

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER

MD CONNECTION

Reeve's REFLECTIONS.....

2020 bringing plenty of changes

If 2020 were a math problem it might be something like this "If you're going down a river at 2 mph and your canoe loses a wheel, how much pancake mix would you need to shingle your roof??" If you know the answer to that one you are a brilliant person.

This year has thrown us all curves that we most likely never ever dreamed we would face. I am sure each of us has been affected by what is going on in the world around us, Covid-19, school closures, business closures, trying to now get the economy going again, wanting to get away, wanting to see family but can't travel to see them etc...

With some of the restrictions being lifted by the province, MD Council and staff have been able to return to a little more of a normal routine. Public works staff, Ag Services staff and the water treatment plant operators have been busy doing everything that keeps the MD going on a day-to-day basis as best they can while at the same time adjusting operations to be in line with the current covid environment.

Funding for many of the projects that Council and Staff have been working on for a number of years has fallen into place in recent months, and many funding announcements have been held in the last month. High up on the list of these announcements includes the twinning of Highway 3 from the Sugar Factory corner to Burdett. This is a huge gain for the Southern Alberta Region. Safety of the traveling public has been a huge concern for everyone and was one of the points we have brought to the attention of the Provincial government whenever we have had a chance. As industry grows, and more and more large trucks move agricultural products up and down the highway, the need for twinning became even more apparent and necessary. We are grateful for the announcement of funding for this important project.

The Horsefly Spillway project also was the recipient of a funding announcement recently. We have secured \$7.3 million from the province



MERRILL HARRIS, REEVE

under the ACRP program and have recently received \$8.9 Million from the federal government under the ICIP program. Both of these funding announcements support phase 3 (the first construction phase) of the project, which is from Taber Lake to the Oldman River. This phase of the overall Horsefly project is estimated to cost \$22 million dollars. The remaining funding is to come from our Southern Alberta municipal partners with participation from the Irrigation Districts (TID and SMRID). The purpose of this project is to mitigate flood events, (early spring melting or big rain events during the spring and summer) by draining the SMRID Main Canal at the Horsefly turnout, divert that water through Horsefly Lake, through Taber Lake and emptying it back into the Oldman River. Continued Advocacy work and lobbying for the funding of the remaining two phases of the project will be ongoing, as well as for the remaining projects that are part of the regional storm water management plan. There are projects spanning from Raymond to Medicine Hat that will help facilitate drainage from the overall southern Alberta region.

The Township 8 Range 16 drainage project is also underway after it was successfully tendered this spring. The wetlands component is nearing completion and the crews will begin on the roadside drainage work shortly with completion expected around the end of October. This project is funded 90% from the provincial ACRP Program. The Vauxhall Rest Stop, a project developed and implemented in partnership with Alberta Transportation, is also under construction after a successful tendering process. The first \$1.5 Million of this project is funded by Alberta Transportation. We have also been successful in getting funding for six bridge replacements from the Strategic Infrastructure program (STIP) from Alberta Transportation. These are old bridge structures that were over open canals. When an irrigation district installs pipelines in the ground these structures are no longer needed and through this program they are removed. These projects are funded 75% by the province.

■ Continued on Page 2



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

4900B-50th Street

Taber, Alberta, T1G 1T2

Phone: 403-223-3541

We're On the Web:

www.mdtaber.ab.ca

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MD CONNECTION

Public Meeting Live Streams

The MD of Taber is proud to officially announce Live Streaming of Municipal Public Meetings.

Live public meetings can be viewed on our website:

<https://mdtaber.ab.ca/p/public-meetings-livestream>

And on our YouTube Channel (youtube.com and search "MD of Taber").

The live stream video is a value-added component that brings additional transparency and context to public meetings. Meeting minutes remain the Municipality's official meeting record as live meeting video is susceptible to technical difficulties that may be out of our control.

All completed meeting videos will remain archived on both our website through Online Meeting Minutes and on our YouTube Channel so that they can be viewed at any time. When viewing past meetings on our website you will enjoy the added benefit of video bookmarks in the meeting minutes that will link the agenda item to the section of video when it is discussed. Go to

www.mdtaber.ab.ca/p/meeting-minutes-and-bylaws

We hope you enjoy this new feature!

The image shows a screenshot of the Municipal District of Taber Meeting Agenda for July 14, 2020, Regular Meeting of Council - 09:00 AM. The agenda includes items such as Call To Order, Agenda, Changes to Agenda, Public Engagement Process, Call for People to Speak, Delegations, RMA Member Visit and Update, RCMP Report, Community Peace Officer Report, and Alberta Transportation Update. To the right of the agenda is a live stream video player showing a council meeting in progress. The video player has a 'Live on YouTube' overlay and a 'Part 1' button.

Advocation against assessment changes needed

■ Reeve's Reflections continued from Page 1

Also recently announced was funding in the amount of \$2.1 Million from the Municipal Climate Change Action Center and Alberta Innovates. This funding is for the first pilot project to convert old abandoned oil well sites into a renewable energy development site. Up to 2MW of electricity will be generated off these sites, enough power to run up to 60 pivots during the irrigation season. While the MD of Taber applied for and obtained this funding from the province one of the project partners, IRRICAN, will own the infrastructure and implement the project.

There is currently about 3000 inactive wells in the MD. Many have been abandoned with landowners left to deal with these sites.. Converting them to solar is one option that is becoming available through this pilot project. There are many partners who have worked hard to wade through the many requirements (i.e. regulatory, assessment, taxation, connection to the electrical grid) to make this project a reality. Thank you to Keith Hirsche and his team that have worked so hard to get this project underway.

We have successfully negotiated a draft Intermunicipal Development Plan with the Town of Taber. This document outlines where growth in the Town is most likely to happen and how we can work together to help facilitate orderly growth in the Town and the area in the municipality surrounding the Town. We have completed the same agreements with all the municipalities that surround and are within the MD (Barnwell and Vauxhall). An open house will be held, most likely in the fall, for the public to

look at the documents, ask questions, and seek explanation regarding the importance and potential implications of the agreement. An Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) has also recently been completed between the two municipalities (being the MD and Town of Taber). This agreement highlights some potential service areas where we can potentially work together (collaboratively) to develop mutually beneficial service agreements.

Now, on behalf of Council I need to inform you of some of the challenges that we are now facing as a municipality. For quite some time we have been hearing that the Provincial government was looking at changes to the way assessment for the Oil and Gas industry is done. The Government of Alberta is proposing drastic changes to the way assessment is calculated on oil and gas wells, pipelines and machinery and equipment. The province is doing all they can to facilitate the oil and Gas sector, to get it rolling again; but we feel they are doing it on the backs of municipalities and ordinary citizens. They have proposed four different scenarios, with each of those scenarios significantly reducing the assessment base for the MD. The least impactful scenario reduces municipal property tax revenue by \$3.1 Million and the worst-case scenario is a reduction of \$4.1 Million. This is huge, when considering that the municipal property tax revenues budgeted is roughly \$15.5 Million. In order to maintain the same funding levels, taxes on Residents, Farms and Businesses would need to increase substantially (this would equate a property tax increase in the range of 25% to 36% across the residential, farmland, and non-residential property classes). Raising tax rates to offset the impacts of these assess-

ment model changes will have the effect of simply transferring taxes from industry to other businesses and residents. These abrupt changes to the assessment model will force municipalities to enact a reduction in service levels to our ratepayers as the above mentioned tax increases to farms, residents and small business are NOT realistic. As Council we are advocating to our MLA's, in coordination with Rural Alberta, and urban municipalities inside the MD, to put a stop to the governments proposal. There surely must be other policy options at the provincial level that will facilitate the Oil and Gas sector that does not download costs onto municipalities, businesses and residents. We are appreciative of the work that RMA is doing on our behalf, lobbying the provincial decision makers and educating them of the adverse effects that such a proposal will have on rural municipalities.

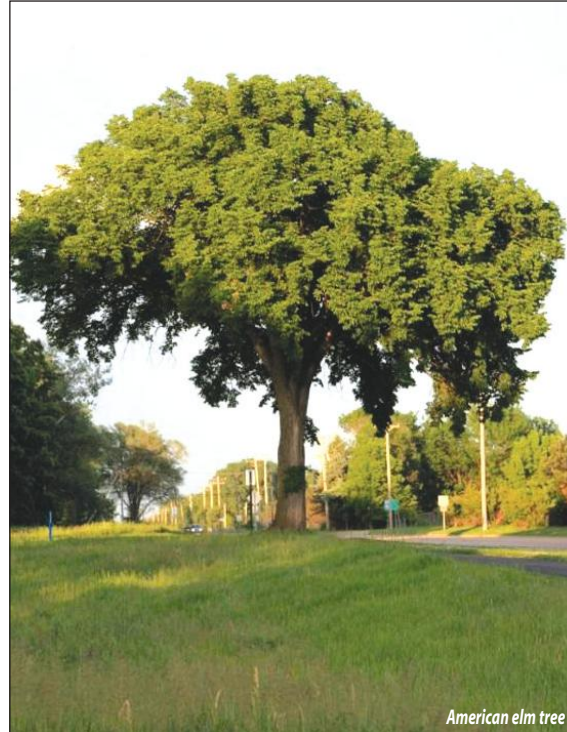
I would encourage every Citizen of the Municipality to contact their MLA to let them know there must be a better way to help the Oil and Gas industry out besides burdening municipalities.

Grant Hunter - MLA for Taber-Warner
5402 - 50 Avenue
Taber, AB
Canada T1G 1T9
403-223-0001
Taber.Warner@assembly.ab.ca

Joseph Schow - MLA for Cardston-Siksika
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In addition to the above problem is the ongoing challenge of collecting property tax from some operating oil companies that they are assessed. Last year \$2.3 Million in taxes was not collected and this year could easily be a repeat of that. Also pending are our obligations to pay for policing, which in 2020 is close to \$200,000 and will be growing to over \$600,000 over the next three years. Amidst these many challenges, establishing a suitable municipal budget moving forward will be a priority of Council and Staff. Anticipated large and significant revenue shortfalls and corresponding service adjustments are anticipated and are very much a reality. Council realizes the difficult position we are in, but as I said earlier, the huge increases that would be necessary to maintain the revenue stream that we are used to are unrealistic. Service adjustments and project prioritization will need to be carefully planned and thought out moving forward. I have rambled enough for this issue. For any further information you need you are welcome to call your councillor, or our staff can help with any questions you have about any of the issues brought up. On behalf of Council we wish you the best as we start into what looks like a very promising harvest season.

Merrill Harris, Reeve



Dutch Elm Disease

Dutch Elm Disease (DED) is a devastating disease that can affect any type of elm tree. The disease has destroyed millions of trees in North America since being introduced from Europe and is prevalent in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Montana. Recently, Dutch Elm Disease was detected in Southern Alberta.

What does an elm look like?

Elm trees are easy to identify. They have tall, straight trunks with thick, rough bark that is grey or greyish brown. Branches flare out at the top to form an arch or umbrella, providing lots of shade. The leaves are about 4 inches long and have a double-toothed edge.

How is the disease spread?

The disease is caused by a fungus which is spread by several species of beetle, including the native elm bark beetle and the European elm bark beetle. These beetles are very small, but can create enormous damage to elm trees and elm populations. Look for beetle emergence holes, which will be about the size of a pencil lead, and sawdust on the bark. This can be an indication of beetle activity in elm trees.



European elm bark beetle



Native elm bark beetle

What are the signs of Dutch Elm Disease?

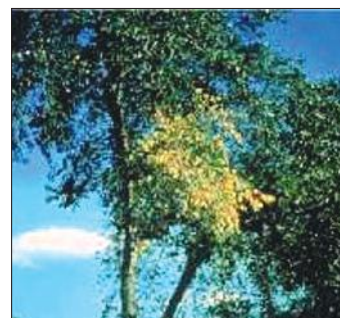
Trees infected with DED generally show flagging, which means the leaves of a single branch will turn yellow and begin to wilt, and then turn brown and die. The leaves will remain on the tree. The wood below the bark of infected branches will show a brown staining caused by the fungus.

There are several things that you can do to help prevent the spread of DED and protect your elm trees. There are nearly 5000 elm trees within the boundaries of our municipality, so it is important that we protect these trees and prevent the spread of this disease.

Here's what you can do:

- Keep your trees healthy. Elm trees should be well watered from April to mid-August. Trees should not be watered after mid-August, but they should get a good soaking a few days before freeze-up.
- Dead branches and trees should be removed to eliminate possible beetle habitat. **There is a mandatory elm pruning ban from April 1 to September 30.** Beetles are active during this time and are attracted to the scent of freshly cut wood. Dead branches should only be pruned from October 1 to March 31.
- Dispose of all elm wood by burning or chipping. Do not store elm firewood. Do not transport firewood into Alberta. If elm wood is chipped, the chips should be no larger than 1 inch.

If you suspect that a tree is infected with DED or if you notice beetle activity, contact the Agricultural Service Board or the DED Hotline at 1-877-837-ELMS.



Flagging caused by DED. Staining caused by DED



The branches on the left and the middle are infected



Grain Bag Recycling Pilot Program

Recycling grain bags and twine just got easier through the Alberta Ag-Plastic. Recycle it! program

Grain bag and bale twine recycling is now available at the Municipal District of Taber as part of a three-year pilot program aimed at establishing an environmentally sustainable program to recycle agricultural plastics.

Rolled grain bags and bagged twine can be dropped off, free of charge, at the MD of Taber Operations and Maintenance building just west of Taber on Highway 3, municipal address of 1771027. Please call ahead (403-223-3142) to book an appointment to bring in your rolled grain bags and bagged bale twine.

Grain bags should be rolled tightly and secured with twine. Collection bags for recycling twine are available at the MD of Taber Operations and Maintenance building west of Taber also. Please ensure twine is clean, dry and loosely placed in collection bags. This helps keep contamination to a minimum and maximizes the recyclability of the material. Non-program material or material not prepared properly could be subject to additional fees or rejected all together. To find out how to properly prepare your materials for recycling visit www.cleanfarms.ca and click on "more info here" tab.

The MD of Taber also has a grain bag roller available for use by residents. Please contact us for more information or to book an appointment to use the grain bag roller.

Thank you for helping Alberta build an agricultural plastics recycling program that helps keep our agricultural community clean and environmentally friendly.





Community Peace Officer Fall update

Written by Community Peace Officer
Dana Butler

Community Safety, from Agriculture to Zamboni Drivers clearing the ice in the arena, must have the mindset and approach from the entire Community to have each person to do their part – to live and work safety within the MD of Taber.

Living in rural Alberta, we all share a proud heritage of an agriculture and Oil Field Services background and when an accident occurs residents, employers, family and friends within the MD of Taber and surrounding area are immensely impacted. It is with this mindset of working together for a safe community through education, inspection and enforcement, the Regional Enforcement Services are asking for your help – To Build a Safe Community – together.

Throughout the year, Community Peace Officers have been educating the public on various platforms (talking to individuals and social media outlets to name a few) on commercial vehicle safety, cargo securement and the speed awareness campaign through our Speed, Education & Enforcement Directive – also known as the SEED Initiative.

This article will focus and highlight areas of commercial vehicle safety and cargo securement.

COMMERICAL VEHICLE SAFETY

Did you know that all commercially plated vehicles require an annual Commercial Vehicle Inspection. Section 19 of the [Vehicle Inspection Regulation \(AR 211/2006\)](#) requires all commercial vehicles to have a valid inspection certificate and decal. The driver of a commercial vehicle must be able to produce the inspection certificate on the request of an investigator or peace officer. Regional Enforcement Services, along with their partner the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement branch of the Alberta Sheriffs, conducts roadside North American Standard Level I Inspections. These inspections are a 37-step procedure that includes an examination of both driver operating requirements and vehicle maintenance fitness.

The vehicle inspection includes checking brake systems, cargo



securement, coupling devices, driveline/drive-shaft components, exhaust systems, frames, fuel systems, lighting devices, steering mechanisms, suspensions, tires, van and open-top trailer bodies, wheels, rims and hubs, and windshield wipers. Additional items for buses include emergency exits, electrical cables and systems in the engine and battery compartments, and seating. Drivers are asked to provide their operating credentials and hours-of-service documentation, and will be checked for seat belt usage.

Inspectors will also be attentive to apparent alcohol and/or drug impairment. If no critical inspection item violations are found during a Level I Inspection, a CVSA decal will be applied to the vehicle, indicating that the vehicle successfully passed a decal-eligible inspection conducted by a CVSA-certified inspector. If an inspector does identify critical inspection item violations, he or she may render the driver or vehicle out of service if the condition meets the North American Out-of-Service Criteria. This means the driver cannot operate the vehicle until the vehicle and/or driver qualification violation(s) are corrected.

CARGO SECUREMENT

Let's face it, WE, the royal everyone WE, as a Community we move things, whether it is people, or consumables in a motor vehicle or non-motorized vehicles. Focusing on motor vehicles and the movement of consumables in this article. Non-motorized vehicles will be another topic to write about in the Spring/Summer 2021 MDT Connection newsletter.

Cargo Securement has been an increase of conservations of late as we move closer to harvest for the general public and from the people that deliver the raw produce and other products to and from the markets. Every driver is responsible for the vehicle they are driving, from complying with Registration, Insurance and Driver Operating Licences regulations along with securing their cargo.

Alberta has two Regulations regarding cargo securement. Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation, Section 17 applies to Commercial Vehicles and Farm Vehicles, whereas, Section 65, Vehicle Equipment Regulation applies to all other vehicles.

Under Section 65(1) Vehicle Equipment Regulation states - A

person shall not use a vehicle to transport goods unless (1) the vehicle is constructed to carry the goods, and

(2) There is equipment on the vehicle or attached to the vehicle that is capable of securing the goods to ensure that the vehicle can be operated safely when loaded and without danger of the turning over the vehicle, or the load shifting swaying, blowing off, falling off, leaking or otherwise escaping.

While under Section 17(4) Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation states – A driver, carrier or an owner of a commercial vehicle shall ensure that cargo transported by a commercial vehicle is contained, immobilized or secured so that it cannot: (1) Leak, spill, blow off, fall from, fall through or otherwise be dislodged from the commercial vehicle, (2) Shift upon or within the commercial vehicle to such an extent that the commercial vehicle's stability or maneuverability is adversely affected.

Class 2 Farm Vehicles and Tractors hauling any load must have equipment to adequately secure the loads. Tractors are defined as motor vehicle under the Alberta Traffic Safety Act, to which is subject to Section 65 of the Vehicle Equipment Regulation.

Class 2 Farm Vehicles are exempt from the provisions of Sections 10 and 22 of the National Safety Code when carrying bales (if they do not exceed the posted speed limit or 80 km/hr, whichever is less, and the vehicle is not operated upon any highway or portion of a highway except to cross a highway is Schedule 7). They are not exempt from Section 5(2) of the National Safety Code Standard 10 which states you must secure each bale with a strap, with a marked Working Load Limit (WLL) of at least 20% of the weight or aggregate weight of each bale or stack of bales.

Unsecured loads are very dangerous, from delivering times being delayed to damaged vehicles and infrastructures, to the catastrophic event of a fatality. Cargo Securement, whether you are driving below or at the posted speed limit is important for a Safe Community.

I would like to acknowledge the Alberta Motor Transportation Association and our community partners – Commercial Vehicle Enforcement in the assistance of educating and bringing awareness to the residents and visitors to the Municipal District of Taber and surrounding area.

Dana Butler
Community Peace Officer
MD of Taber Regional Enforcement Services

SMALL BUSINESS ASSESSMENT SUB-CLASS

Is all or part of your property eligible to qualify as a SMALL BUSINESS in the MD of Taber? Did you qualify your non-residential property in 2019 for the 2020 Tax Year? Please read below to find out more!

Introduced in July 2019 for the 2020 Tax Year, Council passed Bylaw No.1952, the Small Business Sub-Class Bylaw. This allowed Council to create sub-classes for non-residential property. The new Non-Residential Sub-classes are:

1. Vacant non-residential property
2. Small business property
3. Other non-residential property

The new property assessment sub-class provides property owners that have a non-residential assessment an opportunity to annually qualify their property be classed as Small Business property.

For a non-residential property to be considered for qualification as a small business for the 2021 Tax Year, Administration requires the "Annual Small Business

Application" to be filled out completely and received on or before October 31, 2020.

Applications must be submitted to the Assessor:

- by mail: 4900B – 50th Street Taber, AB T1G 1T2
- by email: bmcquaig@mdtaber.ab.ca
- or dropped off in person at the Administration Building

PLEASE NOTE: the Annual Small Business Application must be submitted annually by October 31 of each year. Applications received after October 31, 2020 will not be considered for the 2021 Tax Year. All applicants must re-apply in 2021 for the 2022 Tax Year, and so on.

The Annual Small Business Application requests information about the business operating on the property, relating to non-residential property (land and/or improvements), that is not designated industrial property. This requires the business owner to provide the number of full time employees they had across Canada as of October 1 of the year prior to the tax year (must be less than 50 full-time employees to qualify), and declare as such. If a business is leasing (sub-lessees do not qualify) all or part of a property for their operations, please have the business' Designated Officer fill out the application. All considered Applications will be reviewed by the Assessor before the end of February 2021. If more information is required to reclassify the property, the Assessor will contact you. When reviewing the 2021 budget, Council may consider the opportunity to provide a possible reduced tax rate to the non-residential small business subclass in the 2021 tax year.

Should you have any questions, or need assistance with this application, please contact the Assessor at the Administration Office (403) 223 3541, or see the helpful links below:

Annual Small Business Application:

<https://mdtaber.ab.ca/Home/DownloadDocument?docId=c7a03a91-e96c-41d3-8ada-e020abb46f03>

Bylaw No. 1952 – Small Business Sub-Class Bylaw: <https://mdtaber.ab.ca/p/bylaws> and scroll down the list of bylaws available to the public.

 MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER 4900B – 50 th Street, Taber AB T1G 1T2 Phone: 403-223-3541 Fax: 403-223-1799		Application No. _____ OFFICE USE ONLY
ANNUAL SMALL BUSINESS APPLICATION		
APPLICANT INFORMATION: Business Name: _____ Contact Person: _____ Daytime Phone #: _____ Email Address: _____ Address: _____ Postal Code: _____		
BUSINESS / PROPERTY INFORMATION: Registered Owner of Property: _____ Legal Land Location: QTR _____ SEC _____ TWP _____ RGE _____ W4 Plan: _____ Block _____ Lot _____ Roll No. _____ Civic/Rural Address: _____ Registered Owner of Property: _____ Legal Land Location: QTR _____ SEC _____ TWP _____ RGE _____ W4 Plan: _____ Block _____ Lot _____ Roll No. _____ Civic/Rural Address: _____ Registered Owner of Property: _____ Legal Land Location: QTR _____ SEC _____ TWP _____ RGE _____ W4 Plan: _____ Block _____ Lot _____ Roll No. _____ Civic/Rural Address: _____ (attach an additional schedule if more space is required)		
Declaration: I, _____ am a designated signing officer of the above mentioned Business located in the Municipal District of Taber, and as at October 1, 2019, the total employee count across Canada was _____ (must be fewer than 50 to qualify). I acknowledge the following Municipal Government Act sections below, which allows for inspection of this declaration. I further acknowledge that this declaration will be completed annually at a time and form specified by the M.D. Date _____ Signature of Designated Signing Officer _____		
Municipal Government Act Chapter M-25 Duty to provide information 295 (1) A person must provide, on request by an assessor, any information necessary for the assessor to carry out the duties and responsibilities of an assessor under Parts 9 to 12 and the regulations. (2) The Alberta Safety Codes Authority or an agency accredited under the Safety Codes Act must release, on request by an assessor, information or documents respecting a permit issued under the Safety Codes Act. (3) An assessor may request information or documents under subsection (2) only in respect of a property within the municipality for which the assessor is preparing an assessment. (4) No person may make a complaint in the year following the assessment year under section 460 or, in the case of designated industrial property, under section 492(1) about an assessment if the person has failed to provide any information requested under subsection (1) within 60 days from the date of the request.		

2020 MUNICIPAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

SAFELY CONDUCTING PROPERTY ASSESSMENT SITE INSPECTIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Assessor will be following the 2m or 6ft social distancing guideline while attending properties, as well as all other current provincial and municipal guidelines related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Assessor will not request to enter homes, or other buildings, for inside inspections with ratepayers during the pandemic. If you have children or pets, please keep them away from the Assessor during his outside inspection for everyone's safety.

If anyone in the home is currently:

- under self-isolation,
- under quarantine orders,
- experiencing cold, flu or COVID-19 symptoms,
- or confirmed to have COVID-19 in the past 2 weeks,

Please notify the Assessor immediately from a safe distance. Also, please provide a contact number at that time so that the Assessor may call you later to review assessment details or for contact-tracing purposes.

If you do not feel safe having the Assessor attending your property during the pandemic, especially if you are over 60 and/or have compromised immunity, please politely inform him. Lastly, please provide the Assessor your contact number, to call you between 8am and 4:30pm, Monday to Friday, if more information is required.

2020 PROPERTY ASSESSMENT SUMMER INSPECTIONS AND FALL ANNUAL INSPECTIONS

Selected summer inspections, such as Farmland and Agricultural-Use site inspections, will occur in August/September. Sales Verification inspections will also occur in August/September, at properties having sales registered with the province on or before June 30, 2020. Fall Annual property inspections will begin in September/October, for reasons including new construction, demolitions, renovations, or changes to use of land and/or buildings.

RESPONDING TO CALL-BACK CARDS LEFT BY THE ASSESSOR

The Assessor may request further information about the property and/or an improvement (most often your home), leaving a folded 'call?back' card in your entrance door. Please respond to the Assessor to assist in making your assessment details as accurate as possible. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

RESPONDING TO 'REQUEST FOR INFORMATION' LETTERS

If you receive a 'Request for Information' letter (RFI) in the mail or by email, please take the time to complete and return it within 60 days, as requested. The RFI is for timely gathering of property assessment information necessary to prepare the assessment. If you need assistance with completing your RFI, please contact the Assessor at the Administration Office. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

FAILURE TO RESPOND TO A 'REQUEST FOR INFORMATION'

Please note that if you do not respond to a request for information (e.g. call?back card or letter), it may affect your right to appeal your property assessment, per Section 295 (1) & (4) of the Municipal Government Act as follows:

"...Duty to provide information

295(1) A person must provide, on request by an assessor, any information necessary for the assessor to carry out the duties and responsibilities of an assessor under Parts 9 to 12 and the regulations. ..."

"... **(4)** No person may make a complaint in the year following the assessment year under section 460 or, in the case of designated industrial property, under section 492(1) about an assessment if the person has failed to provide any information requested under subsection (1) within 60 days from the date of the request. ..."

Notification of Access & Request for Information

The Assessor will be visiting properties throughout the municipality this year to verify property information to ensure fair and equitable assessments. The Assessor has picture identification and will present it upon request. If you have questions or concerns, please contact us at the MD of Taber Administration Office.



Vauxhall Rest Stop Area



Range Road 18-2



Vauxhall Rest Stop Area



CONTRACTED PROJECTS

Range Road 18-2

- Rebuild a gravel road to a 25,000 head feedlot in Enchant area.
- M.D. was successful in getting 50% of the project funded through Alberta Transportation, Resource Road Program.
- Project is complete and under budget.

Vauxhall Rest Stop Area

- M.D. of Taber and Alberta Transportation partnered on constructing a rest stop area on Highway 36 just outside of the Town of Vauxhall. Under the partnership agreement, Alberta Transportation is paying the first \$1.5 million of the project cost estimated to be at \$2.1 million.
- Area will allow for larger trucks to pull off Highway 36 when needed to rest.
- Project includes a paved parking lot for large configuration trucks/trailers, paved parking area for smaller light vehicles to pull over and a pre-cast concrete washroom facility.
- Rest stop area is adjacent to two, approximately 2 acre, Highway Commercial lots the M.D. has created that will be offered for sale in the future.
- Project is slated to be completed by Nov. 2020 and is on schedule.

Range Road 16-5 Base/Pave

- Range Road leading to King Arthur's Lakefront Resort is in process of having a gravel base coarse/asphalt paving structure being placed on top of an existing local gravel road that was constructed by M.D. forces in 2019.
- Project is scheduled to be fully completed by mid -September 2020.

Bridge File Removals

- M.D. of Taber received 75% funding from Alberta Transportation to remove 6 bridges in the Enchant area that are no longer needed as the Bow River Irrigation District has replaced open ditch's with underground pipelines.
- Project is tendered with construction beginning August 24th with a completion date of mid-September 2020

Bridge File Remove / Replace

- M.D. of Taber received 75% funding from Alberta Transportation to remove and replace a concrete bridge over the main Bow River Irrigation District canal 7 miles east and approximately 2 miles south of Enchant.
- Project is currently in the design stages with plans to tender and construct during the winter months of 2020/2021 with completion prior to March, 2021

Bridge File Removals



Bridge File Removals



West Township 8 Range 16 Drainage



West Township 8 Range 16 Drainage



West Township 8 Range 16 Drainage



West Township 8 Range 16 Drainage

- M.D. of Taber received 90% funding from Alberta Environment and Parks through the Alberta Community Resiliency Program to do a drainage project south of Taber.
- The M.D. partnered with Taber and St. Mary's River Irrigation District's as well as local landowners throughout the area to construct drainage work's that will assist in controlling future drainage problems in the area lessening the impact on downstream property owners.
- Project work includes construction of a wetland area on Taber Irrigation District land directly adjacent to Horsefly Reservoir as well as re-shaping road allowance borrow ditch's to allow for overland drainage to be conveyed to inlets located along the SMRID main canal that were strategically designed and placed during main canal rehabilitation as well as under-drains under the SMRID canal where the water goes directly to Horsefly Reservoir.
- Control gates will be installed throughout the drainage area to manage the flow during major flooding events as to not overload and negatively impact downstream landowners and infrastructure.
- As part of this project, the M.D. of Taber was required to get a Water Act Approval from Alberta Environment and Parks. Following the guidelines and regulations under the Provincial Water Act and Wetland Policy, landowners within the drainage area of this project may apply to the M.D. for permission to do drainage works under this approval.
- This project is well underway with completion scheduled prior to October 30th, 2020.



RenuWell" project to transform orphan oil wells with solar energy to go ahead in Taber, Alberta

■ Project proponents hopeful that the initiative represents a job-creating solution to Canada's abandoned well problem that can be replicated across the country

August 17, 2020 - (Taber, Alberta) The RenuWell project partners are welcoming the announcement of \$2.1 million in funding from the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC) and Alberta Innovates to the Municipal District of Taber to launch the first pilot project of its kind to utilize inactive oil and gas infrastructure as a foundation for renewable energy development. The project is called RenuWell and will be employing fossil fuel industry workers in the conversion of 2-4 local inactive wells into solar energy projects.

The project required a broad network of stakeholders to get the project off the ground. IRRICAN (the Irrigation Canal Power Co-operative Ltd. which is owned by St. Mary River, Taber and Raymond Irrigation Districts) is contributing \$1.5 million dollars and they will be the owner and operator of the solar generation projects. Canadian Solar Solutions and SkyFire Energy are some of Canada's most established solar companies and will be coordinating the installations, with Canadian Solar Solutions providing up to \$700,000 in in-kind funding.

As a part of the project, Iron & Earth, a non-profit organization, is partnering with Medicine Hat College to develop a 5-day rapid upskilling program for fossil fuel industry and Indigenous workers to learn the basics of solar before working on transforming the well sites themselves. A grant from MCCAC in 2019 supported the extensive community engagement and local policy development over the past year to move the project forward.

Keith Hirsche, a leading innovator in the oil and gas industry and originator of the RenuWell concept says there are several key innovations that make the RenuWell Project unique. "We're



using brownfield sites for solar energy projects, which allows for productive use of the land while the long term process of bioremediation occurs. Instead of removing the roads and powerlines during well reclamation, these pieces of infrastructure can stay in place and be repurposed for the solar energy project.

This saves time and money for both the conventional and renewable energy industries."

The best site locations are generally located on farmlands and farmers can purchase the power directly for their irrigation systems, a draw for many farmers in the region. Landowners have been a major supporter throughout the project. Daryl Bennett, a Director with Action Surface Rights Association is helping to draft a surface lease agreement that protects landowners' rights.

RenuWell calls it a win-win project, detailing several significant economic outcomes:

1. Providing new **economic opportunities for landowners** stranded with orphaned wells on their farms.
2. **Energy cost savings for the farmers** who can purchase the solar electricity to power their irrigation systems.
3. **Conserving farmland** by utilizing brownfield sites for solar energy projects.
4. **Cost savings for consumers** by repurposing existing infrastructure such as roads and powerlines that were put in place for the original oil well production.
5. **Reducing reclamation costs for oil and gas companies** who don't have to remove the roads and powerlines to the sites.
6. **Generate revenue for Irrigation Districts** to continue irrigation system maintenance and upgrades

7. **Ongoing property tax revenue** for the Municipal District of Taber

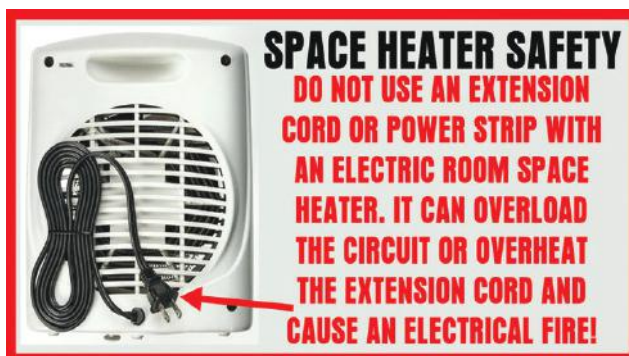
The solar projects will generate 2,900 MWh and over \$224,000 in electricity sales per year with 1,560 tn/CO₂e savings in GHG emissions. Over a 25 year lifespan it will generate 72,500 MWh, with GHG emission savings of 39,150 t/CO₂e.

"By utilizing just 10% of abandoned wells across Alberta, we would be able to meet the land resource demands for the upcoming 6,200 MW of solar energy development over the next 10 years," says Hirsche. "We're very excited about the potential of this project for our province, and our country."

For more information contact:
Keith Hirsche, RenuWell, RenuWell Project
e: keith.hirsche@gmail.com

RenuWell Project Partners and Funders:

- Municipal Climate Change Action Centre
- Alberta Innovates
- Municipal District of Taber
- Irrigation Canal Power Co-operative Ltd. (IRRICAN)
- RenuWell Energy Solutions
- Canadian Solar Solutions Inc.
- Action Surface Rights Association
- Medicine Hat College
- Iron & Earth
- SkyFire Energy
- NuWave Industries
- Orphan Well Association



FACTS

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

www.nfpa.org/education

Q2 | RESEARCH

HOME CANDLE FIRES

11,640
HOME
FIRES
STARTED
BY
CANDLES
EACH YEAR

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

\$438 Million
Estimated yearly property damages

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

TOP 5 days

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

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

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

Zzz

Falling asleep causes 11% of home candle fires and 43% of the associated deaths.

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

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

20%

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

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

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

Extension Cord Safety Tips

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

Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord.

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

Extension Cord Designations

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

SJTW

SJTW



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



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

Cord Length and Amperage Limits

25 - 50 Feet Extension Cords
16 Gauge (1-13 Amps)
14 Gauge (14-15 Amps)
12-10 Gauge (16-20 Amps)

100 Feet Extension Cords
16 Gauge (1-10 Amps)
14 Gauge (11-13 Amps)
12 Gauge (14-15 Amps)
10 Gauge (16-20 Amps)

150 Feet Extension Cords
14 Gauge (1-7 Amps)
12 Gauge (8-10 Amps)
10 Gauge (11-15 Amps)



Always use **GFCI** protection when using an extension cord outdoors.

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

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

Please share this free resource to save lives



www.facebook.com/ESFI.org www.twitter.com/ESFI.org www.youtube.com/ESFI.org

Did you know?

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



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



America's Electric
Cooperatives

South Central Alberta Rural Crime Watch Association

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

Our goal is to increase and strengthen crime prevention activities in the Municipal District of Taber, Town of Vauxhall, Village of Barnwell through broad citizen participation. Being a member does not take up a lot of your time, but goes a long way helping our RCMP detachment, while making the MD of Taber and area safer to live in. The more members and signs throughout the municipalities, the more effective we are in stopping crime.

The right knowledge is the best way to protect your family and property. Becoming aware and educating yourself on the current and emerging threats. Be informed using reputable sources, such as your local RCMP or Rural Crime Watch Association. We are here to help you, but we need you to join and become extra eyes



and ears against crime.

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

One way is by becoming a member of the South Central Alberta Rural Crime Watch Association. Secondly, place one or more rural crime watch member signs on your property.

Sign up for the SCAR Notify system at <https://SCARNotify.ca>

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

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



JUST A REMINDER . . .

2020 PROPERTY TAXES MUST BE PAID ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 15, 2020 TO AVOID PENALTY

Current taxes remaining unpaid after November 15, 2020 will be subject to a penalty of 5%.

Options for payment are:

- In person at the Municipal District of Taber Administration Building located at 4900B – 50th Street Taber, AB during regular office hours, Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 pm by cash, cheque or Interac debit.
- Payments by cheque may be placed in the Municipal District of Taber's "Drop Box" located at the front doors of the Administration Office located at 4900B – 50th Street, Taber, AB.
- Cheques may be mailed to Municipal District of Taber, 4900B – 50th Street, Taber, AB, T1G 1T2. Please note, mailed payments must be postmarked November 15, 2020 or prior, to avoid penalty.
- The Municipal District of Taber is now able to accept credit card payments for property taxes, utilities, and accounts receivable invoices through a service called "OptionPay". "OptionPay" is a user-based fee payment system, which charges an automatic fee to the user based on the value of the transaction.
- If you choose to pay by credit card via the Municipal District of Taber's "OptionPay", or for additional information about using the "OptionPay" service and the associated fees visit the Municipal District of Taber website at www.mdtaber.ab.ca or call the Administration office at 403-223-3541.
- Property Taxes are payable in person at most financial institutions or through online and telephone banking.

Please visit the Municipal District of Taber website at <https://www.mdtaber.ab.ca/p/corporate-services-department> for additional information on making payments or assistance is available by calling the Administration office at 403-223-3541.

If you did not receive your 2020 Property Tax Notice, please contact the Administration office. Failure to receive a tax notice does not exempt you from the responsibility for payment of taxes or penalties.



HIGHWAY 36

– Warner to Edmonton

By Karen Ingram
Taber Irrigation Impact Museum

The year was 1952, Alberta communities were gathering together to lobby the Alberta Government for a highway to run from Warner in the south to Edmonton in the north. They were considering this to be a major route for transportation that would have a great economic benefit to all those along the route. The Taber Chamber of Commerce were sending representatives to a meeting with the Honorable George Taylor, Minister of Highways, in Lethbridge on November 19. The representatives were Elmer Conrad, E.E. O'Donnell and Ted Sundal and Roy S. Lee, Taber M.L.A.

A North and South Highway Association had been formed with delegates from all the towns along the route the group would be proposing to be added to the Alberta Highways system. The meetings for this association included a total of 127 delegates from 16 communities stretching from Coutts in the south to Two Hills in the north. The communities on the route included Coutts, Warner, Taber, Vauxhall, Duchess, Brooks, Stockwell, Wardlow, Sussford, Polleckville, Sunny Nook, Sheerness, Hanna, Caster, Killam and Two Hills.

In the Taber Times of January 22, 1953 we read about a luncheon sponsored by the Vauxhall Chamber of Commerce and the Road Association, Mr. Taylor, highway minister and Roy S. Lee, Taber MLA were present at this meeting to give an update on the proposed highway. Those present were given the opportunity to question Mr. Taylor on government plans. They emphasised that the district was growing rapidly with the development of irrigation.

His response was "brief and straight to the point, leaving no room for doubt as to where the department" stood on the road question. "The minister stated that a new highway from Taber to Vauxhall was not included in the department's plans for the immediate future. Alberta has a tremendous mileage of highways and roads, many of which are of a poor standard. It is impossible to satisfy everyone at

present." Government priority sat with the highways that ran east to west with those running north and south to be considered at a later date.

It was 1955, Chin Bridge crossing Chin Reservoir south of Taber was opened. The groups once again felt it was time to focus on the possible highway 36. The route had been narrowed down some over the past two years and would likely run from Warner, over the Chin Bridge, onto Taber, Vauxhall, Brooks and the towns on a direct route to Edmonton. Meetings were once again held with all interested parties taking an active role. It was resolved at one of these to "urge the Government of the Province of Alberta to proceed immediately to determine and designate the route of an extension on highway 36 south from Hanna, through Brooks, Vauxhall, Taber and Warner, and to install any bridge or bridges as required in this proposed extension."

It was at a meeting held in Petrie's Pantry in Taber that the Honorable Gordon Taylor made the announcement that this section of highway, long considered, would "likely be the next step of the no 36 highway", with work to likely begin in 1957.

There were articles throughout the Taber Times of 1956 assuring us that plans for the extension of highway 36 was moving ahead. In April we were told, by Roy S. Lee, Taber M.L.A., that surveying had started to determine the best places for the bridges to cross the Oldman River south of Vauxhall and the Bow River north of Vauxhall. It was decided to take the highway to the east of Taber via the Big Bend district and then north to Vauxhall. This meant disconnecting from Highway 36 south with a slight jog, passing on the west side of the Taber Sugar Factory, then continuing north to enter Vauxhall from a point five miles to the west of the existing village.

Roy S. Lee, lobbied the government from inside the walls of the legislature building to keep this highway project on the priority list. In January of 1957 Highway officials met with representatives from the Town of Taber and the M.D. of Taber. Local officials were told that this portion of highway 36 was going to be the first of the provinces' controlled access highways and would be used for standardizing in future Alberta highway construction. Town of Taber officials were Mayor Carl C. Cook, public works chairman, Elmer Conrad and engineer, John Adamowicz, while the M.D. was represented by Reeve Nephi J. Jensen and Councillors James Graham and Dave Ferguson. Controlled access meant that local traffic in the communities along highway 36 would have service roads alongside the highway for their use. The work started in May of 1957, an office was set up in Taber and heavy equipment had arrived for the job. The concrete was poured for the first pier on the bridge in July of 1957. The same arti-



cle mentioned that work had also begun on the bridge across the Bow River, near Scandia.

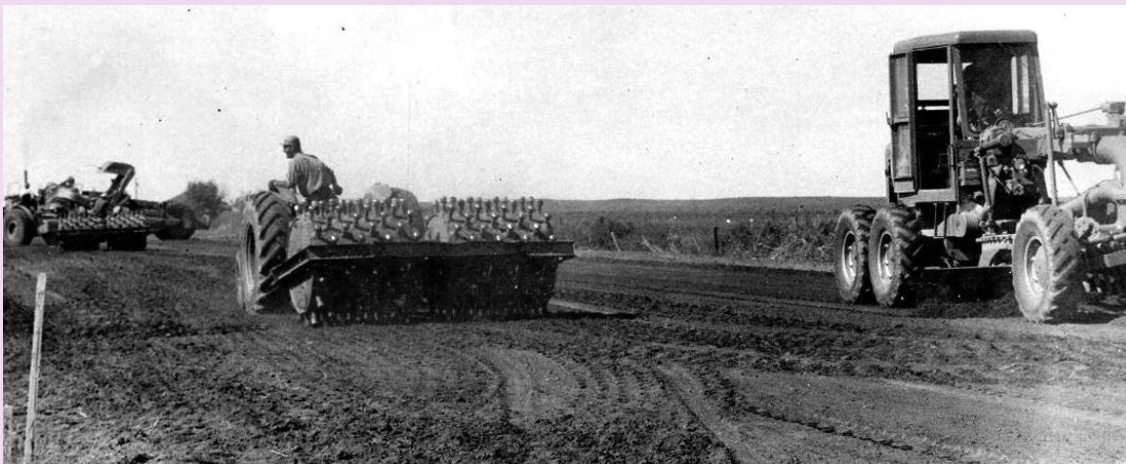
The Taber Times of 1958 kept us current on the progress of both bridges being built. In April there was a near disaster as the river ice was breaking up. "Twenty men narrowly escaped serious injury and possible death. River ice lifting under the pressure of the rising water, toppled the falsework for the two centre spans." The bridge crew was working in the spaces where the timbers fell at 8:45 in the morning when the structure fell. Two men were pinned by falling steel and wood, a third man was thrown into the Oldman River and swept downstream before he worked his way close enough to shore for a rope to be thrown to him. It all must have seemed to happen in a blink of an eye as the article stated that only a minute and a half elapsed from the time the pilings gave away and the last man was pulled to safety.

All this caused an estimated two month delay in the construction project.

October 8, 1958, both bridges were opened, ceremonies for the Bridge across the Oldman were rained out with Highway Minister Taylor only being able to proclaim that it was open while they drove across, with the Scandia Bridge opening as planned.

It was said about 300 people attended, Minister Taylor cut the ribbon, the Vauxhall band complete with Majorettes performed, the ferry across the river made one last ceremonial trip, a dinner was held in Vauxhall where several dignitaries were treated to a fine meal.

The next part of the journey was to start as the highway now needed to reach further north to Brooks. Our portion of the highway was to be paved within a year or so.





26th Annual "Share in the Experience of Giving" Telethon November 6th, 2020

Your donation goes toward supporting equipment purchases and programs in Taber and area to provide the best possible healthcare to our communities.
Donations accepted at the Taber Hospital or by calling (403) 223-7232

Taber & District Health Foundation
4326 50 Avenue • Taber, AB. T1G 1N9

Coping with the Change in Season



Coping with the Change in Season

The fall of 2020 is approaching in the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic and this may be an uncertain and unpredictable time, as we all adjust to a "new normal". The focus of this article is to provide some helpful tips for understanding and working through what may be a wide range of emotional experiences.

• ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR EMOTIONS:

The first step to manage/adjust our emotional experience is to first acknowledge the emotion itself. For example, "I am happy that my kids are going back to school but also uncertain with new processes". Being able to identify and acknowledge the emotions we are experiencing allows us to better understand what is going on inside and hopefully respond to our emotions as opposed to react to those experiences.

- **DO SOME DETECTIVE WORK:** The next step is to do some detective work with thoughts or feeling you are experiencing by asking questions such as: What is causing this feeling? What judgments am I placing on this feeling? What would be another way to look at the situation? Take time to think through the questions you may have and ask are these questions simply emotions (see Step 1) or are they questions that require answers. If it is the latter, seek credible sources for your answers, such as www.alberta.ca.

- **PRACTICE BEING COMPASSIONATE TOWARDS YOURSELF:** To help during these changing times we can practice being compassionate toward ourselves by acknowledging our thoughts and feelings without judging them. One way to assist this process is by recognizing that it is normal for feelings to come and go, and we each can choose how to best manage our emotions. Give yourself some grace and compassion as it's ok to feel happy/sad/scared all at the same time, especially, leading into Fall 2020.

If it would help to speak more about your emotions and feelings leading into the fall, please contact the FCSS Counselling team.

For more information call 587-370-3728 or email counselling.services@fcss.ca.

Visit www.fcss.ca for more information.

Submitted by:
By Tim Krahn,
FCSS Counsellor



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



10 YEARS Taber Pheasant Festival

Canada's BIGGEST Hunting Festival

October 17 – 24, 2020

The Taber Pheasant Festival is celebrating 10 years of hunting, habitat, conservation, and partnerships. Locals, hunters and visitors who take part in the festival will experience a different side of Alberta.

This week-long event is made possible thanks to our fabulous landowners, sponsors, volunteers, hunters, supporters, and friends. Over 5,000 ring-neck pheasants will be released across 40 landowner sites!

Share your experiences and photos using #taber #taberpheasantfestival

For more information, please visit taberpheasantfestival.com

