

Photo by Norm Dyrvik

Rural Review



**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
BONNYVILLE NO. 87**

October 2018

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Rural Crime Open Houses

In a crime survey conducted by the M.D., residents noted vehicle theft is one of the main concerns in our region.

As part of the Rural Crime Prevention Program, Peace Officer Dan Hansen hosts a number of Crime Prevention open houses. During November and December and into 2019, Hansen will be hosting open houses regarding vehicle theft.

He will cover the most popular vehicles that are stolen and have some tips to keep your vehicles (including farm and commercial ve-



hicles) safe.

Currently, open houses are scheduled for:

- Willow Prairie Hall, La Corey -

Nov. 1 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

- Goodridge Hall - Nov. 20 from 7 p.m to 9 p.m.
- Cherry Grove Community Hall - Dec. 4 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

More dates will be announced soon. Keep an eye on our Facebook page (facebook.com/MDBonnyville) or our website (md.bonnyville.ab.ca) for up-to-date information. Dates will also be published in our December edition of Rural Review. For more information on these open houses, contact Hansen at 780-812-3332.

Muriel Lake Bin Site Update

The opening of the new Muriel Lake Bin Site has been delayed.

The early brush with winter, coupled with the recent, excessive rainy weather, has delayed the contractor, who is currently working on another M.D. project.

M.D. Waste Supervisor Brad Ollen hopes the weather will clear up soon, which will allow the contractor to begin construction of the new bin site. Ollen is still optimistic the bin site can be open by the end of the year.

The fencing and paving of the site has been scheduled to happen in 2019.

Celebrating rural beauty

On August 23, the M.D. hosted an Agriculture Services Board tour and announced the winners of the second annual Rural Beautification Contest.

Councillor Mike Krywiak present-

ed Nick and Nancy Ozero with the Farmstead Award (left), while Kristen and Kristy (not pictured) Mack received the Acreage Award.

Details for the 2019 contest will be announced in the spring.



Clubroot on the move in the M.D.

Every summer, Municipal District of Bonnyville Assistant Ag Fieldman, Janice Boden goes hunting. But she never wants to find what she's on the hunt for.

Since 2015, Boden and summer staff have been conducting clubroot inspections on every canola field in the M.D.

Clubroot, a soil disease that presents itself in canola crops, has been spreading throughout the province since 2003, when it was first found in Sturgeon County. The disease attacks the roots of the canola plant, growing a club around the root, which essentially starves the crop of nutrition and water, effecting yields at the very least, and destroying an entire crop at the very most.

"We're seeing clubroot from the Flat Lake area through to Glendon and over to Franchere," Boden said. "It's coming in from the southwest corner and spreading."

Boden found two infected fields in 2015. It was at this time the M.D. started working with the County of St. Paul to spread awareness and education to producers in both rural communities to help slow the spread.

Alberta and Agriculture and Forestry pegs the spread of clubroot at about

20 miles per year.

However, in 2016, mostly due to drought-like conditions, there were no canola fields in the M.D. identified as containing clubroot infected soil.

In 2017, Boden found two additional fields had been infected. In 2018, as of September 20, she has found one newly infected field.

When clubroot was first detected, the M.D. went on the offensive, and created a policy for dealing with clubroot.

Once the disease is found, farmers cannot plant canola in the field again for at least four years.

The M.D., along with the County of St. Paul also conduct yearly producers meetings, where they discuss how the disease is progressing, what is new in the fight against eradicating the disease, and how farmers can help slow down the spread.

This year, the focus is really on "Knock It Off" - a campaign to have farmers clean as much dirt off of their equipment as possible, before moving to another field.

"We know that's been difficult this year with the wet weather,"

Boden said. "But if we can focus on that, we can really slow this down."

Clubroot spores can be found in soil up to 20 years after it is first detected.

Boden also inspected canola fields for blackleg, another disease that occurs in times of high humidity. This can be controlled by planting blackleg-resistant canola seeds.

With fall coming, Boden encourages canola producers to read over the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan at [www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex11519](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex11519).

Boden says there will be another producers meeting coming up in late fall or early spring. Keep an eye on the M.D.'s Facebook page (facebook.com/MDBonnyville), for more information on this event.



M.D. welcomes new CAO

As of October 9, Luc Mercier has assumed the role as the M.D.'s new CAO.

Mercier comes to the M.D. after being CAO in Woodlands County for the past 16 years. He has spent the last 28 years working in municipal government, including eight years as the director of Assessment and Development

Services.

"I'm looking forward to working with the Municipal District of Bonnyville Council and staff," he said. "My wife and I have driven around the M.D. and love the area."

Mercier is an avid outdoorsman, and enjoys skiing, quadding, camping and fishing.

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Having a legible address sign is important - not only so visitors can find you, but also so that emergency services (fire, ambulance, police) can find you.

If you need your sign replaced, please contact our GIS/Mapping office at 780-826-3171, or go to bit.ly/RAsignrequest to order a new sign online.



2018 Road Projects Update

There were 30 projects on the 2018 Road Project list for the M.D.'s Transportation and Utilities Department.

As of September 21, 22.5 of those projects had been completed, despite the very wet spring and summer our region experienced.

“Unfortunately, due to the weather, we weren’t able to accomplish as much as we had hoped,” said T & U Director, Darcy Zelisko. “However, we will continue to work on the project list, as long as the weather cooper-

ates.”

Zelisko said some projects were also delayed due to having to relocate some utility services.

The remaining road construction projects that were approved in 2018 will be carried forward, and contracted out for completion in 2019.

See the list below for an update on completed projects. T & U updates are also available in Council Highlights, which are typically published on our website on the second and fourth Thursday of each month.

Road Construction			
Ward	Location	Miles	Type
1	Twp. Rd. 605 from Rge. Rd. 440 to 442	2	Reconstruction
3	Rge. Rd. 474 from Twp. Rd. 614 to 615	1	New Construction
3	Rge. Rd. 494 from Twp. Rd. 604 to 603	1	Reconstruction
4	Twp. Rd. 640 from Rge. Rd. 471 to 473	2	Reconstruction
5	Twp. Rd. 622 from Rge. Rd. 435 to 440	1	Reconstruction
*5	Twp. Rd. 620, east and west of Hwy. 892 (see side bar)	1.5	Reconstruction
5	Twp. Rd. 625 from Rge. Rd. 442 to 443	1	Reconstruction
6	Twp. Rd. 630 from Rge. Rd. 415 to City of Cold Lake	2	Reconstruction
6	Twp. Rd. 615 from Rge. Rd. 414A to 415A	1.25	Reconstruction
Road Oiling, Rip & Relay			
3	Twp. Rd. 604 from Rge. Rd. 481 to 482	1	New Oiling
3	Rge. Rd. 482 from Twp. Rd. 604 to 610	2	New Oiling
3	Twp. Rd. 612, west from Hwy. 881	1.5	New Oiling
3	Rge. Rd. 485 from Hwy. 660 to Twp. Rd. 610	2	Rip & Relay
3	Twp. Rd. 604 from Hwy. 882 to Rge. Rd. 483	1	Rip & Relay
4	Rge. Rd. 451, north of Hwy. 55	.5	Oiling/Dust Control
4	Rge. Rd. 461 from Twp. Rd. 620 to 622	2	New Oiling
4	Rge. Rd. 470, north from Twp. Rd. 622	1.5	New Oiling
4	Rge. Rd. 453A, north from Hwy. 55	1.5	Dust Control Option
5	Rge. Rd. 442, south of Twp. Rd. 632	1	New Oiling
5	Rge. Rd. 434, south of Hwy. 55	1	New Oiling
Paving Projects			
1	Rge. Rd. 452 (Lessard), Hwy. 28 to Twp. Rd. 620	1.5	Paving Overlay
2	Twp. Rd. 611A, Hwy. 28 to Rge. Rd. 461	1.75	Base Paving
2	Twp. Rd. 604A, Rge. Rd. 470 to Summer Village of Bonnyville Beach	1.75	Cement Stabilize and Base Pave
2	Twp. Rd. 463A, Sunset View Service Roads, Moose Lake	1	Cement Stabilize and Base Pave
3	Rge. Rd. 485 from Twp. Rd. 614 to Hwy. 660	2	Paving - Top Lift
4	Rge. Rd. 452 (Lessard), Twp. Rd. 622 to 624	2	Paving Overlay
5	Twp. Rd. 622 from Rge. Rd. 444 to Hwy. 892	3	Pavement Overlay
6	Twp. Rd. 630 from Rge. Rd. 413 to 415	2	Base Paving
6	Twp. Rd. 630 from Rge. Rd. 415 to City of Cold Lake	2	Base Paving
6	Baywood Road, from Twp. Rd. 631 to 633	2	Paving - Top Lift

Legend

-  Completed
-  In Progress
-  Held over until 2019

* the west portion of this reconstruction project has been completed, with the east side slated to be done in 2019.

A message from the Reeve



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Water. An essential element of life.

But, also an incredibly destructive force of nature.

Unfortunately, many residents in the Municipal District of Bonnyville can attest to that fact.

It has been an extremely bad year for the M.D. in terms of water issues. The list is a long one: Moose Lake, Country Lane/Countryside Estates, Birch Grove, Doonanco Drainage, Muriel Creek, a multitude of beaver dams and road projects carried over to next year. The list keeps getting longer as the precipitation refuses to let up. There are no quick fixes for a vast majority of the flood mitigation projects.

While the M.D.'s flood mitigation issues are complicated, I want to assure residents that M.D. staff are working flat out to put solutions in place. The problem with most water issues is that the M.D. cannot work alone to solve the situations. We must work with Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP), the federal Fisheries and Oceans Department, neighbouring municipalities, industry, surrounding landowners, and of course Mother Nature – who, this year, is not in a cooperative mood.

Staff are doing their best to keep up with destroying beaver dams. But, with over 500 beavers taken out during the season, the rodents appear to have the upper hand in this war as well.

Where I live in the M.D., east of Ardmore, for the first time ever, we have experienced three, three-inch rainfall events. We also started off this spring with more water in our fields than I have ever seen before. Talking to residents throughout the M.D., I am hearing that there is water where there has not been

water for a long time, if ever.

Really, the only happy people I have encountered are those residents living on Muriel Lake. They are really glad to see the lake level rising.

It sometimes seems the M.D. is well on its way to reaching its end goal, and Mother Nature throws a curveball at us. Residents in Country Lane and Countryside Estates were watching the solution to their water issues being put in place, when a recent weather microburst drowned some homeowners out again. Believe me, M.D. staff were in disbelief and certainly frustrated as well.

In April, Council approved a motion to make a request to the Minister of AEP to remove the weir on the Mooselake River. As of the end of September, the M.D. has not heard back from the Minister. The M.D. is monitoring the river with a drone to make sure there are no blockages that can impede flow. We have also contacted MLA Scott Cyr to make our concerns known to the Minister.

As we all watch the weather anxiously, especially our producers who want to get the crops off the fields, the M.D. is doing as much as it can to complete work on all ongoing projects before the cold temperatures hit. Although, for some projects, such as the Lessard Bridge and the removal of the Vezeau Beach docking system, we need that freeze up.

We do know that Spring 2019 may bring additional water issues. Our long-time farmers say we are heading into a wet period. There could be a lot of formerly wet areas that reclaim themselves. It then becomes an issue of where to drain the excess water.

The M.D. will continue to do what it can, within its mandate, to fix drainage issues quickly and remove water. As the trouble spots are dealt with, the M.D. will undertake steps to initiate the development of a Drainage Masterplan. That massive, and complicated document, will take a number of years to produce.

Meet Your Councillors



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