

# THE MD CONNECTION



## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER

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## COUNCIL MEMBERS

### MERRILL HARRIS (Reeve)

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### JOHN TURCATO

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## REEVE'S REFLECTIONS

MERRILL HARRIS, REEVE

On behalf of Council, we sincerely wish that everyone is off to an excellent beginning to 2022 with the hopes that we will return to the 'OLD' normal soon.

A new year brings new challenges and opportunities to work together to make our communities and municipalities a better place to work, live and play. February has seen unseasonably warm weather and strong winds causing land to blow in certain areas. The numerous freeze-thaw cycles have left some land prone to blowing and soil erosion. Even fall-seeded land which provides cover during the winter months has been susceptible to strong winds. We all need to be proactive in fall land preparation activities to keep land from blowing.

Many improvements are being planned or are in the works for our Municipality that we look forward to: new residential lot development in the Hamlet of Enchant, preliminary planning for a new residential subdivision in the Hamlet of Grassy Lake, two commercial lots available at the Vauxhall Safety Rest Stop, and two more commercial lots available in the Hamlet of Hays.

Municipal roads are always at the forefront of Councillors' minds. Improvements are in the works for numerous roadways, including the Chin Road, Purple Oil, the Enchant Correction

Line, along with extensive repairs to ageing roads in our Hamlets. We have also requested that Administration develop some possible high load haul routes in the MD of Taber. Many of our hard-surfaced roads cannot accommodate over-size and over-weight loads. Establishing these routes would alleviate and redirect heavy loads to provincial highways while preserving our hard-surfaced roadways for regular traffic.

The Provincial Government proposes to replace the RCMP with an Alberta provincial police service. Council members have consulted with Alberta Justice and Solicitor General to understand the Province's reasoning for this change. Councillors have also attended sessions with the National Police Federation (RCMP Union) to understand their side of the debate. What we have learned is that this is a complex and costly issue. Council is uncertain whether changing to a provincial police force will reduce costs or provide more officers to fight rural crime. We have come to understand that RCMP services are estimated to cost the Province \$783 Million annually, including a Federal contribution of \$188 Million. The current annual-net cost is \$595 Million.

A recent study conducted by Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC), commissioned by the Alberta Minister of Justice and Solicitor General, found

*Continued inside...*



that the cost for an Alberta police force is estimated at \$734 Million to \$759 Million, leaving a \$164 Million difference with no Federal contributions. Who will make up the difference?

Will municipalities, towns and villages bear the cost whose budgets are already stretched thin due to the already hefty expense passed down from the Province? The PWC study suggests that only 15% of the existing RCMP officers would transition to a new provincial police force. How will the Province recruit the new 2,500 officers needed? Where will officers train, and who will supply officers with the special equipment needed for policing the Province? It is a huge issue that will affect the Province and our Municipality. So far, elected officials are the only invited participants in the discussions. I believe all Albertans who will be affected by this decision should have the opportunity to be heard and we encourage you to contact your MLA.

Ambulance services in the MD of Taber have also been a concerning topic as of late. It is absolutely unacceptable that an ambulance from Vauxhall should be required to go into service in the City of Calgary, EVER! On a single day in December, thirteen rural ambulances were re-routed to serve urban centres of Alberta. Instantly this leaves a gaping hole and a complete inability to respond to medical emergencies in rural areas. On February 4th, the Committee of Mayors and Reeves of Southern Alberta met with Health Minister Jason Copping and Chief Paramedic Darren Sandbeck. The discussion focused on the issues regarding healthcare and ambulance services in rural areas. Since then, a 10-point plan has been created to deal with the issues raised. To view the plan, visit: [www.alberta.ca/provincial-EMS-advisory-committee.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/provincial-EMS-advisory-committee.aspx)

Also on February 17th, Council members from the Town of Taber, the Town of Vauxhall, the Village of Barnwell and the MD of Taber met with local representatives from Alberta Health Services to outline our concerns regarding rural healthcare, ambulance services, and support for HALO.

The MD Park is undergoing a major electrical upgrade. Once complete, all campsites will come with 30 Amp power outlets. To book a site for your summer camping fun, go to: [www.campspot.com/book/tabermunicipalpark](http://www.campspot.com/book/tabermunicipalpark)

Another issue Council is concerned with is the Assessment Model Review for Linear (oil and gas) Properties. While we understood that this issue was dead, we have heard some rumblings that the oil and gas industry continues to lobby for a 30% reduction in assessments. The impacts to MD of Taber finances would be significant. Further, the Federal Carbon Reduction Plan includes reducing emissions from synthetic crop fertilizers by 30%. At a time when population growth and food demands continue to increase, the Federal Government is now telling farmers to reduce their fertilizer use. Fertilizer Canada, the Province of Alberta, the Provincial Agriculture Services Board and many rural municipalities, including our Council, are all working to counter this proposal.

This year the MD of Taber will be hosting an in-person Annual General Meeting on April 27th at the Grassy Lake Community Hall at 7:00 pm. This town hall event will be an information session and a chance to ask Council members questions. We hope you will plan to attend.

For over 20 years, the Municipal District of Taber has provided rural residents with a convenient place to deposit recycled waste through our rural recycling program.

Recycling trailers in the Hamlets of Grassy Lake, Hays, Enchant, and Purple Springs, and at the MD Shop in Taber, are managed by Agricultural Services.

These recycling trailers provide a collection point for cardboard, paper, plastics, glass and metal containers.

*Household and other waste materials, including polystyrene foam, are not*

*accepted and should be deposited at a landfill or in a designated waste receptacle.*

Not following these instructions poses a potential hazard to our employees and recycling depots and is time-consuming for those who have to remove the garbage. Other helpful recycling tips include:

- Flatten cardboard to save space
- Rinse out plastic and metal containers before recycling
- Remove paper labels from glass bottles
- Fold or stack paper instead of crumpling to save space



## MD OF TABER 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A TOWN HALL EVENT

WEDNESDAY  
**APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup>**  
AT 7:00 PM

AT THE GRASSY LAKE  
COMMUNITY HALL –  
210 CHAPMAN AVENUE

## AGENDA

- 1 Dec 31, 2021 Audited Financial Statements
- 2 2022 Infrastructure Projects

AND MORE!

# DID YOU KNOW?

# INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM 2022

1

*That the Agricultural Services Annual Weed Control Program is scheduled to begin this spring?*

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

- > April 15<sup>th</sup> in hamlets
- > May 1<sup>st</sup> along roadsides

For more information call **403-223-3142** or visit:

[mdtaber.ab.ca/p/weed-control](https://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

*That the Canadian Internet Registration Agency (CIRA) has an online speed test to better understand and enhance rural broadband needs?*

To learn more and to run an internet speed test visit:

[RMAAlberta.com/speed-test](https://RMAAlberta.com/speed-test)

4

*That the MD of Taber has a new online Business Directory?*

Local businesses can now register with our new voluntary business directory. To register your business or to learn more visit:

[mdtaber.ab.ca/p/business-directory](https://mdtaber.ab.ca/p/business-directory)

## > 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 is in the final stages of detailed design and will be tendered out in early March with construction anticipated to start in early spring of 2022. This project involves the complete reconstruction of 6.5 km of roadway.

## > Taber Municipal Park Irrigation Supply Upgrade

This project is in the final stages of

detailed design. Following some successful negotiations with the Town of Taber, the project is now moving forward and scheduled to be tendered in late February with construction anticipated to start as soon as the contractors' schedules allow.

## > Enchant Subdivision Expansion

This project is in the final detailed design stages and is scheduled to be tendered out in early March with construction scheduled to be completed by September 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.

## > The 2022 MD of Taber Asphalt Repair Program

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was sent out in early February. This project will see a contractor hired to complete some of the larger repairs on our asphalt roads in various locations around the MD of Taber.

## > The Highway 513 Sand Seal Project

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was sent out in early February. This project will have a sand seal and new lines applied to 29.5 km to Highway 513. This will rejuvenate the surface and extend the useful life of the highway.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### Looking for a job?

We are always looking to hire. See what's available by visiting:

[mdtaber.ab.ca/p/employment](https://mdtaber.ab.ca/p/employment)





# HONOURING OUR VOLUNTEERS

*When seconds count, volunteers of the Municipal District of Taber Regional Fire Services (MDTRFS) are ready to assist.*

Our volunteer firefighters are community-minded leaders who are committed to public service, and exemplify pride, professionalism, teamwork and respect. As true heroes they protect us from threat of fire, emergency medical incidents, hazardous materials incidents, motor vehicle collisions, and much more.

"I am extremely proud of our firefighters and their accomplishments," says Chief Nathan Coté.

"As a vibrant Regional Fire Service that proudly serves a diverse population, our members give selflessly to those in

need, and receive nominal consideration for their response and training efforts. The success of our regional fire services is due mainly to our extraordinary volunteer recruitment program, which utilizes good communications, recruitment, selection, hiring, training and retention practices. The ongoing dedication from our volunteers and support from their employers, ensures the best service possible for all residents."

During National Volunteer Week (April 24 – 30), the Municipal District of Taber and the Municipal District of Taber Regional Fire Services would like to recognize and applaud our regional fire service volunteers and their employers for their continued support and dedication to keeping our communities safe.

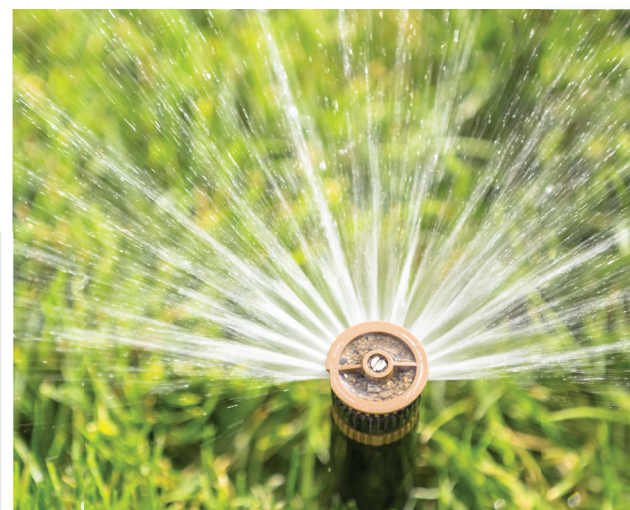
For those interested in participating with the MDTRFS, please visit: [mdtaber.ab.ca/p/firefighter-recruitment](http://mdtaber.ab.ca/p/firefighter-recruitment)

## SUMMER WATER SAVING TIPS

During summer months, water usage can account for as much as 50 percent or more of your monthly utility bill. As summer approaches, learning how to conserve water during the hottest months not only can save you money, but will increase your understanding of the value of water.

Here are some easy ways to conserve water this summer.

- Water only when necessary. More plants die from overwatering than under watering. Signs of overwatering include:
  - Leaves turn lighter shades of green and yellow
  - Young shoots wilt
  - Sometimes algae or fungi grow
- Apply water only as fast as soil can absorb it.
- Avoid watering areas that are hard to water (i.e. slopes and isolated areas).
- Collect water using rain barrels.
- Direct gutters and downspouts to water trees and shrubs.
- Check your sprinkler system often for leaks and make sure you are watering your yard – not the house, sidewalk or street.
- Try to avoid watering during windy days. Water evaporates and disperses quickly when the wind blows.
- Check your hoses and outdoor taps for leaks and dripping water.
- The best time to water your lawn is in the early morning. Morning temperatures allow leaves to dry off during the day.
- Lawns only need approximately 1 inch of water per week. A Frisbee is a great way to measure the amount of water your lawn is receiving.





# NEW ONLINE BUSINESS DIRECTORY

*The MD of Taber has launched its new Business Directory on our website!*

The directory is open to any business operating within the MD of Taber. Participation is free and all you have to do is fill out the information required at:

[mdtaber.ab.ca/p/business-directory](http://mdtaber.ab.ca/p/business-directory)

In participating with our voluntary business directory, businesses receive the added value of being promoted through our association with the Alberta Municipal Data Sharing Partnership, getting exposure to emergency services and public-facing mapping applications that include TomTom (Apple Maps) and local CAD Dispatch just to name a few.

By participating with our online business directory, you can:

- › Enhance your online presence
- › Improve your local visibility
- › Get discovered easily
- › Create awareness of your brand
- › Boost your Search Engine Optimization (SEO)
- › Rank higher on Google

As the directory grows, be sure to check back and share so we can show off all that the MD of Taber has to offer!

If you have any questions regarding the business directory, please contact the MD of Taber office at **403-223-3541**.



# SPRING DUST SUPPRESSION

The Municipal District of Taber Dust Suppression Program allows residents to apply for dust control on rural roads in front of residences. Dust suppression involves the application of a product called MG 30 – a blend of calcium chloride and magnesium hydroxide solution. This product not only suppresses dust but also helps to bind the aggregate to the roadway to create a hardened road surface.

We strategically use this product as a stabilizing agent at certain intersections, roadways and on hills to help prevent washboard roads and loss of gravel. Some frequently asked questions are:

*In the past, oil was used in front of my house to control dust. Is this still an option?*



The municipality no longer uses oil as a suppressant since roads treated with oil are difficult to maintain and can become a hazard due to pot-holing. Applied MG 30 Dust Suppressant is a product better maintained through grading intervals when required.

*When is dust suppressant applied?*

Depending on the weather, dust suppression application is scheduled from mid-to-late May and again from mid-to-late August. Applying is done in large, volume-controlled batches and prioritized by the order in which application forms are received.

*How much does it cost?*

The municipality charges \$1.25 per linear foot, per application. The minimum length of roadway treatment is 400 feet. Individuals requesting dust control must mark out the length of application with appropriate indicators (lathe with coloured ribbon is preferred) in order to ensure the product is applied as desired. If a discrepancy exists between the length of application marked and the length indicated on the order form, the product will be applied according to the amount requested on the form.

*How do I apply?*

Order forms can be found online at:  
[mdtaber.ab.ca/p/dust-suppression](http://mdtaber.ab.ca/p/dust-suppression)

Or 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

Order forms **MUST** be fully completed **AND** submitted before the deadlines indicated for one of the following:

- › Spring application only  
– Deadline May 15th
- › Fall application only  
– Deadline August 15th
- › Or both spring and fall applications



# RURAL BROADBAND STRATEGY

In alignment with both the Canadian Internet Registration Agency (CIRA) and Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) the MD of Taber's Rural Broadband Strategy encourages local users to participate in the CIRA Internet Performance Testing.

Local participation will be used to demonstrate internet speeds, identify gaps in service, and to qualify in both federal and provincial funding strategies based on our needs. Our local strategy aims to address network internet availability, affordability and quality of service. It is important to be heard especially as national broadband standards and requirements continue to grow. To learn more and run an internet speed test visit: [RMAAlberta.com/speed-test](https://RMAAlberta.com/speed-test)

← → ↻ <https://rmaalberta.com/speed-test> ×



## Your connection is too slow.

Let's get rural Alberta online with high-speed internet!

ERR\_INTERNET\_SLOW

Learn more about how you can help and run an internet speed test by visiting:

[RMAAlberta.com/speed-test](https://RMAAlberta.com/speed-test)



## 2022 PROPERTY ASSESSMENT NOTICES ARE ON THEIR WAY.



All Municipal District of Taber property owners can expect to receive their Property Assessment Notices for the 2022 taxation year. Notices have been prepared and mailed.

It is important to review your Assessment Notices for accuracy. If you have not received your Assessment Notice please contact the Municipal

District of Taber at 403-223-3541.

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

Learn more on property assessments by visiting:

[mdtaber.ab.ca/p/assessments](https://mdtaber.ab.ca/p/assessments)

## PROPERTY ASSESSMENT INSPECTIONS ARE SCHEDULED FOR THE HAYS AREA.

Residents in Division 5 should expect to see consultants from Benchmark Assessment performing routine property inspections from March until the end of summer for the 2023 taxation year.



Learn more on property assessments by visiting: [mdtaber.ab.ca/p/assessments](https://mdtaber.ab.ca/p/assessments)

## PLAN YOUR CAMPING GET-TOGETHERS NOW



## MD PARKS

**DON'T LET YOUR FAVOURITE CAMPSITE SLIP AWAY!**

IT'S TIME TO START MAKING PLANS AND IT'S TIME TO BOOK THEM USING OUR ONLINE BOOKING AND PAYMENT SYSTEM FOR THE **TABER MUNICIPAL PARK**.

VISIT US ONLINE AT [MDTABER.AB.CA](https://MDTABER.AB.CA)