



MD OF PINCHER CREEK NO. 9

WINTER 2019 NEWSLETTER

1037 Herron Ave. Box 279 Pincher Creek Alberta T0K 1W0 403 627-3130 info@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca

Once again it is my honor and privilege to bring a short message on behalf of our Council, the Senior Management team and Staff of the Municipal District of Pincher Creek. Together, as a team I believe we recognize that our business is not only the very critical road and bridge infrastructure that we are responsible for, but perhaps just as important is the manner and efficiency with which we provide those services. Implementing a Call-Log system in our Public Works and Ag. Service Board has provided Council the opportunity to examine at least twice each month the nature of call-ins and how they have been dealt with. By responding in a courteous and timely manner to questions, concerns and requests raised by our residents, we can demonstrate as an organization, the value we place on maintaining and improving service levels within our MD.

The Council of the Municipal District of Pincher Creek remains committed to improving dialogue and engagement with our community through an improving communication network. We value the response received from the Coffee with Council sessions as a first-hand opportunity to talk. We have made our MD website and social media options user friendly and a more effective way to provide information to our public. We appreciate resident and ratepayer participation at Council and other meetings in helping to shape the changes that will affect the life and landscape of our community going forward.

Since our last newsletter, Council has continued work on many challenges ranging from updating the Municipal Development Plan, major infra-

structure projects such as the Beaver Mines Water/Wastewater Initiative, Inter Municipal Collaboration with our neighbors both within our municipal boundaries, and MDs, and Counties contiguous to our boundaries to name a few. We also continue to work through many other issues as Council members sitting on numerous Committees and Community Organizations that we participate in, in an effort to establish a sound foundation for the future of our Municipality and region.

Policy is a major part of our governance function and we will focus with earnest enthusiasm as we seek to update our Policy Handbook and other key documents such as the Road Master Plan in the New Year.

Last but not least, we are in the final stages of approving our annual Operating and Capital Budgets for 2020! We are keenly aware of the challenges of balancing fiscal responsibility and declining support from senior governments with the need to provide services in our community. We seek your best wishes as we come to grips with those challenges.

On behalf of the Council of the Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9, our Administration and staff, I wish you all a Joyous Christmas Season and a prosperous New Year.

Reeve Brian Hammond



Council and CAO were away at the fall convention for Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) this Fall. They were able to meet with Ministers, MLA for Livingstone-Macleod Roger Reid, and be present for a speech by Honorable Jason Kenney, Premier of Alberta. Proudly, 2 long service awards were given out to our Council, Reeve Brian Hammond for his 15 years and Councillor Terry Yagos for 9 years of service. The community thanks you for your dedication in serving our municipal government.



Annual "season end" safety BBQ



Financial Reserves

A common approach for municipalities to finance large-scale projects is to gradually set aside a small portion of their revenues over multiple years to pay for major infrastructure projects. This approach minimizes the use of financing, which allows municipalities to stay within debt limits and ultimately saves municipal taxpayers money by reducing interest costs. In a municipal context, funds set aside for such projects are known as "reserves"

FACTS

- Financial reserves are an effective tool to support municipal asset management planning, as they allow for funds to be set aside to manage assets throughout their lifecycle.
- Municipalities have limited revenue sources (primarily property taxes/user fees and grants provided by other levels of government), and limited ability to take on debt to finance large-scale
- Municipal financial reserves are not a measure of wealth, but rather are a planning tool used in different ways and to different extents by municipalities.
- Municipalities are not permitted to run deficit budgets, so reserves allow municipalities to save money for major infrastructure projects while abiding by their legislated financial management requirements.
- While municipalities can finance capital projects through debt, the amount of debt municipalities may incur is limited. Additionally, due to interest requirements, debt results in higher costs for municipalities and less efficient use of tax dollars.
- The development of long-term planning requires that municipalities have the ability to set aside funds for use on major projects in future years.

1. Rural Municipalities of Alberta (2019). *Understanding Municipal Reserves*, Page 2-3

TIPP (Tax Installment Payment Plan)

Are you on TIPP? Take advantage of the Tax Installment Payment Plan to eliminate the risk of penalties and make budgeting easier.

The monthly amount is calculated by dividing your most recent annual tax levy by 12 months. TIPP is paid through automated withdrawals from your bank account on the 5th day of each month.

For more information on the TIPP program, please contact our office at 403-627-3130.



IF YOU CAN'T BEAT IT, EAT IT

FEATURING

KATHY VOTH, JAY HONEYMAN, CAT URBIGKIT, STEVE SKELTON, ROB FINCK & MIKE ROBERTS

TOPICS INCLUDE

- Grazing Sheep & Goats and Use of Guardian Dogs on Public & Private Land
- Conditioning Cattle to Eat Weeds
- Grazing Practices/Shepherding (Sheep & Goats)
- Introduction to Livestock Guardian Dogs

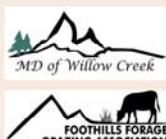
WORKSHOP DETAILS

Thursday January 9th, 2020
 Fort McLeod Community Hall
 8:30am to 4:00pm
 Lunch is included in registration

REGISTRATION

FFGA Member.....\$30.00 + GST
 Non Member.....\$40.00 + GST

Register before January 6th, 2020 at
<https://grazingweeds.eventbrite.ca>



Conserving our Topsoil

The intent of the Alberta *Soil Conservation Act* is to provide a framework for encouraging sound soil conservation practices, to preserve our agricultural land base, and to ensure the long-term productivity of the farming sector.

Soil conservation became a priority in the early 1930's as wind erosion problems became more severe. The *Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act* was passed in 1935 and research centers were assigned the task of saving soil through demonstrating good soil conservation practices. More than 10,000 farms had been abandoned in south-eastern Alberta (Dumanski *et al.*, 1986). This work led to procedures and practices which are still used today such as re-establishing grass cover, extending crop rotations, growing winter cover crops, organizing community pastures, residue management, establishment of shelterbelts, conservation tillage and grassed waterways.

The M.D. of Pincher Creek encourages crop rotation, permanent grass cover and no till farming practices. It is critical that soil surfaces not be left exposed to prevent soil movement by wind and water.

Agricultural & Environmental Services

AES Rental Equipment

Did you know that the M.D. of Pincher Creek owns and maintains a fleet of livestock handling equipment for our residents? All equipment is available on a first-come-first-served basis. Give us a call to book any of the items listed below:

Solar Powered Portable

Watering System*	\$150 per 2 week period
Electric Fencing Unit	\$150 per 2 week period
Cattle Squeeze w/ palpation cage	\$40 per day + \$20 damage deposit
Loading Chute	\$40 per day + \$20 damage deposit
Electronic Scale	\$40 per day + \$20 damage deposit
Portable Panels	\$40 per day + \$20 damage deposit

*watering system is available during frost-free grazing season only

Damage deposit will be refunded when equipment is returned in working condition and thoroughly cleaned with a pressure washer.

We emphasize and request if you have issues, requests or complaints, that you contact Public Works department at **403 627-3130 Ext. 529**. They will require your name, phone number and civic address. The more information you can give the easier it is for us to understand what you require.



Public Works

The MD thanks the residents of Lundbreck for their patients during the application of the new asphalt on 1st Street. This upgrade will allow for improved drainage for the area. Pictured is Public Works Assistant Manager Eric Blanchard and Councillor Terry Yagos.



Eric Blanchard started with the M.D. at the beginning of June as our new Assistant Public Works Manager. He has been in Pincher Creek, along with his lovely wife and children, for the past 5 years.

Originally with a background in the oil patch and road construction, Eric is a Civil Engineering Technician with previous experience working in Fort MacMurray managing a survey department.

Eric's strong work ethic and willingness to tackle any project with precision and integrity made him an ideal candidate to join our team. M.D. Council and staff look forward to a long and successful working relationship with Eric in the future.



SummerView Road has been completed and the MD forces will continue working on improving slope conditions and add new signage along the road. Pictured: Reeve Hammond at the site of the newly improved SummerView Road.

Further project updates for the operations department in 2019:

- Bridge Maintenance
 - *Spread Eagle Bridge Deck
 - *Scottons Bridge
 - *Grumpy Road Culvert
 - *Willow Valley Culvert
 - *Crook Road Bridge
- Texas Gates
- Cold Mix Asphalt Application
- Dust Suppression
- Gravel Crushing/Gravel Hauling
- Mowing
- Snow Removal Snow Fence
- Signage
- Road Work
 - *Summerview Road
 - *Lundbreck 1st Ave
- Beaver Mines Water Supply Contract 1 and 2
- Beaver Mines Water & Waste Water Collection

One of the goals for 2020 is to improve drainage on asphalt and enhancing public streets.

Snowplowing Level of Service

In Southern Alberta, we can't escape the snow or the fact that roads can be dangerous during and after a winter storm – but the MD always tries to minimize the length of time our roads are in poor shape.

The management of snow plowing and road conditions falls on the shoulders of our MD CAO, Director of Operations and Management of Public Works, and is guided by a policy set by MD Council. MD Council often addresses, debates, and revisits the 'level of service' deemed appropriate, while maintaining fiscal responsibility to our rate-payers. In the MD of Pincher Creek, we have 1138 km of roads to maintain. We look after rural roads, not highways, Alberta Transportation services highways.

Order of priority for snow plowing is:

- 1) Bus routes and Hamlets first, they are cleared by one of our three plow trucks. Livingstone Range School Division establishes bus routes, and Council adopts them on an annual basis.
- 2) Remaining oiled and graveled municipal roads are second priority in terms of snow removal. Snowplowing on these roads should not occur with less than six inches of snow on gravel roads and four inches of snow on paved roads, unless drifting has occurred.
- 3) Beginning in 2010, Seniors, living in place and residents with medical conditions, that have limited ability to maintain their driveways, may make application. Once their application is approved, their driveways will be plowed on a second priority basis, with the understanding that the Municipal District will not be liable for any property damages.
- 4) Private driveways or airport leased areas may be plowed, with the understanding that the Municipal District will not be liable for any property damages and that each request is subject to a minimum charge as established by policy. However, when we are un-

able to keep up with MD road plowing, then driveways are cleared at a later date. Driveways are only plowed after an application is made at the MD administration office by signing a 'Hold Harmless' agreement. The driveway has to be inspected for safety by the MD and deemed 'accessible for snowplowing'.

The job of snowplowing is hugely stressful since our operators are working in the worst conditions and always feel the pressure of trying to get the job done as quickly as possible. We have called in contractors to assist in severe storms.

All roadways will be cleared within 72 hours from the last snow fall. Complicating factors exist with this formula, and include blowing snow, drifts, and continuing snowfall.

One issue we have that creates problems for operators and puts all drivers at risk is the practice of pushing snow from driveways across the MD road. This practice can result in large ridges of snow left on the roadway. Once these ridges start to melt and then refreeze, it can pose a danger. Ridges can throw a car out of control, and cause damage to vehicles as well as interfering with our standard grading practices. We would ask for cooperation to please help us protect yourself, neighbors, road users, MD equipment and operators, and refrain from pushing your snow across the MD roads.

Snow removal is challenging. We take pride in our work and our MD. We will be out after each storm, and we will work as quickly as possible to keep the MD moving.



DO YOU KNOW YOUR CIVIC ADDRESS? (Your "Blue Sign")

When you call 911, the Dispatcher will ask you for the address of the emergency.

KNOW IT! POST IT! SHARE IT!



*Ensure that both your civic and legal description is visible to anyone at your home.

*Make sure the people that live in your home are aware of your address.

*Place directly on your phone, or closely beside. Stop in the MD office and pick up stickers!

*Contact 3rd party people that may need to know your civic address (i.e. Alarm companies, do they have your correct information)

If your sign is missing or damaged, call the office 403 627-3130.

This is part of the Regional Emergency Management Operations.



A Rural Crime Watch chapter has started up in the MD. The group is looking for persons to take on the director positions representing the districts in the Municipality.

The focus of Rural Crime Watch is promoting Crime Prevention through awareness, education and encouraging reporting of suspicious activity when observed. Rural Crime Watch is completely voluntary involving all rural residents working in cooperation with their local RCMP detachments.

For more information, visit the website: <https://www.ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca/> or e-mail: swarcw@gmail.com

YOUR M.D. COUNCILLORS

Division One:

Quentin Stevick 403-632-4166

CouncilDiv1@mdpincercreek.ab.ca

Division Two:

Deputy Reeve Rick Lemire 403-627-8380

CouncilDiv2@mdpincercreek.ab.ca

Division Three:

Bev Everts 403-627-4983

CouncilDiv3@mdpincercreek.ab.ca

Division Four:

Reeve Brian Hammond 403-627-4994

CouncilDiv4@mdpincercreek.ab.ca

Division Five:

Terry Yagos 403-628-2350

CouncilDiv5@mdpincercreek.ab.ca

Note from the Beaver Mines Community Association: We have been very involved in the planning for the water/wastewater project through a Community Advisory Group led by Lynn Calder and Bert Nyrose. The advisory have been working closely with the Director of Operations with the MD. While there are still questions, BMCA is hopeful that the lines of communication that have been established will help residents in the hamlet to have as smooth a transition as possible to the new water and waste water system.



The ALERT Line is an anonymous, producer helping producer call line.

If you have questions or concerns about animal welfare, call this number to report it

1-800-506-2273

Stay up to date on new information from our Municipality, follow us on social media



Planning and Development

Busy Year for the Planners

For the past year, Council has been busy with some important planning initiatives. Changes within the *Municipal Government Act*, has tasked all municipalities with complying with the amendments to planning legislation. This year saw Council and staff undertake the preparation of four Rural to Rural Intermunicipal Development Plans, an update of the Castle Mountain Resort Area Structure Plan, and the beginning of the process of a large scale revamping of the MD's Municipal Development Plan.

Rural to Rural Intermunicipal Development Plans

Council with assistance from our planning advisors, the Oldman River Regional Services Commission, completed four Intermunicipal Development Plans with our rural neighbors. The IDP is the highest level of legislated planning document adopted by a municipality. The purpose for each plan is to foster ongoing collaboration and cooperation regarding planning matters and issues of mutual interest between neighbours. The plans address and clarify land use expectations within an agreed upon IDP area. The plan areas extend for roughly two miles on either side of the municipal boundaries. The IDPs serve as a planning tool providing guidance to decision-makers through the agreed upon planning policies that apply to the land within the plan areas. The IDPs contain policy that is to be used as a framework for working cooperatively, communicating and making decisions in each municipality. Each municipality is ultimately responsible for making decisions within their own municipal jurisdiction.

The MD has had an IDP in place with the Town of Pincher Creek since 2010. Work on an IDP with the Village of Cowley will get underway once Cowley has updated their Municipal Development Plan.

Castle Mountain Resort Area Structure Plan

Council is also in the process of adopting an updated Area Structure Plan for Castle Mountain Resort. The current plan has been in effect since 2002. Work on a new ASP began as early as 2014 but was put on hold because of the Provincial Park designation of the lands surrounding the resort, as well as the corporation's preparation of a resort Master Development Plan. The ASP helps guide future subdivision and development on the private lands within the base area. Council is hoping to have the new CMR ASP adopted by the end of the year.

Municipal Development Plan

The current MDP was originally adopted in 2002 with some updates to 2009. The MDP is the second highest-level planning document adopted by Council. The basic purpose of any MDP is to convey the kind of place a community wishes to be in the future, by establishing the goals and policies to reach that vision.

Under provincial legislation, an MDP must address the future land use, development, transportation, and the provision of municipal services and facilities. The MDP must also contain policies to provide guidance on land uses adjacent to sour gas facilities, policies respecting the provision of reserve lands, and policies respecting the protection of agricultural operations.

This will be a long and involved process with many issues being considered by Council. The hope is to have the plan ready for adoption within 2020 or early 2021.

This is a public process and Council will be reaching out to citizens to provide input on the plan. Please pay attention to the MD's webpage and social media, and the local media for opportunities for input.

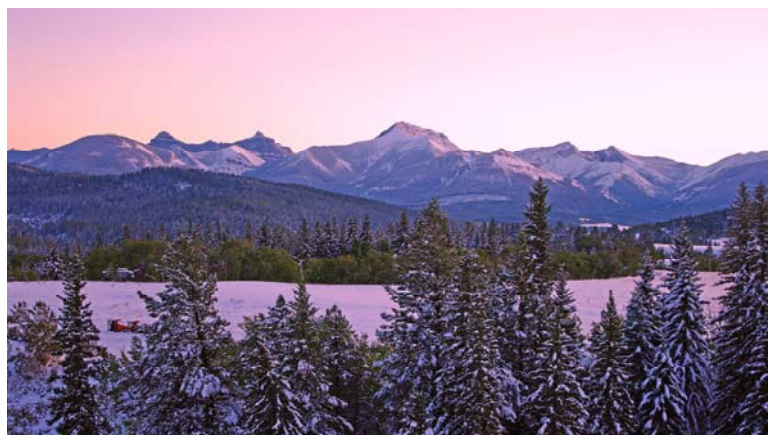


Photo Credit: Mill Canyon Photography

COMMUNICATION GUIDE

How will I be notified in the event of an emergency?

Communication during an emergency is critically important. Providing accurate and current information can prevent confusion, frustration and panic. Important instructions must be provided as quickly as possible.

The following resources will be used to notify residents that an emergency is occurring in the area:

Alberta Emergency Alert on your Mobile Device :

This will be the first notification of any emergency.

There are two types of alerts – Informational and Critical.

Informational alerts will provide a general description of the event and provide instructions.

Critical alerts provide the same information BUT will interrupt media.

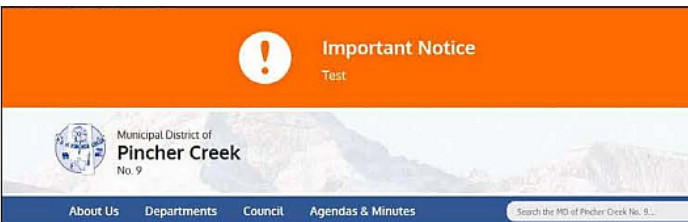
Residents are strongly encouraged to download the app onto their mobile device instructions can be found here:<http://www.emergencyalert.alberta.ca/content/about/signup.html>

MD Web Page:

Visit the local municipality's web page

MD of Pincher Creek: www.mdpinchercreek.ab.ca

On the homepage, updates will be provided, including instructions, maps, links, and information relating to the event in either orange (Important Notice) or red (Emergency Alert)



Social Media:

Follow the municipality on their social media pages:

MD of Pincher Creek Facebook Page: www.fb.com/MdPincherCreek

MD Twitter Account: www.twitter.com/md_of_pc

Email Updates:

On the municipality's home page, during the emergent event, a link will be available where an email address can be provided to receive emails pertaining to the event. Updates will then be emailed when available. This service will only be available during the event, and the email address will need to be provided for each event.

Emergency Hot Line:

Residents can call 1-855-627-5365 to listen to a recorded message, register at the reception center, or to leave a message. This hotline is not manned, but is checked periodically during the event.

At any time, but especially during an emergency, obtaining accurate and reliable information is extremely important. By using any of the above-mentioned resources, the correct information will be provided.



Burn Permits are required 12 months of the year for any sort of burning, including fire pits, controlled burns, burning barrels within the M.D. of Pincher Creek.

All permits MUST be obtained in person. Pincher Creek Emergency Services (Fire Hall)

655 Charlotte Street in Pincher Creek 403-627-5333