



THE MD CONNECTION

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER

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REEVE'S REFLECTIONS

MERRILL HARRIS, REEVE

As we approach fall, I hope everyone has had the opportunity to relish the outdoors this past summer before the bitter return of winter hits.

The conclusion of the anticipated Cornfest weekend was a highly successful and well-attended event. It is truly heartening to witness the community coming together to celebrate our region and its exceptional qualities as a place to reside, work, and raise families. Following the conclusion of Cornfest, a noticeable autumn chill fills the air, a familiar marker of the changing seasons. This year is no exception, as everyone is engaged in the initiation of the harvest and the gathering of crops into storage bins.

In the irrigated zones of our municipality, the crops are flourishing, surpassing even the average yield. Conversely, for those in the dryland regions, the crop yields have been disappointingly low—some as meagre as 25% of the usual output. The prevailing weather patterns echo the nature of our locale, characterized as a desert. The irrigation reservoirs stand nearly empty, rivers flow at minimal levels, the grasslands have turned brown, and the dire need for moisture is evident. Throughout my tenure,

I have observed cycles of arid years and periods of abundant rainfall, yet I must honestly admit that this is the driest spell I have ever witnessed within our area.

A warm congratulations is extended to Mr. Bryce Surina, assuming the position of Director of Community Services. With 22 years of experience in the MD, where he previously served as the Director of Information Technology and GIS, Bryce brings extensive knowledge of our municipality to his new role. This expanded responsibility for Bryce encompasses oversight of Regional Enforcement Services, Regional Fire Services, Lands, Planning and Development, and our Economic Development initiatives.

Over the past year, both Council and administration have convened numerous workshops to deliberate on the Land Use Bylaw and strategise changes that would advance development within the MD. Guided by our planning advisor, Bonnie Brunner, and in partnership with the Oldman River Regional Services Commission, the rewriting of the Bylaw has been entrusted. Following this process, Council and the administration will present the revised document for public

Continued inside...

consultations, which are anticipated to transpire across the municipality in 2024.

The construction of the Horsefly Emergency Spillway has progressed steadfastly throughout the summer months. Commuters on Highway 36 north of Taber may have encountered minor delays as DeGraaf Excavating executed the installation of cement culverts along the highway segment. The comprehensive endeavour took approximately six weeks to complete, with any associated delays on either side of the project being relatively negligible. The construction will persist, and Range Road 16-5 to the north of Taber will be temporarily closed during the installation of the cement culverts at that crossing. We sincerely appreciate everyone's cooperation and understanding during the course of this project.

On June 20th, Council convened with the residents of Grassy Lake for an engaging Coffee with Council session. This well-attended event provided an invaluable opportunity to connect with the community and gather insights into their concerns. We eagerly anticipate similar interactions in our other Hamlets throughout the upcoming year. Please visit our website at mdtaber.ab.ca/p/coffee-council for information regarding upcoming Coffee with Council gatherings. Join us for coffee, doughnuts, and the chance to share your perspectives, both positive and areas needing improvement.

Highlighting another noteworthy event, the first-ever Taber's Table showcased locally grown food products, local producers, and the talented chefs who masterfully transformed these ingredients into delectable dishes. We extend our gratitude to the Joint Economic Development Committee for their sponsorship of this event.

Council has conducted the initial review of the 2024 Capital Budget, outlining the proposed projects and allocations. The Enchant Residential Subdivision, comprising 36 new lots, is now completed, awaiting final billing to determine the lot prices. Furthermore, our budget accommodates the progression of the new Grassy Lake Residential Subdivision, introducing 46 additional lots. Our commitment to improving road conditions continues through activities such as gravel recovery and shoulder maintenance. Addressing the road edges and enhancing drainage mechanisms will yield long-term benefits, saving time and resources in future road rehabilitation endeavours. Within the Capital Budget proposal, provisions have been made for essential equipment acquisitions to support the maintenance, grading, and upkeep of roads. In the upcoming weeks, we will undertake the initial assessment of the proposed operating budget, engaging in deliberations and adjustments as necessary.

As we navigate through the fall season, I extend my wishes for a safe return to school, a successful harvest, and a continued emphasis on safety for all.

Project Overview

The Horsefly Regional Emergency Spillway Project represents a collaborative endeavor undertaken in partnership with the municipalities of Coaldale, Taber, Bow Island, and the Village of Barnwell, along with the Counties of Lethbridge, 40 Mile, Cypress, and Warner. Engaged entities also encompass Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors, Alberta Environment, the City of Medicine Hat, the St. Mary River Irrigation District (SMRID), and the MD of Taber, assuming the role of the lead managing partner.

Project Objective

The principal aim of the Horsefly Regional Emergency Spillway Project resides in its capacity to effectively facilitate the discharge of approximately fifty percent of water flow from the SMRID main canal, situated to the south of Taber, during instances of severe flooding, as previously observed in incidents such as the most recent occurrence in 2018. In circumstances where the infrastructure for excess water retention is insufficient, the project is designed to redirect this overflow directly into the Oldman River. Executed in three distinct phases, the project spans from the SMRID main canal in the southern vicinity of Taber, extends to Horsefly Reservoir, progresses to Taber Lake, and culminates at the Oldman River. Notably, the entire undertaking is seamlessly integrated within the pre-existing infrastructure of the SMRID canal network.

Funding Mechanisms

Project funding for the endeavor is derived from a combination of grants provided by the Province of Alberta and the Government of Canada, and financial contributions from the Southern Regional Stormwater Drainage Committee partners.

Phase 1: Taber Lake to Oldman River

In Phase 1, an existing SMRID lateral will be enlarged from Taber Lake to the Oldman River, which is primarily used for irrigation from May to October. Furthermore, Phase 1 encompasses the expansion of an existing SMRID drainage trench, that will divert surplus floodwaters to the Oldman River. Noteworthy within Phase 1 are four road-crossing culverts earmarked for

replacement with large-diameter concrete box culverts, the establishment of five new or renewed concrete drop/check structures to regulate fluid dynamics, and the deposition of large diameter rock within the coulee, directing the flow toward the Oldman River. With this section of the project already well underway, it is anticipated to reach completion by the spring of 2024.

Phase 2: Horsefly Reservoir to Taber Lake

The sequel, Phase 2, begins at the northern point of Horsefly Reservoir, extending to Taber Lake, through existing SMRID infrastructure. Within this phase, the replacement of two MD of Taber road allowance crossings with large-diameter concrete box culverts is scheduled, located just east of Taber. These Highway 3 crossings have been made to align with the Highway 3 Twinning project, with funding for this aspect being secured from Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors. Further aspects encompass the negotiation of the extant CP Rail mainline (comprising two lines) and the Lantic Sugar railway spur line, utilizing bridge-culvert configurations for traversal. Numerous existing concrete drop/check structures are earmarked for enlargement or renewal in this phase, alongside the expansion of the existing SMRID lateral. Additionally, Phase 2 will incorporate a wetland component at the entrance to Taber Lake. This phase is scheduled for implementation during the fall and winter of 2024/2025.

Phase 3: SMRID Main Canal to Horsefly Reservoir

Phase 3 extends from the SMRID main canal to the southern Horsefly Reservoir of Taber. This segment includes the construction of a new outlet stemming from the SMRID main canal, accompanied by the replacement or modification of several drop/check structures along this trajectory. The existing SMRID lateral will undergo reshaping and cleaning, supplemented by the recent establishment of a wetland at the entry point into the Horsefly Reservoir. A solitary MD of Taber road allowance crossing will undergo a larger-diameter culvert replacement during the construction period. The tender process for this phase is planned for the fall of 2023, with construction anticipated to span the fall/winter and end by the close of March 2024.

DID YOU KNOW?

NEW FACES AT THE MD OF TABER

1

That the next Coffee with Council will be in Vauxhall at 6pm on October 4th?



Residents now have a chance to meet their elected officials in a relaxed and informal atmosphere to bring forward any concerns, ideas and suggestions regarding municipal programs and services. To learn more about upcoming Coffee with Council events visit:

mdtaber.ab.ca/p/coffee-council

2

That your property could qualify as a small business subclass?

The small business property assessment subclass offers a **25% in tax savings** compared to other non-residential properties. To qualify for the small business subclass, submit an application on or before February 15th, 2024 to be considered for the 2024 tax year. To learn more and apply visit:

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

3

That 2023 property taxes are due September 30th?

A reminder that the MD of Taber property tax collection due date has advanced to September 30th. Penalties applied after the due date have also changed. For more information visit:

mdtaber.ab.ca/p/property-taxes

4

That it's your responsibility to keep your mailing address current with the Alberta Land Titles Office?

Do not rely solely on Canada Post's forwarding service! It's a temporary solution that only lasts for up to 6 months. For more information visit:

mdtaber.ab.ca/p/change-address

The MD of Taber is pleased to announce the recent hiring of Michael Keeler as the Director of Municipal Operations and Wendy Bergen as Finance Coordinator.

With an extensive background of over 23 years in the private industry, predominantly in the oil and gas sector, Michael brings a wealth of seasoned experience to our team.



Michael's role as Director encompasses a wide range of responsibilities that are essential to the smooth functioning of our community. His extensive background in operational management makes him a solid fit for overseeing the construction and maintenance of municipal roads and transportation networks, water and wastewater systems, drainage management, solid waste systems, agricultural services, parks and natural areas, Occupational health and safety (OHS) programs, as well as the fleet and assets crucial to supporting these functions. As always though, the MD staff make the referenced service areas above operate as smooth as possible day-to-day and week-week.

Michael is excited to build upon existing operational efficiencies and strongly believes in continuous improvement. With a goal-driven mindset, he hopes to leave each project or task better than he found it, ensuring that our municipal operations continually evolve and enhance the quality of life for our residents.

Beyond his professional background, Michael's upbringing on a farm in southern Alberta has instilled in him a deep appreciation for agriculture and community values. This resonates with our district's ethos, and we are excited to have him on board.

In his leisure time, Michael's enthusiasm for an active lifestyle shines through. From working out to engaging in various sports such as basketball, football, hockey, and golf, he embodies the importance of balance and well-roundedness. His passions also extend to the great outdoors, where he enjoys hunting, fishing, and camping.

Michael's dedication to both his professional and personal pursuits is equally matched by his commitment to his family. He is happily

married to Kandace and is a proud father to two daughters and a son.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Michael Keeler as our new Director of Municipal Operations. We are confident that his leadership will propel us toward continued excellence and innovation in the services we provide to our community.

With a wealth of experience spanning over 14 years at the Town of Vauxhall, Wendy Bergen brings a remarkable depth of knowledge and expertise to her new role.

Wendy's impressive credentials include her distinguished CGLM (Certified Local Government Managers) designation, showcasing her dedication to effective and efficient local governance. Her PCP (Payroll Compliance Professional of Canada) designation further underlines her commitment to precision and compliance in financial matters. Adding to her repertoire of qualifications, Wendy also holds the ALUP (Applied Land Use Planning) designation, a testament to her holistic understanding of the interconnectedness of financial strategies and land use planning.



Beyond her professional achievements, Wendy's passion for life is evident in her personal pursuits. When she's not navigating the intricacies of financial management, Wendy finds joy in spending quality time with her husband. Their shared love for pickleball, camping, and fishing offers a glimpse into her well-rounded and adventurous spirit.

As Wendy embarks on this new journey with the Municipal District of Taber, we eagerly anticipate the positive impact she will undoubtedly bring to our financial operations. Her proven track record, coupled with her dynamic range of qualifications, makes her a valuable addition to our team.

We look forward to the contributions she will make and the positive changes she will inspire to elevate the financial landscape of our community.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM 2023

> Grassy Lake North Subdivision

Phase 1 of the Grassy Lake North Subdivision is currently in the design stages. This project will see 40+ new residential lots available for purchase in the near future.

> 2023 Shoulder Pull Program

The construction season is underway and is scheduled for completion in November. A total of 32 kilometres are estimated to be completed this year.

> Grassy Lake Stormwater Study

A consultant will be hired to complete a stormwater study of Grassy Lake. We will present a schedule of projects

along with a detailed maintenance plan following the study's completion.

> Range Road 17-3 Grade Widening

The contract has been awarded to McNally Contractors. The project consists of widening the grade for 700 metres, followed by a 2-kilometre asphalt overlay. The project is expected to be completed in October.

> Vauxhall Airport Paving

The contract has been awarded to McNally Contractors. The project consists of an expansion of the taxiway. The project is expected to be completed by mid-September.

NEW DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Municipal District of Taber is excited to announce the appointment of Bryce Surina as the new Director of Community Services. With an impressive track record of dedication and innovation spanning over 22 years within the organisation, Bryce brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to the community.



COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Community Services Department includes Fire and Emergency Services, Enforcement, Lands, Planning & Development, Economic Development, working together for exceptional community services. **Our goal:** align with municipal direction and support priorities such as Community Growth, Public Safety, and Sustainability.

Regional Fire & Emergency Services

- > **Fire Safety:** Use mesh screens, with nearby extinguisher or water source, for fire pits and burning barrels.
- > **Time Change:** November 5th, 2023, change smoke detector batteries.
- > **Harvest Caution:** Watch for machinery on roads.
- > **School Zones:** Drive with caution.
- > **Shorter Days:** Use headlights.

Contact us at **403-223-1180** or visit mdtaber.ab.ca/p/fire-services

Lands, Planning & Development

Unsure about a Development Permit? Call **403-223-3541** or visit mdtaber.ab.ca/p/planning-development

Economic Development

In patnership with the Town of Taber we are recruiting for a Regional Economic Development Officer, promoting regional growth. Visit mdtaber.ab.ca/p/employment

Municipal Bylaw Enforcement

Supporting our community via the Regional Community Standards partnership. Contact at **403-223-4784**. **Recent concerns:** road damage, safety, garbage, dogs, and speeding. Thank you for your cooperation.

Having previously served as the Director of Information Technology and GIS, Bryce played a pivotal role in establishing the robust technology systems, infrastructure, and workflows that have become integral to the district's operations today. His extensive knowledge of the inner workings of the Municipal District of Taber, coupled with his fierce loyalty to the MD and its residents, make him an exceptional choice for his new leadership role.

In his new role, Bryce will oversee a range of critical departments, including Fire and Emergency Services, Regional Enforcement Services, Lands, Planning, and Development, as well as the Economic Development Program. His proven leadership ability to drive collaborative efforts are expected to further enhance these vital community services.

"I am truly honoured to take on this new role within the Municipal District of Taber. The foundation we have built in IT and GIS has been a collaborative effort, and I am eager to bring that same spirit of teamwork to the Community Services department. Together with our dedicated teams, I am confident that we will continue to uphold and advance the high standards of service that our community deserves."

The appointment of Bryce Surina as the Director of Community Services marks an exciting new chapter for the Municipal District of Taber. With his extensive background, unwavering commitment, and a clear vision for the future, the community can anticipate a continuation of exceptional service and progress under his leadership.

Regional Enforcement Services

Promoting compliance with bylaws while ensuring a sense of safety and security.

The Regional Community Standards Officer responds to bylaw complaints and other bylaw-related matters.

These Officers are out in our communities and on public roads. They can serve as a resource for any bylaw question or concern.

FOR ALL BYLAW-RELATED COMPLAINTS INQUIRIES PLEASE CALL **403-223-4784 (24/7)**.

Submit after-hour complaints and inquiries at [MDTABER.AB.CA/P/SERVICE-TRACKER](https://mdtaber.ab.ca/p/service-tracker)

FOR EMERGENCIES DIAL 9-1-1.

BYLAW ENFORCEMENT
PROVINCIAL STATUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY PRESENCE



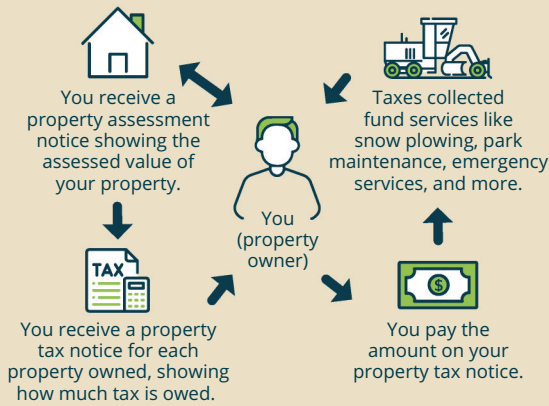
PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS ARE DUE SEPTEMBER 30



PENALTY DUE DATES:

Oct 1, 2023 3% on current
 Dec 1, 2023 3% on current
 Feb 1, 2024 12% on all outstanding

How do property taxes work?

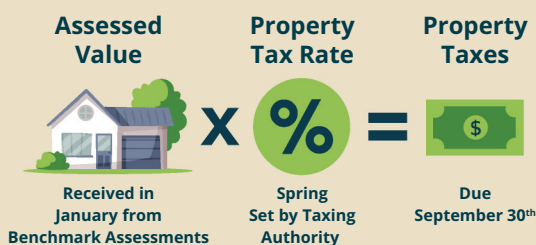


Where do my taxes go?

When you look at your tax bill, you will notice that you are paying for:

- > Municipal taxes (collected by the MD of Taber)
- > Provincial requisitions (collected on behalf of the Province): education tax and Taber & District Housing Foundation
- > Provincial policing costs (passed down from the Province)
- > Recreation funding to other municipalities (passed down from the Province)

How are my property taxes calculated?



SHELTERBELT ESTABLISHMENT PROGRAM



The Municipal District of Taber is entering its fifth year of offering the Shelterbelt Establishment Program to its residents. This initiative has resulted in the planting of over 8,000 trees across the municipality. *These trees serve multiple purposes:* they act as windbreaks for fields and farmyards, provide habitats for wildlife, and enhance the scenic beauty of the countryside.

The Shelterbelt Establishment Program operates on a cost-sharing basis, with both the landowners and the MD of Taber splitting the cost of trees equally. Additionally, the MD will contribute equipment and labour to assist in the tree planting process. The program offers a

diverse selection of tree species, ranging from pine, spruce, and poplar to elm, ash, willow, caragana, buckthorn, lilac, Saskatoon, chokecherry, and more.

Recent years, marked by blustery winters and springs, underscore the significance of shelterbelts and trees. The challenges posed by soil erosion could have been mitigated by well-designed and properly established shelterbelts, effectively disrupting the wind and lessening its impact on the land.

Presently, there is no better time than now to start your shelterbelt project planning for the upcoming year. To learn more visit: mdtaber.ab.ca/p/shelterbelt

A Reminder.

2023 Property taxes are due September 30th, 2023.

Please submit payment on or before this due date. Payments received after the due date will be subject to a **3% penalty.**

If you did not receive a copy of your 2023 property tax notice, please contact Administration at **403-223-3541** or at tax@mdtaber.ab.ca.

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

mdtaber.ab.ca/p/property-taxes



MAKE YOUR PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT SIMPLE

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



Visit mdtaber.ab.ca/p/tipp

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Is your Mailing Address up to date with the Alberta Land Titles Office?

It's time to take charge and ensure your property information is current.

Here's why this is important:

- 1) Stay Informed:** Keeping your Mailing Address and Name changes updated is crucial for receiving essential property documents, like property assessments and tax notices.
- 2) Property Ownership Responsibility:** Remember, it's YOUR responsibility to keep your Land Title information accurate. By doing so, you maintain a clear record of ownership and protect your property rights.
- 3) Long-Term Benefits:** Ensuring your records are current saves you potential headaches down the road. Prevent any misunderstandings or complications by having your information aligned and correct.

Don't rely solely on Canada Post's forwarding service!

It's a temporary solution that only lasts for up to 6 months. Keep your records up to date with the Land Titles Office for a lasting solution that guarantees you stay connected with important property updates.

Take action today!

Visit the official Alberta Land Titles Office website and scroll down to "**Change of address and name**" for easy instructions on updating your information:
alberta.ca/land-titles-overview

Have questions?

Reach out to us at
403-223-3541 or visit
mdtaber.ab.ca/p/change-address



2024 FARMER PESTICIDE COURSE:

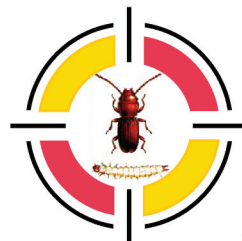
ATTENDING THIS COURSE ALLOWS YOU TO PURCHASE RESTRICTED CHEMICAL SUCH AS THIMET FOR POTATO PRODUCTION OR PHOSTOXIN FOR GRAIN BIN FUMIGATION. USEFUL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLANNING, HACCP, CANADA GAP.

At the main operations & maintenance facility.



Course dates available (choose one):

January 10, 2024
February 7, 2024
March 6, 2024
April 3, 2024



To register, you:

1. Must be 18 years of age or older.
2. Must be fluent in English.
3. Must prepay a \$40 registration fee (includes lunch and course manual).

How to register:

Please mail or deliver your registration form complete with cheque payable to:

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



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

For more information contact **Jorden Holst**, Agricultural Fieldman at **403-634-4713**.

BUILDING A LEGACY

Honouring the hard work and sacrifice of our Century Farm Families.

As we enter the second year of our program, we take a moment to reflect on the relentless determination and sacrifices that have shaped the Municipal District of Taber. Our ancestors, driven by unwavering faith, laid the foundation of this land through hard work. Their legacy, the family farms and ranches they established, remains the cornerstone of our community.

Sustaining a farm or ranch across generations is a remarkable feat, a testament to the enduring spirit of families. In this journey, the Municipal District of Taber stands with these extraordinary families, pioneers who pioneered prairie agriculture and

ranching. Their lasting impact on our agricultural sector is beyond measure. By prioritizing family, agriculture, and rural ties, they have fostered a thriving and sustainable agriculture industry in southern Alberta.

Embodying a tradition dating back to 1923 and earlier, the Century Farm Family Recognition Award applauds those farms and ranches that have stood the test of time. Recipients of this prestigious award will be granted a personalized plaque, symbolizing their profound journey.

To learn more about the program and the application process, we invite you to explore or scan: **mdtaber.ab.ca/p/century-farm-award**

