

THE MD CONNECTION



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER

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REEVE'S REFLECTIONS

MERRILL HARRIS, REEVE

This spring has been unusually cold and windy. We saw many days with high winds and skies darkened by blowing dirt. I don't think anyone likes to see topsoil blowing away – especially those impacted by yards and homes filling with dirt. Your Agriculture Service Board and Council have updated the Soil Conservation Bylaw. However, what we need more than anything right now is a good soaking rain and for the winds to quit. When it is this dry, road maintenance and removing washboarding from roads is difficult. Our grader operators are doing their best to keep our roads in drivable condition.

The MD held their Annual General Meeting on April 27th at the Grassy Lake Community Hall. A quick thank you to all who attended, for the questions asked, and for the input given to Council. Council and Administration also spent a few days in Strategic Planning, envisioning where to spend scarce resources that move the Municipality forward in the right direction in the coming years.

A hearty welcome to two new employees who have recently joined the MD since the last newsletter. First Brandon Bougie joins us as the new Deputy Regional Fire Chief and Deputy Director of Emergency

Management. Brandon recently relocated from 100 Mile House, British Columbia and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the MDT Regional Fires Services. Jill Livingstone joins us once again as our new Financial Coordinator, who previously filled a temporary full time position with the MD back in 2019. We welcome them both and congratulate Jill Speer for assuming the position as our new Planning and Economic Development Officer at the MD.

Work continues on the Southern Regional Storm Water Drainage projects, such as the Horsefly Emergency Spillway Drainage Project. The design of Phase 1 is nearing completion and will be put forward to tender in late summer, with construction expected to start later this fall. This is for the construction of new canals and spillway structures starting from the north end of Taber Lake to the Oldman River. Design and engineering have begun for Phases 2 and 3, with tendering and construction to begin hopefully in 2023. The total estimated cost of this project is \$49,000,000. We have secured grants from the federal and provincial governments to cover \$39,000,000 for this project. The remainder will be funded by our municipal partners. The overall drainage project includes other projects such as the Sauder

Continued inside...

REEVE'S REFLECTIONS

Continued

PROUDLY GROWN PROGRAM

Reservoir Spillway west of Medicine Hat, recently completed by SMRID, and the expansion of Chin Reservoir that is expected to be completed in 2029 by SMRID. That leaves four other identified projects, which include pumping stations along the length of the SMRID Main Canal — the purpose of which is to drain water off lands along the canal that typically flood during heavy rain and snowmelt events — the expansion of the Sherburne Reservoir south of Grassy Lake, the expansion of the Murray Reservoir south of Seven Persons, and the creation of the Paradise Creek Reservoir south of Medicine Hat to help decrease overland flooding during heavy rain or snowmelt events. It truly is a regional partnership that includes counties, MDs, towns and cities from Lethbridge to Medicine Hat.

The new Property Tax Penalty Bylaw No 1985 was given third reading on March 8th to move the Property Tax Collection due date forward 45 days. Beginning in 2023, municipal property taxes will be due on September 30th, instead of November 15th. Tax penalties will also change with this new deadline. A penalty of 3% will be applied on October 1st, 2023 for any outstanding balance owing, a penalty of 3% will be applied on December 1st, 2023 for current taxes owing, and a 12% penalty will be applied on February 1st, 2024 for current taxes owing.

As mentioned previously, Council has been working towards developing more residential lots in both Grassy Lake and Enchant. The Enchant Subdivision has received approval from the Subdivision and Development Authority and was recently put forward to tender. We are awaiting approval from Alberta Environment for a setback variance for the proposed lots in Grassy Lake. As soon as we receive approval, the subdivision will move forward. It is good to see interest in living and building homes in our hamlets.

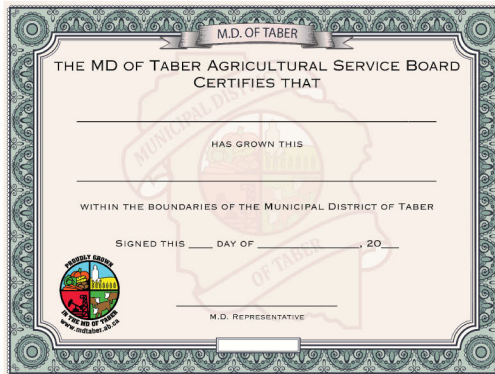
It has been 18 years since the Land-Use Bylaw was reviewed in its entirety. Council, with the help from Administration and the expertise of the Oldman River Regional Services Commission, will begin the job of reviewing and updating the bylaw to reflect best land-use practices. There will be an opportunity for all residents to have input into the re-writing of the bylaw.

As mentioned previously, many roads are receiving major fixes this summer. A sand seal treatment will be applied to the entire route of Highway 513 which will extend its life significantly. Township Road 15-0 and Range Road 18-3 are scheduled to receive significant rebuild work to facilitate the movement of feed, cattle and manure from the new feedlots north of Enchant. Both Chin Road and Purple Oil are scheduled for asphalt repair work, and Township Road 9-5a will be receiving a soil-cement treatment. We will be continuing with shoulder pulling and gravel recovery on many roads this summer.

As usual, if you have questions about what is happening or why things are happening, call your Councillor or Administration. On behalf of Council, I hope you have an excellent growing season and find time to enjoy our Municipality. It truly is a great place to call home.

The Municipal District of Taber Council and Agricultural Service Board (ASB) recognizes the high quality of products grown in this area, as well as the importance and increasing popularity of locally grown food.

In an effort to promote these products, the ASB has developed a "Proudly Grown" certificate for farmers and producers to guarantee their agricultural product was proudly grown within the municipal boundaries of the MD of Taber.



The MD of Taber is home to many farms and ranches that produce a wide variety of products. From our famous Taber corn to a long list of other fruits, vegetables, grains, meat, dairy products and many other commodities.

Locally grown food is more available than imported food and is the freshest you can buy. Picked at their peak of ripeness locally grown food is full of

flavour, better for your health, the environment, and the right choice to support local farmers, producers and the local economy.

The mission of the MD of Taber ASB includes the promotion and support of agriculture and agribusiness. This initiative is one of many ways that the MD of Taber Council and the ASB are fulfilling that mission.

Certificates are free and available by applying online at: MDTaber.ab.ca/p/proudly-grown

Once we have verified that your product is grown locally within municipal boundaries, a certificate is issued. Your name will also be added to an online directory of other certified locally grown producers made available to all consumers and visitors.



A logo indicating that the product is "Proudly Grown" in the MD of Taber can also be supplied to interested producers to use on their own packaging.

For more information about this program please call Administration at **403-223-3541**.

THE MD OF TABER'S APPROVED 2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND 2022 FINAL OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET IS AVAILABLE ONLINE.



Scan to view the approved Final 2022 Operating and Capital Budget, or visit:

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

Scan to view the approved 2021 Financial Statements, or visit:

MDTaber.ab.ca/p/financial-reports



DID YOU KNOW?

1

That the Municipal District of Taber is looking to review its Land-Use Bylaw?

Meaningful public engagement is important. If you want to be involved please stay tuned for more details — date and time to be determined.

2

Does your property qualify as a Small Business Subclass?

The Small Business Property Assessment Sub-Class offers a **10 per cent in tax savings** compared to other non-residential properties. To qualify for the Small Business Subclass, please submit an application on or before October 31st, 2022, to be considered for the 2023 tax year. To learn more and apply, please visit:

MDTaber.ab.ca/p/small-business-subclass

3

That the 2023 property tax collection due date is changing?

Starting in 2023, the MD of Taber property tax collection due date is advancing from November 15th to September 30th. Penalties applied after the due date are also changing.

For more information please contact Administration at **403-223-3541**.

4

That you can book and pay for your favourite camping spot online?

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

CampSpot.com

INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM 2022

- › **Range Rd 17-4 from Barnwell to Township Rd 10-0**
Grade widening and asphalt overlay completed in 2021. This project is currently in the warranty phase and will have its respective inspections completed in 2022.
- › **Bridge File 80175 on Range Rd 17-3**
Located north and west of Vauxhall, this project had a new build completed in 2021. This project is currently in a 2-year warranty period with its respective inspections being completed in 2023.
- › **2021 Seal Coat Program**
Completed in 2021, 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 in 2021, a significant portion of the work involved the creation of a wetland at the Horsefly Reservoir. The completed road work is now in a 1-year warranty period, while the wetland itself is under a 3-year warranty period and is due to expire in 2023.
- › **Range Rd 18-1 and Township Rd 15-2**
Located near Enchant, this project was awarded to White Fox Group and construction is anticipated to start in late July. This project involves the complete reconstruction of 6.5 km of roadway.
- › **Taber Municipal Park Irrigation Supply Upgrade**
Completed by Tollestrup Construction Inc. This project was completed on budget, just in time for the 2022 camping season and is currently in the 1-year warranty period.
- › **Enchant Subdivision Expansion**
This project has finished the design stages and was recently tendered out in May. Construction is estimated to be completed by October 2022. With this, Enchant will see an additional 35 residential lots for sale.
- › **Grassy Lake Landfill Reclamation**
A setback waiver application has been submitted to Alberta Environment and Parks for approval. This waiver would allow the MD of Taber to leave the existing inert landfill material in place and build our subdivision safely around the landfill location outside the recommended waiver distance.
- › **2022 MD of Taber Asphalt Repair Program**
This project has been awarded to Tollestrup Construction and will see some of the larger repairs on our asphalt roads in various locations around the MD of Taber.
- › **Highway 513 Sand Seal Project**
This project has been awarded to West-Can Seal Coating and will have a sand seal with new lines applied to 29.5 km to Highway 513. This will rejuvenate the surface and extend the useful life of the highway.

MD OF TABER PROPERTY OWNERS

PROPERTY TAX NOTICES MAILED MAY 24th, 2022

Pursuant to sections 333, 336 and 337 of the Municipal Government Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter M-26 and amendments thereto, the Municipal District of Taber hereby notifies all MD of Taber property owners that the Property Tax Notices for the taxation year 2022 have been prepared and mailed as of May 24th, 2022.

Property taxes are due upon receipt. Taxes remaining unpaid after November 15th, 2022 will be subject to all applicable penalties as outlined on the Annual Property Tax Notice.

Property owners are responsible for ensuring they have received Property Tax Notices for all properties they own. Please contact Administration at 403-223-3541 if you have not received all of your 2022 Property Tax Notices.



NEW DEPUTY REGIONAL FIRE CHIEF

The Municipal District of Taber is pleased to welcome Brandon Bougie as the new Regional Deputy Fire Chief and Deputy Director of Emergency Management.

Brandon comes to us from 100 Mile House, British Columbia, where he served as the Deputy Fire Chief for six years. During his time with 100 Mile

numerous large interface fires where he gained valuable experience working with different levels of government and multiple agencies. Brandon has enjoyed collaborating with multiple agencies and community stakeholders. Through collaboration, he has focused on building strong relationships to help foster a sense of community and togetherness.



House, he enjoyed building his skills in leadership, incident management and human resources. Brandon's primary responsibility with 100 Mile House Fire Rescue was the training and development of firefighters in all aspects of emergency incident response.

While in 100 Mile House, Brandon had the opportunity to work through

Brandon is excited to start building strong collaborative relationships with area stakeholders, assisting with the continued training and development of the MD Regional Fire Services, and meeting people in the community.

In addition to Brandon's arrival to the area, he is accompanied by his wife Lesley, three sons and a grandson.



LET'S DO PARKS

#LetsDoMDT
MDTABER.AB.CA/P/PARKS

A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES

Starting in 2004, the MD of Taber Bursary was created to further one's learning in the area of agriculture and the agri-food industry. To help students get off on the right foot, 4 annual \$500 bursaries are awarded one-time-only to anyone pursuing secondary or furthered learning that will lead to employment within the field of agriculture.

The following conditions apply:

- Must be a resident within the geographic boundaries of the Municipal District of Taber prior to enrollment in college or university to be eligible for a bursary.
- Must be registered to attend one or more of the agricultural courses or other training related to agriculture provided by a recognized secondary educational institute.
- Must not have received this bursary before.
- Academic standards apply.
- Applications must be received from August 1 to August 31 to be considered at the September Agriculture Service board meeting.

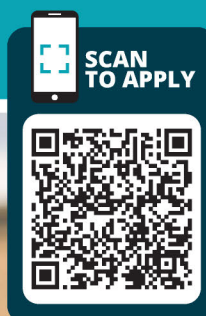
To apply, submit an application form (found at the link below) by email to:

bursary@MDTaber.ab.ca

Or mail your application to:

Municipal District of Taber
Education Bursaries
4900B – 50th Street
Taber, Alberta T1G 1T2

Visit **MDTaber.ab.ca/p/bursaries** or call **403-223-3541** to learn more.



CHANGES TO 2023 PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION

The Municipal District of Taber's property tax collection due date is changing.

On March 8th, 2022, a new Property Tax Penalty Bylaw was passed. The new bylaw focuses on sustainable financial planning for the future and maintains and balances revenue to support Municipal District of Taber services within legislative parameters.

The MD of Taber is trying to provide as much advance notice as possible, notifying property owners of the newly passed **Property Tax Penalty Bylaw No 1985** and how it will affect them.

Starting in 2023, the property tax collection due date is advancing from **November 15th** to **September 30th**.

Penalties applied after the tax collection due date are also changing in 2023:

- **On February 1st** – a 12% penalty will be applied for any outstanding balance owing.
- **On October 1st** – a 3% penalty will be applied for current taxes owing.
- **On December 1st** – a 3% penalty will be applied for current taxes owing.

These funds are utilized throughout the calendar year to pay budgeted operating and capital expenditures and to meet ongoing financial obligations.

For more information please contact Administration at **403-223-3541**.

WEED WATCH DOWNY BROME

Downy Brome, often referred to as cheatgrass, is an annual grass that came from Europe in the 1860s. It has now become one of the dominant plants in the western United States, and is the most common plant in North America. Downy Brome thrives in medium to coarse soil types and in low precipitation zones.

The stems of Downy Brome are slightly hairy and can range from 10–70 cm. Leaves are about 4–16 cm long. The

A combination of control methods, repeated throughout the growing season, for successive years has the best chance for success.

Mowing may prevent seed set but since plants may be at different life stages, the possibility of dispersing seeds is high. Tilling can be effective when used with other methods, but must be at least 10–15 cm to bury the seeds. Hand pulling can be effective for small



Downy Brome seeds at maturity



Heavy infestation of Downy Brome

entire plant will turn from green, to purple, to brown or tan as it matures. Seeds tend to droop and are usually purple at maturity.

Control

Downy Brome is very persistent once established. Effective control must eliminate live plants, prevent seed formation, and control seed germination and emerging seedlings.

infestations, but must be repeated.

There are some chemical control methods available for Downy Brome, however the primary chemical used to control Downy Brome has been Glyphosate (Roundup). Unfortunately, due to excessive use of Glyphosate, some resistant plants were recently found within the MD of Taber, so this control option is starting to look less promising.



Is all or part of your property eligible to qualify as a SMALL BUSINESS in the MD of Taber?

In July 2019, the Municipal District of Taber passed a Small Business Subclass Bylaw No 1952. The purpose of Bylaw No 1952 is to create the following Non-residential Assessment Subclasses:

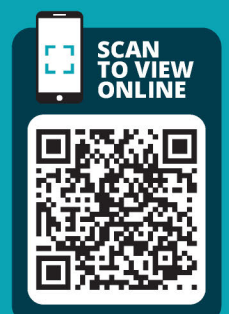
- Vacant Non-Residential Property
- Small Business Property
- Other Non-Residential Property

This allows Council the opportunity to consider differentiating tax rates for each Non-residential Subclass during the annual budget process.

In order to be eligible for your property to be assessed as Non-residential Subclass Small Business Property, the Annual Small Business Application must be submitted to the Municipal District of Taber by October 31st of each year. Applications received on or before October 31, 2022 will be considered for the 2023 tax year.

To learn more about Non-Residential Subclasses and the Small Business Subclass Bylaw No 1952, or to download an application, visit or scan:

**MDTaber.ab.ca/p/
small-business-subclass**



SCAN
TO VIEW
ONLINE

IRRIGATING ROADWAYS

With the extreme dry conditions, and the high temperatures expected this summer, 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.

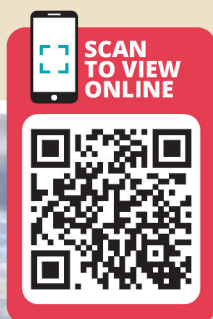
The Municipal District of Taber (MDT) would like to remind residents to make efforts to avoid spraying irrigation water over public roadways.

To protect and maintain infrastructure integrity and enhance 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 MDT Bylaw No. 1771 – Irrigating Municipal Roadways.

Costly rehabilitation or construction of affected roadways could increase maintenance costs and affect overall budgetary spending.

To learn more about Bylaw No. 1771 visit MDTaber.ab.ca/p/bylaws



BE PLANTWISE

Your Guide to PLANT WISE Gardening

Grow Me Instead profiles are recommended alternatives to Alberta's most unwanted horticultural plants.

Why eliminate invasive plants from your garden?

Some plants from other parts of the globe originally introduced as garden flowers for landscaping, or their medicinal or food value, have jumped the garden fence to become invasive in the natural environment. Invasive plants are spread by people and our activities. These plants have no natural predators to stop their spread, so they survive, thrive, and dominate, in the wild. These alien invaders cause environmental and habitat degradation, social and economic loss, impact biodiversity and some are a hazard to human and animal health.

While only a small percentage of introduced ornamental plants have become invasive, effective action needs to be taken to avoid planting species known to escape the garden bed. Choosing suitable non-invasive alternatives can help prevent future spread and serve to protect and preserve Alberta's natural environment.

Alberta's Weed Control Act

The invasive plants featured in this brochure either entered Alberta

accidentally as a contaminant of seed or soil or were introduced as an ornamental. The invasives in the latter group are no longer sold commercially but are still present in Alberta gardens and traded through plant swaps, local plant sales, and other unregulated activities. It is contrary to the Weed Control Act to grow the species featured in this brochure. Some species are categorized as Noxious and as per the Alberta Weed Control Act must be controlled, while others are categorized as Prohibited Noxious and must be eradicated. The Alberta Weed Control Act was put in place to protect Alberta from these invasive species. Fact sheets on all regulated plants, Noxious and Prohibited Noxious, can be found at abinvasives.ca

What is Canada doing about invasive alien plants?

In Canada, organizations responding to invasive alien plants include federal, territorial, provincial, and municipal governments, universities, colleges, botanical gardens, herbaria (collections of dried plants), non-government environmental organizations, youth groups, businesses, and First Nations groups. Responses to invasive alien plants have included surveys, mapping, management programs, monitoring, and regulations. Preventive programs are widely recognized as the most effective and cost-efficient means of control for invasive alien plants.



- ✓ **Make good choices.** Purchase and grow non-invasive exotic or regional native plants. Do your research. Ask your local garden centre or ask a local horticulture expert. Check out abinvasives.ca and Alberta Native Plant Council anpc.ab.ca
- ✓ **Replace existing invasive plants** in your garden with noninvasive plants.
- ✓ **Treat and remove** existing invasive plants using species appropriate methods. Check out AISC's factsheets for control methods BEFORE you start: abinvasives.ca
- ✓ **Properly dispose of invasive plants.** Remove invasive plants before they flower to prevent seed spread. Check with your local landfill for disposal programs or double-bag invasive species destined for the landfill. Never dispose of invasive plants in natural areas or parks. Never compost invasive plants!
- ✓ **Trade only plants and seeds you know are non-invasive.**

- ✓ **Avoid collecting pretty "wildflowers"** from roadsides or natural areas. Many are overly aggressive invasive plants. Allow true native plants to thrive in their natural setting.
- ✓ **Avoid pre-packaged wildflower mixes** unless the contents are identified and contain only non-invasive species.
- ✓ **Encourage others** to plant non-invasive plants and to replace existing invasive plants.
- ✓ **Mulch and/or use ground covers** in open garden areas to prevent invasive plants from establishing.

- ✓ **Report** invasive plants on EDDMapS using your computer or smartphone. Go to eddmapp.org/alberta/ to join for free.

Scan to view the complete guide online.

