

# THE MD CONNECTION



**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER**  
Main Office 4900B - 50th St Taber, AB T1G 1T2  
Ph 403 223 3541 [www.mdtaber.ab.ca](http://www.mdtaber.ab.ca)



## COUNCIL MEMBERS

### MERRILL HARRIS

Division 1 403-634-0462

### JOHN TURCATO

Division 2 403-634-1591

### BRIAN HILDEBRAND

Division 3 403-647-7556

### TAMARA MIYANAGA (Reeve)

Division 4 403-308-6538

### JOHN DEGROOT (Deputy Reeve)

Division 5 403-654-8700

### MURRAY REYNOLDS

Division 6 403-635-8449

### CHANTAL CLAASSEN

Division 7 403-593-9693



## COUNCIL CONTEMPLATION

**TAMARA MIYANAGA, REEVE**

As we enter a time of growth, hard work and reflection, the coming months promise to be busy for families, farmers, and the MD of Taber.

Thank you to everyone who attended our AGM. Your feedback is invaluable. In June, there are several opportunities for you to share your opinions and engage in discussions about our municipality. Please check the newsletter for specific dates and times. Don't miss "Coffee with Council" on June 5 at 7 PM at the Hays Committee Centre. Everyone is welcome!

Our 2,400 km of municipal roads are an ongoing project. Grading, gravelling, and road maintenance are in full swing. Please do your part by travelling at safe speeds, being mindful of grading and construction crews, purchasing dust suppression, or submitting a service tracker request on our website or mobile app if a road needs attention.

The municipality owns and manages

82,000 acres under three leases: tax recovery grazing, MDT grazing leases, and cultivation leases. These lands are a crucial part of our municipal budget and impact each resident. Whether you are a leaseholder, resident, or business operator, your input on land management is essential. Please attend the in-person town halls and complete the survey available on our website.

The Land Use Bylaw, which regulates the conservation and development of land, habitat, and buildings, is under review. Proposed changes include development permits for farm buildings, allowing second dwellings, and granting permitted use approval by the development officer. Details will be available at the open houses. Please attend to share your comments and questions.

In-depth deliberation on Capital Projects and Operations established the budget. Recognizing assessment increases, Council set the mill rates with a 4%

*Continued inside...*

# COUNCIL CONTEMPLATION *Continued*

decrease on residential, 3% decrease on non-residential and an increase of 8% on farmland. Besides municipal taxes your bill includes the Alberta School Foundation (education) and Taber & District Housing requisition, and our portion of the police costing model. The municipality faces a challenge with unpaid property taxes, primarily from oil companies, totalling \$1.6 million as of 2023. This continues to be a frustrating aspect of budget planning.

Corey Greene is the new Director of Municipal Operations. His prior role included our municipal infrastructure and special projects. Council appreciates his vision to enhance the municipality, as well as his relationship with residents. Taylor McKnight joins us as the Assistant Ag Fieldman. Please reach out to her for agriculture concerns.

Thank-you is not enough to recognize the dedication and expertise made by the men and women of the MD of Taber Regional Fire Fighter's. Starting July 1, with the support of Barnwell and Vauxhall Councils, firefighters will be paid on call. Our volunteer firefighters provide effective and efficient day to day emergency and medical first response. The remuneration recognizes their invaluable contribution, while sacrificing time away from work and their family. If you would like information on becoming a volunteer fighter, please call the office or visit the website.

If you know of a yard that exemplifies beauty, environmental responsibility, and community enhancement, consider nominating it for recognition by Communities in Bloom. Nominations

are welcome from each electoral division in two categories: properties 39 acres or larger and those 38 acres or smaller, including farms, acreages, and hamlets. Nomination forms are available in this newsletter.

Mental health is crucial. If you or your neighbours are struggling, there is help available, including agriculture-specific resources. For support, call FCSS at 587-370-3728 or Alberta Farm Mental Health (AGKNOW) at [www.domore.ag](http://www.domore.ag). In emergencies, call 9-1-1.

While we have had timely rains, the threat of drought remains. A water management strategy is in place, and we ask everyone to be water-wise and reduce consumption. Specific measures will be implemented if conditions worsen. Look for water-saving tips in this newsletter and on our website.

This summer is a special time for our community as we celebrate the MD of Taber's 70th Anniversary. Join us for a barbecue and children's activities on June 20th at the MD of Taber Park and June 27th at Enchant Park, both starting at 4:30 PM. It's a great opportunity to honour those who have made our municipality a wonderful place to live and to contemplate its future.

We hope you will attend the public engagement sessions and the 70th anniversary celebrations. Most of all, we encourage you to enjoy our parks, historical sites like the Retlaw Church, and the various activities offered throughout our municipality. Sign up for the weekly SCAR newsletter or check our website for updates and events.

# DID YOU KNOW?

1

*The next Coffee with Council will be held at the Hays Community Centre on June 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm?*



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 visit:

[mdtaber.ab.ca/p/coffee-council](http://mdtaber.ab.ca/p/coffee-council)

2

*2024 property taxes are due September 30<sup>th</sup>?*

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

[mdtaber.ab.ca/p/property-taxes](http://mdtaber.ab.ca/p/property-taxes)

3

*The MD of Taber will be accepting applications for its Educational Bursary Program from August 1st to 31st?*

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. Learn more and apply:

[mdtaber.ab.ca/p/bursaries](http://mdtaber.ab.ca/p/bursaries)

4

*We request your feedback on the draft Land Management Plan (LMP) and draft Land Use Bylaw (LUB)?*

Join us in June at one of our town hall meetings for the LMP, or at one of our open houses for the LUB. To learn more visit:

[mdtaber.ab.ca](http://mdtaber.ab.ca)

## MAKE YOUR PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT SIMPLE

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

Visit [mdtaber.ab.ca/p/tipp](http://mdtaber.ab.ca/p/tipp)





# Save Water

## Outdoors and Indoors

All Albertans have been asked to consider ways to use water wisely. Conserving water is always a good habit, and it can help our community, as well as Albertans downstream from our municipality. There are small steps that everyone can take to conserve water. Learn more about water conservation or get ideas for ways to save from the tips below:

### Outdoor Water Conservation Tips



Water your lawn no more than necessary. Lawns only need about 1" of water per week.

If possible, water sparingly in the early morning to reduce evaporation.



Avoid watering on windy days.

Keep your grass a bit taller (5-7 cm) to help shade the soil and allow better moisture retention.



Avoid mowing during the heat of the day. Freshly cut grass releases moisture and can turn brown.

Sharpen your mower blades to create a clean cut that will heal more quickly.



Collect and reuse water by using rain barrels for outdoor plants.

Check for leaks in pipes, faucets, and hoses. Do NOT direct sprinkler heads at buildings, sidewalks, or roads.



Clean outside with a broom instead of a hose.

Plant drought tolerant vegetation. Add mulch to reduce evaporation and retain moisture in soil.



Certain grass types may brown without water but revive with adequate watering.

Use a water-saving pool filter.



### Indoor Water Conservation Tips



Take shorter showers. Reducing shower time by 5 mins will save about 100 litres of water per day.

Turn water off while brushing teeth or shaving. This can save about 32 litres/person/day.



Fix leaks, including leaky toilets and faucets. This can reduce water use by up to 10%.

Fill the sink instead of letting the water run when washing dishes.



Keep a jug of cool water in the fridge instead of running the tap.

SCAN TO VIEW ONLINE

Use dishwashers and washing machines with full loads only.



Invest in high-efficiency appliances. I.e, new front-load washers use 50% less water than older top-load units.

For more information about water conservation scan or visit: [alberta.ca/drought-how-can-you-help](http://alberta.ca/drought-how-can-you-help)



Alberta

# MD of Taber's Water Shortage Management Response Plan for Residential and Commercial Users.

Activity	Users	Stage 1 (←15% reduction)	Stage 2 (16-30% reduction)	Stage 3 (→31% reduction)	
Lawn & Garden Manual Sprinklers		Voluntary water use restrictions on all activities listed	<b>6 am to 10 am on assigned days</b>	<b>6 am to 10 am on assigned days</b>	
	Odd Number Addresses		Tuesday, Saturday	Saturday only	
	Even Number Addresses		Wednesday, Sunday	Sunday only	
Lawn & Garden Automatic Sprinklers			<b>12 am to 6 am on assigned days</b>	<b>12 am to 6 am on assigned days</b>	
	Odd Number Addresses		Tuesday, Saturday	Saturday only	
	Even Number Addresses		Wednesday, Sunday	Sunday only	
Garden Ponds, Fountains & Water Features	All Residents			Filling & Refilling 2 times/week	Not allowed due to water levels
Bulk Water Fill Stations	All Residents			Allotment of water to 15 m <sup>3</sup> (3,963 gallons or 15,000 litres) per month/per household	Allotment of water to 12 m <sup>3</sup> (3170 gallons or 12,000 litres) per month/per household
Residents & Business using Pools, Hot Tubs, Outdoor Snow/Ice Making				<b>6 am to 10 am on assigned days</b>	Not allowed due to water levels except with Municipal permissions
	Odd Number Addresses		Tuesday, Saturday		
	Even Number Addresses	Wednesday, Sunday			
Cleaning Outdoor Surfaces	All Residents	Use a broom spring loaded nozzle or mop and bucket	Cleaning with hose for health and safety only		
Vehicle (car,boat, etc.) washing	All Residents		Hand wash only with moderation		



To access more invaluable water resources and important information to help you navigate through the anticipated drought conditions visit our website:

# COMMUNITIES *in* BLOOM

*Rural Beautification Competition*



## Eligibility

- Must be residents of the MD of Taber (MDT)
- Must be actively involved in the landscape design and maintenance of the yard
- Must not be a member of Council or an employee of the MDT

## Competition Categories

- Category 1 – Residents must be located on at least 39 acres
- Category 2 – Residents must be located on 38 acres or less, includes residents of Hamlets in the MDT

## Awards

- Awards presented in each of the seven divisions within the MDT
- One award per category
- Residents may win only once

## Nomination Form

I nominate:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Residence/Land Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle Category #    1    or    2

Circle Division #    1    2    3    4    5    6    7

**Entries to be mailed to  
MARGARET BULLOCK  
4823 - 41<sup>st</sup> Street, Taber, AB T1G 1C8  
DEADLINE: JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**



# UPCOMING PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

## 1 *New Land Management Plan (LMP)!*

The Land Management Plan Project was introduced on April 11th at our Annual General Meeting.

### *Please provide your feedback!*

The Municipal District of Taber is developing a strategy and policy to guide the management of municipally owned lands, including leases for Cultivation (Dryland and Irrigation), Grazing, and Tax Recovery Grazing.

Join us for in-person town hall meetings from June 11th to 13th to share your thoughts.

#### Dates and Locations:

- June 11th:** 7:00 pm – Hays Community Centre (210 – 2 Avenue)
- June 12th:** 7:00 pm – Vauxhall Community Hall (417 4 St North)
- June 13th (2 sessions):** 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm – MD of Taber Operation & Maintenance Facility (171027 HWY 3, 1km west of Taber)

And participate in our online Survey at: [surveymonkey.com/r/MDTaberLMP](https://surveymonkey.com/r/MDTaberLMP) (Open May 27th to June 28th.)

See you there!

## 2 *New Land Use Bylaw (LUB)!*

We introduced a draft of the Land Use Bylaw on April 11th at our Annual General Meeting.

### *Now, we need your feedback!*

It has been 20 years since the MD of Taber has undertaken a full review of their Land Use Bylaw. There have been a number of amendments made over the years, but the scope and nature of developments have changed drastically since the bylaw was accepted by Council back in 2004.

Join us for open houses on June 18th and 19th to share your thoughts. Your input will shape the "What We Heard Report" and help develop the final drafting and adoption process of the new bylaw.

#### Dates and Locations:

- June 18th:** 5pm-8pm – Vauxhall Community Hall (417 4 St North)
- June 19th:** 5pm-8pm – MD of Taber Operation & Maintenance Facility (171027 HWY 3, 1km west of Taber)

Your participation is crucial. See you there!



## You are invited.

The Municipal District of Taber is proud to celebrate our 70th Anniversary – and we want YOU to be part of it! Savour the flavour at one of our BBQ celebrations as we journey down memory lane.

**Thursday**  
**June 20th at 4:30 pm**  
at the MD of Taber Municipal Park



**Thursday**  
**June 27th at 4:30 pm**  
at the Enchant Municipal Park



— or —

## TAX NOTICES

Are on the way.

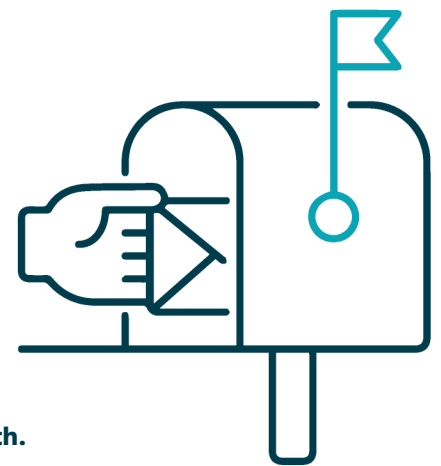
**2024 Property taxes are due September 30th.**

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

If you do not receive a copy of your 2024 property tax notice, please call us at 403-223-3541 or email at [tax@mdtaber.ab.ca](mailto:tax@mdtaber.ab.ca).

Learn how to make payments to your property taxes at:

**[mdtaber.ab.ca/p/property-taxes](https://mdtaber.ab.ca/p/property-taxes)**



## 2024 APPROVED BUDGET

The MD of Taber's 2024 Final Operating and Capital Budget is available online by visiting:

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

