

# THE MD CONNECTION

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER

Administration Office 4900B - 50th St Taber, AB T1G 1T2  
Ph 403 223 3541 [www.mdtaber.ab.ca](http://www.mdtaber.ab.ca)



## COUNCIL MEMBERS

### MERRILL HARRIS (Reeve)

Division 1 403-634-0462

### JOHN TURCATO

Division 2 403-634-1591

### BRIAN BREWIN

Division 3 403-380-0701

### TAMARA MIYANAGA

Division 4 403-308-6538

### JENNIFER CROWSON (Deputy Reeve)

Division 5 403-308-8610

### MURRAY REYNOLDS

Division 6 403-635-8449

### LEAVITT HOWG

Division 7 403-622-1408



## REEVE'S REFLECTIONS

MERRILL HARRIS, REEVE

To begin, I would like to thank everyone for your continued efforts in slowing the spread of COVID-19 over the past couple of months. Hopefully, we are approaching the end of the restrictions and can soon return to normal. I am sincerely hoping for a fun, relaxing, and unrestricted summer.

I often feel like I repeat myself in the Reeve's Reflections, so I hope I am providing new, updated information in this edition. First, I would like to remind everyone of the upcoming municipal election. The nomination deadline is September 20th, and Election Day is October 18th. If you have any interest in shaping the future of the MD of Taber this is your invitation to get involved.

Next, I would like to highlight some of the new online services and tools that the MD of Taber has recently introduced. The SCAR Notification System (SCAR Notify) is a communication tool designed to deliver regional alerts and real-time, essential information directly to your mobile device by way of text, email and voice messaging. To register, visit [Scarnotify.ca](http://Scarnotify.ca). While registering, you can choose how

you want to be notified, and the types of notices you wish to receive. Notification examples include road closure notices issued by Public Works, water bans or restrictions issued by one of our Regional Water Service Commissions, or rural crime alerts issued by our local RCMP detachment. There are many uses for SCAR Notify and we encourage residents to register to stay better informed and connected with the MD of Taber. If you need assistance registering you can call your division Councillor, or call the Administration office at 403-223-3541.

Service Tracker is another tool that allows residents to connect with the MD of Taber 24/7. You can use Service Tracker to report a problem, request a service, or ask for information. Types of service requests might include a road that needs grading, a pothole in need of repair, or a request for information regarding your property assessment or tax notice. You can also report unauthorised activities such as garbage dumping or irrigated roadways. To submit a service request visit [mdtaber.ab.ca](http://mdtaber.ab.ca). After submitting your request, you will receive a tracking number indicating your request has been

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received and that one of our staff members will follow up with you shortly. If you need assistance submitting a service request, you can contact your division Councillor to help enter your request for you.

If you are a camper and love our Municipal Park, reserving your camp spot just got a whole lot easier using our new online booking and payment service through CampSpot. To reserve a site visit [mdtaber.ab.ca](http://mdtaber.ab.ca) or [Campspot.com](http://Campspot.com). No more first-come first-served basis. Simply select from available sites, reserve and pay online, then arrive and enjoy the park.

Our hamlets are growing, and we only have a few residential lots available in Grassy Lake and Enchant. At the direction of Council, Administration is examining ways to expand and develop more residential lots in both of these hamlets. It is a good sign when all developed lots are nearly sold out.

Many projects that I have reported on previously are underway around the MD of Taber.

The Township 8 and Range 16 Drainage Project is completed which includes the wetlands portion located south of the Horsefly Reservoir.

Phase One of the Southern Regional Stormwater Drainage Project is in the design phase and dirt should start moving in 2022.

The RenuWell Project was recently highlighted at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities conference as innovative. This project should be moving into the construction phase this fall.

This spring has been very dry making the roads extremely dusty. The spring application of calcium chloride (dust suppression) has finished and should help hold the dust down until the fall application.

The MD of Taber is part of a broader consortium for providing affordable, quality broadband services to rural residents. Over the past year, we have all come to appreciate that having access to a faster and more reliable internet connection is almost as important as telephone and natural gas lines were to earlier generations.

We are excited about the twinning of Highway 3 from Taber to Burdett. This will greatly improve traffic flow and increase safety on this stretch of highway.

We are also voicing our concerns over water quality as it relates to the possible expansion of coal mining in the headwaters area of the Oldman River, along with the province's proposal to replace the RCMP with a provincial police force.

If you have any concerns that you feel should be brought to Council's attention, please contact your division Councillor or myself. We are here to serve and represent you and your concerns.

Have a great summer!

The Municipal District of Taber provides a Shelterbelt Establishment Program for residents in an effort to plant more trees in our landscape. Shelterbelts are an important part of the rural landscape as they reduce wind, control blowing snow, protect buildings, help control soil erosion, provide habitat for wildlife, beautify farmyards, increase property values, act as visual screens, and capture atmospheric carbon. The Shelterbelt Establishment Program helps farmers and landowners to create their own shelterbelts around their farmyards and fields.

The Shelterbelt Establishment Program is a cost-sharing program with landowners. The M.D. and the landowner each pay for half of the cost of the trees. Many types of trees and shrubs are available including ash, buckthorn, caragana, chokecherry, elm, hawthorn,

lilac, pine, poplar, Saskatoon, spruce and willow. If required, the Agricultural Services Department can also assist landowners in the planting process.

The recent windy winter and spring that we experienced have shown the importance of shelterbelts and trees. Many of the soil erosion problems could have been mitigated with a properly designed and established shelterbelt to break the wind and reduce its effect on the land.

During the planting season this spring, the Agricultural Services Department distributed and planted nearly 3000 trees across the M.D. We hope to expand that number even further next year. If you are interested in the program or have any questions, please visit our website at [www.mdtaber.ab.ca](http://www.mdtaber.ab.ca) or contact the Agricultural Services Department.



**Election Workers  
Needed.  
Apply Today!**

Visit our website:  
[mdtaber.ab.ca/p/employment](http://mdtaber.ab.ca/p/employment)

# DO YOU HAVE A 72-HOUR EMERGENCY KIT?

Use this checklist to stock a basic 72-hour emergency kit and add items depending on your family's needs. Ideally, your kit should be stored in a waterproof and wheeled container. You may have to stay in your home without electricity or water, or you may have to evacuate your home for a period of time.

## Food & Water

- 4 litres of drinking water per person per day
- Food that does not require cooking and won't spoil, such as granola and protein bars, trail mix, dried fruit and canned tuna (remember to replace food and water once a year)

## Equipment

- Manual can opener
- Flashlight (wind-up or battery-operated) and batteries (replace batteries every year)
- Wind-up or battery-powered radio (replace batteries every year)
- Candles, lighter, waterproof/strike-anywhere matches
- Pens and paper
- Duct tape
- Pocket knife
- Cooking and eating utensils
- Warm clothes and blankets or sleeping bags
- Garbage bags
- Whistle and flares (to attract attention)

## Toiletries

- Cleaning supplies (hand sanitizer, dry shampoo, etc)
- First aid kit
- Toilet paper
- Dish soap
- Feminine supplies

## Special Needs Items

- Infant needs (diapers, formula, bottles, etc)
- Prescription medicines
- Extra pair of prescription glasses or contacts
- Pet items (food, leash, muzzle, medication, etc)

## Personal Documents & Items

- A list of your emergency contacts (names and contact numbers)
- An extra set of house and car keys
- Some cash in smaller bills
- Copies of important documents like passports, birth certificates and insurance policies

# SOIL EROSION

## *Green farming, sustainable farming or being good stewards of the land?*

A few of the catch phrases used by consumers which drives the agri-food industry to seek out competent farmers that can provide ag products that are grown under these high standards that consumers expect.

With the amount of soil that was blowing this past winter and spring throughout the MD of Taber none of these above phrases come to mind. Can we as producers say that we are good stewards of the land? Are we farming sustainably? Do we fit in the category of green farming when our small amount of top soil we do have is in the ditch or the neighbour's property?

the fall. A chisel plow pulling up some lumps on an angle that is perpendicular to our prevailing winds will help tremendously in mitigating wind erosion.

Crop rotations that leave the soil with very low to no organic matter is also a factor in wind erosion. Using cover crops is a great way to help keep land from blowing. There is all sorts of research data on cover crops and the data is all positive. Unfortunately, the majority of our row crops are harvested to late in the fall to get a crop seeded and growing to where there is enough cover to protect the ground for the whole winter season.

As we head into the busy fall harvest season, now is the time to plan out how you are going to manage soil erosion through winter and the most tender and vulnerable



Do the companies that buy our commodities want to renew a contract with your farming operation or are they more willing to leave you without a contract because of your farming practices that do not fit the company's vision or values? These companies sell to the consumer a product that is grown by good stewards for the land.

As land owners and farmers, we need to step up and show the world that we can farm the land while also being good stewards of the land. Yes, there were many environmental factors that played into our soil blowing this winter. There are also many factors that were not environmental that caused our soils to erode.

A few of these non environmental factors that are allowing wind erosion are the use of wrong tillage equipment for the last pass in

time for land - spring. We know we live where it is windy lets plan for the wind events now. At the moment it is hot and dry. That may or may not change as we roll into the harvest months. We can't always plan on there being enough snow cover to keep soil from blowing. Don't plan on snow being your soil erosion management plan. As landowners you know your soil and what it takes to keep it home.

Let's all plan to make this coming winter and spring a lot better by creating a sustainable farming soil erosion management plan. Being good stewards for the land doesn't come easy but if we want to attract new ag business to our area and be leaders in the industry which I know we are, then we need to step up our own farming practices so we can show the world that we know what we are doing.

# Fire Ban In Effect



[mdtaber.ab.ca/p/fire-ban](http://mdtaber.ab.ca/p/fire-ban)



# INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Vauxhall Rest Stop Area

The newly completed Vauxhall Rest Stop Area was a joint-venture with Alberta Transportation who contributed \$1.5 Million. The much-needed facility provides long-distance operators a convenient place to rest and secure loads while improving highway safety along the Highway 36 corridor. The Rest Stop Area complete with on-site washroom facilities was designed for the maximum allowable weight for tractor semi-trailers on Alberta highways. The Rest Stop Area also provides operators living in the Town of Vauxhall overnight parking to reduce parking congestion on residential streets. As part of the project, two lots adjacent to Highway 36 will be available for commercial and industrial development. An official Grand Opening is scheduled for later this summer (date to be announced).



1

*That the MD of Taber has two water commissions for managing water treatment services to residents?*

1. The Vauxhall and District Regional Water Services Commission supplies water to the Town of Vauxhall and to the Hamlets of Hays and Enchant. Members include the Town of Vauxhall and the Municipal District of Taber.
2. The Highway 3 Regional Water Services Commission supplies water to the Hamlets of Grassy Lake, Burdett, and to the Town of Bow Island. Members include the Town of Bow Island, the County of 40 Mile, and the Municipal District of Taber.

### Range Road 17-4

The MD of Taber is currently in the initial stages of widening and paving Range Road 17-4. These improvements north from the Village of Barnwell boundary to Huckleberry Road (Township Road 10-0) will assist in making the road safer for motorists. This project is scheduled for completion later this summer or early fall.

2

*That the MD of Taber has public-facing mapping tools, which provides residents visual access to:*

- Recent road closures
- Parks, lakes and local attractions
- Search for addresses and land descriptions

[mdtaber.ab.ca/p/mapping](http://mdtaber.ab.ca/p/mapping)

### Township 8 & Range 16 Drainage Project

The Township 8 and Range 16 Drainage Project was developed to solve a long-standing drainage problem south of Taber. With contributions and assistance from landowners, the Taber Irrigation District (TID), the St Mary River Irrigation District (SMRID), and Alberta Environment, the project is now complete with only minor clean-up remaining.

Constructing drainage along MD of Taber road allowances will help direct water into and under the SMRID Main Canal and into TID's Horsefly Reservoir. Strategically placed gated culverts will control waterflow to lessen the downstream impacts on landowners and infrastructure. Part of the project involved obtaining a Water Act approval from Alberta Environment for the construction of the wetlands area, that when fully mature, will assist in improving water quality entering into the Horsefly Reservoir.



3

*That you can submit a service request online 24/7? Service Tracker allows residents to:*

- Report a problem
- Request a service
- Ask for information

[mdtaber.ab.ca/p/service-tracker](http://mdtaber.ab.ca/p/service-tracker)

4

*That you can book and pay for your campsite online?*

Book with confidence at the Taber Municipal Park using our new easy-to-use online booking and payment system through CampSpot:

[campspot.com/](http://campspot.com/)

# IRRIGATING ROADWAYS

The Municipal District of Taber would like to remind residents to make efforts to avoid spraying irrigation water over public roadways.

Due to expected high temperatures, we are likely to see increased crop irrigation, which means more opportunities for end guns to spray water onto public highways, roads and road allowances.

To protect and maintain infrastructure integrity and public safety, efforts must be made to avoid spraying irrigation water over municipal roadways and important infrastructure. Damages could result in frost boils and heaves, loss of gravel, soft spots, and more. On pavement, wet roadways can reduce friction for motorists, increasing the possibility of dangerous hydroplaning incidents.

Failing to comply could result in penalties of up to \$400 under the MD of Taber Bylaw No. 1771 – Irrigating Municipal Roadways. Costs associated with any necessary repair work or construction to remedy the condition of the affected roadway could result in increased property taxes.

To learn more about Bylaw No. 1771, visit our website [mdtaber.ab.ca/p/bylaws](http://mdtaber.ab.ca/p/bylaws)



# GENERAL NOMINATION INFORMATION

*for the Offices of Councillor – 2021 Election*

This information is a service to prospective candidates and is not inclusive of all information related to each office, election procedure, and legislation. Each candidate is responsible to comply with all applicable acts, regulations, and bylaws.

Resources for candidates may be obtained from:

## **Alberta Municipal Affairs**

Municipal Services Branch  
17th Floor, Commerce  
Place 10155-102 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4L4

Online: [municipalaffairs.alberta.ca](http://municipalaffairs.alberta.ca)

Telephone: 780-427-2732

Toll Free: 310-0000 (in Alberta only)

Fax: 780-422-1419

## **Alberta Queen's Printer**

Copies of the Local Authorities Election Act, RSA, 2000, c. L-21 and the Municipal Government Act, RSA, 2000, c. M-26 can be obtained from the Alberta Queen's Printer.

Main Floor, Park Plaz  
10611-98 Ave  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2P7

Online: [qp.alberta.ca](http://qp.alberta.ca)

Telephone: 780-427-2711

Toll Free: 310-0000 (in Alberta only)

The Municipal District of Taber does not assume responsibility for any candidate's failure to comply with any requirement of election procedures or legislation.

Nominations for Councillor will be accepted by the Returning Officer from Monday, January 4 until 12 noon on Monday, September 20, 2021. Prospective candidates filing their nominations must schedule with the Returning Officer.

Sherry Crombez,  
Returning Officer  
[scrombez@mdtaber.ab.ca](mailto:scrombez@mdtaber.ab.ca)  
403-892-4870

## **Form of Nomination**

Nominations must be completed on the prescribed Form 4, Nomination Paper and Candidate's Acceptance and Form 5, Candidate Information. In accordance with section 27(2) of the Local Authorities Election Act, nominations must be signed by a minimum of 5 eligible electors.

## **Written Acceptance**

Form 4 contains a candidate's written acceptance. In order to complete this candidate acceptance, you must be familiar with the following sections of the Local Authorities Election Act:

- Section 21 - Qualification of candidates
- Section 22 - Ineligibility
- Section 23 - Ineligibility for nomination
- Section 27 - Form of nomination
- Section 47 - Eligibility to vote
- Section 68.1 - Option for Official agent
- Section 151 - Offence
- Part 5.1 - Election Finances and Contributions

## **Nomination Dates**

Nominations Open: Monday, January 4, 2021  
Nominations Close: Monday, September 20, 2021

## **Location**

12:00 Noon  
Municipal Office,  
4900B 50th Street  
Taber, AB T1G 1T2

- Form 4, Nomination Paper and Candidate's Acceptance completed
- Minimum of 5 signatures from eligible electors in the Municipal District of Taber
- Form 4 is commissioned by the Returning Officer or a Commissioner for Oaths
- Form 5, Candidate Information completed

The written acceptance requires the completion of an affidavit that swears or affirms:

- That you are eligible to be elected under sections 21 and 47 of the Local Authorities Election Act; and
- That you are not otherwise disqualified under sections 22 or 23 of the Local Authorities Election Act; and
- That you will accept the office if elected; and
- That you have read sections 12, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 47, 68.1, and 151, and Part 5.1 of the Local Authorities Election Act and understand their contents; and



- That you will provide name and contact information of your official agent (if applicable); and
- That you will read and abide by the municipality's code of conduct if elected (if applicable); and
- That the electors who have signed the nomination paper are eligible to vote in accordance with the Local Authorities Election Act.

This acceptance also requires you to state the name of your official agent if you have chosen to appoint one, and provide your name as it should appear on the ballot. This name may include nicknames, however, titles are not permitted (Dr., Mrs., Mr. etc).

The signature of the candidate must be witnessed by the Returning Officer or a Commissioner for Oaths.

### Candidate Information

Form 5 requires you to provide the following information:

- Your full name and address
- Address of where your candidate records are maintained
- Name(s) and address(es) of financial institutions where your campaign contributions will be deposited (if applicable)
- Name(s) of signing authorities for each depository listed above (if applicable)

Where there is any change in the above mentioned information, you must notify the Returning Officer in writing within 48 hour of such changes by submitting a completed information form.

In accordance with section 147.3 of the local Authorities Election Act you are required to open a campaign account at a financial institution in your name or your election campaign's name for the purposes of the election campaign when you file your nomination papers or as soon as possible after the total amount of contributions you receive first exceeds \$1000 in the aggregate.

### Candidate Withdrawal

You can withdraw your candidacy anytime during the nomination period.

If at the close of nominations, there are more candidates for any particular office, you may withdraw within 24 hours of the close of the nomination period. Provided there are more candidates than any particular office, the deadline for candidate withdrawal for the 2021 election is therefore Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 12 noon. If at any time after the close of the nomination period, the number of candidates

remaining does not exceed the number of vacancies to be filled, the returning officer shall refuse to accept further withdrawals and your name will appear on the ballot.

A notice of withdrawal must be submitted in person, in writing, to the Returning Officer at:

4900B - 50th Street  
Taber, Alberta

Withdrawal notices received by way of facsimile, email, or phone will NOT be accepted.

For complete information see sections 32 and 34 of the local Authorities Election Act.

### Minimum Number of Electors

It is recommended that prospective candidates obtain signatures from more than the required five (5) electors to ensure that the candidate's nomination will not be adversely affected if a signatory is not eligible.

An elector is defined as a person who is at least 18 years old, is a Canadian citizen, and whose place of residence is located in the MD of Taber (within the division's boundaries) on election day.

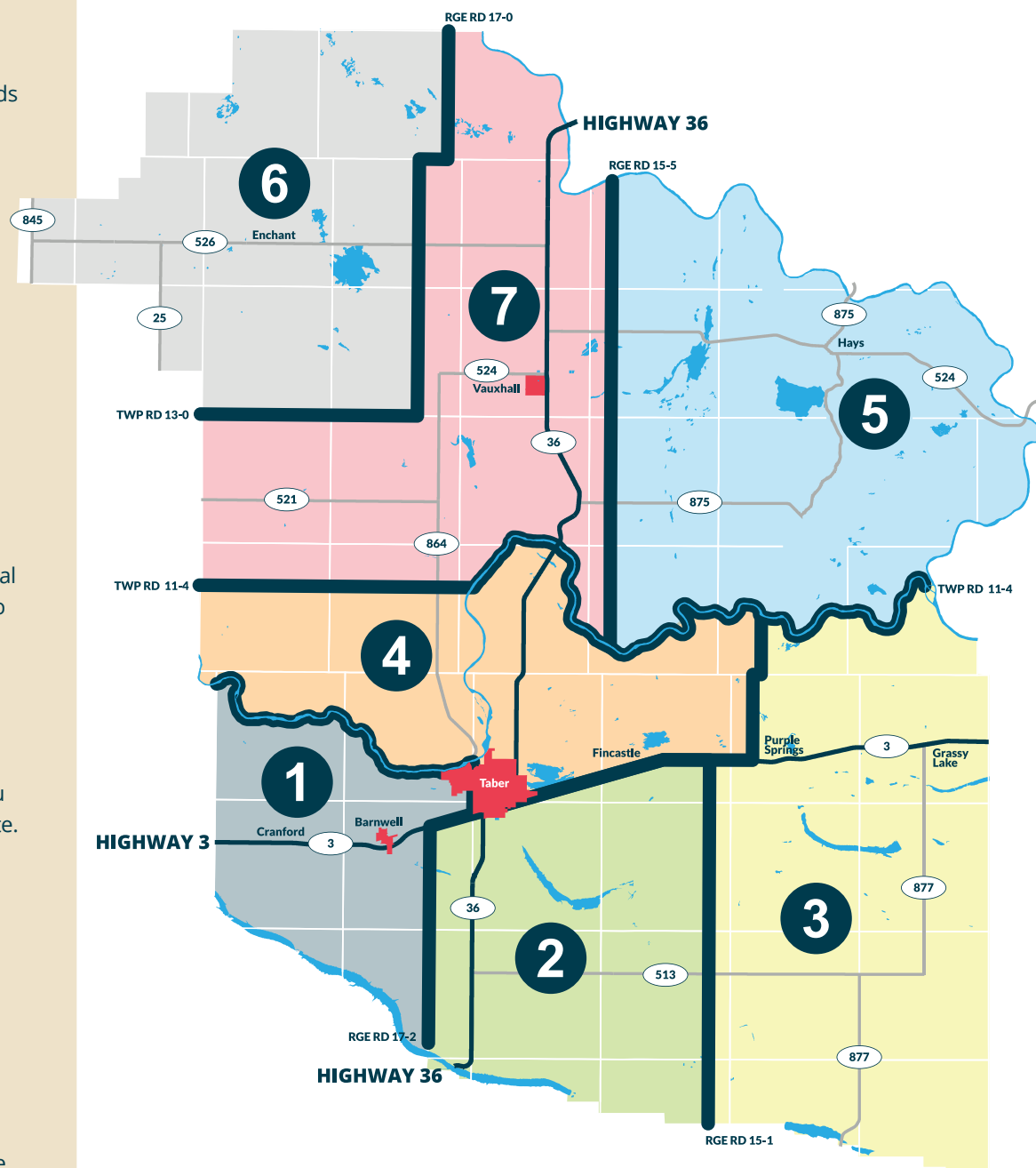
An additional form is provided for candidates who wish to collect supplementary signatures.

### Acceptance of Nomination Papers

The returning officer will not accept a nomination paper that is:

- incomplete;
- not signed by at least 5 electors;
- that is not sworn or affirmed by the person nominated;

Supplementary signatures may be collected and documented on the supplementary sheet provided.



To download forms, visit our website:  
[mdtaber.ab.ca/p/election](http://mdtaber.ab.ca/p/election)