

IN THE NEWS...

Bonnyville Airport Getting Upgraded

After assuming operations of the Bonnyville Airport in November 2020, the M.D. is moving ahead with upgrades and operational improvements in 2021.

"Logistically, it made sense for the M.D. to take over the operations and maintenance of the airport, as we have the resources and experience available," said Reeve Greg Sawchuk. "The improvements to the taxiway and drainage will be good for the airport and the community, and we look forward to engaging with users to explore new opportunities and events."

The biggest upgrade will be in the form of a new taxiway being built at the airport, located on Hwy. 41, just north of the Town of Bonnyville. The project, which is currently in the design phase, was started by the airport's former owner, the Town of Bonnyville. Construction is scheduled to begin this spring. Other upgrades to the unmanned airport include renovations to the terminal, upgrades to the lighting systems and wildlife fencing. The estimated total capital costs in 2021 are just over \$2 million.

"Airport maintenance is important," said Chris McCorkell, M.D. Foreman responsible for the airport. "In addition to the oil and gas industry, Alberta Health Services, RCMP, and STARS also utilize this airport. It's an important facility for the community."



M.D. Reeve and chair of the Bonnyville Regional Water Commission, Greg Sawchuk (right), along with Cold Lake Regional Utility Services Commission chair and City of Cold Lake Councillor Bob Buckle (left) recently signed the supply agreement for the new regional waterline. Water from Cold Lake will soon be on tap in Bonnyville.
Photo supplied by City of Cold Lake

Snowmobiles destroying trails at Muriel Lake M.D. Park

Parks, Recreation & Culture staff have been dealing with the destruction of the set cross-country ski trails at Muriel Lake M.D. Park this winter.

Snowmobiles are not permitted in the park, as per Bylaw 1624. The minimum fine is \$200, but fines could go up to as much as \$600. M.D. Peace Officers can also impound the vehicles.

"It's frustrating for sure," said Manager of Parks, Recreation & Culture, Rodney Guilbault. "It's also creating dangerous conditions for the skiers that use the trails. We want to make sure the park is an enjoyable and safe place for skiers, hikers and bikers."

Peace Officers will be increasing patrols around the park and Parks staff will be installing more signs about snowmobiles not being permitted in the park.

To report a snowmobile in the park, please call 780-812-3332. To report unsafe trail conditions, please call 780-826-3171.



FEBRUARY 2021

2021 BUDGET AND BUSINESS PLAN PASSED



Council passed the 2021 Budget and Business Plan at its final meeting of 2020, held on December 16.

Despite a challenging year in the midst of a global pandemic, and an anticipated revenue gap of about \$1 million due to changes in the provincial assessment review model, Council intends to hold the Mill Rate in 2021.

The 2021 Budget shows Council continuing with infrastructure and recreation priorities including:

- Improving infrastructure (including bridge repairs, drainage projects and construction) and maintenance - \$20.02 million
- Installing a new chairlift at Kinsoo Ridge - \$2.7 million
- Developing and constructing trails throughout the M.D.
- Continuing the expansion of the Cold Lake M.D. Campground
- Operating and updating the Bonnyville Airport

"The 2021 Budget is a forward-looking document for the M.D.," said Reeve Greg Sawchuk. "It recognizes the current economic climate while providing long-term planning for recreation and infrastructure. The goal is to meet the priority needs of all our ratepayers and continue to be a leader in economic diversity to provide more opportunities in our region."

You can read the entire document online at bit.ly/2021mdbudget.

2021 MUNICIPAL ELECTION NOMINATIONS OPEN

The Municipal District of Bonnyville will be holding a municipal election on Monday, October 18, 2021. Voters will elect one Reeve and six Councillors.

NEW in 2021 — Candidates may submit their nomination papers as of January 1, 2021.

The Nomination Form and a deposit of \$100 (cash, certified cheque, debit, credit card, or money order payable to Municipal District of Bonnyville) must be filed with the Returning Officer during the

nomination period from January 1, 2021 until noon on September 20, 2021, at the M.D. Administration Office, located at 4905-50 Ave. in Bonnyville.

Nomination forms, policies, bylaws and other resources are available on the M.D.'s website at md.bonnyville.ab.ca/454/2021-Municipal-Election.

For more information on the election, contact Returning Officer, Esther Quiambao at 780-826-3171 or equiambao@md.bonnyville.ab.ca.

MEET YOUR M.D. COUNCIL



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BUILDING AN ENERGY CONSERVATION CULTURE

Joad Clement
Municipal Energy Officer

Employee and Visitor Engagement

Our Energy Management Team (11 members across all departments) continues its employee engagement activities to further build a culture of energy conservation within our municipality. One of the simplest ways to reduce utility costs and emissions is to minimize electrical heating when natural gas is available on site. To that end, we introduced guidelines to reduce thermostat temperature set points in any vestibule heated by an electric heater.

Furthermore, we verified that proper temperature setbacks are programmed in facilities not occupied overnight since this means reduced heat losses and energy costs for the M.D. For shops that are not occupied regularly, we wrote down procedures that indicate the recommended unoccupied temperature setbacks, for example 10°C compared to 16°C set previously. These measures will translate into a few hundred dollars in annual savings per building, which adds up to thousands of dollars per year across all our facilities.

In partnership with electricity and gas utility providers, we were also able to lower the electricity tariffs applied at four of our facilities and de-energize one natural gas and one electrical meter that were underused, resulting overall in approximately \$4,300 in savings per year.

Opportunity For M.D. Businesses

In early February 2021, Emissions Reduction Alberta (ERA) will be launching the Energy Savings for Business program, which aims to stimulate the market adoption of new energy efficiency technologies among small- and medium-scale enterprises. The program offers up to \$55 million in total funding, using money coming from the carbon tax and large final emitters payments. There is \$250,000 available per project, to a maximum of \$500,000 per company, to fund projects that will drive economic activity and enable business growth. Visit the following site to learn more about this upcoming program: eralberta.ca/energy-savings-for-business/.

I would be pleased to help M.D.-based businesses with their program applications if they need assistance. Simply contact me at jclement@md.bonnyville.ab.ca.

SHELTERBELT PROGRAM TAKING ROOT

The M.D.'s annual shelterbelt program is coming back in 2021.

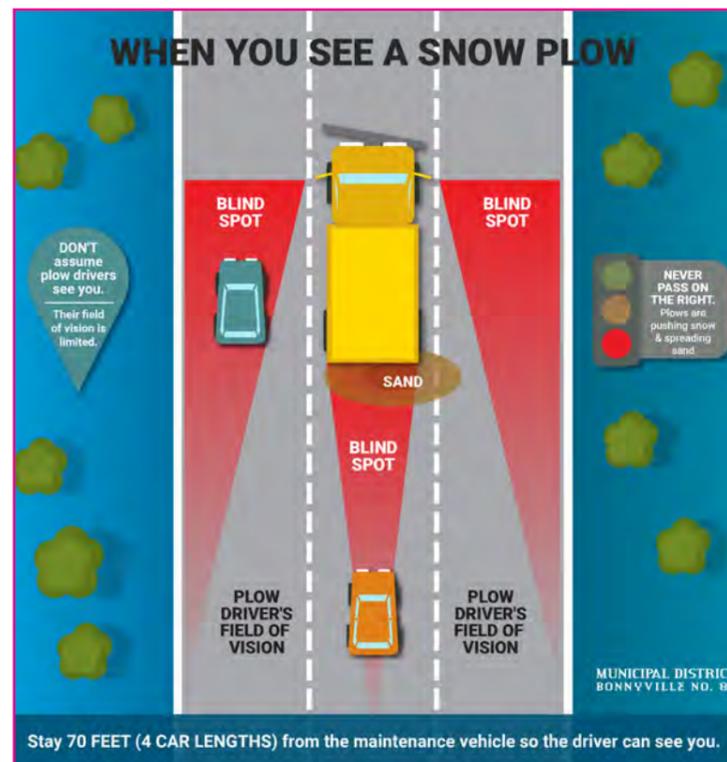
The program gives M.D. residents the opportunity to buy a variety of shelterbelt trees, including fruit varieties and bushes, at a discount.

Shelterbelt trees are beneficial for many reasons – slowing wind to trap snow which increases moisture, decreasing soil erosion, reducing wind damage to crops, increasing pollinator and wildlife habitats, and helping to create a barrier to reduce drifting snow and make M.D. roads safer in the winter months.

Keep an eye on our website (md.bonnyville.ab.ca) and Facebook page (facebook.com/MDBonnyville) for program details and launch dates.

Please note – the shelterbelt tree sale is online only.

For more information, call our Agriculture Services Department at 780-826-3951.



SKIING INTO THE SUNSET, THREE NIGHTS A WEEK

Kinosoo Ridge is switching things up a bit for the month of February.

Starting February 3, the Ridge will be open for night skiing on Thursdays and Fridays, in addition to Saturdays.

February Schedule



Sunday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tube Park will have three, two-hour time slots - 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m.

Monday: closed

Tuesday: closed

Wednesday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tube Park closed.

Thursday: 1 to 8 p.m. Half day runs from 4:30 to 8 p.m., last two hours are 6 to 8 p.m. Tube Park will have two, two-hour time slots – 3 to 5 p.m. and 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Friday: 1 to 8 p.m. Half day runs from 4:30 to 8 p.m., last two hours are 6 to 8 p.m. Tube Park will have two, two-hour time slots – 3 to 5 p.m. and 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Night skiing from 5 to 8 p.m. Tube Park will have four, two-hour time slots – 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 12:45 to 2:45 p.m., 3 to 5 p.m., and 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Family Day (Monday, February 15, 2021): 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tube Park will

have three, two-hour time slots - 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m.

Kinosoo Ridge continues to run at reduced capacity due to COVID-19.

Lift tickets/Tube Park passes must be purchased online. Tickets are not available at the chalet. However, as long as tickets/passes have not sold out for the day, you can now purchase your lift tickets/Tube Park passes on the day of your visit.

Rentals must be secured at least eight hours in advance of your visit. This allows our rental staff to arrange equipment and to lessen your wait time in the chalet. We recommend booking your rentals at the same time as your lift tickets.

Order your lunch from the chairlift!

Kinosoo's new lift tickets now have a QR code printed on them. Scan it with the camera on your smartphone, and it will take you to the online ordering portal. Pick your favourite meal or snack from the Kinosoo Kitchen, and it will be ready for you to pick up. As of the printing of this newsletter (January 28, 2021), there is still no indoor dining.

We've had a few cold days out at the hill. Manager Jurgen Grau keeps a close eye on the tem-

perature. Once the thermometer and/or the "feels like" temperature hits -32, the hill will be closed for the day. At the very latest, the decision will be made at 9 p.m. the evening before. If the hill is



closed, rain checks will be issued. Follow Kinosoo Ridge at facebook.com/skikinoooridge for updates and more information.

Please remember – face coverings are mandatory at Kinosoo Ridge. This includes inside the chalet and out on the hill. Face coverings include balaclavas, face masks, scarves, and disposable face masks.

