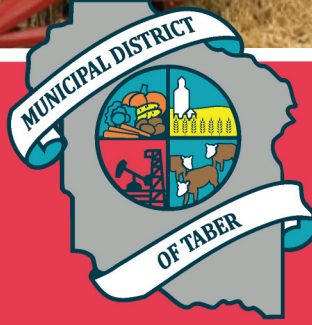




THE MD CONNECTION



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER
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REEVE'S REFLECTIONS

MERRILL HARRIS, REEVE

Harvest time is upon us and we sincerely hope everyone has a safe harvest both on the roads and in the fields. I will try to provide an update on the things that Council is involved in and what is occurring around the MD.

To begin, I would like to give a HUGE shout-out of thanks to the MD's employees who come to work every day wanting to do their job and make the MD a better place. We have an excellent hard-working staff who strive to make your roads driveable, keep ditches mowed and clean, keep water treatment plants working, and facilitate the development process with residents as they have questions and those who manage the affairs of our great municipality.

We have been without a Community Peace Officer (CPO) program for a large portion of 2022. Council has looked at many different options to replace the services previously provided through the CPO program. After many months of discussion and a thorough review of options, we are entering into a service agreement with the Town of Taber (TOT) and the Taber Police Service (TPS) to

provide a dedicated Community Standards Officer to help with bylaw enforcement and some elements of public safety throughout the MD. This officer and vehicle will demonstrate this new partnership and represent both the TPS community standards unit and the MD of Taber (MDT). The new officer will undertake the roles and responsibilities that the former MDT Community Peace Officer Program performed to address concerns relevant to bylaw enforcement, animal control, park patrols, assistance with inspectors and officers of the MDT, scene support for MDT Regional Fire Services and RCMP, pivot overspray and watering of roadways, weights and measures education, some focus on unsafe and excessive speeding and other public safety traffic issues that become apparent. The MDT has recently received approval through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from the Solicitor General and the Minister of Justice of Alberta for this joint venture so stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

As per normal, the RCMP will continue to be the main police force of jurisdiction

Continued inside...

REEVE'S REFLECTIONS

Continued

across the MDT and will remain the police force to call in an emergency.

Council and the Subdivision and Development Authority have given the go-ahead for new residential lot development in the Hamlet of Enchant where 36 new lots are being developed. Council has also approved engineering design for new residential lots in the Hamlet of Grassy Lake. A 100-metre setback variance from an old landfill site has been granted by Alberta Environment and Parks which allows us to begin the process of lot development in Grassy Lake. Phase One of this project will see 46 lots developed.

Phase One of the Horsefly Emergency Spillway Project will be going out to tender later this fall with the goal of construction starting soon after. Engineering for Phases Two and Three are also underway with tendering and construction scheduled to occur in 2023. This project is a huge undertaking for our municipality, but Council and administration believe this is a vital project to protect critical infrastructure (SMRID Main Canal) and are dedicated to seeing this project through to completion.

Of concern to Council has been the Federal Government's stance concerning the absolute 30% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from fertilizer use by the year 2030. In January, the MD's Agriculture Service Board wrote a letter to the Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change to have him explain the process of how this was to be implemented and accomplished. A June response letter was received that did very little to explain concrete measures to help growers achieve this goal while at the same time ensuring food security for Canadians and the global population. We believe our producers have already done their part in reducing emissions by implementing the 4R's of proper fertilizer use. We will continue to lobby against this measure.

The MD of Taber is launching a 100-Year Farm Family Award to recognize the hard work and sacrifice of our century farm families. There are two optional categories to apply for this award.

1) *Heritage Homestead Farm Family:*

- › Your family has continuously owned and actively operated the same land for 100 years or more.
- › Kinship ties to the original homestead founder must be clearly explained through official documentation.
- › Date of homestead establishment must be provided through official documentation.
- › Copy of the land title must be

provided, to show ownership.

- › A family member must still be producing agricultural commodities.

2) *Pioneer Farm Family:*

- › Date of arrival into the Municipal District of Taber with official documentation.
- › Kinship ties to the original owner must be clearly explained through official documentation (ie: family tree, genealogy).
- › A family member is still actively farming the land at the time of application.

Council wants to recognize those families who qualify for this award. For more information on how to apply visit mdtaber.ab.ca/p/century-farm-award

The Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission has proposed to reshape Federal ridings. Currently, we are in the Bow River riding which is quite large. The Member of Parliament (MP), Martin Shields riding at present includes Chestermere, parts of Kneehill, Rocky View, Wheatland, Vulcan and Newell Counties and the MD of Taber. Under the new proposal, the Bow River riding will nearly stretch to the City of Red Deer and will include all the special areas and parts of Cypress County north of Medicine Hat. The MD south of the Oldman River would be included in the Medicine Hat-Cardston riding. These ridings are tremendously huge, making it nearly impossible for our MP's to efficiently and effectively represent all the different issues they have to face.

According to the Boundaries Commission, they are striving for (+/-) 5% or 115,200 people per riding. In urban centres that is fairly easy to achieve, while in rural areas you can see how difficult that is and how it might affect the capacity for the MP to effectively provide representation. There should be some mechanism in place to be more flexible in achieving the amount of 115,200 people per riding. If you would like more information and have the opportunity to make a submission to the Boundaries Commission visit redistribution2022.ca.

Any citizen can become involved with the delivery of health care services in our region. The Oldman River Health Advisory Board is looking for members and there are upcoming opportunities to have your voices heard by getting involved. This fall, Alberta Health will be conducting health planning consultations in our region. We will make these notices available on our social media sites as we learn of them.

On behalf of Council, we wish you a safe and bounteous harvest this fall season.

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.

› **Range Rd 18-1 & Township Rd 15-2**

Located near Enchant, this project was awarded to White Fox Group and construction is currently underway. 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 was awarded to East Butte Contracting, construction is estimated to be completed by end of October 2022. With this, Enchant will see an additional 35 residential lots for sale.

› **Grassy Lake Landfill Reclamation**

A 100m setback waiver application has been submitted granted by the Alberta Environment and Parks. 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 was awarded to Tollestrup Construction and is now completed.

› **Highway 513 Sand Seal Project**

This project was awarded to West-Can Seal Coating and is now completed. This will rejuvenate the surface and extend the useful life of the highway.

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 subclass can offer, at the discretion of Council, **up to a 25 per cent in tax savings** compared to other on-residential properties. To qualify for the small business subclass, please submit an application on or before February 15th, 2023, 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 visit:

mdtaber.ab.ca/p/property-taxes

4

That residents can apply for a road approach approval online?

Residents can now apply for approval for the construction of an approach (driveway or field access) located within a road right-of-way. To learn more and apply, please visit:

mdtaber.ab.ca/p/road-approach

MDT FORMS NEW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE TOT AND TPS

In recent years the Municipal District of Taber's Community Peace Officer Program has addressed community safety concerns and contributed to a safer community where we live, work, and raise families.

Recently, the Municipal District of Taber (MDT) has reviewed alternative ways of providing these public safety and municipal enforcement services and has decided to pursue the option of building on and expanding an already existing (being emergency dispatch services) partnership with the Town of Taber (TOT) and the Taber Police Service (TPS) to include municipal enforcement services.

During the regular Council meeting on July 19th, Council carried a motion instructing Administration to enter into a service agreement with the Town of Taber to include municipal enforcement services within the MD of Taber with an annual service cost of \$160,000.00 and an annual cost of living consideration.

Historically, the Taber Police Service has hosted the dispatch and communications centre for the Town of Taber and the MD of Taber Regional Fire Services. This partnership has realized some successes and the two municipal

Councils have signalled a willingness to pursue an ongoing collaboration with respect to enforcement service delivery within the MD of Taber.

The RCMP will continue to be the main police force across the jurisdiction of the Municipal District of Taber; with the Taber Police Service Community Standards Officer undertaking the roles and responsibilities that the former MD of Taber Community Peace Officer Program performed.

Some of the services being provided by the Taber Police Service include associated call-taking and dispatch, the enforcement of MD of Taber bylaws, animal control, park patrols, assistance with inspectors and officers of the MD of Taber, scene support for MD of Taber Regional Fire and RCMP, pivot over spraying, weights and measures education, a focus on unsafe and excessive speeding and other public safety traffic concerns.

The MD of Taber has recently received provincial approval for this initiative from the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General of Alberta.

This partnership will be implemented in the near future, so stay tuned as more information becomes available.



DONATE A CLUNKER, TEACH A FIREFIGHTER

Extrication of victims after automobile accidents has become one of the most important lifesaving functions of emergency personnel.

Emergency training programs teach volunteers about specific extrication techniques and procedures to ensure the safety of both victims and providers. The biggest obstacle for educators is finding a realistic way to safely simulate patient extrication.

The MDT Regional Fire Services is looking for the donation of farm vehicles/implements for the purpose of providing our

volunteers the necessary hands-on practical experience needed to perform a safe extrication practice, such as:

- › Combines
- › Tractors
- › Balers
- › Augers
- › Anything that could potentially impale or entrap a person

If you want to do a good deed and get rid of that old clunker sitting in your yard, please contact our Deputy Regional Fire Chief, Brandon Bougie, at **403-223-1180** or at **BBougie@mdtaber.ab.ca**



**JOIN OUR RANKS
AND WRITE YOUR
NEXT CHAPTER.**

IT ALL STARTS HERE.

The path to becoming a volunteer firefighter with the Municipal District of Taber Regional Fire Services (MDTRFS) is challenging, yet truly rewarding. It is a path that leads to new skills, unique experiences, unshakable bonds with your team members, and the privilege

of giving back to the community in one of the most meaningful ways possible.

Volunteering with MDTRFS is a great way to support the community or even prepare for a paid career in the fire and rescue service. The prerequisites for joining are that you enjoy teamwork, you are responsible, and you are available to serve in a dynamic and often intense atmosphere.

If you want to help your community in ways few can, visit or scan to learn more: **mdtaber.ab.ca/p/fire-services**

NEW DISC GOLF COURSE

After 2 years of planning, a new disc golf course along the Oldman River bottom has officially opened.

As one of the fastest growing sports, the new 9-hole (Par 29) course cuts through green spaces west of the Taber Municipal Park and the Highway 864 McLean Bridge and offers views of the Oldman River.

During a regular council meeting on May 24th, 2022, a group of disc golf enthusiasts approached Council to request the use of nine acres of MD of Taber owned land for the development of a disc golf course.

Willy Friesen, a representative from the disc golf group said that this is a great activity offered year-round for all ages and skill levels to enjoy.

"While we hope many disc golf aficionados will be showing up to the course it also provides an opportunity for novice players to try the sport out as well."

The new disc golf course is a collaboration between the Municipal District of Taber (MDT) and the Town of Taber (TOT), with the MDT providing the land for development and the TOT facilitating a grant for the purchase of the equipment. The disc golf group will be responsible for the maintenance of the course.

"Council saw this as a great addition to the Taber Municipal Park," said Reeve Merrill Harris. "It's important for the continual development of recreational spaces and outdoor activities especially those with nominal costs that benefit the entire community as a whole."

The new course is free and open to the public with parking available at the Taber Municipal Park Group-Use Area "A". The course can also be found on the UDisc Golf App for iPhone and Android users.

For more information visit or scan:

mdtaber.ab.ca/p/disc-golf



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**.

Beginning in 2023, the following due dates and penalties will apply:

- > **On February 1st, 2023** – a 12% penalty will be applied for any outstanding balance owing.
- > **On October 1st, 2023** – a 3% penalty will be applied for current taxes owing.
- > **On December 1st, 2023** – 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 scan or visit mdtaber.ab.ca/p/taxes



SMALL BUSINESS SUBCLASS



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

Until recently, businesses were charged the same property tax rate regardless of their size. The small business subclass can offer, at the discretion of Council, up to a 25 per cent in tax savings compared to other non-residential properties.

Non-residential class has been divided into 3 subclasses, defined in related regulations as follows:

- > 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 considered as non-residential subclass for the 2023 tax year, submit your small business application on or before February 15th, 2023.

To learn more about non-residential subclasses and Bylaw No 1952, or to download an application, scan or visit: mdtaber.ab.ca/p/small-business-subclass

A Reminder.

2022 Property taxes are due November 15th, 2022.

Please submit payment on or before this due date. Payments received after the due date will be subject to a **5% penalty**.

If you did not receive a copy of your 2022 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-application

ROAD APPROACH APPROVAL

The construction of an approach (driveway or field access) located within a road right-of-way requires the prior approval of the Municipal District of Taber. Approval for the construction of an approach will only be granted where the requested location is considered safe and practical by the MD of Taber, through consultation with the landowner. All new approach requests will be processed following submission of the Road Approach Application and required fees.

Required fees (submitted with application):

- \$100 for new approach construction
- \$50 to amend existing approach

To apply for a road approach:

- Please submit the Road Approach Application with the required payment for review.
- A preliminary inspection is required prior to the start of construction.
- Upon approval, a permit will be issued to allow construction.
- To maintain consistency of development and protect municipal infrastructure, the MD of Taber requires the proposed approach to be installed by an Approved Contractor.
- If your Road Approach Application is part of new property development, the Road Approach Application will be included with your Development Application package.

To learn more about how to apply for a road approach or to download an application, scan or visit:

mdtaber.ab.ca/p/road-approach

BUILDING A LEGACY



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

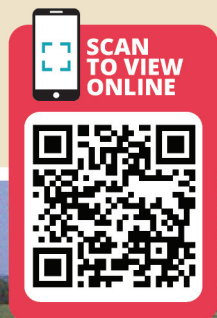
The Municipal District of Taber was founded and settled by the consistent hard work and sacrifice, combined with the unrelenting faith and determination of our ancestors. They settled the land to build the family farm or ranch – the place many of you continue to call home today.

Keeping the farm or ranch actively operating from generation to generation is an impressive achievement for any family. The Municipal District of Taber recognizes these special families who built the foundation of prairie farming and ranching. The contributions they have

made to our agriculture sector are immeasurable. Their dedication to agriculture, family and our rural community has helped build a vibrant and sustainable agriculture industry in southern Alberta.

This year, the Municipal District of Taber is launching a Century Farm Family Recognition Award to recognize farms and ranches going back to 1922 and beyond. We are contacting local families who have been recent recipients of the Alberta Century Farm and Ranch Award so you are aware of the opportunity to apply. Successful applicants will be presented with a custom-made plaque/sign to mark this significant milestone.

To learn more and apply, visit or scan: mdtaber.ab.ca/p/century-farm-award



Fire Ban In Effect



mdtaber.ab.ca/p/fire-ban