

THE MD CONNECTION

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER

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COUNCIL MEMBERS

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JOHN TURCATO

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CHANTAL CLAASSEN

Division 7 403-593-9693



REEVE'S REFLECTIONS

MERRILL HARRIS, REEVE

The fall harvest season of 2021 was one of the nicest in recent memory. Yields in the dryland areas were significantly reduced due to the hot dry summer. Yields in the irrigated areas were also variable with some crops suffering from the early heat, while others came in above average.

I would like to begin by thanking three former Councillors for their contribution to Council over the last four years. Councillor Brian Brewin from Division 3 (Grassy Lake area) has served on Council for the past 23 years and has had a significant impact by serving in many roles. Councillor Leavitt Howg, representing Division 7 (Vauxhall area) brought a very unique perspective to Council and served wherever asked. Councillor Jennifer Crowson represented Division 5 (Hays Area) and always had the best interests of her area and the MD as a whole at the forefront of her mind. They will all be missed and we wish them well in all their future endeavours.

Replacing these individuals on Council are Brian Hildebrand in Division 3, John DeGroot in Division 5 and Chantal Claassen in Division 7. We welcome them to Council and look forward to working together over the next four years. Each Councillor is assigned to represent the MD on several committees, such as the Family Community Support Service (FCSS), the Highway 3 Twinning Development Association, the Vauxhall and District and Highway 3 Regional Water Commissions, the Taber Shooting Foundation, the Taber

and District Housing Foundation, the SouthGrow Regional initiatives, the Chinook Arch Regional Library System, and the Regional Fire Authority to name a few. Councillors spend a lot of time making sure the MD is represented well on these numerous committees.

Rural crime continues to be a big concern for Council, and each month when the RCMP presents their report, we discuss how we can work together to help reduce rural crime. If we ALL work together and keep our eyes looking for suspicious activity in our areas, we can help deter criminals.

A local Rural Crime Watch Association has been formed in our municipality. By becoming a member and posting signs along your yards and driveways, you take an active role in helping to reduce crime. Information on how to join the Rural Crime Watch Association is listed at the end of this article.

For agricultural producers, the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Farm Technology program funded by the federal and provincial governments can help producers install remote monitoring cameras, remote fuel tank monitors, motion detection/driveway alert systems and door sensors. By taking advantage of these programs, and installing these devices on our farms, hopefully, we can also help deter the criminals. Information on how to access these programs is also found at the end of this article.

Continued inside...

Another helpful tool available to MD residents for the prevention of crime is the South Central Alberta Regional Notification System or SCAR Notify. The Scar Notification System prioritizes information based on the level of importance and notifies registrants in real-time by way of text, email or voice messaging. For a list of the different types of notifications, you can choose to receive visit scarnotify.ca/notification-types

A recent example demonstrated how successful the system was at alerting the public and how it can be used to effectively reduce rural crime. On Wednesday, Nov 17th at 12:06 pm a notification was sent out informing SCAR registrants of a heavy police presence in a certain area of the MD. The RCMP released information regarding a suspect with a weapon and encouraged residents to stay inside and to report any suspicious activity. Three and a half hours later, a second alert was issued notifying residents that the RCMP believed the suspect was no longer in the area, but to remain vigilant and to report any suspicious activity. This is just one example of how useful the SCAR Notification System is. Other examples of alert types include road construction and closures, Road Bans, weather events, Fire Bans, water restrictions and more.

The larger the enrollment we have with the SCAR Notification System, and the larger participation we have from the public reporting suspicious activity to the local RCMP detachment, the greater the impact we will have on stopping criminal activity and reducing rural crime. Contact information for the local detachment is also found at the end. I strongly encourage everyone to stop reading this right now and go to scarnotify.ca, and in a few quick easy steps, become part of the solution!

The MD of Taber has been working with Tango Networks on a strategy that will bring better high-speed internet to the municipality. Historically, the federal government has assumed most of rural Alberta has access to high-speed internet then which is true. In 2021, speed tests are taken by the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) recently report a median download speed of 14 megabits per second (Mbps) and a median upload speed of 2.43 Mbps which is well below the federal standard for basic internet speeds (50 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload). This gap demonstrates the need for high-speed internet for all Albertans. The RMA encourages residents to take a moment and test their internet speeds. The data collected from these speed tests will be used to advocate for more funding from the federal government on rural internet development. To participate please visit RMAAlberta.com/speed-test

As we head into the winter season, with the likelihood of experiencing major snow events, we want to remind you that the Public Works department will work as fast as possible to re-open roads. There is a priority system that includes bus routes and major roads, before finally getting to the less travelled routes. With over 2500 kms of roadway to clear, it may take some time to get to them all, but do know your road will be cleared.

On behalf of Council, we wish you a very Merry Christmas with your friends and family and wish you all success and happiness in 2022.

- To become a member of the Rural Crime Watch Association visit the Administration office.
- To register for the SCAR Notification System visit scarnotify.ca
- To contact the Taber RCMP Detachment complaint line call **403-223-4447**. For emergencies dial **9-1-1**.
- To learn more about the CAP Farm Security program visit cap.alberta.ca/CAP/programs or call **310-FARM**

Winter has arrived in southern Alberta and the Municipal of Taber is committed to providing efficient services and maintaining safe conditions for those travelling during the snow season. The MD of Taber maintains over 2500 km of roadway and follows a priority system to manage snow and ice on winter roads. High-volume and high-speed roads in rural and urban areas are cleared first. It can take up to 3 days from the start of the snowfall for crews to clear affected roadways. So as crews are called out to help keep roads clear and safe, what should you do when you approach or find yourself in the vicinity of a snow-plow? The key is patience. Please keep these plow safety tips in mind:

Slow Down

The first rule of plow safety is to slow down—way down. Reducing your speed gives you better control over your vehicle and adjust to different road conditions and other vehicles' movements.

Stay Back

When you see the flashing lights of snow plow, remain a safe distance back. A good rule of thumb is to leave at least three car lengths' distance between your vehicle and the plow. Plows may need to back up suddenly.

Give Space

If a plow is travelling towards you from the opposite direction, move over to the right edge of your lane to give a wide berth. Never drive alongside a plow.

Never Pass

Never pass a plow, even when it is not visibly working at plowing, sanding or salting. It could result in a serious or even fatal collision.

- The large blade on snow plows extend a metre or more ahead of the

snow plow, often extending into the right-hand lane.

- Snow plows are wider at the front than they appear to be from the rear.
- Even at reduced plowing speeds, light powdery snow forms a cloud that severely restricts visibility.
- The road surface is always better behind the plow than in front of it.

Be Seen

If you are a pedestrian or cyclist and find yourself in the vicinity of a plow, assume that the operator cannot see you. Move to a safe area such as an adjacent yard until the plow has passed. Kids should never play in snowbanks along roadways – plow operators are not likely able to see them.

We also ask residents to refrain from pushing snow across roadways as much as possible. Leaving snow piles and ridges in this manner often creates road safety hazards for both motorists and snow removal operators and can cause drifting and drainage interruptions in the spring.

Winters are more safe and manageable when everyone pitches in to clear snow and ice. While the MD does its part clearing roads and other high-use public areas, we require property owners to pile snow from their private driveway or walkway on their own property (e.g. front lawn).

To request a service, please submit using our online service and tracking system, Service Tracker, found here: mdtaber.ab.ca/p/service-tracker

This allows Public Works to monitor and track requests more efficiently than by phone.

We thank you for your cooperation and wish everyone a safe and healthy holiday season.



2022 BUDGETS & PLANS

The Municipal District of Taber's **2022 Interim Operating & Capital Budget**, along with the most recent Operating & Capital Plans are available on our website:

mdtaber.ab.ca/p/operating-capital-budgets

DID YOU KNOW?

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

1

Utility fees for the Municipal District of Taber will receive a 5% increase effective January 1, 2022

- › Monthly Water Rates will increase from \$60.50 to \$63.50
- › Overage Rates will increase from \$2.23 to \$2.34 per m³ on consumption over 15.0 m³
- › Bulk Water Rates will increase from \$2.40 to \$2.52 per m³
- › Monthly Sewer Rates will increase from \$20.30 to \$21.30
- › Monthly Waste Collection Rate for Grassy Lake is \$11.00 /per cart

Learn more: mdtaber.ab.ca/p/utilities-services-fees

2

A 12% penalty will be applied to any remaining unpaid Municipal District of Taber property taxes on January 1, 2022

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

mdtaber.ab.ca/p/property-taxes

3

Our offices will be closed for the holidays on the following dates

December 27th, December 28th and on January 3rd. Wishing you and yours a safe, healthy, and prosperous New Year!



› Vauxhall Safety Rest Stop

Completed early 2021 by East Butte Contractors and is fully functional for motorist use. An open house took place in the summer to formally open the facilities and thank all parties involved for the successful completion of the project.

› Range Rd 17-4 from Barnwell to Township Rd 10-0

Grade widening and asphalt overlay completed by McNally Contractors. This project was completed on budget and on schedule. This project is currently in the warranty phase and will have its respective inspections completed in 2022.

› Bridge File 80175 on Rge Rd 17-3

Completed by VHL Construction. This project was operational in early February with the remaining work being completed in April. This project was completed on budget and on schedule with minor interruptions to motorists. This project is currently in a 2yr warranty period with its respective inspections being completed in 2023.

› 2021 Seal Coat Program

Completed by West-Can Seal Coating. This project was completed early in the season with no issues to note. The project was completed on budget and well within the allotted time frame. This project is currently in the 1-year warranty period and will have its respective inspections completed in 2022.

› Township 8 Range 16 Drainage Project

Completed by Ossa Terra. This project was completed and fully operational by early June. This project was a large drainage project with multiple funding sources and will facilitate the control of drainage waters in the area of Township 8 Range 16. A significant portion of the work involved the creation of a wetland at Horsefly Reservoir, while the road works is now in a 1-year warranty period the wetland is under a 3-year warranty period and is due to

expire in 2023. This project was completed on budget but the schedule had to be extended due to effects of weather and soil conditions.

› Range Rd 18-1 and Township Rd 15-2

Awarded to Stantec Consulting for services of design and construction supervision. This project near Enchant is currently in the detailed design stages and will likely be tendered out in early 2022.

› Taber Municipal Park Irrigation Supply Upgrade

Currently in the detailed design stage by MPE Engineering. The project was expected to be tendered and constructed in late 2021 but due to some land procurement hurdles this project is now delayed until early 2022 prior to camping season.

› Enchant Subdivision Expansion

Awarded to Stantec Consulting. Due to the recent lot sales in Enchant and the need for future lots, this project is to update a previously designed phase to the current design standards, as well as provide a tender ready for contractor procurement in the near future.

› Grassy Lake Landfill Reclamation Project

Work is underway to complete a setback waiver application. This would allow the MD to leave the existing material in place and build our subdivision around the landfill location outside the applied for waiver distance.

› The 2021 Line Painting Program

Completed by Line West. This program was a collaboration between 3 municipalities in an effort to reduce costs and provide contractors with a larger program in the southern region. This project was completed on budget and on schedule. Thanks should be given to County of Lethbridge, MD of Willow Creek, MD of Taber and Line West staff for a successful project.



SOUTH CENTRAL ALBERTA RURAL CRIME WATCH ASSOCIATION

The eyes and ears of our communities.

Protecting our communities is a collective responsibility. The Council of the Municipal District of Taber sees the South Central Alberta Rural Crime Watch Association (SCARCWA) as an opportunity for residents to get involved by becoming the additional "eyes and ears" of our communities. Together with our local RCMP

Administration Office – 4900B-50th Street Taber, AB.

The focus of the SCARCWA is to promote crime prevention through awareness, education and encouraging reporting of suspicious activity when observed. It also provides you with the knowledge and tools to help you and your community. By becoming aware and educating yourself on the current and emerging threats, the right



detachment, members of the SCARCWA create a strong awareness, expand law presence and help reduce crime.

Becoming a member is completely voluntary and does not require a lot of your time, but your cooperation with our local RCMP detachment can help prevent, and in the long run, reduce crime to keep our communities safe.

To purchase a SCARCWA membership visit the Municipal District of Taber

knowledge is the best way to protect your family and property.

There are a number of simple and successful steps you can implement right away to help keep your property safe. Follow the SCARCWA Facebook page and start ensuring you, your family and employees learn about potential threats and how to recognize red flags. Learn more by visiting:

mdtaber.ab.ca/p/SCARCWA



TOWN OF **Vauxhall**



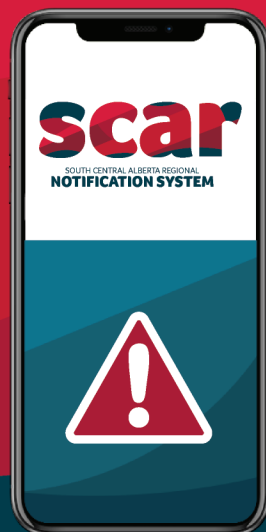
Are you missing out on an opportunity to be notified of an emergency when it happens?

It is well known that community engagement and strong communications are critical components that contribute to the overall well-being and satisfaction of a community and its residents.

The SCAR Notification System is a FREE, automated communication tool designed to deliver real-time, critical alerts and essential information to residents by way of text, e-mail, and voice messaging.

Together with our community partners, the SCAR Notification System will help you prepare for what's to come next. Learn more or register at:

www.scarnotify.ca



HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

Festive celebrations, flickering lights and winter greens are hallmarks of the holiday season, but they also present fire risks that can quickly turn this festive time of year into a devastating one.

Fire safety risks increase during the holiday season. Special care and attention must be taken in our homes. That starts with checking smoke alarms to make sure they work. Simply press the test button on the bottom of the smoke alarm, if it sounds, your smoke alarm is working.

CHRISTMAS TREES

For many, the Christmas tree is an important part of the Christmas season. There are many different types of trees including fresh and artificial trees.

Fresh Tree Tips

- 🌲 Fresh Christmas trees must remain healthy throughout the holiday season. Start by choosing a tree with a strong green colour and noticeable fragrance. fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.
- 🌲 A tree with high moisture content is safer and very few needles should fall when the base of the tree is tapped on the ground.
- 🌲 Cut three to five centimetres from the base of the trunk and make sure it is immersed in water at all times.
- 🌲 Place the tree in a stand that will hold two to three litres of water and check the water level daily to ensure the tree is always immersed in water. A dried-out tree becomes a fire hazard and will ignite very quickly.

Artificial Tree Tips

- 🌲 If you have an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled, certified or identified as fire-retardant.
- 🌲 Whether you have a fresh or artificial tree, make sure you keep your tree a safe distance from any heat sources like a fireplace, radiator, candle, heat vent or lights. Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.

CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible, tasteless and odourless gas that can be deadly. Having a properly installed and maintained carbon monoxide alarm is the only warning of dangerous CO gases in your home.

- ⚠️ Maintain gas fired appliances and have them inspected annually.
- ⚠️ Do not run a vehicle inside the garage and move it out quickly after starting.

For more information visit:

mdtaber.ab.ca/p/holiday-safety

Business Case: Highway 3 Agri-Food Corridor Development

Today, no matter where you live, high-speed Internet access is essential for telework, accessing online information, distance learning and more. It helps businesses thrive, no matter where they are located and it ensures that rural residents can transition smoothly to the digital economy.

The goal of the Municipal District of Taber is to ensure the availability of quality and affordable Rural Broadband to all Ratepayers spanning from residential to enterprise access.

Below is a list of actionable steps taken towards already achieving this goal:

- Rural Broadband is identified as a priority in the Municipal District of Taber's Strategic Plan
- Create a Rural Broadband Policy establishing broadband as a basic telecommunication service
- Council approved a Rural Broadband Strategy with action items:
 - › Advocating broadband with neighbouring municipalities
 - › Promoting broadband priorities throughout the municipality and its operations
 - › Building relationships and support local network and internet providers
 - › Communicate broadband progress throughout the community
 - › Development of business case – Highway 3 Agri-Food Corridor Open Access Network (OAN) fibre placement

As a municipality we are driving towards being application-ready for future provincial or federal grant funding opportunities that become available.

Being ready includes understanding the needs of the community and of the local Internet Service Providers (ISP) that are currently invested in providing broadband services throughout the municipality.

Overall, the Municipal District of Taber is working towards being infrastructure-ready and ensuring a progressive yet sustainable broadband industry exists for all ratepayers.

2021 was a successful year for Public Works.

Our year started with the hiring of two new members of our team. In January, Corey Greene joined as our new Infrastructure Program Manager, while Martin Bozek joined as our new Safety Coordinator in August. Both bring extensive experience and expertise in their respective fields. We are excited to have them onboard at Public Works.

After many years of service, we also said farewell to some of our long-term employees, Al Scott, Ken Wickens and Don Merritt retiring with a combined experience of over 100 years. We wish Al, Ken and Don all the best in their retirement and thank them for the years of hard work and dedication they gave to the organization.

In 2021, construction crews refocused from large construction projects to heavy maintenance and shoulder pulls. This change allowed us to complete approximately 45 kms of shoulder pulling and perform over 40 kms of ridge removal and gravel reclamation on various locations around the MD.

The mild winter of 2021 brought many freeze-thaw cycles that caused extensive damage to our hard-surface roads. Our projects and oiling crews were busy with the base repair work needed before the Seal Coat program could be applied in May, followed by line painting in August. Culvert replacement and drainage work also took place as time allowed.

The gravel crusher spent the summer of 2021 in both the Reti Pit and the Forks Pit and crushed a total of about 80,000 tons, providing enough gravel for crews to successfully cover about 644 kms of roadway.

Grading operators managed nine full-time divisions this summer. Given the dry summer, it was a challenge to keep up with repairing washboard and pothole damage, stretching our operators thin. We hope to have an additional grader running for the 2022 season.

Overall the year was a success with lots of challenges and learning opportunities. We thank all of our employees for their hard work and dedication. An organization is only as good as its people. Here at the MD of Taber, we have great people.

RURAL ADDRESSING

Make sure your address is visible.

In the event of an emergency, every second counts. An addressing system allows Emergency Services; fire, police, and ambulance to find your house or business without delay. It also improves rural routing or wayfinding for residents, mail delivery, and supports phone and utility services.

It is your responsibility to make sure your address is visible. By following the General Guidelines on civic addressing and rural addressing found on the Municipal District of Taber website, you can make sure your address is accurate, represented properly and always clearly visible in accordance with the MD of Taber Addressing Bylaw No 1982.

To view the entire guideline (PDF) or to learn more contact Administration at 403-223-3541 or visit: mdtaber.ab.ca/p/addressing



123456
RGE RD 123

PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

Rural crime is a serious issue. The Canadian Agriculture Partnership Farm Technology Program can help.

Farmers who are eligible to apply for funding can use it to purchase security equipment, driveway alert systems and remote fuel tank monitors and more.

To be eligible for applying to this program, the applicant must be a primary producer:

- ✓ Operating in Alberta that is responsible for input costs or agricultural crops or livestock producing at least \$25,000 worth of farm commodities annually. This does not include a landlord whose only interest in the crop or livestock is ownership of the land, and;
- ✓ Has either a current Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Certificate or letter of completion from an EFP technician; or is currently working on an EFP and is in a position to receive an EFP certificate or letter of completion from an EFP technician before the end of the project term. To get started on your EFP visit: albertaefp.com

The 2021-2023 Farm Security program funding maximum is \$2,000 per applicant. Grant funding cost share is 50% of eligible expenses.

This funding is not applicable for any equipment purchased before application approval. Applications must be received and approved by the CAP Farm Technology Program prior to purchasing any equipment.

To learn more about the program visit: cap.alberta.ca/CAP/programs

**FARM
SECURITY
FUNDING
AVAILABLE**



FARMER PESTICIDE COURSE:

MANDATORY FOR FARMERS WHO WISH TO USE RESTRICTED PESTICIDES SUCH AS THIMET FOR POTATO PRODUCTION OR PHOSTOXIN FOR GRAIN BIN FUMIGATION. USEFUL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLANNING, AND FOR HACCP, CANADA GAP COMPLIANCE.

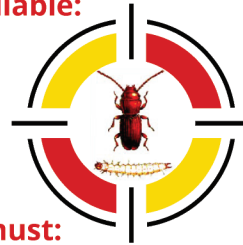


ONLINE COURSE
via ZOOM



Course dates available:

January 19, 2022
February 9, 2022
March 9, 2022
April 6, 2022



To register, you must:

1. Be 18 years of age or older.
2. Prepay a **\$40.00 registration fee** prior to course date. *Fee includes course manual.*

How to register:

Please send registration form complete with payment payable to:

MD of Taber
4900B - 50th St
Taber, AB T1G 1T2



Forms available online at mdtaber.ab.ca or call and register by phone at **403-223-3541**.

For more information contact **Jason Bullock**, Director of Agricultural Services at **403-634-4429**.

12% PENALTY ON ALL UNPAID TAXES

All property taxes remaining unpaid after December 31, 2021 will be subject to a **12% penalty on January 1, 2022**.

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

mdtaber.ab.ca/p/property-taxes



MAKE YOUR PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT SIMPLE

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

Call 403-223-3541 or visit mdtaber.ab.ca