



THE MD CONNECTION



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER
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COUNCIL CONTEMPLATION

TAMARA MIYANAGA, REEVE

Why Public Engagement? Whether it is Coffee with Council, the Annual General Meeting - April 11, 7 pm at the MD of Taber's Main Operations & Maintenance Facility, Open Houses, or a Council meeting, we need to hear your ideas and opinions. Your Councillor is a great conduit, but your direct involvement helps ensure new bylaws and plans meet the municipality's needs for the next decade. Besides the Transportation Master Plan, 2024 will have open houses for the Land Use Bylaw, which will see significant changes, and the Lands Policy to guide the management of our 62,000 acres.

The Transportation Master Plan is underway and will soon be reviewed by Council. Your insights during the open houses and surveys will influence the plan development. The management of the 2,400 km of roadways is Council's top priority. Continue to call the office or submit road concerns via Service Tracker found on the MD of Taber App or by visiting our website at mdtaber.ab.ca/p/service-tracker

MD of Taber is proud to announce our newly appointed Agricultural Fieldman, Jordan Holst. He was instrumental in organising the provincial Agriculture Service Board conference in Lethbridge.

Members from across the province discussed impactful resolutions to help advance agricultural practices and took in insightful speakers. Lantic Sugar provided a unique insight into the impact of the sugar beet and sugar processing in southern Alberta. Due to increased awareness and concern, ASB will host a mental health workshop in late Fall. If you or someone you know needs emergency support, call 911 or if you need to talk with someone, access FCSS at **587-370-3728** or visit domore.ag for peer support and online resources.

Drought conditions are everyone's concern. We are currently developing a water management strategy in conjunction with the Government of Alberta and Irrigation Districts, as well as lobbying to improve water security through increased on and off-stream storage, with a priority on the Eyremore Dam. Council will champion a resolution at the Rural Municipalities Association on water apportionment, to assist with reservoir management. While we hope for meaningful snowfall, it is prudent to plan for potential water restrictions.

Phase 1 of the Southern Regional Storm Water Drainage project is nearing

Continued inside...

completion, with Phase 2 in preparation for tender. The Southern Regional Stormwater Drainage Committee has been instrumental, along with the municipal partners, the St Mary River Irrigation District, and the Governments of Canada and Alberta, to ensure resiliency to flooding and protection of critical infrastructure necessary for drinking water and food security.

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) remain a point of pride and a vital resource for residents. They offer a range of programs and services for infants to seniors, including tax filing, counselling, newcomer support groups, and so much more. Details at [fcss.ca](https://www.fcss.ca).

Council encourages you to visit a library. Our residents can access the six libraries in our District including Hays, Enchant, Grassy Lake, Barnwell, Vauxhall, and Taber. The libraries have become community hubs, with access to the internet and amazing programs and resources. A library card also gives you access to Chinook Arch, allowing residents to access newspapers, genealogy, movies, academic courses, and so much more online. Visit the website [chinookarch.ca](https://www.chinookarch.ca) or a library to learn more.

Family Farms not only grow food for the world, but they are community builders. In the MD of Taber, twenty-three outstanding farm families have been honoured by the Calgary Stampede and the Bank of Montreal. These families built the MD of Taber. The 2024 recipient is a six-generation farm family: Riverview Ranch/TNT Pollination, the David and Tammi Torrie family. The award will be presented at the Calgary Stampede for the Torrie Family's outstanding agriculture practices and community contributions. Congratulations!

In keeping with accomplishments, in 2024, the Municipal District of Taber is celebrating seven incredible decades of growth, agricultural innovation, and economic development. Eighty-nine individuals have served as MD of Taber Councillors, led by the first Reeve Harry Driggs. Our Council, along with our predecessors, recognizes the 70 years of success because of our residents and business owners' hard work, resiliency, and vision to grow and continue to develop our municipality as their community and home. 70th-anniversary celebrations are being planned throughout the municipality.

Take a moment to sign up at [scarnotify.ca](https://www.scarnotify.ca), and remember to select email notifications as a preference. SCAR Notify is the municipality's real-time notification system for weekly updates, road closures, and critical alerts. The drought plan and 70th Anniversary celebrations will be communicated on the website and SCAR Notify weekly e-newsletter.

As we mark the 70th anniversary of the Municipal District of Taber, let us celebrate our shared journey and look forward to continued success in agriculture, business, and families, today and for generations.

Spring demands vigilant attention, knowledge, and proactive measures for effective tree care. To assist landowners in this endeavour, we present guidelines for spring tree and shrub care. By seamlessly integrating these tips into your routine, you not only create an environment where trees survive but thrive, enhancing the beauty and sustainability of your landscape. Keep in mind that each tree is unique, and understanding its specific needs is crucial for successful spring tree care.

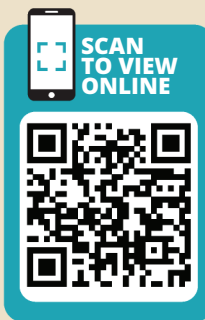


- 1. Assessing Winter Damages:** Before engaging in active tree care, it is imperative to evaluate potential winter damage to trees and other landscape plants. Scrutinize branches, trunks, and roots for stress indicators, such as broken limbs, cracks, or raised roots. Timely attention to issues stemming from snow and ice can prevent further damage and promote a robust recovery.
- 2. Assessing Winter Burn and Dieback Damages:** Certain coniferous tree varieties, including spruces and cedars, may exhibit signs of winter burn, evident in needle browning and bronzing. The combination of intense cold and strong winds can lead to desiccation, resulting in needle shedding in evergreens and branch dieback in deciduous trees. Recognizing and addressing this dieback mechanism early on supports overall tree survival.
- 3. Assessing for Pests:** Before leafing out, conduct a thorough inspection for pests. Look for signs of diseases such as cankers, blackened and curled twigs, black knots, Cytospora canker, and other fungal infestations. Additionally, check for insect infestations like scales, mites, beetles, and borers, including exit holes and sawdust. Lastly, inspect for wildlife damage from porcupines, voles, deer, moose, and beavers.
- 4. Pruning:** Late winter and early spring represent optimal times for tree pruning. Remove dead, damaged, or diseased branches to enhance air circulation and reduce the risk of pest infestation. Selective pruning can also improve tree structure and fruit production.

Exercise caution not to over-prune, as it may stress the tree. Address dead branches within shelterbelts to mitigate fire risks.

- 5. Soil Health Assessment:** Healthy soil forms the foundation for robust tree growth. Conduct a soil test to determine pH and nutrient levels, and fertilize based on soil lab results. Adjust pH if necessary and provide balanced, slow-release fertilizers. Avoid excessive fertilization to prevent nutrient imbalances and tree harm.
- 6. Mulching:** Apply a 4–6-inch-thick layer of organic mulch, such as shredded bark or wood chips, to shield tree roots. Mulching enriches the soil, enhances fertility, improves structure, and inhibits weed growth. Establish a doughnut-shaped wood chip cover around the tree to conserve moisture and minimize soil freezing.
- 7. Watering:** Adequate watering, especially during dry periods, is crucial in early spring. Ensure thorough saturation of the root zone, particularly for young trees establishing strong root systems. Be mindful of overwatering to prevent root rot. Mulching aids in moisture retention, reducing the need for frequent watering. Test soil and water for sodium levels, avoiding watering with high sodium content.

Learn more at:
[mdtaber.ab.ca/p/spring-trees](https://www.mdtaber.ab.ca/p/spring-trees)



DID YOU KNOW?

NEW FACES AT THE MD OF TABER

1

That the Agricultural Services annual weed control program is scheduled to begin this spring?

Please watch out for spray crews and give them space and time to work starting:

- › April 17th in hamlets
- › May 1st along roadsides

For more information call **403-223-8735** or visit: mdtaber.ab.ca/p/weed-control

2

That you can apply for a hay cutting permit on Municipal right-of-way?

If you are interested in hay cutting and baling on the Municipal right-of-way, you can apply for a permit. Permits are issued on a first-come, first-served basis and expire at the end of each year. For more information or to apply for a permit, visit us at 171027 HWY 3, or contact Agricultural Services at **403-223-3142**.

3

There are specific numbers to call in different situations?

POLICING:

- › General Inquiries, Criminal Record Checks, Existing Case File Follow-ups, and more.
Call: 403-223-4447

- › 24-Hour Complaint Line
Call: 403-223-4446

BYLAWS:

- › Bylaw-related requests, including Dogs at Large, Irrigating Municipal Roadways, Unauthorized Use of Municipal Right of Ways, and more.
Call: 403-223-4784

EMERGENCIES DIAL 9-1-1

The MD of Taber is pleased to announce the recent hiring of Trevor Daniels as Shop Foreman and Ron Martens as Parts Technician.

Trevor officially joined our team in June 2023 and brings with him a wealth of experience and expertise in the field of heavy equipment maintenance.

Trevor is a Licensed Journeyman Heavy Equipment Technician, reflecting his commitment to professionalism and dedication to his craft. His journey in the industry began back in 2001 when he commenced his apprenticeship at Summit Motors. Over the years, he has consistently demonstrated a strong work ethic and a passion for ensuring the optimal functioning of heavy equipment.

In 2005, Trevor made the move to Lethbridge, where he spent six years at Southland International, honing his skills and gaining valuable experience in the field. His journey towards leadership roles continued as he assumed the position of Shop Foreman at Greatwest Kenworth, contributing five years of service marked by efficiency and excellence.

The year 2016 saw Trevor return to Taber, and he became an integral part of Western Tractor, where he continued to make significant contributions for the next seven years. His extensive knowledge, coupled with his ability to lead and inspire, made him an invaluable asset to his teams throughout his career.

Outside of the professional realm, Trevor is not only passionate about heavy equipment but also finds joy in building and working on vehicles during his spare time. This passion extends beyond the workplace, showcasing his commitment to continuous improvement and hands-on learning.

We look forward to leveraging his skills, experience, and leadership to enhance our operations and drive success in our endeavours. We are confident that Trevor's addition to our team will further strengthen our commitment to excellence.

Ron joined our ranks in June 2023, bringing with him a wealth of experience and a proven track record in the automotive and emergency services industry.

Ron is no stranger to the world of parts, having earned his Journeyman Partsman (red seal) designation in 2001. His remarkable career spans an impressive 21 years at Summit Motors, where he honed his skills and became a trusted professional in the field.

Beyond his contributions to the automotive sector, Ron has left an indelible mark on the community through his dedication to volunteer firefighting with the Town of Taber. Ron retired from his volunteer firefighting role in 2021, capping off a career that showcased his commitment to public safety.

Throughout his firefighting journey, Ron's involvement has been extensive. Notably, he served as the President of the Taber Firefighter Association, demonstrating leadership and organisational skills. Ron was also a member of the Taber Firefighter Honour Guard, showcasing his dedication to honouring and respecting those who have served.



Ron is not just a firefighter but a highly trained and skilled one. His certifications include NFPA 1001 Level 1 & 2 Firefighter, as well as Hazmat Responder Operations. His commitment to excellence was recognized when he earned the title of Rookie of the Year in 2014, highlighting his early impact and dedication to the profession.

Beyond his firefighting credentials, Ron is a Certified Forklift Trainer, showcasing his commitment to safety and training within the workplace. Additionally, he holds certifications in First Aid and Level C CPR, ensuring a safe and prepared work environment.

With such a rich and diverse background, Ron Martens is poised to make significant contributions to our team. We are excited to have him on board and look forward to the positive impact he will undoubtedly bring to the Municipal District of Taber.

(ACT) WATER CONSERVATION

Are you worried about water but aren't sure of the best place to start conserving?

Southern Alberta is facing a severe drought situation in 2024. Here is a list of possible actions along with the estimated cost, effort, and impact of each one. We suggest five steps for successful conservation:

1. Understand your water usage
2. Check for leaks
3. Do all low effort-zero cost items on the list
4. Review all high impact items and select 1 or 2 that are most relevant or that you are best able to accomplish
5. Make a triage plan now to help your garden survive an extreme drought

To learn more about drought in southern Alberta, visit abwater.ca.



Actions	Rationale/Assumptions	Water Savings m3/year	Cost Savings	Effort	Cost To Install	Impact
Overall Usage						
Understand your water usage	Knowing your water usage helps you plan savings & identify leaks	–	–	●	–	💧💧
Check for leaks	Average homeowner wastes 37,000 litres a year from leaks	37	49.10	●●	–	💧💧
Bathroom						
Shut faucet off while brushing teeth etc	8.3 litres/min for 5 minutes	15.2	20.17	●	–	💧
Add aerator to faucet	30% reduction when running tap average of 5 min/day	4.5	5.97	●	\$	💧
Watersmart showerhead	Save 1.9 litres/min for average 8 min shower for 3 people 5x/week	11.8	15.66	●	\$	💧
Reduce shower time	Save 9.5 litres/min for 3 people 5x/week	7.4	9.82	●	–	💧
Take a shower instead of a bath	Average bath uses 100 litres 2x a shower, assume 2x/week	5.2	6.90	●	–	💧
Upgrade toilets older than 1995	37,000 litres/year	37	49.10	●●●	\$\$	💧💧
Fix leaky toilet	757 litres/day	276	366.25	●●○	\$\$	💧💧
Kitchen/Laundry						
Capture excess water from kitchen faucet to keep for drinking, cooking or for plants	8.3 litres/min for 5 minutes	15.2	20.17	●	–	💧
Full load of dishes	Uses 20 litres/load, assumed reduced by 1 load/day	7.6	10.09	●	–	💧
Install efficient dishwasher	Save 19 litres/load, assume 1 load/day	6.9	9.16	●●●	\$\$\$	💧
Wash dishes with dishwasher VS by hand	Save 75 litres/load, assume once/day	27.6	36.63	●	–	💧💧
Rinse vegetables in a bowl or basin	Rinse vegetables in a bowl or basin	15.2	20.17	●	–	💧
Avoid the garburator	8.3 litres/min for 5 minutes	15.2	20.17	●	–	💧
Full load of laundry	49 litres/load, assume reduced by 1 load/week	2.6	3.45	●	–	💧
Install efficient washing machine	Save 38 litres/load, assume 5 loads/week	9.8	13.00	●●●	\$\$\$	💧
Outdoor						
Install a rain barrel	208 litre barrel, refilled 3x/year	9.8	13.00	●●	\$\$	💧
Water in morning or evening	30% water loss from watering at midday	61.2	61.2	●	–	💧💧
Avoid outdoor watering in wind	Varies with windspeed, 1/3 loss, assume watering 1x/week for 20 weeks	67.3	89.31	●	–	💧💧
Use drip irrigation instead of sprinklers	Can save 50% of sprinkler system	102	135.35	●●	\$\$	💧💧
Use a timer for outdoor watering	Average sprinkler flow is 64 litres/min, assume overage of 15 min/week for 20 weeks	19.3	25.61	●	\$	💧💧
Mulch your garden	Reduces necessary watering by 33%	67.3	89.31	●●	\$\$	💧💧
Let grass grow taller & grasscycling	Similar to mulching	67.3	89.31	●	–	💧💧
Replace lawn with drought tolerant lawn cover	Varies with species		0.00	●●●	\$\$\$	💧
Plant drought tolerant trees & shrubs	Varies with species		0.00	●●	\$\$	💧
Other						
Use a broom instead of water to clean outdoor surfaces	Average flow from outdoor hose: 45 litres/min, assumed at 30 min/week for 26 weeks	35.4	46.98	●	–	💧💧
Keep your car dirty	Average is 60 litres/vehicle for self serve, assume 2x/month	0.72	0.96	●	–	💧
Use self-serve car wash instead of automatic	Automatic car washes use 300 litres, assume 2x/month	5.7	7.56	●	–	💧

Effort		Install Cost		Impact	
●	DIY < 1hr	–	No Cost	💧	< 5 m3/yr
●●	DIY > 1hr	\$\$	< \$100	💧💧	< 25 m3/yr
●●●	Professional help	\$\$	< \$500	💧💧	,25 m3/yr
		\$\$\$,500		

UNLOCK FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

With Municipal Grant writing support provided by the MD of Taber.

The Municipal District of Taber understands the importance of community projects and initiatives that enrich the fabric of our community. That's why we've teamed up with Progressive West Consulting to provide comprehensive grant writing support services tailored to meet your needs.

We are providing access to a team of expert grant writers specializing in assisting community groups and organisations in securing funding necessary to turn visions into reality. Here's how they can help:

- 1. Identifying Potential Funding:** Research and identify potential sources of funding that align with your project goals and community needs.
- 2. Strategic Guidance:** Strategic advice on how to build effective fund-raising packages and collaborate with partners to maximize your chances of reaching your funding goals.
- 3. Grant Writing Assistance:** Provide hands-on support in crafting compelling grant proposals tailored to the requirements of various funding bodies.
- 4. Grant Management Support:** Assist community groups throughout the entire grant management process, ensuring compliance with reporting requirements and helping to navigate any challenges that may arise.

Access to this type of service is intended to empower the Municipal District of Taber and its community groups to gain the financial resources needed to drive positive change, growth and prosperity of our community.

For more information call Community Services at **403-223-3541**.

DUST SUPPRESSION PROGRAM 2024



Rural residents can combat gravel road dust through the Municipal District of Taber Dust Suppression Program. The program, using MG 30, a blend of calcium chloride and magnesium hydroxide, not only curbs dust but also fortifies the road surface. Additionally, MG 30 prevents washboard roads and gravel loss at critical points like intersections and hills. The cost is **\$1.42 per linear foot**, with a minimum treatment length of 400 feet.

Order forms can be found at the following locations:

- › **Municipal District of Taber**
Administration Building
4900B - 50 Street, Taber
Call 403-223-3541

- › **Municipal District of Taber**
Operations and Maintenance Facility
171027 Highway 3, Barnwell
Call 403-223-3142
- › Or by visiting our website below.

PLEASE NOTE: *The dust suppression program is administered twice a year (Spring and Fall) and is subject to weather conditions. You may apply for the Spring application (deadline May 15th), the Fall application (deadline August 15th), or both. Regardless of the chosen application(s), it is imperative that EACH order form be accompanied by full prepayment. All orders must be prepaid at the time the respective order form(s) are submitted, adhering strictly to the designated deadlines.*

For more information scan or visit:
mdtaber.ab.ca/p/dust-suppression

INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM 2024

- › **Grassy Lake Landfill Reclamation**
East Butte Contractors have been awarded the contract for the Grassy Lake Landfill Reclamation project. The initiative aims to clear historic landfill waste from the north side of Grassy Lake, creating space for an upcoming residential subdivision. The project is scheduled for completion this spring, including the final seeding phase.
- › **Grassy Lake North Subdivision**
Phase 1 of the Grassy Lake North Subdivision is currently in the design stage and is anticipated to be constructed by the end of 2024. This development will provide over 40 new residential lots for purchase in the near future.
- › **Bridge Replacements**
A funding application has been submitted for approval, proposing three bridge replacements within the MD of Taber. Upon approval, the project will progress to the design phase, followed by the tendering process for construction.
- › **2024 Shoulder Pull & Gravel Recovery Program**
This year's plan includes the construction of approximately 34 kilometers of shoulder pull and the recovery of 133.5 kilometers of gravel.
- › **Township Road 9-4 Asphalt Overlay**
A 4-kilometer asphalt overlay is scheduled for Township Road 9-4 east of Range Road 16-4 this summer. This effort aims to rectify the deficient shape of the crown and extend the longevity of the hard surface.
- › **Transportation Master Plan**
Al-Terra consultants have been engaged to conduct a comprehensive study for the Transportation Master Plan. The study includes various public engagement events held in person and online earlier this year. Subsequent months will involve a detailed analysis of available data, culminating in a final report to be approved by Council later in the year. This report will serve as a guiding document for the MD's transportation network investments in the future.



MD OF TABER BIZ SHOWCASE

The Local Business Highlight Videos form an integral part of the "Support Local" initiative in the MD of Taber.

In collaboration with Community Futures, the MD of Taber has successfully produced and unveiled seven compelling promotional videos showcasing various local businesses. Each video features a brief interview with a representative of the business, providing insights into their offerings and a visual tour of their establishment, emphasizing their services and positive contributions to the community.

These engaging Local Business Highlight Videos have been strategically promoted across MD of Taber and Community Futures' social media platforms and websites. Additionally, each featured business receives a personalized copy of the video for their independent sharing and posting. Looking ahead, the overarching vision is to eventually exhibit all Local Business Highlight Videos, including those from the Town of Taber, at the forthcoming Taber Visitor Information Centre.

The MD of Taber takes pride in being the home to diverse businesses, and this initiative has effectively served as a platform for promoting and celebrating the success stories of these enterprises within the community. Discover the completed Local Business Highlight Videos in the community so far by visiting mdtaber.ab.ca/p/business-success-stories and stay tuned for the release of three more videos in the upcoming months.



2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

APR 11 | 7:00 PM

**MAIN OPERATIONS &
MAINTENANCE FACILITY**

mdtaber.ab.ca/p/2024-AGM

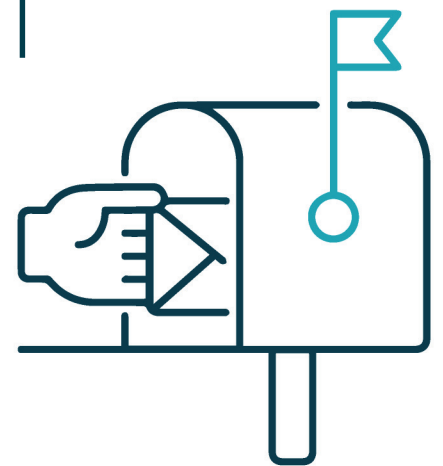


ASSESSMENT NOTICES

Notices are on
the way.

Please review your 2024 property assessment for accuracy. If you have not received yours, please contact us at 403-223-3541.

If you have questions about your assessment, please contact Benchmark Assessment at 403-381-0535.



mdtaber.ab.ca/p/assessments



PROPERTY INSPECTIONS

Division 4 (Taber North) should expect to see Benchmark Assessment Consultants performing routine inspections from March until the end of summer for the 2024 taxation year.



Support
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