

MD OF PINCHER CREEK NO. 9



SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

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

Greetings Everyone on behalf of my Council colleagues

As we move forward in the next few months toward civic elections in October we are reminded that this will be the last Spring Newsletter of the current Council's term of office.

We have faced many challenges over the past four year term. The nature of our business is not static but is always changing. Some of those changes have led to improvements and efficiencies in operations and procedures. One such example is our evolving organizational culture, which seeks to encourage personal ownership by staff of respective roles and responsibilities, whatever and wherever they are. Furthermore; with that attitude goes the recognition that that contribution is important to the success of our corporation's activities and services. In addition, a critical part of this process is the integration of a much enhanced safety and safe operating practices plan into our Public Works and Administrative staff leadership and operational model.

Another critical focus for Council and senior administration has been how to make our response to residents and taxpayers concerns and questions more effective and timely in following up on those issues. Changes in the corporate culture have focused on how to provide for a more open access in which to raise concerns but also to better communicate with landowners, residents and taxpayers. Our Call Log system has assisted in that process as it receives regular review and comment from Council in an effort to better address issues and concerns raised.

Being involved with our neighbors in working through the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) has provided opportunities to reinforce and update existing relationships and

establish new ones with local and regional neighbors. Agreement to discuss and seek to establish a regional Airport committee to make this community asset more effective is one such example. On an ongoing basis the use of this framework will provide the opportunity for communication and discussion to continue into the future.

There are many other examples indicative of the several processes we go through in exercising the roles and responsibilities of elected officials and the privilege that that responsibility bestows on us. Through Bylaw and Policy, Council directs decision-making in responding to new demands and constant change. Ideally we are working towards finding solutions which will suit most people! Council work is rewarding and it is good to be involved in working through community issues and challenges with the people we serve. Best wishes to all and thanks for your input and encouragement over the past term as we have walked along this path.

Reeve Brian Hammond

YOUR M.D. COUNCILLORS

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COMBINED PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND TAX NOTICES

Property tax notices cover the calendar year from January 1 to December 31.

IMPORTANT DATES

The property tax payment deadline is **June 30th**.

Penalties apply to outstanding tax as follows:

July 1st – 2% **November 1st** – 4% **January 1st** – 12%

PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT:

1) In person at the MD of Pincher Creek office:

During regular business hours, Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., front doors are locked from 1:00pm to 2:00pm. (Cash, debit and cheque are accepted) Just a reminder, if paying by debit, make sure your debit card does not have a transaction limit.

After hours drop off box, is also available at the MD office, 1037 Herron Avenue. The drop box is located to the left of the front doors. All payments received in the drop box over the weekend of June 30th will be accepted without penalty.

2) At your bank: Please be sure to take your tax notice with you, if you are paying in person. Property Tax can also be paid using online or telephone banking if you have those services set up through your bank.

3) Send payment by mail:

MD of Pincher Creek, PO Box 279, Pincher Creek, AB, T0K 1W0

All payments post stamped by June 30th will be accepted without penalty.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

It is the property owner's responsibility to keep their Land Titles record accurate. Under the Municipal Government Act Section 337, once mailed, a tax bill is considered to have been received after seven days. Non-receipt of your property tax bill does not exempt you from late payment penalties.

The MD of Pincher Creek's source of property ownership and mailing address information for the Combined Assessment and Tax Notice is a property's Certificate of Title as registered with the Alberta Land Titles Office. Mailing address changes must be made in writing, direct to the Alberta Land Titles office using a Notice of Change of Address form. We would be happy to fill out the form(s) for you, just contact our office for assistance at 403-627-3130. Alberta Land Titles notifies the MD of Pincher Creek on the 1st and 16th of each month of all land title changes, including address changes; our records are updated from the Alberta Land Titles notifications.

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.



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

MD Council 2017 - 2021

Cllr. Quentin Stevick Div. 1 (Reeve 2017/18), Cllr. Rick Lemire - Div. 2 (Deputy Reeve), Cllr. Bev Everts - Div. 3, Cllr. Brian Hammond - Div. 4 (Reeve 2018-21) and Cllr. Terry Yagos - Div. 5

Airport Master Plan

This initiative is being developed in collaboration with Crowsnest Pass, Cowley and the Town of Pincher Creek. Currently working on the draft Master Plan which will include governance and allow for more decision making authority for all communities involved as well as a framework to operate, maintain and market our regional airport.

Castle Area Structure Plan

The Castle Mountain Resort Area Structure Plan(ASP) defines a planning and development framework to guide future growth in the Plan Area. The ASP supports both the Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9 (MD) Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw by adding another layer of detail to this particular development area. The Castle Mountain Resort ASP considers existing land uses, potential future land uses, public input, physical and environmental characteristics, infrastructure requirements, and growth trends on the private land comprising the ASP boundary. This plan includes a vision statement with goals, objectives, and policies intended to promote the vision.

ICF's - Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework

Cardston, Cowley, Crowsnest Pass, Ranchland, Town of Pincher Creek, Waterton and Willow Creek.

These Frameworks are intended to provide for:

- integrated and strategic planning, delivery and funding of intermunicipal services
- allocate scarce resources efficiently in the providing local services
- ensure municipalities contribute funding to services that benefit their residents

Each framework must:

- describe the services that benefit residents in more than one of the municipalities
- identify which municipality is responsible for providing these services
- outline how the services will be delivered and funded
- include a process for resolving disputes that occur while the framework is in effect

IDP's - Intermunicipal Development Plans

Cardston, Cowley, Crowsnest Pass, Ranchland, Town of Pincher Creek, Waterton and Willow Creek.

Intermunicipal Development Plans are approved by Council in both municipalities. Planners refer to these documents to make recommendations to Council for managing or changing land use, and to address growth issues in a way that respects the interests of the County and the municipalities they share a border with.

These plans may include:

- how the two municipalities will work together
- development of joint lands
- how to co-ordinate parks, open space, recreation, transportation, water, services, and utilities across boundaries

Rural Crime Watch

Council worked with the Committee to help establish and solidify Rural Crime Watch in our MD, as well as funded their application for Charitable Status with the Federal Government.

Council looks forward to this committee becoming more established and integrated with our local RCMP Detachments in service to our community. Thank you to both the volunteers and our local RCMP members.

PCCELC (PC Early Learning Centres)

After much deliberation, and thanks to an outpouring of community support, our Council contributed \$1 million to the capital costs of building the two Early Learning Centres in our region. This composed of a \$500,000 payment in 2020, with following contributions of \$100,000 for the next five years. Council believes that both of these centres, Canyon Creek and Sage, will truly be an essential service for our community to thrive and grow.

MOST Grant

When this grant was announced last year, Council asked for a review of our current financial situation. With the freeze applied to hiring last year and other budget cuts, Council found our financial position was sustainable. This allowed for over \$170,000 of this grant to be applied to community groups within our region that were impacted financially by the pandemic. In all, 19 groups within the MD and Town benefited from this grant because of prudent financial management by your council and administration.

Waterton Biosphere Dead Stock Program

Working with Waterton Biosphere to ensure the proper disposal of carcasses is taking place within the carnivore conflict area within our MD. Bins are strategically located and are always being realigned to match the current conflict area.

Castle Mountain Resort

Council has made it a priority to establish positive working relationships with our friends at CMR. With the paving of 774, delivery of water and high speed Internet and the development of the ASP, we look forward to seeing CMR grow to its potential and truly become the anchor for tourism and recreation in our region.

Castle Provincial Park

With the establishment of the Park areas and now with the delivery of services to that area, we look forward to continued partnership opportunities with the Province to preserve and maintain our parks and forestry regions within the MD.

Enel

The recent investment and construction of the Castle Rock Ridge (Phase II) Project by ENEL has solidified wind energy in our region. We are currently just under 300 turbines in our MD and have recently undertaken studies and will be conducting further citizen engagement opportunities to see where wind may continue to be encouraged or desired.

Pieridae Energy

With the transfer of the majority of Shell's assets in our region to Pieridae, we look forward to developing a long lasting relationship that will benefit our community for decades to come. As we look back on the legacy of Shell in our MD we can only hope to establish the same connection and relationship with Pieridae going forward.

Joint Letters with MD Ranchland

As you all know, we have been closely watching the development of coal mines west of us in the Headwaters of our Oldman Watershed. Council along with Ranchland and other municipalities have added their voice to an ever increasing number of municipalities for the government of Alberta to ensure our water is not compromised in the process of allowing for these mines. Our Council greatly appreciates the various groups in our area that are studying and researching important information and then sharing it to everyone that is interested to help ensure our water is not polluted nor diverted from its original intent and protections under the Oldman Water Allocation Order. Keep up the great work everyone!

Community Group Activity and Engagement

Council supports community groups throughout our MD. This varies from volunteering, supporting grant applications and direct financial contributions. It is through these groups and communities that we make this place our home and Council is so thankful for the countless volunteers that make our MD so special.



Front row L - R : Quentin Stevick and Bev Everts
Back row L - R : Brian Hammond, Rick Lemire and Terry Yagos

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.

REVITALIZATION OF THE ALBERTA CERTIFIED WEED FREE FORAGE PROGRAM

Contaminated hay is one means by which invasive plants are spread. To address this, in 2000, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the North American Invasive Weed Management Association to bring the Certified Weed Free Forage program online in Alberta. While demand for these products remains high, there has been dwindling participation in the program, which is largely attributed to lack of awareness of the program itself.

It is our intention to work with producers, municipalities, and the province to facilitate, coordinate and revitalize the Alberta Certified Weed Free Forage program and bring more certified weed free forage on the market in Alberta.

AISC will provide general program oversight, including facilitation, record keeping, and program administration; we will provide training opportunities for Weed Inspectors that are interested in becoming Certified Weed Free Forage Inspectors; we will work with program participants to develop and distribute weed free forage identifiers (e.g., tags, twine, etc.). Also, we will actively and strategically promote the program to potential producers and buyers. Weed Free Forage inspections can only be conducted by those with authority under the Weed Control Act (e.g., Weed Inspectors). As such, the actual inspections and certification issuance can only be conducted by Weed Inspectors who have taken recent (within 3 years) Certified Weed Free Forage Inspector Training.

Municipal participation is voluntary but encouraged! Municipalities may customize their program to suit their needs. For example, individual municipalities may choose to implement a fee for inspections, mileage, etc. Participating municipalities will be required to submit annual records of inspections conducted. The AISC will maintain master records of all forage certified weed free.



**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

PREMIX SALE

Our Premixed Herbicide contains 2,4-D and Banvel as well as a dye to keep track of where you sprayed. We sell it in 10L jugs that you can order and pay for during the work week (8:00 to 4:30) by phoning 403-627-3130 and then pick up at the above mentioned Ag Services shop on Thursdays. We will start selling it by May 10th for pickup on May 13th.



DAME'S ROCKET

Dame's Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*) is a member of the Mustard (*Brassicaceae*) family.

Dame's Rocket is a beautiful blooming plant, but it is very aggressive in grass, hay and pasture, quickly establishing and potentially taking over native prairie or tame hay. Planting Phlox (*Phlox paniculata*) or Baptisia (*Baptisia australis*) would be a better choice for our area. See MD of Pincher Creek Ag Services for 'Grow Me Instead' pamphlets that suggest other ideas when potentially planting plants that are invasive. Also check any "wildflower" seed packets you may purchase to ensure that they do not contain Dame's Rocket seeds or other invasive plant seeds.

CONTROLLING DAME'S ROCKET

Pulling is an effective way to control this plant, but if plants are pulled while in bloom, do not compost them, as the seeds can still ripen and spread. Bag the plants for landfilling, or bring them to the Ag Services shop at the Pincher Creek Airport and drop them off in our 'Weed Bin' for proper disposal. As well, we sell a pre-mixed herbicide that can be used to control this weed if in flower and get rid of it if sprayed in the spring or fall. Herbicides can be applied in late fall when native plants are dormant, but the dame's rocket basal leaf rosettes are still green and vulnerable to sprays.

ROADSIDE SPRAYING

The MD of Pincher Creek Roadside Spraying Program for weed control will commence anytime from May until October 31, weather depending. AES Spray Trucks are equipped with low drizzle nozzles to greatly reduce off-target application and applicators are constantly monitoring wind speed and direction.

As per Policy C-AES-601B, residents may enter into a "No Spray Zone" agreement which holds the landowner responsible for weed control within the designated area of the right of way.

"NO SPRAY ZONE" AGREEMENTS MUST BE RENEWED ANNUALLY

Please contact 403-627-3130 for more information.

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

Please note it is very important and mandatory every year to complete request forms for

- Dust Control
- Snow Removal
- Grading Private Driveways

Regarding **Dust Control**. Please note we will not be using Lignosulfonate (Ligno) this year. We will be using a combination of MG30 (Magnesium Chloride) and Calcium Chloride. We anticipate this will be a much more efficient product.

GRASS CUTTING

Grass cutting is completed to minimize drifting snow, create better visibility for drivers, avoid attracting wild-life to the road edges, and in some cases to control undesirable vegetation. Mower operators are focused on their task to ensure they completely remove the target vegetation without causing damage to other structures such as culverts, sign posts and guard rails. Keep this in mind as you approach and pass a roadside mower. Please allow as much distance as possible between the mower and your vehicle to minimize the potential of being struck by a rock or other material. During periods of hot, dry weather when the fire risk becomes elevated, you may notice a water truck operating in the same area. Roadside grass cutting is typically done once per year on all arterial, collector and local roads. Some undeveloped roads may be cut depending on the type and amount of traffic. Mowing will begin in a specific division and continue around the municipality until completed.



PERMITS FOR HAY CUTTING

The Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9 is accepting applications for cutting of hay on municipal road rights-of-way. Applications will be accepted from those property owners immediately adjacent to a right-of-way until June 15th. Applications from other property owners within the MD will be considered from June 15th until June 29th. Applications received after June 29th will not be considered.

With road construction and weed spraying season coming up, the M.D. wants to ensure that all our workers get home safely. Here are some tips on ensuring safe travels through our Municipality this season:

- Pay attention to signage: Warning signs are posted in advance of the construction zone. Construction zone speed limits will be posted.
- Be patient! Expect delays and leave early as needed.
- Slow down! Obey the posted speed limits. Remember, the speed limit applies if it's posted whether there are workers present or not.



Election 2021

MD of Pincher Creek

The Province of Alberta recognizes the importance of diversity in decision-making bodies, learn about municipalities and the role of municipal elected officials to start planning your own election campaign.

Key Dates:

- **Nomination Deadline September 20, 2021 at noon**
(Nominations for the general election are open between January 1, 2021 and noon on September 20, 2021)
 - Early Voting *TBD
- **Election Day October 18, 2021**

For up to date information on the 2021 Municipal Election—please see our website at www.mdpinchercreek.ab.ca

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

