



Spring News & Views

Warm Greetings to everyone from your Reeve and Council. The year began with a much milder January than usual, but the month of February reminded everyone just what the possibilities of winter in Southern Alberta can be. Council's number one priority continues to be our roads. Construction and bridge repairs will commence as soon as weather permits. Please exercise patience when encountering construction zones so that these repairs can occur in a safe and efficient manner.

Council and Administration continue to work through a number of challenges and changes in the first quarter of 2019, which when resolved will better serve our Municipality. I will touch briefly on a few. First, I believe we are fortunate indeed to have been able to bring together, over these last several months, a very strong, most capable and enthusiastic senior management team. Working under the direction of our new CAO, all our staff, with their own unique talents, abilities and experience will, to the best of their ability, see to the interests of the public we serve well into the future.

Budget decisions for 2019 were particularly difficult this year. Increasing costs of providing municipal services and higher expectations for service levels have resulted in marginal increases in taxation rates. Coupled with some decline in the assessment base and the uncertain future of provincial funding programs such as the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) one wonders how rural municipal infrastructure will fare going forward. Nevertheless, we are looking forward, as is our provincial association (Rural Municipalities of Alberta) to establishing a good working relationship with the newly elected government in an effort to better address the importance of rural Alberta and how it can be sustained for the benefit of all Albertans. Another 2019 initiative for MD Council will be the finalizing of a number of inter-municipal collaboration frameworks (otherwise known as "ICF's"), with neighboring jurisdictions. Inter-municipal Development Plans or "IDPs" are the central focus; but also intended are more detailed discussions around issues, concerns and interests we have in common. The M.D. is proud to support the Town in hosting the 50th Southern Alberta Summer Games, July 4-7, 2019 in Pincher Creek. This summer also, the M.D. and the Town of Pincher Creek are supporting Heritage Acres Farm Museum as they present the world renowned RCMP Musical Ride during the annual show July 25-27, 2019.

It is with pleasure our Council announces that we now have our very own Municipal flag. It will be flown proudly from the flagpole at our municipal site, be displayed in our Council Chambers and at Provincial conventions in Edmonton twice yearly! On behalf of my Council colleagues, I wish you all the very best for the coming summer months but especially for those on the land, a successful and productive growing season.

Regards, Reeve Brian Hammond



In an effort to get relevant information out to the community on a more regular basis, the M.D. of Pincher Creek is moving forward with a new vision for communication. This includes a more visible presence on social media, Facebook (@MdPincherCreek) and Twitter (@md_of_pc).

We welcome community groups and non-profit groups to send in any material they feel would be beneficial for the community. Whether this be upcoming events, highlighting projects or simply an update from their division. Any material received may be posted to our social media accounts (as time allows) and could be in the next edition of the newsletter! If your group has anything you would like to share, contact the M.D. at communications@mdpincercreek.ab.ca.

The M.D. of Pincher Creek welcomes your opinion for distribution and any comments you may have.

Are You Registered For TIPP?

The Tax Installment Payment Program (TIPP) is an easy, convenient and secure way to pay your property taxes. By signing up for TIPP, M.D. taxpayers can make monthly payments and avoid late penalties.



Information on TIPP

- Deadline to register is June 25, 2019.
- Monthly payments are made by an electronic funds transfer.
- Payments are re-calculated twice. January to June are equal to 1/12 of the taxes levied in the prior year. June through December payments are levied based on current taxation year.
- The TIPP contract must be completed, signed and returned to the Municipal office in order to be eligible for the payment plan.
- A tax notice will still be mailed to all registered owners; however those persons using TIPP are NOT required to pay the balance by the due date. They continue making monthly payments as arranged. No penalties are incurred on the pre-authorized plan.
- The plan can be cancelled via written authorization from the registered owner of the property two weeks prior to the next scheduled payment. All unpaid taxes become due and are subject to penalties in accordance with Bylaw No. 1264-15, Tax Penalty Bylaw.
- Any payments returned for non-sufficient funds, frozen accounts etc., may result in termination of the plan. The tax account would then be subject to all relevant penalties.
- In order to participate in the program your prior year tax account must be paid in full.

Where do my property tax dollars go?

The M.D. of Pincher Creek sets the annual budget needed to pay for services that benefit all residents. The budget is paid from property taxes, plus other sources of funding including grants, permits, etc.

Your municipal property taxes support various services including (but not limited too):

*Road Maintenance *Bridge Inspection /Maintenance*Snow Plowing
*Emergency Management*Use of Town Recreation Facilities*Landfill*

Your 2019 Combined Assessment and Tax Notice includes both municipal tax details, school taxes and levy details. The M.D. of Pincher Creek collects school taxes and levies on behalf of the Alberta School Foundation Fund, Pincher Creek Foundation, Pincher Creek Emergency Services Commission and Designated Industrial Property.

Property Tax Payment Information

Property Taxes are due on **June 30** each year unless you are enrolled in TIPP. The M.D. of Pincher Creek offers a variety of payment options:

1. Payable at most financial institutions. Please check with your financial institution to ensure they accept payment for the M.D.
2. Via telephone or online banking. When paying online, use the 7 digit roll number as your account number. If paying on multiple roll numbers, please pay each individually.
3. Tax payments may be mailed, made in person, or put in our drop box: M.D. of Pincher Creek, Box 279 Pincher Creek Alberta TOK 1W0. Mailed payments must be date stamped, by Canada Post, June 30 or earlier, no exceptions. Please allow adequate time for mail pickup and delivery.
4. Postdated cheques are accepted. Please ensure the bottom portion of the notice accompanies payment.

*Penalties on unpaid taxes are applied in accordance to Bylaw No. 1264-15, Tax Penalty Bylaw. A 2% penalty will be applied on all current year's taxes outstanding on July 2, and an additional 4% penalty will be applied on November 1. All outstanding taxes on January 1 are assessed an additional 12% penalty.

Does your 2019 Assessment include Designated Industrial Property? These are properties regulated by the Alberta Energy Regulator, National Energy Board, Alberta Utilities Commission or Linear property assessed by the province. For more information about the changes to this legislation visit <https://www.alberta.ca/centralized-industrial-property-assessment.aspx>

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.



DISTRICT FOUNDER A. W. FISH

Originally the foreman for the Stewart and Christie Ranch east of Pincher Creek, Arthur Walter Fish filed on his own homestead in the early 1890s. His property was noted for its shelter belt, trees which were supplied by the Northwest Territories government. The district of Fishburn is named after him, being a combination of his surname and the Scottish word for creek. A. W. Fish, seen in the attached portrait, was a charter member of the Fishburn School Board established in 1894.



Historical Information provided by the Pincher Creek and District Historical Society
P.O.Box 1226 Pincher Creek,
Alberta T0K1W0
403-627-3684

Email: fswuth.kbpv@gmail.com

Fishburn... Then and Now



In December of 2018, long time volunteer Eileen McGlynn approached Council on behalf of the Fishburn Municipal Park Committee. She was requesting signage for the park located in the NW 16-05-28 W4M. Council approved the request and installation of the sign. Unfortunately, the community lost Eileen before she was able to see the finished product.

Pictured is her grandson, Brad, who is an employee with the Municipal Districts Public Works department. He assisted in the installation of the Fishburn Municipal Park sign. The community will miss Eileen's dedication and passion with all her volunteer work and the M.D. Council and staff are pleased to have been part of the Fishburn Municipal Park signage dedication.



Did you know your concerns and compliments are conveyed to Council on a biweekly basis in the form of a call log? Specific information with regards to personal details are omitted, but the reason for the call is recorded. This allows Council to get an idea of what residents are inquiring about and where more effort needs to be placed. Call 403-627-3130 to speak with staff about your concerns or compliments.



Municipal Services Scoop Spring 2019



A little recruitment opportunity for Public Works seasonal workers... for the year 2030.

Livingstone Range School kindergarten class stopped in for a tour of the Public Works facility at the M.D. of Pincher Creek.



After a brief safety talk, they were able to have a closer look at some of the machines they see on the roads. It was so much fun to be able to show the kids the equipment and how it works. Thank you, teachers, staff and volunteers, for making this possible.

GRASS CUTTING

Grass cutting is completed to minimize drifting snow, create better visibility for drivers, avoid attracting wildlife 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.



Hay Permit Applications

Permits will be issued to adjoining property owners only upon receipt of a written application received by June 15 of each year. Written applications received from ratepayers who are not adjoining property owners will be accepted after June 15th of each year with permits being issued by the end of June.

In the event two or more written applications are received for the same municipal road rights-of-way, prior to the end of June, the rights-of-way requested will be allocated (divided) as equally as possible between the applicants.

Forms will be available on the M.D. website later in May.

Staff Highlights



Long time Division 3 Grader Operator Henry Dykstra retired earlier this year. After an incredible 42 years with the M.D. of Pincher Creek he left some big shoes to fill in our community! We thank Henry for all his dedication and wish him a stress free life full of success and happiness.

Council, at their meeting of March 26, 2019, presented Leo Reedyk with a retirement gift and praise for his time with the M.D. Leo retired from his position as the Director of Operations in January of this year after nine years with the organization. Council appreciates all the work Leo has put in and will miss his expertise and knowledge.

Coffee with Council
Tuesday June 18, 2019
6:30pm
Cowley Community Hall



Council, at their meeting on March 26, 2019, thanked Sheldon Steinke for his duration as our interim Chief Administrative Officer. Sheldon joined the M.D. office staff in June of 2018 and brought the kind of insight that stems from his wide range of experience in several venues including his long history in Municipal Government. He conveyed a positive willingness to join our organization and Council and staff wish him the very best in all his future endeavors.



A few weeks ago, Council and staff got together after hours to send our Public Works Superintendent Stu Weber off with a cheer as he leaves us, and the community, for another adventure.

Stu started with the M.D. in February of 2013, as the Assistant Public Works Superintendent, and later became the Public Works Superintendent. Throughout Stu's six years with the M.D., he oversaw many different projects, various weather anomalies, interesting road conditions and different Councils. He handled each and every task with professionalism and a dose of humour.

Although he will be missed by his colleagues, we all wish Stu the happiness and success that he deserves.

Welcome to the Team

The M.D. of Pincher Creek was pleased to welcome Troy MacCulloch as our Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). Troy officially started with the M.D. on March 4, 2019. His extensive experience in digital operations planning garnered him special recognition from Xerox, one of the world's most iconic corporations. He is noted for his hands-on management approach and for having relationship-building interpersonal skills that invite collaboration and trust.

Troy relocated to the area from Nova Scotia where he was a businessman as well as a Town Councillor for several years. While he was on Council, Troy contributed significantly to several Town Lead Committees including Police, Fire, Watershed, Age Friendly, Young Leaders, Glen Haven Seniors Facility, Source and Waste Water, Sports Hall of Fame, Regional Library Board, Shared Services and Planning Advisory. He also has been highly involved with volunteering within his community. Troy has wanted to live within sight of Alberta's Rocky Mountains since he first visited Calgary years ago. He is looking forward to becoming part of our historic community.

The Municipal District of Pincher Creek, Town of Pincher Creek and the Village of Cowley, collaborated in finding an experienced candidate for the Director of Emergency Management (DEM). Brett Wuth has accepted the position and throughout the year will be key in developing and implementing the regional emergency management program as well as training for staff. Brett is known for his professionalism and calm demeanor during tense situations, as well as a dedication to high-quality work. His main goal is to establish a top quality emergency management program for the safety of our communities.

Joining us in January was our Director of Finance, Meghan Dobie. Meghan grew up in the Crowsnest Pass, received her Bachelor of Commerce Degree from Griffith University in Gold Coast, Australia. Meghan holds both a CPA and CMA accounting designation and previously was a Senior Accountant in Calgary. Her fiancée is a teacher at Matthew Halton and she was delighted to be able to move closer and put down some roots in Pincher Creek. We look forward to a long and successful working relationship with Meghan as she joins the team at the M.D.

M.D. Council is looking for feedback from residents on recreation facilities in the area. What would your top 3 priorities be in regards to recreation facilities in the area? Something you want to see added? Improved upon? What do you feel is missing in our community? Please email your thoughts to info@mdpincercreek.ab.ca



Annual Blueweed Blitz
Saturday, July 13, 2019 10 AM

Christie Mines Road
(5429, Rg. Rd. 1-1)
Meet at the staging area for coffee and snacks
**** No Dogs Please ****



For More Information:
Christi Bustard
blueweedblitz@gmail.com
403-627-3714

Community Hall/Group Contacts

Division 1:
Twin Butte Community Society/Community Hall
 Chris 403-627-7571 or Katrina 403-999-9896
twinbuttehall@gmail.com

Division 2:
Fishburn Community Club/Community Hall
 Murray 403-627-8128

Division 3:
Beaver Mines Community Association/Gazebo Rental
beaverminescommunity@gmail.com

Division 4:
Cowley Hall Association 518 Railway Avenue
 403-628-3808 cindy@cowley.ca

Division 5:
Lundbreck Hall #304 1st Street Kim 403-628-2069

Windsor Heritage Drop In Centre
 100 Breckenridge Avenue
 Drop in centre for seniors (50 years and older). Centre is available to rent for functions with 40 people or less.
 Larry 403-628-3777
windsorheritagedropincentre@gmail.com

Willow Valley Community Hall
 Chapel Rock Road
 No running water or indoor bathrooms. It is a heated building.
 Wendy 403-628-2894
soapgal@shaw.ca

Maycroft Community Hall Association
 Seats 200 people. Kitchen and bathroom available. Located NW of Lundbreck, 25 min drive on Township Rd 101A
 Kathy 403-628-2330
*** please advise if this information is incorrect*

Upcoming Events for the Community

- May:**
- 5-11 Emergency Preparedness Week
 - 6-12 Communities in Bloom Week
 - 8,9,10 Friends of the Library Used Book Sale
 - 11 Beaver Mines Park Clean Up
 - 12 Mother's Day
 - 19-25 Public Works Week
 - 20 Victoria Day
 - 29 Day on the Creek
 - 25 Perennial Plant Exchange
 - 26 Cowley Lions Walk for Guide Dogs Castle River Rodeo Grounds 1:30 PM
- June:**
- 1 Twin Butte Hall Old Time Dance (tickets available at Lebel Mansion)
 - 2 Walk for Alzheimer's
 - 7 NAPI Day of Friendship
 - 8 Horse Show & Chuck Wagon Dinner at Heritage Acres
 - 9 Twin Butte Community Hall Spring Clean Up
 - 15-16 Used Clothing/Toy/Book Give-away
 - 15 Reuse Recycle Fair
 - 16 Father's Day
 - 16 Cowley Lions Fathers Day BBQ (for tickets contact 403-627-7825)
 - 16 Pincher Creek Cruise & Shine
 - 18 Coffee with Council at Cowley Community Hall
 - 21 Go Skateboarding Day
 - 21 National Aboriginal Day
 - 21 First Farmer's Market of the Season
- July:**
- 1 Canada Day Events
 - 3-6 Southern Alberta Summer Games in Pincher Creek
 - 5 Movie in the Park
 - 10 Group Weed Pull at the Minimum Security Camp
 - 13 Mud Bog
 - 13 Blue Weed Blitz (contact Christi Bustard 403-627-3714)
 - 17 Businesses in Bloom
 - 20 Flower and Quilt Show at Heritage Acres
 - 22 West Castle Wetlands Ecological Reserve Weed Pull
 - 26-28 Annual Show and RCMP Musical Ride at Heritage Acres

Community groups/not-for-profit groups. If you would like information posted to our social media, and in future editions of the M.D. newsletter, please email submissions to communications@mdpincercreek.ab.ca.

We will try to include your entire submission, however due to space restrictions we may not be able to include everything submitted. Thank you for your understanding.



Burn Permits are required 12 months of the year for any sort of burning, including fire pits, controlled burns, burning barrels within the Town and 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

Agricultural and Environmental Services

ROADSIDE SPRAYING

The M.D. of Pincher Creek Roadside Spraying Program for weed control will commence any time after May 6, 2019 until October 31, 2019.

AES Spray Trucks are equipped with low drift 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.



The Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) is seeking nominations for the 2020 Environmental Stewardship Award (ESA).

Nomination forms are available from the Alberta Beef Producers office or from ABP delegates. All cattle producers are encouraged to either enter or nominate another producer who they think may qualify. The competition is open to all cattle producers. Nomination forms are available from the Alberta Beef Producers office or from ABP delegates. All cattle producers are encouraged to either enter or nominate another producer who they think may qualify.

Deadline for nominations is July 15, 2019 and the winner will be announced at the ABP Annual General Meeting, December 2019.

Spotlight on Safety

Pincher Creek Regional Emergency Management Organization

Public Emergency Information Line
1-855-627-5365

- During a disaster, use trusted sources to get information
 - Alberta Emergency Alert (get the app)
 - Town and MD Social Media
 - Local Radio Stations
- Make a Family Plan
 - Have a meeting place for your family
 - Practice your plan
 - Copy important documents and have them ready
 - Have an out of town contact
- Have a 72-hour kit
 - Go to www.getprepared.gc.ca for a list of items

There will be a test of the **Alert Ready System** on cell phones on **Wednesday May 8 at 1:55 PM**

Be Emergency Ready

Emergency
Preparedness
Week



May 5-11, 2019 Canada.ca/emergency-preparedness-week Canada



A new Rural Crime Watch chapter is starting up in the Beaver Mines area. The group is looking for a person to take on the director position representing the Beaver Mines Area. Other areas involved are Twin Butte, Oldman Dam and Maycroft to name a few.

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/>

This is a great opportunity for an interested person to get involved in tackling this important issue. The Beaver Mines Community Association is looking forward to supporting her in this effort.

To learn more about the opportunity, please e-mail: swarcw@gmail.com

Development and Community Services

Regional Subdivision and Development Appeal Board

In light of changes to the *Municipal Government Act*, and the increasing complexity of a municipality finding and keeping enough members to maintain a Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB), the Oldman Regional Services Commission (ORRSC) members requested that ORRSC investigate the option of providing a Regional Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB) service for their Southern Alberta municipal members.

On March 12, 2019, Council for the M.D. of Pincher Creek passed Bylaw No. 1302-19, to establish a Chinook Intermunicipal Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (the Board). Also, on the same day, the M.D. entered into an agreement with ORRSC for Intermunicipal Subdivision and Development Appeal Board services. Under the Bylaw, the M.D. is to appoint two (2) members to the Board.

Council appointed current SDAB members Lois Johnston and Alan Vaughan to the Board. Council would like to send a heartfelt thank you to Dan McKim, Randy Baker and Dennis Lastuka for their participation with the SDAB, and for all their dedication and efforts to our community.

YOUR M.D. COUNCILLORS

Division One:

Quentin Stevick
CouncilDiv1@mdpincercreek.ab.ca
403-632-4166

Division Two:

Deputy Reeve Rick Lemire
CouncilDiv2@mdpincercreek.ab.ca
403-627-8380

Division Three:

Bev Everts
CouncilDiv3@mdpincercreek.ab.ca
403-627-4983

Division Four:

Reeve Brian Hammond
CouncilDiv4@mdpincercreek.ab.ca
403-627-4994

Division Five:

Terry Yagos
CouncilDiv5@mdpincercreek.ab.ca
403-628-2350

Crime Map for the M.D.



The M.D. currently has an agreement with the RCMP to provide a Community Policing Officer, who works closely with M.D. Administration on community policing.

The RCMP supports community engagement by providing the public with the tools, resources and information they need to uphold public safety – for themselves and for their communities. To this end, the RCMP has provided a Crime Map for the M.D.

- The online map enables the RCMP to share current criminal incidents.
- The database can be accessed by municipalities to display current crime occurrences (the last 14 days).

The RCMP chose the crimes that residents have the greatest potential for deterrence by using crime prevention strategies, mainly property crimes.

To view the crime map, visit our website at www.mdpincercreek.ab.ca and look under Departments/Community Policing.



Community Enhanced Policing

The M.D. would like to introduce and welcome Cst. Laurence Harvey as the Community Policing Officer. Cst. Harvey has been with the Pincher Creek Detachment for some time so she is familiar with the area we are confident the transition will be seamless.

Cst. Laurence Harvey is replacing Cst. Annie Starzynski who had been the M.D. Community Policing Officer since May 2016. Cst. Starzynski transferred to another community up North, where she will remain in the roll of a Community Policing Officer. Cst. Starzynski has been invaluable to the MD with interacting with the citizens in the region. We wish her well and are sure that her positive attitude and energetic personality will enhance her new community.