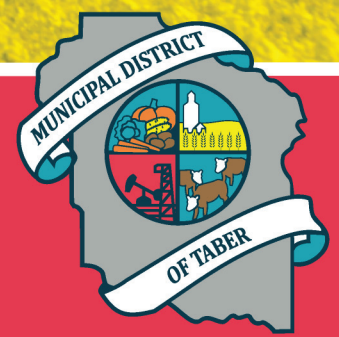




THE MD CONNECTION



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER
Administration Office 4900B - 50th St Taber, AB T1G 1T2
Ph 403 223 3541 www.mdtaber.ab.ca

COUNCIL MEMBERS

- MERRILL HARRIS (Reeve)**
Division 1 403-634-0462
- JOHN TURCATO**
Division 2 403-634-1591
- BRIAN HILDEBRAND**
Division 3 403-647-7556
- TAMARA MIYANAGA (Deputy Reeve)**
Division 4 403-308-6538
- JOHN DEGROOT**
Division 5 403-654-8700
- MURRAY REYNOLDS**
Division 6 403-635-8449
- CHANTAL CLAASSEN**
Division 7 403-593-9693



REEVE'S REFLECTIONS

MERRILL HARRIS, REEVE

To begin this edition of the Reeves' Reflections, I would like to give a HUGE shout-out to the firefighters of the MD of Taber Regional Fire Services who made arrangements with their personal lives, their families, and their work responsibilities to heed the call for help in battling the wildfires in central and northern Alberta. Two of our crews responded; the first deployment went to the Drayton Valley area, and after a crew change, the second deployment went up to the Peace River region. Our thoughts and prayers are for those whose lives have been turned upside-down by evacuation orders and the wildfires that have destroyed homes and properties across the Province. Nothing would help the situation more than heavy rainfall that lasts several days.

I am pleased to welcome the four newest individuals to the MD of Taber team. In March, Jazlyn Pedersen was appointed as the new Community Services Coordinator and Tom Anderson as the new Development Officer. In May,

Michael Keeler joined us as the newly appointed Director of Municipal Operations (Public Works) and Wendy Bergen as the Finance Coordinator. We are excited to have them on board as their experience will greatly benefit our organisation. Welcome!

I would also like to thank, Joanne Bronsch, who recently retired at the end of March for her 30 years of service in many different capacities. We wish Joanne all the best as she begins the next chapter of her life.

Council was happy to see a significant turnout for our Annual General Meeting at the Hays Community Centre on April 28th. It was a good discussion with many good questions for Administration and Council. Hopefully, those who attended learned more about the workings of the MD of Taber.

Spring seeding should be wrapping up or has wrapped up for this growing season — a nice soaking rain would help all crops get off to a good start.

Continued inside...

The Agricultural Services team has started their annual Roadside Spraying and Vegetation Control program and will attend to your road and ditch bank as winds allow. Beginning June 1st, the Roadside Mowing Program will make its rounds to control weeds, brush and maintain road edges to help keep you safe while travelling.

During the spring thaw, many roads became soft and were easily damaged. Grader operators have been working diligently to get our roads back into shape, and we appreciate all who did their part in restricting load size during the road ban period. Overland flooding in early April affected many municipal roads, some with severe erosion found mainly south of the Purple Springs and Grassy Lake areas. Crews have been working diligently to get those roads back into drivable condition.

The Groundbreaking Ceremony for Phase 1 of the Horsefly Regional Emergency Spillway project was on March 17th. The event was attended by representatives from all the municipal partners, as well as MP Martin Shields and MLA Grant Hunter. This massive capital investment project will help protect the southern portion of the MD from overland flooding by protecting the main SMRID canal, which is one of the most vital pieces of infrastructure in the Municipality.

On April 25th, Council passed the Annual Budget, and the mill rate bylaw received its third reading on May 9th. Residential property mill rates increased by 0%, non-residential property mill rates increased by 0%, farm property mill rates increased by 9%, and small business mill rates were reduced by 25%. Overall we have seen an increase in property assessments across the MD. Your property taxes may increase due to the increase in property value assessments despite the 0% increase in mill rates.

The property tax collection due date has advanced to September 30th effective this year. Please be aware to assist you in paying your property taxes on time.

On behalf of Council, I hope everyone has a great summer and enjoys some much-needed rest, relaxation and holiday time.

Phase 1 Update

Phase 1 of the Horsefly Regional Emergency Project was awarded to deGraaf Excavating Ltd on December 6, 2022, for a total of \$27.4 million (\$25.3 million for construction, and \$2.1 million for engineering).

Several subcontracts were given to local contractors such as Riverbend, Robin Hanson/Bevco, Venture Holdings, Ground Tech and others.

During the spring and summer, Phase 1 of the project will be completed from Taber Lake Reservoir to Range Road 16-3. Work includes the installation of double concrete box culverts at Highway 36, Range Road 16-3, and Range Road 16-4A road crossings. There will be a detoured closure of Range Roads 16-3 and 16-4A, where Highway

Environmental Permits and Approvals

Currently, the Southern Regional Stormwater Drainage Committee is awaiting approval from Fisheries and Oceans Canada to continue work at or near the Oldman River entrance. As part of this permit, we will also learn what mitigation measures will be necessary.

Phases 2 and 3 are currently in the design stages and will each include a newly constructed wetland. Cost estimation is \$34.8 million (\$25.6 million for Phase 2, and \$9.2 million for Phase 3). Water Act Approval from Alberta Environment and Protected Areas will not be necessary for Phases 2 and 3.

Phase 2 Update

Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors have agreed to fund the two



First Drop Structure Phase 1

36 will be reduced to a single lane with traffic lights at both ends. Traffic will experience very short delays during construction. All work is scheduled to be completed before August.

A gravel armour layer will be applied to the SMRID irrigation lateral from Taber Lake Reservoir, as well as a 600-meter relocation of the SMRID pipeline.

Construction of two concrete drop structures began in May immediately east of Range Road 16-4, while work in the coulee and remaining ditch work will begin in the fall and winter of 2023/24.

Contractors will continue to comply with the tendering agreement and work through the summer without interfering with landowner farming activities.

crossings under Highway 3 east of Taber as part of the Highway 3 Twinning initiative.

A crossing under the rail line is being discussed with Canadian Pacific Railway.

Discussions with Lantic Sugar are also ongoing to allow a crossing under their industrial spur line. To learn more visit: mdtaber.ab.ca/p/horsefly



Box Culverts Range Road 16-3 Crossing

DID YOU KNOW?

INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM 2023

1

That the Municipal District of Taber will be hosting its first Coffee with Council?



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 see when the next Coffee with Council is, or to learn more 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 you can book and pay for your favourite camping spot online?

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

CampSpot.com

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

Located near Enchant, this project was awarded to White Fox Group with construction expected to be completed by summer. This project involves the complete reconstruction of 6.5 km of roadway.

> **Enchant Subdivision Expansion**

This project was awarded to East Butte Contracting. Construction is scheduled to be completed by mid-summer. With this, Enchant will see an additional 35 residential lots for sale.

> **Grassy Lake North Subdivision**

Phase 1 of the Grassy Lake North Subdivision is currently in the design stages. This project will see an additional 40+ residential lots available for purchase in the near future. Project is currently on hold awaiting environmental approvals.

> **2023 Shoulder Pull Program**

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

> **Bridge Replacements**

A funding application has been submitted for the replacement of three bridges within the MD of Taber. If approved, design work will begin and then tendered for construction.

> **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 completion of the study.

> **2023 Asphalt Patching Program**

A contractor will be hired to complete large-scale patching on our asphalt roads and is estimated to be completed by October.

> **Range Road 17-3 Grade Widening**

A contractor will be hired to widen the grade for 700 m, followed by a 2 km asphalt overlay. The project is expected to be completed by October.

MD OF TABER PROPERTY OWNERS

PROPERTY TAX NOTICES MAILED JUNE 5th, 2023

Pursuant to sections 333, 336 and 337 of the Municipal Government Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter M-26 and amendments thereto, the Municipal District of Taber hereby notifies all MD of Taber property owners that the Property Tax Notices for the taxation year 2023 have been prepared and mailed as of June 5th, 2023.

Property taxes are due upon receipt. Taxes remaining unpaid after September 30th, 2023 will be subject to all applicable penalties as outlined on the Annual Property Tax Notice.

Property owners are responsible for ensuring they have received Property Tax Notices for all properties they own. Please contact Administration at 403-223-3541 if you have not received all of your 2023 Property Tax Notices.



NEW FACES AT THE MD OF TABER

The MD of Taber is pleased to announce the recent hiring of Tom Anderson as Development Officer, and Jazlyn Pedersen as Community Services Coordinator.

A lifelong resident of Barnwell, Tom earned his Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Lethbridge in 2020.



As a former Municipal Administrative Intern at the Town of Coaldale, Tom gained valuable experience in a variety of municipal departments, including planning and development.

Tom is currently enjoying his role as the new Development Officer for the MD. His favourite project to date has been the development of the new Land-Use Bylaw.

"In addition to working with such a top-notch Planning and Development team, I am very fortunate to be able to contribute to making the MD of Taber a great place to live, work, and play."

With his wife, Kacee, daughter, Brettlyn, and the arrival of their new son in June, Tom is pleased to call this area home. The couple enjoys spending time outdoors, participating in sports, and travelling.

Taber has always been home to Jazlyn. While growing up in the community, Jazlyn was active in sports and was a good student.

In 2019, Jazlyn earned her Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from the University of Lethbridge. During her studies, Jazlyn spent time working in agricultural research where she gained valuable knowledge and experience.

Jazlyn comes to us from Enterprise Rent-A-Car where she worked as the Commercial Truck Branch Manager for the Lethbridge and Medicine Hat region.

"My satisfaction is derived from my ability to make a positive contribution to the lives of others, both personally and professionally. I am very proud to bring the same enthusiasm to MD of Taber residents."



Jazlyn loves being outdoors and enjoys many activities that keep her active. When Jazlyn is not working, playing, or watering her plants, you can find her spending time with her boyfriend Jonny and with family and friends.

A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES

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

The following conditions apply:

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

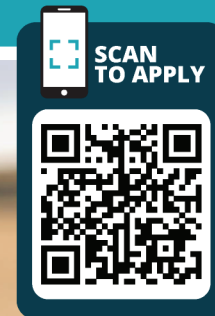
To apply, submit an application form (found at the link below) by email to:

bursary@mdtaber.ab.ca

Or mail your application to:

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

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



THE MD OF TABER'S APPROVED

2022 Financial Statements and 2023 Final Operating and Capital Budget is available online by visiting:

mdtaber.ab.ca/p/budgeting



IRRIGATING ROADWAYS

With the extreme dry conditions, and the high temperatures expected this summer, we are likely to see increased crop irrigation, which means more opportunities for end guns to spray water onto public highways, roads and road allowances.

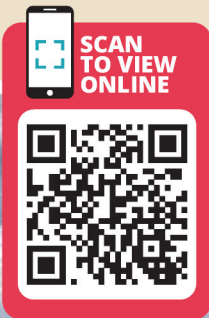
The Municipal District of Taber would like to remind residents to make efforts to avoid spraying irrigation water over public roadways.

To protect and maintain infrastructure integrity and enhance public safety, efforts must be made to avoid spraying irrigation water over municipal roadways and important infrastructure. Damages could result in frost boils and heaves, loss of gravel, soft spots, and more. On pavement, wet roadways can reduce friction for motorists, increasing the possibility of dangerous hydroplaning incidents.

Failing to comply could result in penalties of up to \$400 under Bylaw No 1771 – Irrigating Municipal Roadways.

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

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



CENTURY FARM FAMILY RECOGNIZED

The Geremia family has been recognized for one hundred years on an original farmstead in the Municipal District of Taber.

During the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) meeting, family members were presented with the MD of Taber's first Century Farm Family Plaque in Council Chambers on June 5th.

"They are outstanding farmers in the area, and this is truly a well-deserved award," said ASB Chair Councillor Reynolds.

The Geremia family have farmed the same land since it was homesteaded in 1908.

The MD of Taber's Century Farm Family Award recognizes farm families who have actively farmed and continue to



Division 6 Councillor, Murray Reynolds, present Geremia family members with the Century Farm Plaque. Family members are, left to right, Janae, Travis, David, Fran, Laine, Taylor with daughter Teagan, and Bryden.

The family's farm in the Retlaw area Division 6 is located at NE 24-13-18-W4.

On behalf of the Municipal District of Taber, Board Chair and Division 6 Councillor, Murray Reynolds, congratulated the Geremia family and outlined some of the family's history in the region.

own the same parcel of land for at least 100 years.

To learn more about the Geremia family's story and the MD of Taber's Century Farm Family Award visit:

mdtaber.ab.ca/p/century-farm-award



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

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

- › Vacant non-residential property
- › Small business property
- › Other non-residential property

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

In order to be eligible for your property to be assessed as non-residential subclass small business property, the annual small business application must be submitted to the Municipal District of Taber by February 15th of each year. Applications received on or before February 15th, 2024 will be considered for the 2024 tax year.

To learn more about non-residential subclasses and the Small Business Subclass Bylaw No 1952, or to download an application, visit or scan:

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



DROUGHT AND TREES

– Impact, care and maintenance

There are many visible drought stress symptoms due to water deficiency. The effects are not always immediate, and the full extent of the damage to the trees can take one to three years to become apparent.

In deciduous (hardwood) trees, some of the most common recognizable drought symptoms are:

- › Scorching – browning of the margins/edges of leaves
- › Wilting, curling, bending, rolling and mottling of leaves
- › Lighter green to yellow-green foliage
- › Leaves dropping/shedding or early autumn colour change
- › Chlorosis
- › Smaller size leaves, stunted shoots
- › Seed/cone production increases as the tree is under stress
- › Cracks on the bark of young trees

In coniferous trees, drought symptoms are recognizable by drooping shoots, browning, second-year needle yellowing, and an abundance of cone production during the second year of a drought.

As drought intensifies and prolongs, the effect on the whole tree is manifested in diebacks of twigs, branches, and thinning of the crown. Leaves, twigs and small branches in the topmost portion, and large lateral branches are dying. In the interior of the tree, leaves are more concentrated around the trunk with many producing epicormic shoots. Roots are the “engine” for trees and when drought conditions persist, the fine hair-like roots whose primary function is to absorb moisture, begin to die back. Under prolonged drought even the larger, fibrous roots are lost.

What can be done to reduce the impact of drought?

To reduce the impact of drought, proper tree care includes:

- › Proper watering
- › Mulching - placing arborist wood chip mulch to protect roots from drying out
- › Do not prune or remove live branches
- › Do not fertilize trees
- › Control weeds to reduce competition for water
- › Do not disturb soil through

mechanical weed control as you may damage roots and expose soil causing moisture loss

- › Pest management control including spraying of insects such as defoliators
- › Avoid any mechanical damage such as cutting surface roots, damaging the root collar or bark on the trunk
- › Consider diversity in the planting of trees and shrubs that are resistant to drought

Watering is crucial for tree survival during drought. There are several steps to consider regarding watering during the drought:

1. Test your water for sodium before watering your trees. If it contains high levels of sodium, it will kill your trees faster.



2. Check moisture in soil by using a garden trowel/knife to a depth of 4-6 inches. If you can easily push/insert a 6-inch screwdriver into the soil, there is enough water.
3. Amount of water - still today, science does not provide an exact amount of water for each tree but there is some rule of thumb. During drought, trees grown in sites without lawn irrigation need approximately 10 gallons (38 liters of water each week per inch (2.5 cm) of trunk diameter measured.
4. Timing – the optimal time to water trees is early in the morning. Try to avoid watering late at night due to potential of developing fungus. Also, it is extremely important to water trees when temperatures are scorching during the day. If your trees are showing signs of water stress in the middle of the day, you should water them.

5. Where/area to water – a very common mistake people practice is to put the water hose right next to the trunk. Trees should be watered along what arborists call a “drip line” – an imaginary line extending from the outermost branch tips straight down to the ground.
6. Water delivery mechanism – drip irrigation is the best way to water trees as you can control the amount of water delivered as well as the speed of water droplets. If you don't have drip irrigation and are using a hose, sprinklers, water gator bags, or buckets, it is extremely important to perform long and slow soaking at the outer edge of the drip line. Avoid any water run offs and water hitting the trunk.
7. Frequency of watering – water trees once a week with slow

soaking water. Avoid over watering if you have heavy clay in your soil.

8. Do not forget to water trees in Fall.

Mulching is a must and provides a very important function during drought – it protects the roots from extreme heat and keeps moisture around trees. Create a donut-shaped wood chip cover around your tree to keep water inside.

Applying 4-6 inches (10 -15 cm) of arborist wood chip mulch will greatly reduce loss of moisture in the soil. A layer of wood-chip mulch will maintain more consistent soil temperatures and moisture.

To read more, scan or visit:

mdtaber.ab.ca/p/drought-trees

