrastructure assets. Each asset has a defined service

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MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
OF TABER

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

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We're On the Web:

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Council Members

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TAMARA MIYANAGA (Deputy Reeve)

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JENNIFER CROWSON

Division 5 403-308-8610

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Division 6 403-635-8449

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Division 7 403-622-1408

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

MD of Taber Operations and Maintenance Building • Located west of Taber at 171027 - Highway 3

- Tours of Operations and Maintenance Building 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Displays and staff available to discuss municipal programs and services
- Annual General Meeting to start at 7 p.m.
 - Auditor presentation on 2018 Financials
 - Council led discussion items including: Off Highway Vehicle Bylaw, Unpaid Property taxes, Tax Collection Date, Recreation Master Plan, Peace Officer Program and Campus site plan
 - Open Question and Answer session

Drainage mitigation projects underway

■ Continued from Page 1

A drainage project in the West Township 8 Range 16 – which is funded 90% by the province – continues to work towards tendering and construction in 2019/2020. The project includes an innovative wet-land project in partnership with the Taber Irrigation District.

Additionally, since 2012, the M.D. of Taber has partnered with 14 other municipalities and 2 irrigation districts on the Southern Regional Stormwater Management Plan. This plan identified 7 major projects for construction across southern Alberta which will assist with major flood events. The top priority identified by the committee, is the Horsefly Emergency Spillway. This project would see an emergency spillway constructed from the SMRID main canal, through Horsefly reservoir to Taber Lake and then to the Oldman River. Currently there is no way to manage high Stormwater flows except by running water through the main canal to SMRID and TID reservoirs. In 2018 many of the reservoirs were at or over full safe levels – threatening the integrity of the reservoirs and dams. The M.D. of Taber is leading the effort to seek funding for this \$48 million dollar project. Recently we received a grant for \$7.3 million for the first phase (spillway and canal construction between Taber Lake and the Oldman River) with additional grant applications and negotiations with partner agencies in the works to cover the \$22 million cost of the project.

There are certainly many challenges facing the municipality at this time – but also opportunities.

New industries and businesses have made recent announcements including 3 utility scale solar generating projects in the Hays / Vauxhall area announced by C+B Solar and Solar Krafte and the recent announcement by Federated Cooperatives Ltd. to construct a 37,500 tonne fertilizer warehouse near Grassy Lake along with expansion of the Simplot and Richardson fertilizer facilities in Chin and Vauxhall.

Another important project involves the Vauxhall and District Water Commission which is nearing completion on a water supply project to Prairie Gold Potatoes in Vauxhall. Due to changing food safety standards, Prairie Gold Potatoes requires additional water in their processing plant. Through innovative thinking and a great partnership with the Vauxhall and District Regional Water Services Commission, the Bow River Irrigation District and the M.D., we were able to find a way to supply water to this local potato processing facility and major employer in the Vauxhall area.

There are many other opportunities coming forward every day with regards to agriculture and agri-business. Currently the M.D. of Taber is actively engaged in discussions with other industries looking to locate in our area.

We wish you good luck as you being your preparations for spring planting and wish good fortune to you in the coming year.

Sincerely,
Merrill Harris
Reeve
Municipal District of Taber

Annual General Meeting Information - Finance & Tax

An Annual General Meeting for the Municipal District of Taber will be held on Tuesday April 30 at the new M.D. of Taber Operations and Maintenance Building located west of Taber at 171027 Highway 3.

Tours of the Operations and Maintenance building will be conducted between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. along with materials and staff available to outline and discuss a variety of municipal services offered by the municipality.

The AGM will commence at 7 p.m. with a presentation by the Auditor on the 2018 MD of Taber Financial Statement following which discussion items including the review of the Off Highway Vehicle Bylaw, the challenges facing the M.D. of Taber with respect to unpaid property taxes, a review of the tax collection date and discussion of the campus site plan and peace officer program along with an open Q+A session will follow.

Included in this newsletter is information related to these discussion items which are provided to you in advance so that you might be prepared to participate in the open consultation which will occur at the meeting.

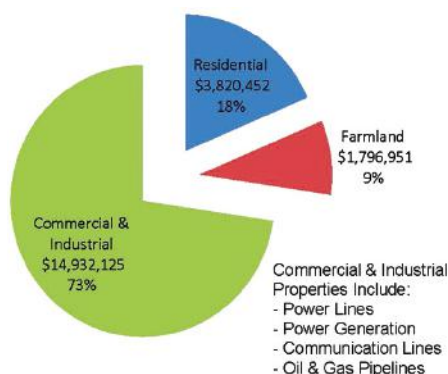
Municipal District of Taber - Schedule of Consolidated Expenses by Object For the Year Ended December 31, 2018 - Schedule 5

	Budget \$	2018 \$	2017 \$
CONSOLIDATED EXPENSES BY OBJECT			
Salaries, wages and benefits	8,009,490	8,698,905	7,937,046
Contracted and general services	2,474,440	2,983,930	2,120,309
Purchase from other governments	427,681	423,663	587,953
Materials, goods, supplies and utilities	4,221,738	4,539,614	4,760,884
Provision for allowances	317,000	1,028,936	234,852
Bank charges and short term interest	3,000	5,043	3,299
Grants to individuals and organizations	1,217,605	1,300,189	1,033,068
Interest on long term debt	147,358	137,548	153,006
Amortization of tangible capital assets	4,232,077	4,412,479	4,183,310
Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	-	-
	<u>21,050,389</u>	<u>23,530,307</u>	<u>21,013,727</u>

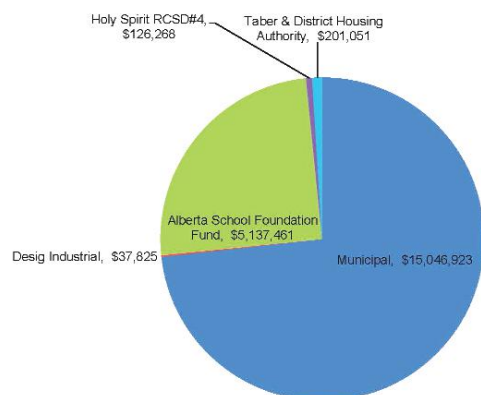
Municipal District of Taber - Consolidated Statement of Financial Position As at December 31, 2018

	2018 \$	2017 \$
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Cash and temporary investments (Note 3)	20,287,660	20,947,069
Receivables		
Taxes and grants in lieu receivables (Note 4)	419,144	440,355
Trade and other receivables	2,271,374	909,967
Land for resale inventory	1,229,566	1,277,197
Long-term investments (Note 5)	34,236	37,299
Other financial assets (Note 6)	293,898	68,678
	<u>24,535,878</u>	<u>23,680,565</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,997,475	1,586,089
Deferred revenue (Note 7)	3,956,458	2,428,443
Employee benefit obligations (Note 8)	325,100	315,999
Trust funds (Note 9)	132,637	105,288
Long-term debt (Note 11)	2,275,769	2,549,413
	<u>8,687,439</u>	<u>6,985,232</u>
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS	<u>15,848,439</u>	<u>16,695,333</u>
NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Tangible capital assets (Note 13)	129,107,707	127,363,907
Inventory for consumption	6,001,368	5,844,873
Prepaid expenses	264,757	258,901
	<u>135,373,832</u>	<u>133,467,681</u>
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS (Schedule 1, Note 15)	<u>151,222,271</u>	<u>150,163,014</u>

Who Pays Property Taxes? 2018 Property Tax Sources Total \$20,549,528



Where Do My Property Taxes Go? 2018 Property Tax Uses Total \$20,549,528



Municipal District of Taber Schedule of Consolidated of Operations and Accumulated Surplus For the Year Ended December 31, 2018 - Schedule 5

	Budget \$	2018 \$	2017 \$
REVENUE			
Net municipal property taxes (Schedule 3)	15,098,369	15,046,923	14,565,333
User fees and sales of goods	1,833,132	1,882,311	1,949,757
Government transfers for operating (Schedule 4)	1,202,545	2,530,735	1,056,900
Investment income	311,000	237,753	462,240
Penalties and costs of taxes	60,000	223,876	136,765
Fines	107,500	44,087	50,329
Rentals	1,838,800	2,002,641	2,043,559
Licences and permits	45,300	46,342	52,569
Insurance proceeds	-	12,136	-
Frontage levies	33,191	33,191	33,191
Well drilling taxes	-	66,272	42,272
Transfers from local boards and agencies	-	44,998	53,414
Gain on disposal of capital assets	-	85,959	1,520,355
Development levies	-	-	20,000
Total Revenue	20,529,837	22,257,224	21,986,684
EXPENSES			
Legislative	396,197	370,487	432,609
General administrative	2,197,856	2,928,504	2,103,316
Bylaws enforcement	205,906	239,877	354,104
GIS	372,070	334,943	366,806
Fire	1,299,375	1,221,035	1,514,476
Roads, streets, walks and lighting	10,652,528	12,632,281	10,571,397
Water and wastewater	1,812,084	1,700,043	1,723,387
Waste management	351,278	392,238	357,691
Family community support services	78,511	60,942	52,434
Agricultural services	1,635,644	1,563,649	1,465,454
Subdivision land development	14,000	94,044	16,873
Land/housing/buildings	423,407	424,356	394,027
Planning and development	513,040	479,610	420,394
Recreation and parks	949,368	930,786	1,093,634
Library	149,125	157,512	147,125
Total Expenses	21,050,389	23,530,307	21,013,727
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES BEFORE OTHER	(520,552)	(1,273,083)	972,957
OTHER			
Contributed assets	-	-	8,508,372
Government transfers for capital (Schedule 4)	6,009,803	2,332,340	2,527,579
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	5,489,251	1,059,257	12,008,908
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	150,163,014	150,163,014	138,154,106
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, END OF YEAR	155,652,265	151,222,271	150,163,014



Supporting recreation, culture, and parks for M.D. residents

Active living through recreation leads to improved health and a better community. Participation in recreation improves individuals' mental and physical health. Recreation also helps to build strong families and communities and enhances opportunities for people to connect with nature.

Residents access recreation opportunities from various providers including community organizations, municipalities, and private providers. The M.D. of Taber supports many community-based organizations that manage facilities and provide recreation programs and services to residents. The M.D. also operates parks throughout the community that have trails, picnic shelters, ball diamonds, playgrounds, campgrounds, outdoor swimming areas, and other amenities.

To help understand recreation priorities for the next five to ten years, the M.D. of Taber is conducting a Recreation Master Plan. The findings will identify activities that interest residents, determine how programs, services, and facilities are provided to residents, and assess what is needed to address the needs of residents and community organizations.

Over the next few months, residents and stakeholders of the M.D. of Taber will be engaged and consulted about recreation, culture, and parks. Various methods will be used to contact and consult with residents and stakeholders such as surveys, discussion groups, and open houses.

According to Reeve Merrill Harris, "The Recreation Master Plan will be a vital tool that Council will use to make decisions for the community for years to come. The community survey is a great opportunity for residents to express their views on various topics about recreation in the M.D."

Every household in the M.D. will receive a questionnaire in the mail for the community survey. Each package will include a letter of introduction, a questionnaire, and a postage-paid return envelope. The survey will also be available online. If a resident does not receive a package, they are encouraged to contact the M.D. office and one will be sent to them. When you receive the questionnaire package, please take the time to complete it so that the M.D. knows what is needed for recreation, culture, and parks in the coming years.

All the information given through the survey will be confidential. Combined responses will be shared with the M.D. Council, and will help to set priorities for recreation, culture, and parks.

HarGroup Management Consultants Inc. has been contracted by the M.D. of Taber to conduct the Recreation Master Plan. Should you have comments about recreation, culture, and parks in the M.D., you can send them to HarGroup consultants by email (mdtrecreation@hargroup.ca) or telephone (1-877-431-5002).

Council is considering the adoption of an "off highway vehicle" bylaw which will permit the operation of off highway vehicles on municipal roads including quads, side by sides, all terrain vehicles, snowmobiles and other vehicles that could be defined by off road in nature. The purpose of the bylaw is to recognize the use of off highway vehicles that are currently being used on municipal roads in rural areas for agriculture and other purposes.

All vehicles would have to be licensed and insured to be operated on the road.

Council is seeking feedback at the annual general meeting with respect to your opinion on the adoption of an Off Highway Vehicle Bylaw for the M.D. of Taber. Rural municipalities in southern Alberta which have a bylaw, or are considering a bylaw which permits off highway vehicles on municipal roadways including the County of Warner, Municipal District of Willow Creek and Municipal District of Crowsnest Pass.

A copy of the bylaw is included here for your information.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER BYLAW NO. OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE CONTROL BYLAW

BEING A BYLAW OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, TO REGULATE THE OPERATION OF OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES IN THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER.

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 120 (4)(b) of the *Traffic Safety Act*, Council may, by bylaw, authorize the use of Off-Highway Vehicles on Highways under its direction, control and management; and

WHEREAS pursuant to the provisions of the *Municipal Government Act*, Council may pass bylaws for municipal purposes respecting the following matters:

- a) the safety, health and welfare of people and the protection of people and property;
- b) people, activities and things in, on or near a public place or place that is open to the public; and
- c) the enforcement of bylaws;

WHEREAS it is the desire of the Council of the Municipal District of Taber to regulate the use of Off-Highway Vehicles within the Municipal District of Taber on roadways under its jurisdiction when used for legitimate business purposes;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Municipal District of Taber, in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled enacts as follows:

PART 1 – SHORT TITLE

1. This Bylaw may be cited as the "Off-Highway Vehicle Control Bylaw".

PART 2 – INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION DEFINITIONS

1. In this Bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires;
 - (a) "Chief Administrative Officer" means the Chief Administrative Officer of the Municipal District of Taber of his delegate;
 - (b) "Council" means the Council of the Municipal District of Taber;
 - (c) "Highway" means roads under the management and control of the Municipal District of Taber including any thoroughfare, street, road, trail, avenue, parkway, driveway, viaduct, lane, alley, square, bridge, causeway, trestle way, or other place or any part of any of them, that the public is ordinarily entitled or permitted to use for the passage or parking of vehicles and includes:
 - i. a sidewalk, including a boulevard adjacent to the sidewalk;
 - ii. if a ditch lies adjacent to and parallel with the roadway, the ditch, and;
 - iii. if a highway right of way is contained between fences or between a fence and one side of the roadway, all the land between the fences, or all the land between the fence and the edge of the roadway, as the case may be;

- vi. snow vehicles;
- vii. any other means of transportation that is propelled by any power other than muscular power or wind;

But does not include:

- viii. motorized boats;
 - ix. miniature vehicles, including but not limited to go carts, golf carts, pocket bikes, riding lawn mowers, scooters and mopeds that cannot be registered pursuant to the *Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation*, or
 - x. any other vehicle exempted from being an Off-Highway Vehicle regulation;
- (i) "Off-Highway Vehicle Exclusion Zones" means those areas described within Schedule "A" hereto and which may be amended from time to time by Council;
 - (j) "Operate" or "Operating" means to drive or in actual physical control of an Off-Highway Vehicle;
 - (k) "Operator" means the person operating or in physical control of an Off-Highway Vehicle;
 - (l) "Operator's License" means an operator's license issued pursuant to the *Traffic Safety Act* and includes a license or permit issued in another jurisdiction that permits a Person to operate a motor vehicle of the same class;
 - (m) "Owner" means the Person named as the registered owner of the Off-Highway Vehicle, or any Person renting an Off-Highway Vehicle, or any Person having the exclusive use of an Off-Highway Vehicle under a lease, or any Person otherwise having the exclusive use of an Off-Highway Vehicle for a period of more than thirty (30) days;
 - (n) "Peace Officer" means:
 - i. A Bylaw Enforcement Officer appointed pursuant by the *Municipal Government Act*; or
 - ii. A police officer appointed pursuant to the *Police Act*; or
 - iii. A peace officer appointed pursuant to the *Peace Officer Act* whose appointment includes enforcement of the Municipality's bylaws;
 - (o) "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, association, corporation, trustee, executor, administrator or other legal representative;

But does not include roads under the management and control of the Province of Alberta including Highway 3, Highway 36, Highway 25, Highway 864, Highway 877, Highway 875, Highway 521, Highway 524 or Highway 526.

- (d) "Legitimate Business Purpose" means the use of an Off-Highway Vehicle for the purpose of business, commerce or trade and does not include any recreational purpose not related to business, commerce or trade.
- (e) "Municipality" means the municipal corporation of the Municipal District of Taber and includes the geographical area within the boundaries of the Municipal District of Taber where the context so requires;
- (f) "Municipal Tag" means a tag or similar document issued by the Municipality under the *Municipal Government Act* that alleges a bylaw offence and provides a Person with the opportunity to pay an amount to the Municipality in lieu of prosecution for the offence;
- (g) "Municipal Property" means any lands owned by the Municipality, or under the direction, control and management of the Municipality, to which members of the public have access by express or implied invitation, but does not include Highways;
- (h) "Off-Highway Vehicle" or "OHV" means any motorized mode of transportation built for cross-county travel on land, water, snow, ice, marsh, swamp land or on other natural terrain and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes, when specifically designed for such travel.
 - i. 4-wheel drive vehicles;
 - ii. low pressure tire vehicles;
 - iii. motor cycles and related 2-wheel vehicles;
 - iv. amphibious machines;
 - v. all-terrain vehicles;

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER BYLAW NO. OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE CONTROL BYLAW

■ Continued from Page 4

- (p) "Roadway" means that part of a Highway intended for use by vehicular traffic;
- (q) "Special Event" means any race, derby, rally or other organized social or sporting event in which the operation of Off-Highway Vehicles on a Highway is the predominate purpose of the event, or such other event where the operation of Off-Highway Vehicles on a Highway may be required to support the event;
- (r) "Safety Helmet" means a safety helmet intended for use by an operator or passenger on an Off-Highway Vehicle that:
 - i. meets one or more of the standards for motorcycle safety helmets adopted in the *Vehicle Equipment Regulation*; and
 - ii. has the mark or label CSA, DOT, BSI or the Snell Memorial Foundation indicating that the safety helmet met one or more of the specifications required on the date on which it was manufactured;
- (s) Schedule "A" means the schedule attached outlining the areas where Off-Highway Vehicles may not be operated and which is attached to this bylaw and which may be amended by Council Resolution from time to time.
- (t) Schedule "B" means the schedule of fines outlining penalties associated with offences committed under this bylaw and which is attached to this bylaw and which may be amended by Council Resolution from time to time.
- (u) "Violation Ticket" means a violation ticket issued pursuant to the *Provincial Offences Procedures Act*.

PART 2 – RULES OF INTERPRETATION

2. Any heading, sub-headings or tables of contents in this Bylaw are included for guidance purposes and convenience only, and shall not form part of this Bylaw.
3. Any reference to a statute is a statute of the Province of Alberta unless otherwise stated and includes reference to any regulations enacted thereunder.
4. Where this Bylaw refers to another Act, Bylaw, Regulation or Agency, it includes reference to any Act, Bylaw, Regulation or Agency that may be substituted therefore.
5. This Bylaw is gender-neutral and accordingly any reference to one gender included another.
6. Every provision of this Bylaw is independent of all other provisions and if any provision of this Bylaw is declared invalid for any reason by a Court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions of this Bylaw shall remain valid and enforceable.

PART 2 – APPLICATION

7. This Bylaw applies to Highways under the direction, control and management of the Municipality

and nothing in this Bylaw authorizes, or in any way affects, the Operation of an Off-Highway Vehicle on any Provincial Highway.

8. Nothing in this Bylaw relieves any Person from complying with any provision of any federal or provincial legislation affecting Off-Highway Vehicles, including without restriction, the *Traffic Safety Act* and all applicable regulations thereunder.

PART 3 – OPERATING OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES

1. A Person may only Operate an Off-Highway Vehicle in the Municipality:
 - a. if used for a Legitimate Business Purpose; and
 - b. on the extreme right side of the Roadway in the parking lane; or
 - c. where the Roadway does not include a parking lane or where the parking lane is obstructed, in the rightmost lane of the Roadway; and
 - d. at a maximum speed not to exceed twenty (50) kilometers per hour, or where a lower speed limit has been prescribed, in excess of the prescribed limit; and
 - e. on lands outside the Off-Highway Vehicle Exclusion Zones, being those areas described within "Schedule A".

PART 4 – OPERATIONAL RESTRICTIONS

1. Without restricting the generality of section 9, no Person shall operate an Off-Highway Vehicle in the Municipality unless:
 - a. The Off-Highway Vehicle is duly:
 - i. Registered;
 - ii. Insured; and
 - iii. Displays a valid license plate, Pursuant to the *Traffic Safety Act*, and
 - b. The Off-Highway Vehicle is equipped with headlamps, tail lamps, an exhaust muffler and such other equipment as required by the *Off-Highway Vehicle Regulation*; and
 - c. The Person Operating the Off-Highway Vehicle has a valid Operator's License.
 - d. No Person shall Operate or ride as a passenger on an Off-Highway Vehicle unless that Person is wearing a Safety Helmet securely attached on the Person's head.
2. Section 1 above does not apply to the Operation of an Off-Highway Vehicle on land:
 - a. owned by the Person Operating the Off-Highway Vehicle; or
 - b. on land owned by some other Person if that other Person has expressly or impliedly consented to the Operation of that Off-Highway Vehicle on that land.
3. No Person shall operate an Off-Highway Vehicle on Municipal Property including parks and recreation areas or on cultivated farmland or grassland owned by the Municipality except where the person has a valid lease agreement.
4. No Person shall operate an Off-Highway Vehicle

on a Highway, except in accordance with this Bylaw or as otherwise permitted under the *Traffic Safety Act*.

5. Notwithstanding sections 3 and 4, a Person may load or unload an Off-Highway Vehicle onto or from a motor vehicle or trailer from a Highway or Municipal Property if at an approved staging area.
6. No Person shall operate an Off-Highway Vehicle in the Municipality unless the Person is at least 14 years of age.
7. No Person shall operate or ride as a passenger on an Off-Highway Vehicle where the number of Persons on the Off-Highway Vehicle exceeds the number of Persons that the Off-Highway Vehicle is designed to carry.
8. No Person shall operate an Off-Highway Vehicle on any Highway where the Municipality has placed a sign or signs prohibiting such operation.
9. No Person shall operate an Off-Highway Vehicle within the Municipality in a manner that constitutes a nuisance as reasonably determined by a Peace Officer in his sole discretion.

PART 5 – AUTHORIZED SPECIAL EVENTS

1. No Person shall organize, conduct or take part in a Special Event unless a permit has been issued by the Chief Administrative Officer.
2. No Person shall organize, conduct or take part in a Special Event contrary to the terms and conditions imposed by a permit issued by the Chief Administrative Officer.
3. An application for a permit for a Special Event shall be made in writing to the Municipality no less than 14 days prior to the Special Event commencing and include:
 - a. A description of the proposed event and its purpose;
 - b. The name of the Person or organization responsible for sponsoring and organizing the proposed event;
 - c. The date and times of the proposed event;
 - d. The type of Off-Highway Vehicles to be used and the approximate number of Off-Highway Vehicles that will be participating at the event; and
 - e. Details of the proposed route including a map with the proposed route indicated.

PART 6 – PERMITS

1. Notwithstanding Part 5, the Council may issue permits in relation to activities governed by this Bylaw on such terms and conditions as the Council deems appropriate.
2. A Person to whom a permit has been issued pursuant to this Bylaw and any Person carrying out an activity otherwise regulated, restricted or prohibited by this Bylaw pursuant to such permit, shall comply with any terms or conditions forming part of the permit and shall produce the permit to a Peace Officer upon request.

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MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER

BYLAW NO. OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE CONTROL BYLAW

■ Continued from Page 5

3. A Person shall not make any false or misleading statement or provide any false or misleading information to obtain a permit pursuant to this Bylaw.
4. If any term or condition of a permit issued pursuant to this Bylaw is contravened or if a false or misleading statement or false or misleading information was provided to obtain the permit, in addition to any other remedy available to the Municipality, the Chief Administrative Officer or a Peace Officer may immediately cancel the permit.
5. The onus of proving a permit has been issued in relation to any activity otherwise regulated, restricted or prohibited by this Bylaw is on the Person alleging the existence of such a permit, on a balance of probabilities.

PART 7 – EXEMPTIONS

1. The provisions of this Bylaw shall not apply so as to restrict in any way the operation of an OHV by a Peace Officer or firefighter while in the performance of their official duties.
2. Subject to Parts 3 and 4, an OHV may operate on:
 - a. Municipal Property where the Person, while in the performance of their official duties is:
 - i. An employee or volunteer of the Municipality;
 - ii. An agent or contractor acting on behalf of the Municipality; or
 - b. Lands with the Off-Highway Vehicle Exclusion Zones where the Person is engaged in snow clearing, weed spraying or fence repair only.

PART 8 – AUTHORITY OF PEACE OFFICERS MUNICIPAL TAGS

1. A Peace Officer is hereby authorized and empowered to issue a Municipal Tag to any Person who the Peace Officer has reasonable and probable grounds to believe has contravened any provision of this Bylaw.
2. A Municipal Tag may be served:
 - a. personally to the accused;
 - b. mailed to the address of the registered owner of the OHV concerned, or the operator of the OHV if not their registered owner; or
 - c. attached to or left upon the OHV with respect of which the offence is alleged to have been committed.
3. The Municipal Tag shall be in a form approved by the Chief Administrative Officer and shall state:
 - a. the name of the Person to whom the Municipal Tag is issued, if known;
 - b. a description of the offence and the applicable Bylaw section;
 - c. the appropriate penalty for the offence as specified in Schedule “B” of this Bylaw;
 - d. that the penalty shall be paid within fourteen

- (14) days of the issuance of the Municipal Tag in order to avoid prosecution; and
- e. any other information as may be required by the Chief Administrative Officer.
4. Where a contravention of this Bylaw is of a continuing nature, further Municipal Tags may be issued by a Peace Officer, provided that no more than one Municipal Tag shall be issued for each day that the contravention continues.
5. A Person to whom a Municipal Tag has been issued may pay the penalty specified on the Municipal Tag and if the amount is paid on or before the required date, the Person will not be prosecuted for the offence.
6. Nothing in this Bylaw shall prevent a Peace Officer from immediately issuing a Violation Ticket.

VIOLATION TICKETS

7. Where a Municipal Tag has been issued and the penalty specified on the Municipal Tag is not paid within the prescribed time, a Peace Officer is hereby authorized and empowered to issue a Violation Ticket.
8. Notwithstanding Part 8 Section 7, a Peace Officer may immediately issue a Violation Ticket to any Person whom the Peace Officer has reasonable and probable grounds to believe has contravened any provision of this Bylaw.
9. A Violation Ticket issued with respect to a contravention of this Bylaw shall be served upon the Person responsible for the contravention in accordance with the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act*.
10. If a Violation Ticket is issued in respect of an offence, the Violation Ticket may:
 - a. specify the fine amount established by this Bylaw for the offence in Schedule “B”; or
 - b. require a Person to appear in court without the alternative of making a voluntary payment.
11. A Person who commits an offence may:
 - a. if a Violation Ticket is issued in respect of the offence; and
 - b. if a Violation Ticket specifies the fine amount established by this Bylaw for the offence; make a voluntary payment equal to the specified fine.
12. When a clerk records in the court records the receipt of a voluntary payment pursuant to this Bylaw and the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act*, the act of recording receipt of that payment constitutes acceptance of the guilty plea and also constitutes a conviction and the imposition of a fine in the amount of the specified penalty.

PART 9 – PENALTIES

OFFENCE

1. A Person who contravenes or fails to comply with any provision of this Bylaw is guilty of an offence and is liable to a fine in an amount not less than that established in this Part and not exceeding \$10,000.00.

SPECIFIED PENALTIES

2. Without restricting the generality of Part 9 Section 1, the fine amounts established for use on Municipal Tags and Violation Tickets if a voluntary payment option is offered are as set out in Schedule “B”.

OWNER LIABLE

3. If an Off-Highway Vehicle is involved in an offence under this Bylaw, the Owner is guilty of an offence.
4. Notwithstanding Part 9 Section 3 does not apply if the Owner satisfies the court that, at the time that the Off-Highway Vehicle was involved in the offence:
 - a. the Person operating or otherwise in control of the OHV was operating or in control of the OHV without the Owner’s expressed or implied consent.

PART 10 – GENERAL BYLAW SCHEDULES

1. Schedules “A” and “B” attached hereto shall form part of this Bylaw and which may be amended by Council by resolution from time to time.

EFFECTIVE DATE

2. This Bylaw shall come into force and effect upon receiving third and final reading and being duly signed.
- Read a first time this ____ day of _____, 2018.
 Read a second time this ____ day of _____, 2018.
 Read a third and final time ____ day of _____, 2018.

SCHEDULE “A”

“Off-Highway Vehicle Exclusion Zones”

The Following areas are declared to be Off-

Highway Vehicle Exclusion Zones:

Hamlet of Grassy Lake

Hamlet of Hays

Hamlet of Enchant

Johnson’s Addition

Any lands designated as Grouped Country

Residential

All Municipal Parks and Recreation Areas

■ Continued on Page 7

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER BYLAW NO. OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE CONTROL BYLAW

■ Continued from Page 6

SCHEDULE "B" SPECIFIED PENALTIES

Section No.	Description	Specified Penalty
Part 3(1)(a)	Fail to Operate OHV in the parking lane where available	\$100.00
Part 3(1)(b)	Fail to Operate OHV in rightmost lane	\$100.00
Part 3(1)(c)	Operate OHV in excess of 20 km	\$100.00
Part 3(1)(d)	Operate OHV within Off-Highway Vehicle Exclusion Zone	\$500.00
Part 3(2)(a)	Operate OHV in opposite direction of Roadway traffic	\$500.00
Part 3(2)(b)	Failure to travel in single file	\$100.00
Part 4(1)(a)(i)	Unregistered OHV	\$270.00
Part 4(1)(a)(ii)	Uninsured OHV	\$500.00
Part 4(1)(a)(iii)	Failure to display licence plate on OHV	\$500.00
Part 4(1)(b)	OHV not properly equipped	\$500.00
Part 4(1)(c)	Unlicensed Operator	\$270.00
Part 4(1)(d)	Passenger riding on OHV without Helmet	\$100.00
Part 4(3)	Operate OHV on Municipal Property without permit	\$500.00
Part 4(6)	Underage Operator	\$500.00
Part 4(7)	Operate OHV between dusk and dawn	\$500.00
Part 4(8)	Passenger(s) in excess of designed capacity for OHV	\$500.00
Part 4(9)	Operate OHV contrary to posted sign	\$500.00
Part 4(10)	Operation of OHV causing a nuisance	\$500.00
Part 5(1)	Unauthorized Special Event	\$1,000.00
Part 6(2)	Fail to comply with permit	\$1,000.00
Part 6(3)	False/Misleading statement on permit application	\$1,000.00
Part 9(3)	Owner of OHV involved in contravention of Bylaw	Specified penalty shall be equal to underlying bylaw provision contravened

PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION DUE DATE

The Municipal District of Taber is reviewing their property tax collection dates and associated penalties in relation to current economic conditions and the collection dates in other rural municipalities. Input is being sought from residents and various stakeholders, with regards to a property tax collection date that would be earlier on in the calendar year.

Currently the Municipal District of Taber levies and mails property tax notices out in May of each year. Current taxes must be paid on or before November 15th to avoid a 5% penalty. All taxes remaining unpaid after December 31st of each year have a penalty of 12% percent applied to the outstanding amount.

Each year, the Municipal District of Taber collects the majority of its property tax revenues, approximately \$20,550,000 on or near November 15th. These funds are currently being invested in short term/cashable investments within ATB Financial. The funds are utilized throughout the following calendar year to pay budgeted operating and capital expenditures and meet ongoing financial obligations.

Currently, an interest rate of approximately 2.50% is being earned on municipal funds. For each 30 day period approximately \$42,800 in incremental interest would be earned at an investment rate of 2.50%.

Approximately \$39,000 in penalties were imposed on November 16, 2017, and \$131,390 in penalties were imposed on January 1, 2018. For the most recent years, approximately \$87,000 in penalties were imposed on November 16, 2018, and \$285,500 in penalties were imposed on January 1, 2019

Over the past few years, commercial bankruptcies have resulted in greater allowances for uncollectable property taxes. The majority of these bankruptcies have occurred in the latter parts of each calendar year.

In 2015, \$414,000 in property taxes was reserved as uncollectable.

In 2016, \$315,000 in property taxes was reserved as uncollectable.

In 2017, \$224,000 in property taxes was reserved as uncollectable.

In 2018, \$1,029,000 in property taxes was reserved as uncollectable.

Additionally, in the event penalty dates be imposed earlier in the year, the Pre-Authorized Tax Installment Payment Plan (TIPP) provides taxpayers the option to make manageable & budgeted monthly tax payments.

Campus Site Plan

Construction on the Maintenance and Operations Building was completed in July 2018. The new facility houses the administrative functions of the Agricultural Service Board and Public Works and includes all equipment maintenance.

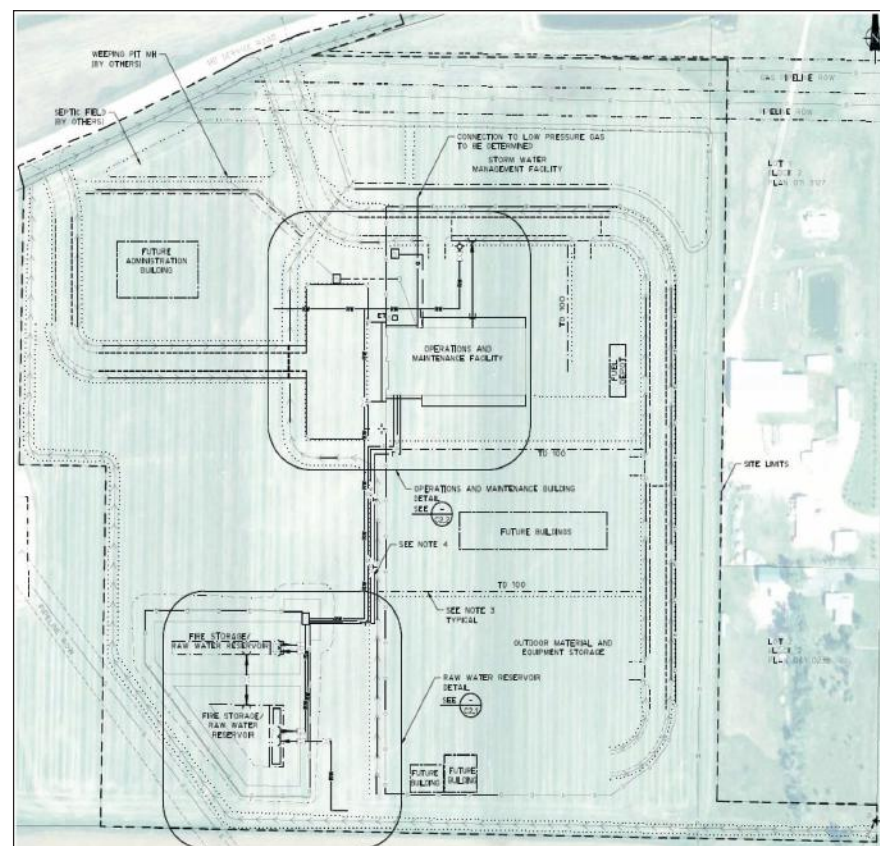
The Administration functions of the municipality continue to operate out of the administration office located in Taber. There is no plan to move this function to the new municipal campus site.

The Council considered the construction of storage buildings at the Campus site including chemical storage, sign and light equipment storage along with storage for heavy equipment. It was decided that no further construction at the site will occur at this time.

The following resolution was passed at the February 11, 2019 Council meeting:

Council Resolution C-2019-5522

To accept the Policy Committee Recommendation - Campus Site 3 Year Financial Plan to adopt option 1 of the 3-year financial plan for the campus site to delay further campus building development until funds are more readily available.





Rural municipalities out more than \$81 million in unpaid taxes from oil and gas companies

Nisku, AB, March 8, 2019 – The Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) have recently conducted a survey that identifies that an unprecedented **\$81 million in property taxes** from oil and gas companies have gone unpaid. This is a unique challenge that has not been experienced by municipalities in Alberta before. The survey, conducted in January and February 2019, had responses from 54 of the RMA's 69 members municipalities that cover the landscape of rural Alberta.

Oil and gas companies pay property taxes on the oil and gas infrastructure that they own with much of this infrastructure on property not owned by the companies (i.e. well sites & pipelines via lease or easements). The 2014 downturn in the price of oil has seen many companies fall on hard times. The current tax recovery system in Alberta does not allow for easy recourse for tax collection for these types of infrastructure, unlike options for properties. This has left a significant hole in rural municipal budgets throughout Alberta who rely on taxes from industrial activities.

"Rural municipalities provide the core infrastructure that allows Alberta's resource industries to reach Alberta's resources and then

transport those resources to national and international markets," said Al Kemmere, President of the Rural Municipalities of Alberta. "A revenue shortfall like the one from these unpaid taxes hinders that ability of these municipalities to provide this core infrastructure."

Rural municipalities often have little recourse to recuperate these unpaid taxes as many of these companies have declared bankruptcy and municipalities are low on the list of beneficiaries from an asset sale. Unpaid taxes, either by bankruptcy or by viable companies that simply choose to not pay, are causing major challenges for Alberta's rural municipalities in meeting their obligations.

"When oil and gas companies fail to pay their property taxes, the burden falls on the rest of the tax base to cover the difference to ensure that core services and infrastructure can continue to be provided for the betterment of the community," said Kemmere.

Rural municipalities need a solution to address this issue specifically for oil and gas properties, either through improved legislated tax recovery options in the Municipal Government, or through the Alberta Energy Regulator. Members of the RMA have recent-

ly endorsed a resolution calling on greater oversight and accountability from the oil and gas industry, and the Alberta Energy Regulator. Resolution 5-18F asks the AER to ensure that there are no outstanding municipal property taxes before licenses are transferred including licensed properties declared as "orphan sites". RMA members have also asked for broadened tax recovery powers.

Kemmere said, "Municipalities need an early detection system that can identify if oil and gas operators are struggling before it gets to the point where there is no money to pay these taxes."

The Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) is an independent association comprising Alberta's 69 counties and municipal districts. Since 1909, the RMA has helped rural municipalities achieve strong, effective local government. The RMA provides Advocacy and Business Services (including RMA Trade, RMA Fuel and RMA Insurance).

For enquiries, please contact:

Brandon Low

Marketing & Communications Manager

brandon@RMAAlberta.com

COMMUNITY PEACE OFFICER PROGRAM !!

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SUMMARY OF DUTIES PERFORMED

The M.D. of Taber Regional Enforcement Services comprises of the; Community Peace Officer Program and Bylaw Services.

Community Peace Officer perform duties according to their individual appointments and the authorization of the employer.

The moving force behind the program is holistic in nature. Officers enforce laws, ensure road safety and work with local populations (Mennonite and Hutterite) to bridge the cultural gap.

Officers reach out to the largely Mennonite population through school and social visits, attending community events and check in on people as part of their patrol routes. Officers make it a point to attend any and all community functions in order to be visible, approachable and build relationships. Formal school visits are a priority, and officers teach the LEADS/WITS program to combat bullying.

Officers enforce provincial statutes such as traffic safety, commercial vehicle weights & measures



and various statutes from animals, to trespassing and liquor/cannabis violations.

All Peace Officers are Bylaw Officers by virtue of their appointments, they mitigate and resolve bylaw complaints. The speed of this allows Peace Officers to effectively deal with situations long before they fester into long term problems with unsightly premises

and illegal usages being two large call volume complaints.

Officers are also expected to perform additional emergency services roles, when requested, such as firefighters and medical responders. Officers have completed advanced medical training such as NARCAN administration, AED deployment and trauma management.

Community Peace Officers are also tasked with assisting with crime reduction by working closely with the RCMP, sharing intelligence and being on the look-out for suspicious activity. Peace Officers also liaison with Victim Services, providing environmental design inspections to aid in the prevention of farm related thefts.

Reaching Youth: Building Trust

Peace Officers have been mandated to attend all schools in the M.D. of Taber, both those run by the Province and those of a more private nature. Officers volunteer with youth programs, outreach events and administer school talks and lectures.

CONTACT PERSON

The contact person for the program is:
Derrick Krizsan – Municipal Administrator
The supervisor of the program is:
Kirk Hughes – Peace Officer (Sergeant)

STAFF DIRECTORY

The M.D. of Taber employs the following full-time Community Peace Officer;

Heinrich PETERS #16802 is a Community Peace Officer Level 1 as of November 2017. PETERS is a former RCMP auxiliary officer and a graduate of the Solicitor General Law Enforcement Academy in Edmonton.

Dana BUTLER #16862 is a Community Peace Officer Level 1 as of January 2018. BUTLER is an ex-Constable of the RCMP, a former member of the Ontario Provincial Police Auxiliary and a veteran of the Canadian Forces. BUTLER is a graduate of the RCMP Depot Academy.

Kirk HUGHES, Sergeant, #16863 is a Community Peace Officer Level 1 and also the Chief Bylaw Officer. He is the supervisor of the program. HUGHES is an ex-Corporal with the RCMP, having served in the NWT for most of this career as well as a veteran of the Canadian Forces. HUGHES has graduated from; RCMP Depot Academy, RCMP Supervisor Development Program, Dalhousie University Police Leadership (Henson College) and the Canadian Police College.

M.D. PEACE OFFICERS AT THE ANNUAL TABER POLICE BALL | SUPPORTING HUMBOLDT

- Summary of Duties Performed
- Contact Person
- Staff Directory
- Operational Statistics
 - Enforcement Related Duties Performed
 - Patrolling and Outreach
- Offenses
 - Provincial Violation Tickets
 - Bylaw Violation Tickets
- Special Duties
- Training

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Other Staff include;
Corry Moline – is the casual Animal Control Officer (according to M.D. Bylaw) and is responsible for the operation of the M.D. of Taber animal care facility.

The M.D. of Taber also utilizes the services of the Taber Police for dispatching and communications through an MOU. The dispatchers include 8+ personnel under the direction of Police Chief Dr. Graham Abela.

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS ENFORCEMENT

Although education is stressed over enforcement, the M.D. of Taber Regional Enforcement Services utilize Report Exec™ for tracking of all related stats. In 2018 the M.D. of Taber Community Peace Officer & Bylaw responded to the following number of calls/complaints;

Alarms: 1
Animal Calls: 40
Assist other Agency: 7
Assist CVE: 2
Assist Fish & Wildlife: 14
Assist Fire: 38
Assist RCMP/Police: 71
Assist Peace Officer: 11
Bylaw: 100
Check-stops: 10 (provided traffic control)
Criminal Code: 23*
Fire Investigations: 5
Fire Response: 11
Liquor: 4
Medical Response: 2
Parking Complaint: 9
Parks & Recreation: 17
Request for Patrols: 196
Property Checks: 5
Service of Legal Documents: 5
Suspicious Activity: 6
Traffic Complaint: 106
Trespass: 14
Others: 32
Total: 729

23 Criminal Code stats are recorded. These often occurred when officers conducted a traffic stop and the driver was impaired or an outstanding warrant existed. In all cases, the RCMP were notified and attended. The rest involved complaints gathered by Peace Officers while working which were referred to the RCMP or, during the course of an investigation, ended up being criminal. In those circumstances, the informant was advised of the capabilities of the Peace Officer and an RCMP Officer was notified.



HIGHLIGHTS

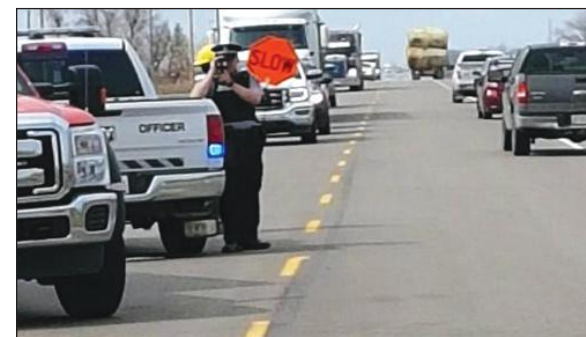
Peace Officers arrested 1 person in 2018, a male wanted on unendorsed warrants. The male was in violation of the Traffic Safety Act (speeding) and upon discovery of the warrants, was arrested and turned over promptly to the RCMP officer who attended the scene.

PATROLLING & OUTREACH

Officers conducted 85,800 kilometres of patrols throughout the M.D. of Taber with focus on the 4 villages of; Hays, Enchant, Grassy Lake and Barnwell. Officers completed numerous school visits, 5x5 Coalition presentations, participated in Air Cadet activities, community events (Remembrance Day, Cornfest, Southern Alberta Summer Games, Coors Banquet, Trout Pond Kids Can Fish, etc). Peace Officers were extremely active in their communities – and were recognized for their outreach throughout the year!

Bylaw

The main job of Community Peace Officers often deals with bylaw and municipal enforcement. Parks, Weeds and animals were the most common calls for service for the program with dogs being the most common animal seized.



CPO1 Peters conducts a car seat inspection during a vehicle stop in Grassy Lake, Alberta in April 2018

Traffic Enforcement

Community Peace Officers assist Regional Fire Services on-scene of any accident on MD roadways. Upon request, Peace Officers also assist the RCMP, CP Rail Police and other law enforcement agencies. Here CPO 1 PETERS is seen conducting speed enforcement at the scene of an accident. Providing a safe work environment for emergency responders is a key part of our culture.

CPO1 Peters with fellow CPO's from Coaldale and Lethbridge County at a medal presentation for 12 years' service for CPO1 Shawn LaPointe.

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OFFENCES – PROVINCIAL VIOLATIONS

In the 2018 calendar year the Regional Enforcement Service issued 354 citations (either a violation ticket or a formal warning).

The following is the breakdown of Provincial Violations issued:

- 1) GLA – Public Intoxication: 1
- 2) Fail to Notify Registrar: 7
- 3) Drive without License Plate Secured: 6
- 4) Careless Driving: 1
- 5) Engage in Stunting et al: 1
- 6) Exceed Speed: 217
- 7) Distracted Driving: 3
- 8) Overweight Commercial Trucks/Cargo: 5
- 9) Fail to Stop: 1
- 10) Failure to Produce (D/L, Registration, Insurance): 35
- 11) Operate MV without License Possession: 12
- 12) Improper Use of D/L: 1
- 13) Drive Uninsured MVC on a Highway: 1
- 14) Drive Left of Centre: 1
- 15) Improperly Cross Double Line: 1
- 16) Unreasonable Speed: 3
- 17) Obstructed Traffic: 3
- 18) Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device: 5
- 19) Failure to Signal: 1
- 20) Equipment Violation (Burnt out Lights): 20
- 21) Tint: 12
- 22) Car Seat: 3
- 23) Seat Belt: 15

OFFENCES – BYLAW VIOLATIONS

In the 2018 calendar year the Regional Enforcement Service did not issue any bylaw violation notices.

SPECIAL DUTIES

The M.D. of Taber was hit with extensive overland flooding in the month of May which resulted in a State of Local Emergency. Roads were washed out, areas inundated with water, and residents homes were flooded. Peace Officers worked tirelessly to secure barricades, make physical contact with displaced residents, patrol the evacuation areas and assist in any way possible. This was an unusual natural disaster event that lasted a considerable long time. Peace Officers contributed overtime



hours to protecting road crews working with heavy machinery and providing a level of security in partnership with the RCMP.

Peace Officers also assisted CP Rail Police in 2 occasions when a trail incident/derailment occurred in M.D. boundaries, and 1 time when a fatal train incident occurred in the Town of Taber, and Taber Police requested assistance in diverting traffic.

July and August saw Peace Officers geared up in support of the Southern Alberta Summer Games. Peace Officers extended patrol hours to help with game activities including; traffic control at marathon events, foot patrol at sporting games such as volleyball, baseball and water patrol for canoeing and swimming.

Lastly, the summer game to an end with the annual Cornfest and, this year, the Coors Music Banquet. Peace Officers assisted local law enforcement in conducting check-stops and patrolling.

TRAINING

Community Peace Officers in 2018, participated in both formal and informal training sessions on a monthly basis. Mandatory training was conducted by approved Solicitor General instructors. Peace Officers attended formal training hosted by; Taber Police, Lethbridge College and St. John Ambulance.

All staff participated in a variety of courses, including;

- iNet Computer Aided Dispatch Course – Allows officers to access iNet tracking feature
- Edged Weapons Defense Course – Taught by Taber Police
- Water/Ice Rescue – Provides Peace Officers the knowledge, skills and abilities to work during the flood
- WITS/LEADS – Anti-Bullying lecture series to promote safe schools
- Narcan Administration – Allows officers to safely administer NARCAN © to a suspected opioid overdoes patient
- Traffic Control/Flagger Course – Teaches officers the proper and certified way to re-direct, control and calm traffic
- Radio Communications – With the coming online of AFFRCS allows officers to utilize the new system effectively
- Car Seat Installation and Inspection Course – geared towards child seat installation and inspection
- Weights/Measures – designed for weighing and cargo securement of commercial vehicles hosted by Lethbridge College
- Dealing with Dangerous Dogs – a guide to better handling and safety when dealing with animal calls for service

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- Radio Communications – With the coming online of AFFRCS allows officers to utilize the new system effectively
- Car Seat Installation and Inspection Course – geared towards child seat installation and inspection
- Weights/Measures – designed for weighing and cargo securement of commercial vehicles hosted by Lethbridge College
- Dealing with Dangerous Dogs – a guide to better handling and safety when dealing with animal calls for service
- Unsightly Premises – lecture on best practices when dealing with bylaws pertaining to properties
- Ground Search & Rescue: refresher to keep current on the new legislation and CSA guidelines
- Rattlesnake Awareness Course: dealt with proper handling and removal of snakes from areas of high incident
- Cannabis – devoted series of lectures and research focusing on the new cannabis legislation on their impact on current laws
- Radar/Lidar – Important course to instruct officers on the techniques for speed reduction and enforcement
- Shotgun Training – re-certification for officers to utilize shotguns according to their individual appointments
- Baton/OC – re-certification for officers to utilize intervention tools according to their individual appointments
- Hazardous Materials Level 2 – teaches officers the dangers of hazardous materials and to understand their roles during an emergency with emphasis on commercial vehicles and railcars
- ROADS – a program utilized by the Regional Enforcement Service to track complaints and calls as per policy
- Emergency Operations Course – put on by Alberta Emergency Management Agency to inform officers of their roles in an EOC



- Incident Command Systems – provides Peace Officers with the knowledge to work within the international response framework
 - Traffic Stop Analysis – a refresher on approaching a vehicle in a traffic stops, signs to watch out for and safety considerations
 - Tactical Communication – a refresher on dealing with the public and specific populations (anti-police, etc)
- The Regional Enforcement Services members also attended 3 conferences in 2018.
- Alberta Association of Community Peace Officers (Annual Meeting) – Banff, Alberta
 - Alberta Municipal Enforcement Association (Spring) – Red Deer, Alberta
 - Alberta Municipal Enforcement Association (Fall) – Red Deer, Alberta

CLOSING COMMENTS

With 2018 complete and 2019 approaching, Peace Officers will continue to work with local partners to enhance public safety and community security while working within their mandate according to their authorities.

The support this program has received from outside agencies, such as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Taber/Vauxhall Detachment), Taber Police Service, Coaldale & Lethbridge County Peace Officers, Fish & Wildlife Officers, CP Rail Police, Sheriffs and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement has been amazing.

With the Lazenby inquiry recommendations implemented, the M.D. of Taber Peace Officer program looks forward to serving the Municipal District of Taber, their hamlets and communities in the most professional and safe manner possible.

-Peace Officer Sergeant Kirk Hughes,
#16863



Regional Walking Trail



Bridge File 80155 BRID Drop 5 – Re-bar work on wing wall and abutment



Bridge File 80155 BRID Drop 5 – Forming work on wing wall and abutment

The M.D. of Taber – Infrastructure

Spring is here and the prime construction season is just around the corner. Thankfully, this spring is a far cry from last with overland flooding issues being nearly non-existent. This winter has proven to be a productive one. Bridge File 80155 and the Bow River Irrigation District Drop 5 project has progressed and will be completed in advance of the Irrigation waters being conveyed through the main canal. This project is located south of the Hamlet of Enchant. Also, Bridge File 80046 located east of the Town of Taber has been replaced. Contractors are currently working toward completion of the Vauxhall and District Regional Water Services Commission / Prairie Gold Produce project and are on schedule to provide water later this spring.

Contractors have delivered quality work in a safe and efficient manner in all regards. Projects completed include:

- Hamlet of Grassy Lake – 1st Street North Surfacing Improvements
- Hamlet of Hays - Surfacing Improvements
- Hamlet of Enchant - Enchant Industrial Lot Servicing
- Bridge File 80046 - Replacement
- Regional Walking Trail

The municipality plans to tender four projects for the 2019 construction year. These projects include:

- Jensen Drain – SE 15-10-15 – Culvert replacement
 - Replacement of a underdrain culvert
- Range Road 18-2 south of Highway 526 Rebuild – (1 mile)
 - Partnership with Alberta Transportation through the Resource Road Program
- Bridge File 84230 – Replacement under Range Road 14-5 south of Highway 3
 - Partnership with Alberta Transportation through the Local Road Bridge program
- Highway 36 Rest Area – Vauxhall
 - Partnership with Alberta Transportation to construct and maintain a Rest Area for large trucks as well as passenger vehicles.

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



Bridge File 80046 – Completed



Bridge File 80046 – Asphalt removal



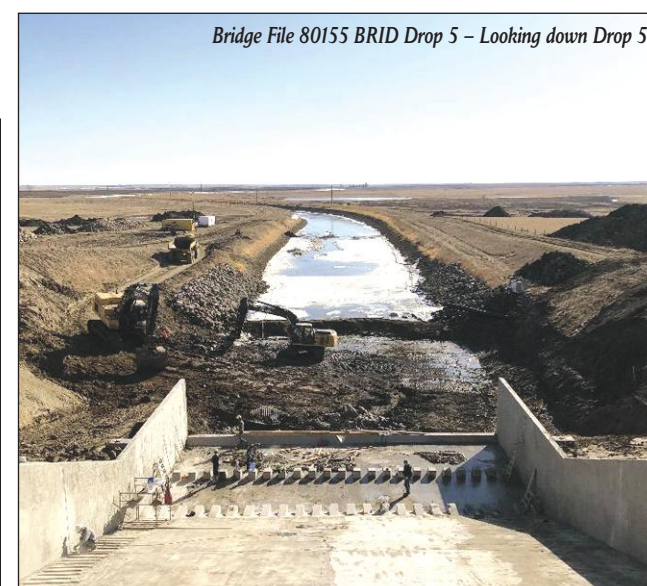
Bridge File 80155 BRID Drop 5



Bridge File 80155 BRID Drop 5 – Heating and hording of concrete



Bridge File 80155 BRID Drop 5 – Bridge girders



Bridge File 80155 BRID Drop 5 – Looking down Drop 5

MARCH



Annual General Meeting **MARCH 26 @ 7pm**

BOARD MEETING



Regular Board Meeting **MARCH 11 @ 7pm**



Thank-you to everyone who walked, donated and/or volunteered for this freezing cold event! Our goal was to raise \$20,000 and so far we have raised around \$11,000!! If you haven't had an opportunity to contribute yet, we can accepting donations until March 31st. Visit cnoy.org/location/taber to donate today or bring your cheque made out to "Coldest Night of the Year" to the food bank before March 22nd.



#hungercount2019

Food Banks Canada



March is HUNGER COUNT month across Canada. The primary purpose of the annual Hunger Count study is to provide a national and provincial snapshot of food bank use in Canada. This is accomplished by counting the number of individuals who receive groceries from food banks during the month of March.

Our organization keeps up-to-date stats on our monthly hamper program but does not have recent statistics for those that access our "store front" for groceries. We are looking for some folks available to assist with recording that information throughout the month of March. We have split each business day into (3) 2 hour time slots between the hours of 9am to 3pm, Tuesday to Friday.

To sign-up as a volunteer, visit our website and click on the "Hunger Count 2019" for the registration link.



Walmart is committed to making a real difference in relieving hunger. Together with their suppliers and customers, they are setting out to raise and donate enough funds to secure 13 million meals through the Fight Hunger, Spark Change program in 2019. To help deliver on this goal, Walmart Canada will also commit to \$1 million to Food Banks Canada. There are four ways to join the fight.....



Mail or drop off completed form and payment to:
Taber Food Bank
5512 48 Avenue • Taber, AB T1G 1S4

NAME (required):	
EMAIL (required):	
ADDRESS:	
TOWN:	POSTAL CODE:
PHONE #:	
\$5 ENCLOSED: <input type="checkbox"/> CASH <input type="checkbox"/> CHEQUE	

2019 MEMBERSHIP FORM

WHY BUY \$5 MEMBERSHIP?

- Show your support of the Taber Food Bank
- Your fee contributes to our grocery costs
- Be the first to know what's happening
- Keep informed about volunteering opportunities
- Receive updates on fundraising and events
- Vote at the AGM
- Eligible to run for a Member at Large Director

Purchase your 2019 membership anytime within this year by mailing in the above form, dropping it off at the food bank or connecting with a board member or church representative. To be eligible to vote and allow your name to stand as a Member at Large Director, you must purchase your membership a minimum of one month prior to the Annual General Meeting.



An example of a spray truck used to apply herbicides on roadsides



Ag Service Board summer staff cutting and bagging an infestation of nodding thistle

Vegetation Management in the MD of Taber

At some point in the summertime, you've probably seen the Agricultural Service Board staff applying pesticides on the roadsides, in parks, or around the hamlets. Or maybe you've seen summer staff in the ditches pulling weeds by hand. These activities are all part of the MD of Taber's vegetation management plan. Weed control and vegetation management form a large part of the work done by the Ag Service Board throughout the spring, summer, and even into the fall. Here is some quick information about the vegetation management practices of the MD of Taber:

Why Control Weeds?

Many weed species are regulated under the Alberta Weed Control Act. The Act specifies two classes of weeds: **prohibited noxious weeds**, such as knapweed, purple loosestrife, or nodding thistle, which must be destroyed or eradicated; and **noxious weeds**, such as baby's-breath, scentless chamomile, or leafy spurge, which must be controlled or prevented from spreading. Controlling weeds in the ditches and roadsides helps to reduce the spread into adjacent fields, which helps to maintain the economic viability of agriculture in the area. Mowing and spraying the roadside throughout the MD creates a safer transportation network as weeds and other vegetation are not blocking sight lines or encroaching on the roads. In parks and hamlets, weed control is performed to control nuisance weeds such as dandelions. This helps to create a better green space with healthier turf for recreation and aesthetics.



Flower from diffuse knapweed, a prohibited noxious weed

Staff and Training

The Ag Service Board currently employs five certified pesticide applicators. These employees have demonstrated their knowledge and competency in weed identification, control methods, safety, and environmental protection and stewardship. Each spring the applicators attend training courses and seminars to maintain their licenses and to stay up-to-date on changes and new technology. Any summer staff that assist the applicators in applying pesticides are given

adequate training and the appropriate PPE to do the job safely.

Equipment

The Ag Service Board utilizes several different types of equipment to manage weeds and vegetation. A tandem spray truck is used for roadside applications and for any contracted work on highways. Two 2-ton spray trucks are also used for roadside applications and some other work in larger field areas. A 1-ton pickup truck is used for spraying in the hamlets as well as for controlling grass and other vegetation that is growing up onto the road surface. New for 2019 is a UTV sprayer unit that will be used alongside an ATV sprayer to control weeds in parks, hamlets, and other sensitive areas, as well as to do some contract work in highway ditches and along the rail lines.

As well as spraying pesticides, the Ag Service Board often hand pulls or cuts noxious weeds. This is done in areas where spraying is not safe or practical, or to control weeds that are difficult to suppress with herbicides, such as scentless chamomile or purple loosestrife.

The Ag Service Board also attempts to use the safest and most effective herbicide products in its management plan. Rotating chemicals helps to reduce the risk of herbicide resistance developing and also helps to get a broader spectrum of control on the weeds in the ditches.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding weed control in the MD of Taber, feel free to contact the Ag Service Board at 403-223-8735.

Annual Herbicide Applications

The Ag Service Board 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.



COMMUNITIES *in* BLOOM

Rural Beautification Competition

Eligibility:

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

Competition Categories:

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

Awards:

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

NOMINATION FORM

I nominate

Name: _____

Residence/land Location: _____

Phone number: _____

Nominated for Division # _____

Category #: _____

Nominator _____

Phone: _____

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

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

MD of Taber *Annual* ROADSIDE CLEANUP

The MD of Taber annual roadside cleanup program is set up as a fundraiser event. All charitable groups and clubs are now encouraged to participate.

The dates for the cleanup this year are Friday afternoon at 1:30 May 10th for Taber area. For the Vauxhall area Friday afternoon at 1:30 May 31st.

For more information about the Road Cleanup Program or to apply for your charitable group go to the MD of Taber website at www.mdtaber.ab.ca





HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC SCHOOL DIVISION



For new students registering for the 2019/2020 year, please bring your child's birth certificate and contact:



St. Patrick School - Early Learning to Grade 5

5302-48th Street, Taber, AB

Phone: (403) 223-3352 www.holyspirit.ab.ca/st.patrick



St. Mary School - Grades 6 to 12

5427-50th Street, Taber, AB

Phone: (403) 223-3165 www.holyspirit.ab.ca/sms

Early Learning and Kindergarten Registration

- Our **Early Learning Program** is designed to stimulate the growing curiosity of children 3 and 4 years of age.
- **Kindergarten** is designed for children 5 years of age on, or before, December 31, 2019.

If you have any questions, or feel your child requires specialized programming, contact Early Learning Coordinator, Lynn Saler, at salerl@holyspirit.ab.ca or (403) 381-8495.

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



HORIZON SCHOOL DIVISION

Early Childhood Services 2019-2020 REGISTER NOW!

KINDERGARTEN...*the journey begins!*

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

EARLY LEARNING...*playful learning!*

If your child is **4** by December 31, they are eligible to be enrolled in Early Learning! Children with a diagnosed developmental delay or learning English may qualify for early entry to a program.

Registration forms are available at your neighbourhood school. 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 (403) 223-3547 ext 10145.





M.D. of Taber Regional Fire Service – 2018 Budget Results

Across the country the cost for fire services is escalating. According to the 2015 Fraser Institute study “Municipal Fire Services in Canada: A Preliminary Analysis” municipal fire costs increased in real terms by 28.9% during a 6-year period considered by the study. For any community this is not sustainable in the long term.

This is not the case in the M.D. of Taber as indicated by the results of the 2018 budget.

The 3-year implementation plan of the M.D. of Taber Regional Fire Service is now almost completed and the results have exceeded all expectations.

The results from the 2018 Regional Fire Service budget are as follows:

■ Total Expenditures	\$1,221,035
Amortization (non cash)	\$157,966
Net Expenditures	\$1,066,069
■ Less Revenue	\$352,892
Net 2018 Cost (not including amortization)	\$710,177

This compares to the 2015 fire budget which was \$624,000. With a volunteer fire service these costs now that the initiative is near fully implemented are largely fixed – we do not expect to see in our municipality the ever escalating costs as seen across the country for emergency services.

Considering what has been accomplished – this is an amazing achievement.

Since 2015 the M.D. of Taber has increased the number of volunteer firefighters from 56 to 117 including 14 female firefighters and 7 junior members. Rarely are there fewer than 35 volunteer firefighters available to answer a call in our Regional Fire Service at any given time – each of the six fire stations stands ready to assist their fellow fire stations when necessary.

The number of firefighters trained to a minimum Level 1 National Fire Protection Agency 1001 Standard has increased from 9 to over 90.

A Junior Firefighter program was initiated that encourages young people who are 16-18 years old to join the volunteer fire service. 12 individuals have committed themselves to the training and attendance requirements and 7 junior members have graduated to become firefighters – a demonstration of the effective-

ness and longevity of our fire service as these dedicated individuals will continue over the years to provide skillful service to our community.

Thank you to our Volunteer Firefighters for responding to the call by becoming being members of the M.D. of Taber Regional Fire Service. The value of a volunteer is beyond measure – each of them have contributed to the success of the Regional Fire Service initiative. Their demonstrated professionalism and dedication to the Service and to our Communities is awe inspiring.

The number of fire stations has increased from 5 to 6 with the addition of the Village of Barnwell station recently constructed and opened by the Village.

The level of service for fire and rescue services have been standardized across the M.D. of Taber so that every citizen in the M.D. of Taber has the same level of fire protection and rescue

services no matter where they live.

The M.D. of Taber has developed 14 mutual aid agreements with neighboring municipalities to ensure that both the M.D. of Taber and its municipal partners have enhanced protection in the event of a large scale emergency event. 12 of the 14 mutual aid agreements are “no fee for service” agreements meaning no money is exchanged to assist or to receive assistance – a significant benefit for all communities. Unexpected costs resulting from a large emergency event or disaster only compound the problems related to a disaster – helping our neighbors and in turn receiving that assistance at no cost benefits all.

The Regional Fire Service has responded over the past 3 years to near 600 fire and rescue calls with professionalism, dedication and skill including mutual aid responses to the Kenow Fire at Waterton Lakes National Park, the Hilda Fire in support of Cypress County, hundreds of motor vehicles collisions and hundreds of fires including structure and grass fires.

40% of the calls answered by the Regional Fire Service the past 3 years were for fires, 30% for motor vehicle collisions, 20% public assistance and emergency medical assistance calls, and 10% were false alarms. In 2018 the MD of Taber Regional Fire Service answered 220 calls for service.

M.D. of Taber residents receive 4 hours of free fire service. Near 98% of all Regional Fire Service calls are completed in under 4 hours.

In a world of ever escalating costs the M.D. of Taber Regional Fire Service stands as a model of efficiency and effectiveness.

Thank you to our partner communities: The Village of Barnwell and the Town of Vauxhall for your continued support and encouragement.

Congratulations to Regional Fire Chief Schafer and Deputy Regional Fire Chief Bruyere for your dedication, commitment and leadership in implementing the plan for the Regional Fire Service for building what is coming to be regarded as the model for regional fire services. (we know because you take calls on a weekly basis from other communities seeking information on the system you have built).

Thank you to the Council and Citizens of the M.D. of Taber for your continued support. We won't let you down.

M.D. of Taber Regional Fire Service 2018 Statistics



DUST MITIGATION POLICY

PURPOSE AND INTENT

The purpose of this policy is to establish criteria and procedures for application of dust mitigation products on aggregate surfaces within the Municipal District of Taber in ongoing efforts to ensure public safety, quality of life, and to realize road maintenance cost reductions.

POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to ensure appropriate usage and maintenance of M.D. of Taber roadways. The dust mitigation program is an applied surface treatment for roadway sections that have been requested by ratepayers. Application will be during the spring or summer months weather permitting and scheduled in accordance with local gravelling to maximize the effectiveness of the dust mitigation agent.

Employees of the M.D. of Taber shall adhere to the following guidelines in the application of dust mitigation products. Typical applications will consist of calcium chloride with two separate applications per year. This will be a cost sharing program with residents who make an application for dust mitigation treatment and rates may be adjusted by council from time to time. The current rate will be one dollar and twenty five cents per lineal foot (\$1.25/ft) applied at a minimum treatment of 400 feet. The ratepayers acknowledge and agree that the M.D. makes no guarantee or warranties as to the life expectancy of the material applied nor provide any promises or agreements outside of existing agreement for yearly application. Ratepayers will only be considered as year round residence or business operations for dust mitigation pertaining to haul routes.

The M.D. reserves the right to grade any sections of dust mitigation product applied during its normal grading operations under the direction of the Director of Public Works or designate. The maintenance will be deemed necessary for road conditions that may present a risk to general traffic using said roadway.

No person shall apply any product, whether it be for dust control purposes or other purposes, to roads in the M.D. without the approval of council or their designate representative, Director of Public Works or Superintendent of Public Works.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications will be received until May 15 for the spring application and August 15 for the fall application in developing the dust mitigation program.

Calcium Chloride Application

All ratepayers who request calcium must fill out the application form attached (Appendix 1: Calcium

Order Form) before they will be scheduled for a calcium application. The applications are done in large batches which are volume controlled and ratepayers will be prioritized on a chronological basis from when they submit their application. Ratepayers will be responsible for staking distances (lathe with colored ribbon on top) of the location of the dust mitigation application.

Approximate coverage for a 400 feet or 120 meter length application, the typical spray width is 7 and 8 meters or 23 and 26 feet respectively.

Preliminary work to loosen the existing gravel on a roadway is done days prior to the application to mix and loosen up the gravel and fines material for dust mitigation product application. The M.D. uses a water truck to pre wet surface where dust agent is to be applied to increase material retention of product when applied. The M.D. hires contractors to spray dust agent material with rear mounted spray bars at an initial rate of 3 liters per square meter over the width of the road and may be dependent on the road requirements that are present. The application rate may be reduced accordingly and will vary dependent on product present from prior year.

Road Oil Application

The MD of Taber does not conduct residential road oiling for dust mitigation as per council resolution July 22, 2013 Resolution No. C-2013-1481.

Files and Records

The M.D. will retain information pertaining to all applicants who have dust mitigation product applied to the roadway surface they have

Guidelines

1. Council may adjust the fees payable from time to time by resolution of the Council. The ratepayer will receive written notice of the adjustment prior to April 1 in any year the fee is adjusted.
2. Special tax of \$500 per year on all lots in a multi lot Country Residential.
3. Special tax of \$750 per year on all Commercial lots.
4. Residents who apply for treatment can have progressive treatments done every year by application process. Such treatments will continue until written notification is received for no further applications.
5. Haul roads from gravel pits, lease sites, etc. assigned to responsible parties, including the M.D., will be assigned costs for applications adjacent to effected ratepayers.
6. Agriculture feedlots will be assigned costs for applications adjacent to effected ratepayers.

7. Agriculture storage (ie potatoes, beets, etc.) related hauls will be exempt from the dust mitigation requirements as outlined in this policy.
8. Dust suppressant or oil applications must meet disposal requirements of Alberta Environmental Protection.
9. M.D. subsidized program, for applications over 750 feet or 230 meters at request of ratepayer the whole cost (100%) of application in excess of this amount be borne by the ratepayer.

Exemption

The Director of Public Works, in consultation with Council and/or Municipal Administrator, shall retain the right to authorize the application of dust mitigation products at no charge to occupied residences, if, in his opinion, the dust mitigation service requirements are a direct result of activities undertaken by the M.D., including re-gravelling, road construction or other related activity.

See Order Form on Page 21



The dust mitigation program will soon be underway and application forms are available to fill out

Please note that as per Council resolution, the MD of Taber has raised the rate of the Calcium Chloride dust suppressant applications for 2019. Our previous rate of \$1.00 per linear foot has been increased to \$1.25 per linear foot. All other details regarding application remain the same, including the ability to choose a 1-year term or 3-year continuous contract for application, and overage fees for applications exceeding 750 feet.

Individuals are required to confirm their wishes to have the dust suppressant applied by completing, with signature, the appropriate application form. Please note that the individual signing the form must be listed on the Municipal District of Taber tax roll.

Submission deadline for the Spring application is May 15, 2019."

APPENDIX 1

Municipal District of Taber

2019 CALCIUM ORDER FORM

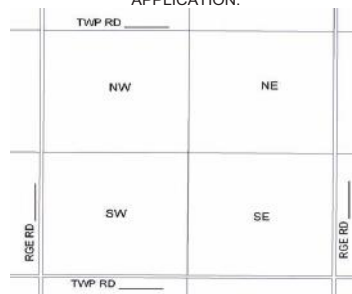
(PRINT) NAME: _____ PHONE #: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

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

RURAL ADDRESS: _____ EMAIL: _____

DIAGRAM FOR LOCATION OF APPROXIMATE
DISTANCES FROM APPROACH FOR CALCIUM
APPLICATION:



DISTANCE OF APPLICATION:

_____ FEET

IMPORTANT:

DRAW LOCATION OF THE
APPLICATION AND THE
ENTRANCE, AS WELL AS ANY
OTHER IDENTIFYING
STRUCTURES

FORM MUST BE FULLY COMPLETED
PRIOR TO CALCIUM BEING APPLIED

BY SUBMITTING THIS ORDER FORM THE APPLICANT AGREES TO PAY TO THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER ALL APPLICABLE CHARGES HERE IN. 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: _____

COST \$1.25 PER LINEAR FOOT
MINIMUM LENGTH OF CALCIUM CHLORIDE SPREAD - 120 METERS (400FT)
(OVERAGE CHARGED AFTER 750 FT OF APPLICATION)

THERE WILL BE NO GUARANTEE AS TO THE
LENGTH OF LIFE OF THE CALCIUM 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.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER SIGNATURE
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER
RETURN FAX: 223 - 1799

DATE CALCIUM APPLIED: _____

Municipal District of Taber 3 Year Continuous Maintenance Contract (2019-2021) CALCIUM ORDER FORM

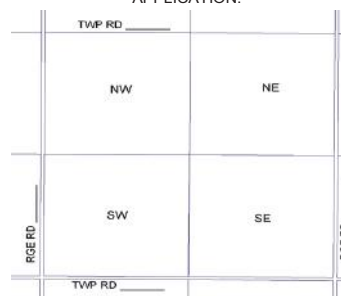
(PRINT) NAME: _____ PHONE #: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

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

RURAL ADDRESS: _____ EMAIL: _____

DIAGRAM FOR LOCATION OF APPROXIMATE
DISTANCES FROM APPROACH FOR CALCIUM
APPLICATION:



DISTANCE OF APPLICATION:

_____ FEET

IMPORTANT:

DRAW LOCATION OF THE
APPLICATION AND THE
ENTRANCE, AS WELL AS ANY
OTHER IDENTIFYING
STRUCTURES

FORM MUST BE FULLY COMPLETED
PRIOR TO CALCIUM BEING APPLIED

BY SUBMITTING THIS ORDER FORM THE DESIGNATE AGREES TO PAY THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER ALL APPLICABLE CHARGES HERE IN. APPLICATIONS WILL BE APPLIED CONTINUALLY UNLESS GIVEN WRITTEN NOTIFICATION FROM DESIGNATE. 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 DESIGNATE 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: _____

COST \$1.25 PER LINEAR FOOT
MINIMUM LENGTH OF CALCIUM CHLORIDE SPREAD - 120 METERS (400FT)
(OVERAGE CHARGED AFTER 750 FT OF APPLICATION)

THERE WILL BE NO GUARANTEE AS TO THE
LENGTH OF LIFE OF THE CALCIUM 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.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER SIGNATURE
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER
RETURN FAX: 223 - 1799

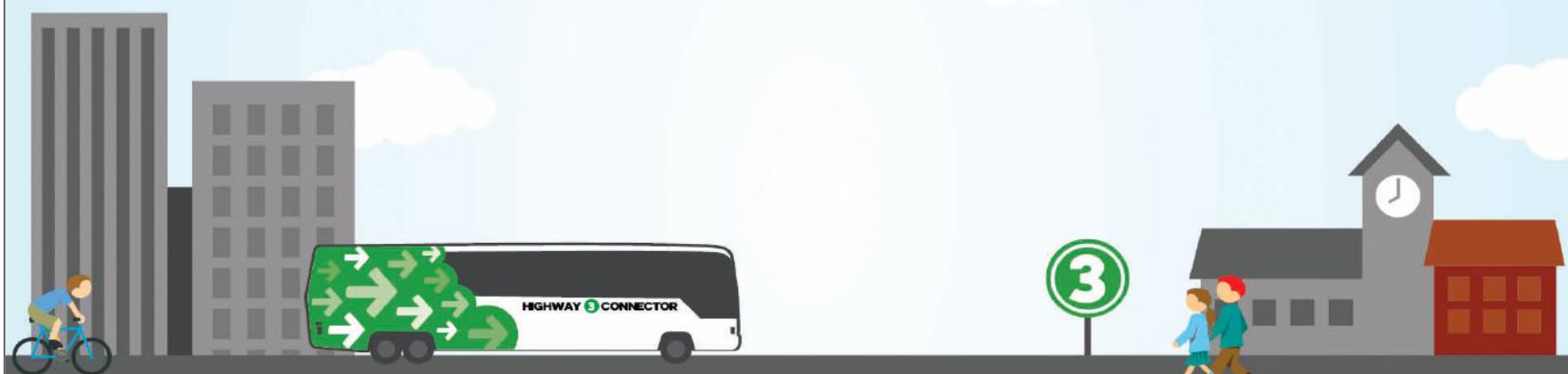
DATE CALCIUM APPLIED: _____

DUST MITIGATION PROGRAM
Calcium Order Form

HIGHWAY 3 CONNECTOR

**NOW SERVICING THE MEDICINE HAT
& LETHBRIDGE AREA**

FREE UNTIL APRIL 29, 2019.



www.Highway3Connector.ca
Call: 1877-FOR-HWY3

one it
safety
home

BARNWELL LIBRARY

The Barnwell library is having their summer reading program again and the information will be posted on our website in the near future. The moms and tots program is meeting every Thursday morning at the new time of 10 to 11 am. Come and bring your tot and enjoy the many activities. There are currently two

art displays in the library. One is a decorated egg collection by Melba Johnson and the other is photographs taken by Frans Brouwers. Mr. Brouwers has exhibited his photography in the National Museum of Canada, won gold in international competitions, and had some of his work published by National

Geographic Magazine. The library hours have been extended on Tuesdays by an hour. The library hours are Tuesdays 1-6, Wed., Thurs., and Fri. 1-5, closed on Saturday and Monday.

THE GRASSY LAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The library continues to be a thriving part of our community and is enjoyed by students and Community patrons. We would like to welcome everyone to the library to check out our assortment of books and DVD'S.

The computers and the IPADS continue to be a vital

resource for our patrons.

We are open Mon.-Thurs from 8:30am-3:40pm until the end of June.

We have exciting news! Our library is being expanded to include a Makers Space. This will give us additional space to hold various events and activities.

Unfortunately, the library will have to be closed while the construction is taking place. The exact dates have not been assigned, but it will be in the month of July. We will keep you informed about the closing dates. Sorry for the inconvenience.

HAYS LIBRARY



Local Hays youth Brittany Wickenheiser took it upon herself to raise a total of \$6,468.14 for a new skate sharpener for the Hays civic centre.

Brittany wrote a grant to the Lethbridge Community Foundation and received \$2000, performed a community bottle drive and raised \$1,170, received a grant of \$1500 from the Hays Parents advisory council, a battery drive which raised \$312 and other donations totalling \$6,468.14 to complete the project!

Thank you Brittany for all of your efforts to enhance recreation opportunities in the Hamlet of Hays and the Municipal District of Taber!

“

Thank you for giving me the chance to better my community through granting me the Youth in Action Grant of \$2000. The skate sharpener is a great addition to our skating rink and has allowed better skating opportunities for our community members.

Doing this project has encouraged me to not be afraid to get out of my comfort zone, as it has shown me all the good that one can do. This fundraising experience has given me a lot of opportunities into different things in my future. I hope that through this, other young members, of



both my community and other communities, will see the importance of community and want to do what they can to better them.

Without the grant you have given me to help accomplish this, none of it would have happened. Your donation is greatly appreciated and will be a great benefit for many years to come.

Thanks again,

Brittany Wickenheiser



TABER PUBLIC LIBRARY

We won this for providing healthy snacks and water for patrons this past summer and are in the works to do it again this season. We had a few donors besides the food bank that provided for the patrons until September! The food bank also provides supplies available in the bathrooms such as lotions, shampoo, toothpaste etc. We deeply thank all those that helped us provide for those in our community.

Global Drums were our feature entertainers this year for our annual Christmas Concert. They are lead by the University of Lethbridge music department and had the audience dancing and playing the drums at the end of the evening.

Taber Public Library has been very busy with new on-going health related programs. We are pleased to have High Fitness available twice a week, Kids 9+ Yoga and Peak Martial Arts, as well as the occasional Pound with Angie class. All of these are provided with minimal cost, capped at \$10/per session payable to the instructors. Please check out our website for dates and times.

The Summer Reading Program will be July 9 to August 17 this year here at TPL. The theme is "Natural World" and we look forward to all the 9 – 12 year olds to participate and enjoy it. We will be looking for volunteers once again, 13 years and over, but more information will be forthcoming shortly.



May will be the second of three Month Long Book Sales this year. We are overwhelmed with patron donations and weeding projects and are running out of room! We will continue to have the \$5/bag and encourage you to bring your own bag.

VAUXHALL PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Vauxhall library has been serving Vauxhall and the surrounding area since 1948. It first began as a small children's library in the Vauxhall School purchasing 3,535 books, made possible by membership drives, rummage sales and teas, proceeds from the carol festival, grant from Taber School Division, and donations.

The Library became a Public Library in January of 1982. The books were moved from the High School to a rented building downtown, which operated for 3 years by volunteer librarians till interest grew and a part time librarian Mrs. Vera Lowen was hired.

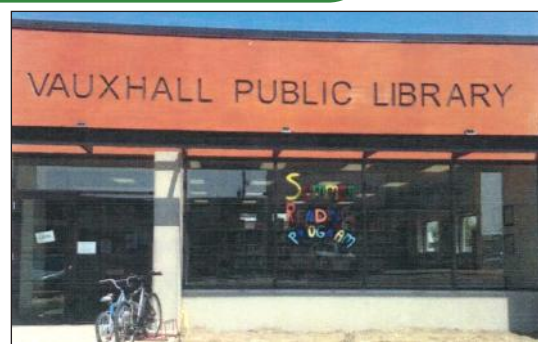
In 1987 the former Transalta building was purchased and renovated which housed the Public library for 28 years.

A milestone was accomplished in the spring of 1994 when the Vauxhall Public Library officially became a member of the Chinook Arch Regional Library system, this liaison facilitates the ordering and processing of books and streamlines borrowing from other libraries in the system.

In 2015 the Library was moved into a brand new building after extensive fundraising efforts. It continues to offer access to a wide variety of services and programming in the community.

Every July - August the library puts on the Summer Reading Program which brings in kids aged 5 - 13. It's the time of year the library is hopping with activity and very busy!

We are currently working to start a Music program that will run throughout the year with 6 week intervals. Instruments will be purchased and available for rent to patrons taking the program.



The library hosted an Art night February 14th that showcased local artists to display their Artwork. It's our plan to continue this event every few months promoting new artists.

As I write this we are just weeks away from our Annual spring Scrapbook Crop fundraiser. Typically we see 40 - 50 attendees for a 3 day period. It's a fabulous weekend that is always busy, something we look forward to every year.

This library is a staple to our community we look forward to serving Vauxhall and area for many years to come.

Quote:

"Congratulations on the new library, because it isn't just a library. It is a space ship that will take you to the farthest reaches of the Universe, a time machine that will take you to the far past and the far future, a teacher that knows more than any human being, a friend that will amuse you and console you - and most of all, gateway, to a better and happier and more useful life." - Isaac Asimov

Students learn Roots of Empathy in the classroom

Submitted by FCSS

Roots of Empathy is an evidence-based classroom program that has shown a significant effect in reducing levels of aggression among school children by raising social/emotional competence and increasing empathy. Roots of Empathy, launched in 1996, is currently delivered in 10 countries on three continents.

Its goal is to: foster the development of empathy; develop emotional literacy; reduce levels of bullying, aggression and violence, and promote children's pro-social behaviours; increase knowledge of human development, learning and infant safety; and prepare students for responsible citizenship and responsive parenting.

Key research findings show children perceived a more positive classroom environment by the end of the program. Children also exhibit: an increase in pro-social behaviour (sharing, helping and including); a decrease in aggression ? which is particularly significant given children in the comparison classrooms showed increases in aggression across the school year; an increase in social and emotional understanding; and an increase in knowledge of parenting.

Studies conducted by researchers at the University of British Columbia looked at specific types of aggression (i.e. proactive ? bullying), physical, relational and reactive. All of these studies showed a significant decrease in aggression in the program groups.

"It is a program developed with a curriculum depending on what grade you go into. The purpose of the program is to give skills to children about social competency ? and the tool is the baby. To use the baby to develop those skills and learn through the baby and watch the baby grow," said Family and Community Support Services' Parent Program manager Petra DeBow.

It's a program that has been highly researched ? where a baby is brought into the classroom and the students learn through the baby, added Stacey Maynes, parenting and family coach at the FCSS Stirling Parent Link Centre. "They learn empathy, they learn about a baby ? how to take care of a baby and they learn their feelings, as they relate to the baby," she noted.



There are nine different themes throughout the year for this program, according to Maynes. "We come in once a week to talk to the kids. For each theme, there's a pre-family visit, a family visit, and a post-family visit. The pre and the post, I just go into the classroom without the baby and we teach what the theme is about and then we bring the baby in for that family visit and then we talk about that visit the next week, with the kids."

As an example, Maynes said one theme is safety, so she goes into the classroom and talks about safety in relation to what milestones the baby is learning and why they are important. "Why are milestones important? Well, because when our baby starts crawling and moving around we need to be more cautious and careful to take care of our baby. We talk about some dangers and safety concerns of things to be aware of. We also talk about not ever drinking or being around smoke because it's harmful to the baby. We talk about the important of making them sleep on their backs ? we deal with all that sort of stuff," she explained.

Between Kindergarten and Grade 8 are the classes the program caters too. "I personally do Grade 1 right now in the Stirling School," she noted, adding the program is offered in some of the schools within the Westwind and Horizon school divisions. Roots of Empathy in Stirling has been offered for over 10 years.

Local families help with the program in each of the communities Roots of Empathy is offered. "We usually look for moms that are pregnant in the summer," she joked. "They have to be born at a certain time because we want them to be between two and four months when we start the program."

FCSS currently offers Roots in the community of Taber. For more information contact FCSS at parent.program@fcss.ca.

Community Generation Capacity Building Program Project Underway

The MD of Taber, like the Province of Alberta, relies heavily on two main economic drivers - Agriculture and Energy. In recent years, as production from Southern Alberta's conventional oil and gas fields has declined, energy industry investment has moved to unconventional resources like the oilsands and tight shale plays. This movement of investment has left rural municipalities with unpaid taxes and landowners with a legacy of abandoned, orphaned and un-reclaimed leases on their land.

At the same time, a new and rapidly expanding renewable energy industry is seeking land in the MD of Taber to develop projects that take advantage of Southern Alberta's world-class wind and solar resources. Unfortunately, conventional renewable energy development is not without drawbacks. For example, a typical utility-scale solar projects can require more than 300 acres of land. These large sizes are needed to pro-rate the expensive upfront costs of planning, land acquisition, permitting, interconnection and site preparation over a higher volumes of produced electricity. As an added complication, these large-scale projects often require expensive upgrades to the transmission and distribution network and these costs are added to everyone's electricity bills.

Fortunately, there is an alternative. For the last three years, Elemental Energy Inc. and the RenuWell group have been consulting with stake-



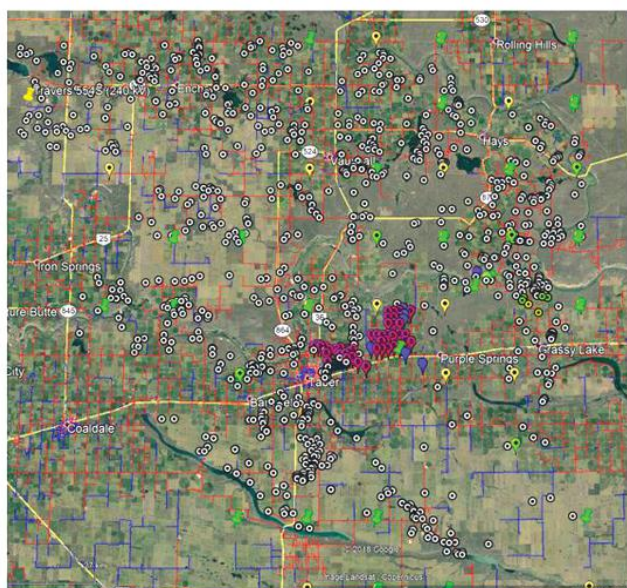
holders from the oil and gas industry, renewable energy developers, landowners and the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) to develop a process that uses abandoned oil and gas infrastructure as a foundation for renewable energy development. This concept recognizes the value of powerlines, roads and leases that have been built for oil and gas development and simply re-purposes them for solar or wind power generation. Recognizing the value of this infrastructure actually turns these oil and gas reclamation liabilities into assets for the renewable sector. For oil and gas companies, it may accelerate their reclamation work by reducing costs and providing opportunities for low-cost power to support continuing operations. For the renewable energy sector, it provides an opportunity to develop smaller scale decentralized generation at a cost that is comparable to the large utility-scale projects that are being developed today. From the Provincial perspective, if only 10% of Alberta's inactive leases were converted to solar generation, it would provide over 8,000 MW of renewable energy capacity – exceeding the 2030 goal of 5000 MW- without removing any additional land from agricultural use. It would also save more than 5,800,000 mt per

year in GHG emissions.

While being a simple concept, oil leases are seldom transitioned to other purposes. At the same time, commercial scale renewable energy development is relatively new in Alberta and it is not regulated by the AER framework. For these reasons, we are working closely with the AER to avoid the possibility that this concept could be used by unethical operators –oil and gas or renewable energy- to avoid reclamation responsibilities. In order to test the idea, we have identified a location in the MD of Taber to develop a small-scale solar pilot project (approximately 500 kW) on a 2.7 acre lease that is currently under the care of the Orphan Well Association.

The MD of Taber will be breaking new ground as they consider the various aspects of this non-standard energy development. Issues related to emergency response planning, taxation, infrastructure, land-use and planning all need to be addressed. Fortunately, as this work was being considered, Alberta's Municipal Climate Change Action Centre announced a program designed to build capacity for small-scale renewable energy generation projects that will benefit local community members. Thanks to the funding provided by this program, the MD of Taber is empowered to do the necessary research and stakeholder consultation to develop a "Best Practice" Guidebook for re-purposing abandoned oil and gas facilities to solar generation sites.

Abandoned wells and selected orphan wells/facilities



Benefits for Alberta: Assuming solar installed on 10% of inactive leases



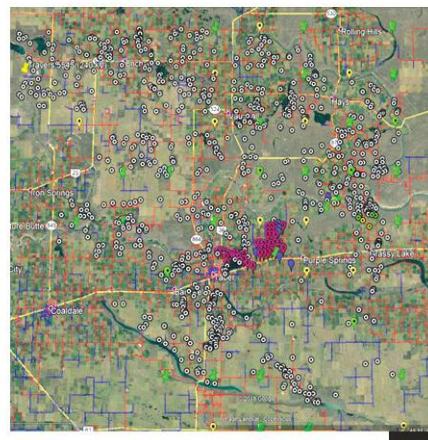
Alberta	
Leased land converted to solar	40,000 acres
Installed solar generation	8,000 MW
Annual production capacity	10,400 GWh
Annual CO2 savings	5,824,000 mt
Annual revenue generated	832 M\$
Total investment (solar and abandonment)	14.3 B\$
Deferred reclamation expenses	200 M\$
Person-Years employment	71,900

No additional land removed from agricultural land base

Benefits for the MD of Taber

- Provides options for some of the 2000+ inactive wells
- Reduces pressure to use agricultural land for solar projects
- Small-scale solar generation can provide lower energy costs
- Employment and economic development opportunities
- Tax revenue to replace oil and gas shortfalls
- Establish MD of Taber as a leader in Energy Transition

Abandoned wells and selected orphan wells/facilities



When this project is successfully completed, it holds the promise of lower-cost/lower impact renewable energy development in the MD of Taber and the rest of Alberta. Our model suggests that commercial project costs will be comparable with utility scale solar projects while preserving agricultural lands and avoiding costly upgrades to the transmission system. We also believe these projects, when strategically located, will provide a lower cost source of electricity for both the agricultural community and the oil and gas industry

The most important part of this project will be unfolding in May and June of this year. We will be holding a series of community "Town-Hall" meetings across the MD of Taber and the purpose of these meetings is to get your thoughts and opinions about this energy development alternative. Whether you have inactive oil and gas leases on your property, concerns or questions about renewable energy development or if you are interested the possibility of owning a part of your own solar generation facility to reduce irrigation costs, we want to hear from you.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please visit www.renuwell.ca or email keith.hirsche@gmail.com

205,000 inactive wells
410,000 acres requiring reclamation



5,000 MW planned :
35,000 acres required for solar



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.

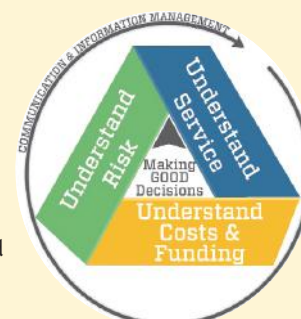
Service and Cost Trade-offs

- 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.





Rural Crime Watch

On March 16 two meetings open to the public were conducted with RCMP, members of the provincial Rural Crime Watch association board, Community Peace Officers and local citizens to discuss rural crime and the Rural Crime Watch program.

As a result of these meetings a Municipal District of Taber Rural Crime Watch Association is being formed. Look for more information in the coming months.

About Rural Crime Watch

The focus of the Rural Crime Watch program still provides the extra "eyes and ears" for the RCMP, however the focus has changed. The focus is now promoting Crime Prevention through awareness, education and encouraging reporting of suspicious activity when observed.

The scope of the Alberta Rural Crime Watch Association has expanded. Member Associations are now concentrating their efforts on farmstead, acreage and rural property security, property identification and general rural crime awareness. Patrol activities are not as frequent, and the "Report A Poacher" program has been included in the Rural Crime Watch Association's activities.

The Rural Crime Watch Program was designed to reduce the incidence of crime in all rural areas and to create a more thorough understanding and awareness of the laws. It is completely voluntary involving all rural residents working in cooperation with their local RCMP detachments.



WELCOME TO YOUR CHILD'S BRAIN



Optimal early childhood development begins
with YOU as the expert of your child
Join us to see how you can help build your child's brain!

Save the Date!

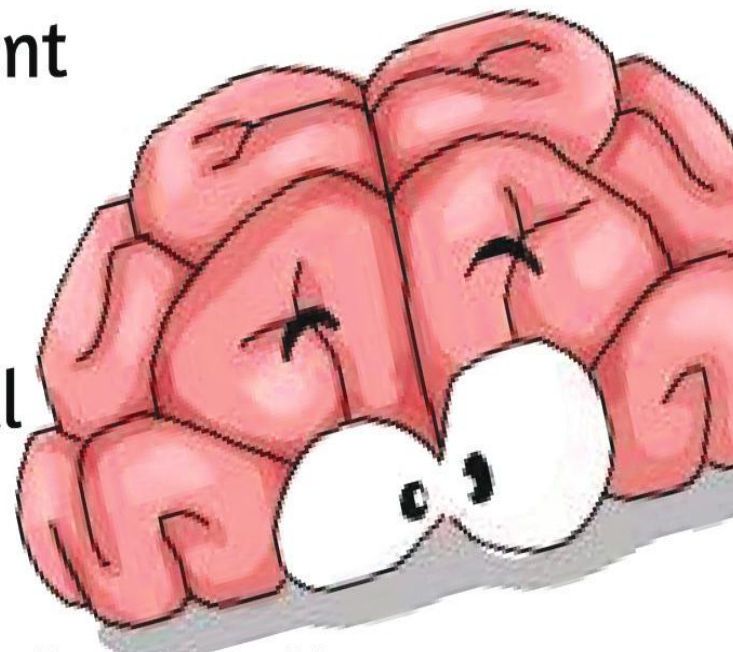
March 26: Enchant

April 2: Barnwell

April 9: Taber

April 16: Vauxhall

May 7: Hays



www.facebook.com/fivebyfivecoalition

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.

PROPERTY TAXES

Property Tax Collection Due Date

The Municipal District of Taber is reviewing their property tax collection dates and associated penalties in relation to current economic conditions and the collection dates in other rural municipalities. Input is being sought from residents and various stakeholders, with regards to a property tax collection date that would be earlier on in the calendar year.

Currently the Municipal District of Taber levies and mails property tax notices out in May of each year. Current taxes must be paid on or before November 15th to avoid a 5% penalty. All taxes remaining unpaid after December 31st of each year have a penalty of 12% percent applied to the outstanding amount.

Each year, the Municipal District of Taber collects the majority of its property tax revenues, approximately \$20,550,000 on or near November 15th. These funds are currently being invested in short term/cashable investments within ATB Financial. The funds are utilized throughout the following calendar year to pay budgeted operating and capital expenditures and meet ongoing financial obligations.

Currently, an interest rate of approximately 2.50% is being earned on municipal funds. For each 30 day period approximately \$42,800 in incremental interest would be earned at an investment rate of 2.50%.

Approximately \$39,000 in penalties were imposed on November 16, 2017, and \$131,390 in penalties were imposed on January 1, 2018. For the most recent years, approximately \$87,000 in penalties were imposed on November 16, 2018, and \$285,500 in penalties were imposed on January 1, 2019.

Over the past few years, commercial bankruptcies have resulted in greater allowances for uncollectable property taxes. The majority of these bankruptcies have occurred in the latter parts of each calendar year.

In 2015, \$414,000 in property taxes was reserved as uncollectable.

In 2016, \$315,000 in property taxes was reserved as uncollectable.

In 2017, \$224,000 in property taxes was reserved as uncollectable.

In 2018, \$1,029,000 in property taxes was reserved as uncollectable.

Additionally, in the event penalty dates be imposed earlier in the year, the Pre-Authorized Tax Installment Payment Plan (TIPP) provides taxpayers the option to make manageable & budgeted monthly tax payments.





Taber Irrigation District Update

New Board Member

TID welcomes Paul Turcato to represent Electoral Division #3 (Taber East – Fincastle). Paul has started his orientation and is excited to join the TID board of directors. He takes over from Tony Machacek who gave 18 years of dedicated service for the benefit of our water users. Be sure to thank Tony and give Paul a warm welcome!

Water Supply Situation

The snow pack was below normal this year, as were the winter reservoir levels. really slowed down in the upper elevations with that cold snap and is not yet trending back to normal. Lower and mid-elevation snow pillows are now trending below normal. We will have a reduction in the annual allocation that we initially set in April. St. Mary River Irrigation District, from whom we receive our water, has already set their initial allocation at 12" and TID may follow suit. There is the potential to increase this should we have a return toward normal high elevation snow or following a good spring rain. There is already sufficient snow and reservoir water now to get started and also to meet basic irrigation and other water use needs in 2019. The timing of irrigation season startup is set in early April in collaboration with SMRID and RID, so be sure to check the TID website (www.taberirrigationdistrict.ca) for updates.

New Ditchrider(s)

We are pleased to have John Beers join the TID water operations group as the Water Supervisor (ditchrider) for the northeast portion of the district. Richard Oliver will be shifted closer to home to take over the west portion (Barnwell area) from Alan Anderson. We send best wishes as Alan retires from many successful years at TID. Note that phones are assigned by area so you will continue to call the same number to make your water orders. Please ensure you give 24 hours notice on and off for tracking water use, and make sure to coordinate your irrigation scheduling to help the guys with rotating your streams for maximum efficiency. Remember that any unused water is lost from your allocation, each day of unordered water counts double and there are significant penalties for exceeding your allocation (\$100/ac-inch).

Precision Agriculture in TID

The results are in and 81% of TID irrigators have adopted some form of precision agriculture technology, with an average of five per irrigator. These include **Basic Technologies**



such as auto steer, yield mapping, soil moisture monitoring, variable rate irrigation/fertilizer application and developing management zones, **Soil Mapping Techniques** such as terrain analysis, water-holding capacity, EC, satellite or UAV imagery, and **Data**

Management Strategies such as studying/analysing yields, use of hydrological modelling, developing dynamic water management zones, using precision ag software, and conducting on-farm research. Survey participants reported crop yields increasing 20% and crop quality increasing 16% while inputs have dropped. Reductions of irrigation water (24%), fertilizer (21%), herbicides (14%) and pesticides (19%) were reported. While specialty crops see consistent use of precision agriculture, other crops are benefitting, typically through rotations.

VRI Pivot in Taber Irrigation District

We also learned it's not all about short-term profit. Protecting our social license to operate

through managing environmental impacts was a major factor in adopting precision agriculture technologies for almost half of survey participants.

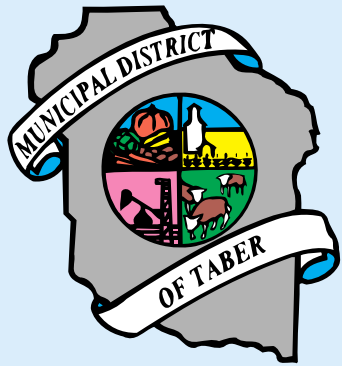
Adoption of precision agriculture is not a flash in the pan as 89% of adopters are highly satisfied with the technology and 92% plan to add more of these to their toolkit.

Thanks to Drs. Lorraine and Christopher Nicol at the University of Lethbridge for setting up the project design and completing and promoting the report, to Tony Wikkerink, Dylan Fletcher and Kyla Ross at TID for getting the TID notification system up and running in time for the survey, and to the Alberta Real Estate Foundation for funding the researchers.

A Few Reminders

TID canal driving banks are for accessing your turnout for operation and maintenance, not for hauling. Some are in better condition than others, so try to avoid rutting them up or pounding them out. Any damages associated with misuse will be billed to the offending party.

Please sprinkle your field, not our infrastructure. Wet driving banks and slopes can lead to instability and sloughing, and the landowner will be assessed the costs of repairs.



Not Being Compensated by Oil and Gas Companies for Your Surface Leases?

The M.D. of Taber is hosting a workshop to assist landowners with the rental recovery process through the Alberta Surface Rights Board.

WHEN: May 23rd, 2019 • 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

WHERE: Municipal District of Taber Administration Office

Attending this session will provide you the knowledge and materials to enable you to apply to the Alberta Surface Rights Board for unpaid surface rentals.

Please bring any surface lease documentation you have for wells that you have not been paid.

*Please call the MD office at (403) 223-3541 to register.
(no cost to register)*



Hamlets, Villages of the M.D.

By: Karen Ingram
Taber Irrigation Impact Museum

Circle Hill, an area of barren land with little knolls (hills) that were circled with irrigation ditches that opened up for farming in 1936. Ove Johnson was credited with giving the community the name of Circle Hill when the Kasmir School was moved from west of Enchant onto the NE corner of 10-14-17-W4M in 1936. People of the area were largely of Norwegian descent, population growth was such that a second school, the South Side School from Grantham, was

brought in during 1943, a half mile east, to handle the school children. The schools closed down in 1953 and students were bused to Vauxhall. The two buildings were moved onto one site and became the Circle Hill Community Hall. The community had a store opened and ran by Ove Johnson. In 1947 the ladies of the area formed the "Busy Bee Club" with a membership of 22. A social club, the ladies were known for their annual Christmas party, a summer picnic as well as an annual auction and supper. As with most communities they were home to men's and ladies ball and hockey teams. The farm families in the area were a community even though

nothing more than the School, Store and Community Hall developed to form a hamlet.

Enchant came into existence in 1914 when the railway was built from Medicine Hat to Lomond. The new village boomed as did most that were along the tracks of the transcontinental rail line. The first large building was a hardware store, the grain elevators, a restaurant, grocery store, clothing store, a service station, rooming house a dray business along with a livery barn, a pool hall, barber shop, bank, post office, butcher shop and lumber yard followed quickly. The first ten years were considered boom years as many homes were

built to house settlers supporting the business community. Enchant became a Corporate Village in or about 1920. With the expansion of the MD of Taber in 1953, Enchant came under their control. Population started to decrease and the village of Enchant was reduced to hamlet status. As with many of these early communities Enchant has seen highs and lows. A drive through Enchant today tells us that it is perhaps on its way to a new high. The school is active, there are several businesses in the community, churches, library, community centre, fire department and post office. The Enchant Park nearby offers sports and camping facilities along with a wonderful museum.

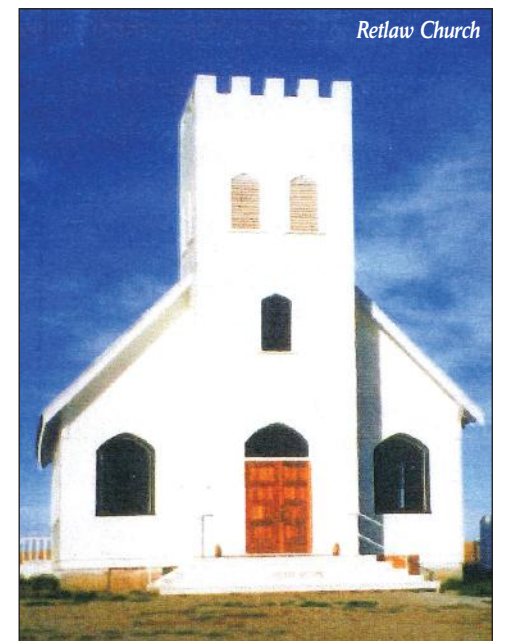
Retlaw, not much more than home to a church today, was once a thriving community. The land around Retlaw opened up for homesteading in 1906, hundreds of families came to the area to claim this land, descendants of a few are still there today. A quarter section of land could be purchased for a sum total of \$10.00 with conditions for "proving up" the homestead. The settler had to live on the land for at least six months of the year, cultivate a portion of land each year, or raise livestock and erect a dwelling within three years. The community was originally known as Barney due to the fact the post office was housed on a homestead a bit to the southeast owned by the Enright family. This post office was moved in 1913 to the site that would become Retlaw.



Enchant School



Old Enchant School



Retlaw Church

Enchant Park



The community was known as one of the fastest growing communities in Alberta and soon boasted 5,000 residents within a 15 mile radius. Before long the village itself was home to elevators, trading company, two cafés, grocery and dry goods store, laundry, hardware stores, lumber stores, a school, a church, a hotel, a bank, a harness shop and farm dealers, to name some of the businesses. Life on the prairies took its toll on the community. Several businesses succumbed to fire, the flu epidemic of 1918 devastated many families, drought hit, hail storms, cutworms and grass hoppers took their toll. Irrigation bypassed Retlaw and by 1925, businesses were boarding up and moving on. The depression, dust bowl years of the 1930's hit and by 1937, Retlaw was dubbed as a "ghost town". The M.D. of Taber stepped in during the 1980's tearing down the abandoned buildings, the last standing elevator was destroyed by fire in 1986. The Retlaw Historical Society has done a fine job restoring the community church and making it useful once again, saving Retlaw from total extinction.

Circle Hill School



Retlaw School



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER

PROPERTY OWNERS PROPERTY ASSESSMENT NOTICES *Mailed March 8, 2019*

Pursuant to sections 310 and 311 of the Municipal Government Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter M-26 and amendments thereto, the Municipal District of Taber hereby notifies all Municipal District of Taber property owners that the Property Assessment Notices for the taxation year 2019 have been prepared and mailed as of March 8, 2019.

It is important that you review and ensure the accuracy of your Assessment Notices. If you have not received your Assessment Notice or are interested in further information about property assessments, you may contact the Municipal District of Taber's Assessment Department at (403) 223-3541.

For further details explaining the assessment process go to www.mdtaber.ab.ca and click on the **Services>Property Assessment.**

2019 MUNICIPAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT – *Spring Newsletter*

2019 Project List - Property Assessment

The MD of Taber is committed to maintaining accurate assessment records to ensure a fair and equitable assessment. To meet this commitment, various property inspections are completed each year, beginning in the early spring through year end. The planned 2019 property inspection projects throughout the MD of Taber include:

- **General Municipal Re-inspections.** Each year, the assessment department looks at all properties in a general area of the municipality with the goal of ever-increasing accuracy of the municipal assessment roll. These site inspections occur from early spring, weather permitting, through the summer months. ***For 2019, the Assessment Department will be re-inspecting properties south of the Old Man River (excepting most properties that have been re-inspected in recent years, of course), as well as other annual re-inspection projects that include some properties north of the Old Man River as well.*** Time dependent, the assessors will strive to visit as much of the prescribed areas as possible before the end of August, and will visit the remainder the next year.
- **Sale Verification Inspections.** A property owner(s) who sells or purchases a property in the MD of Taber may receive a letter requesting information about the sale and/or notification of an inspection of the property. These site inspections may occur throughout the year, but primarily July through September.
- **Annual Municipal Property Inspections.** A site visit is performed to accurately record newly constructed buildings or other property improvements started or completed in the assessment year. Other

changes such as renovations and/or changes in the use of the property are verified by the assessor during these inspections. These site visits generally occur in the fall, starting mid-October, and running into January as needed.

- **Annual and General Inspection of Designated Industrial Properties on behalf of the Provincial Assessor.** Primarily within the energy industry and related properties, these site inspections occur throughout the year, starting in early spring.

Information necessary for any of the above projects may also be gathered from aerial (orthographic) photos or other relevant sources including, but not limited to: Land Titles, AER, AUC, and MLS.

Notification of Access & Request for Information

Assessors will be visiting properties throughout the municipality this year to verify property information for the purpose of ensuring fair and equitable assessments. Assessors carry identification and will present it upon request. If you have questions or concerns, please contact us at the MD of Taber Administration Office.

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

- When the owner/occupant is present: An inspection will include a walk-through of each building as required, and 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 call-back 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.

Property Assessment Notices

The MD of Taber has mailed the Property Assessment Notices in March, to be followed by the mailing of the Property Tax Notices in May. Property Assessment Notices were mailed and included an information sheet explaining the contents of the Assessment Notice. We are now within the assessment consultation period, and a common question we hear is: "Is this a tax bill?" The Property Assessment Notice is not a bill; it is the annual statement of the value assessed to the property in the MD of Taber. The MD of Taber must assess a value to your property each year to be used for the purpose of levying a property tax. Your property taxes for 2019 are yet to be determined. Council is currently discussing the budget and mill rates. Property tax notices will be mailed in May. The MD of Taber encourages all property owners to review their Property Assessment Notice(s). **If you have any questions or concerns about your 2018 Property Assessment, please contact the Assessment Department prior to May 17th, 2019.**

Demolitions & Removals

Throughout the year, the Assessment Department responds to inquiries regarding the demolition or removal of buildings from a property. Unless you notify an Assessor of a building demolition or removal change to your property, we have no way of knowing this has occurred, and it will continue to be assessed until the next scheduled inspection of your property. The condition of the property is effective December 31 of the year prior to taxation. If you remove a house, shop, garage, etc., please call us at your earliest convenience, with the land location, so we can verify the removal and update your assessment record prior to December 31st of the Assessment Year. Your assessment cannot be updated without verification of the removal.

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 a Property Assessor. You can also visit the Property Assessment section of the MD of Taber website for information and on-line resources to learn more about Property Assessment in the Province of Alberta.

