

UNSIGHTLY PREMISES? SPRING IS THE PERFECT TIME FOR CLEAN-UP

Do you or your neighbor have an unsightly yard? Here are some requirements according to Unsightly Premises By-law 1261-15.

1. An owner of property shall not cause or allow the property to be an unsightly premises.
2. An owner of property within a Hamlet shall not have more than two (2) unregistered vehicles on a parcel of land.
3. In determining whether a premises is an unsightly premises as defined in this Bylaw, a Bylaw Enforcement Officer shall have regard to the normal use and location of the property.

Definition of Unsightly Premises:

1. An excessive accumulation on the Premises of any waste, litter, refuse, garbage, ashes, papers, packages, containers, bottles, cans, human excrement or sewage or the whole part of an animal carcass, dirt, soil, gravel, rocks, sod, petroleum products, hazardous materials, disassembled equipment or machinery, broken household dishes and utensils, boxes, cartons and discarded fabrics;
2. presence of Abandoned Vehicles;
3. presence of Abandoned Equipment;
4. an excessive accumulation of Animal Material, Yard Material, Building Material and as defined in this By-law;
5. the lack of repair or maintenance of buildings, struc-

- tures or property, including, but not limited to, the significant deterioration or buildings, structures or improvements, or portions thereof;
6. broken or missing windows, siding, shingles, shutters, eaves or other building material;
 7. significant fading, chipping or peeling of painted areas of buildings, structure or improvements;
 8. the uncontrolled growth of grass, weeds, trees, shrubs or other vegetation and plants on any premises within a Hamlet

Enforcement is based upon receipt of a complaint, so if you have any questions please call the MD office.

Laura McKinnon – Development Officer (403) 627-3130

AdminDevOfr@mdpincercreek.ab.ca

RE-ZONING TO RURAL RECREATION? LET'S PAUSE FOR A MOMENT

It is no secret that the MD of Pincher Creek is quickly becoming a tourist attraction, drawing people from all over the country to our corner of the province. But where do all the people stay when they get here?

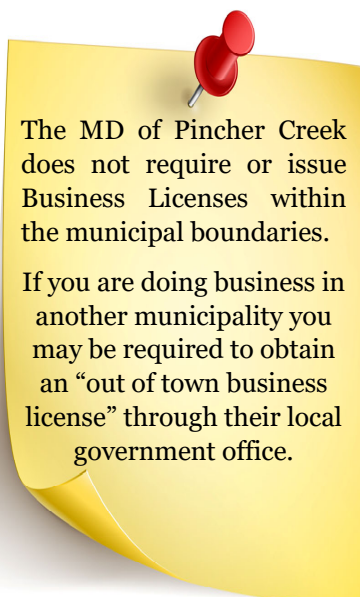
Rezoning to Rural Recreation has been a point of interest recently for some MD residents, with multiple applications coming forward to the Planning and Development department. In January 2023, Council passed Resolution 23/012 to not process any re-zoning applications to Rural Recreation 1 or Rural Recreation 2 until June 30, 2023 or until such time that required changes are made to Land Use Bylaw 1289-18.

This decision was made so administrative and planning support staff can research and prepare amendments for Land Use Bylaw 1289-18, specifically handling the interest in re-zoning to Rural Recreation and increased tourism.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT NEXT?

In the upcoming months, there will be a Public Hearing held for the proposed changes to Land Use Bylaw 1289-18. Council welcomes any and all input into the proposed amendments, once finished the first draft.

Description		2023 To date	2022	2021	2020
Dev Permits Issued	6 – Jan - Mar	6 -DO 0 -MPC	48 29 – DO 19 - MPC	65 46-DO 19- MPC	67 57-DO 10-MPC
Dev Applications Accepted	11 – Jan - Mar	11	49	70	67
Utility Permits Issued	2 – Jan - Mar	2	12	31	27
Subdivision Applications Approved	3 - Jan - Mar	3	8	20	18
Rezoning		0	5	0	0
Compliance Cert	3 – January	3	32	41	24



The MD of Pincher Creek does not require or issue Business Licenses within the municipal boundaries.

If you are doing business in another municipality you may be required to obtain an "out of town business license" through their local government office.

Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9



As we say goodbye to Winter and hello to Spring, we reflect on the opportunities and challenges we have met throughout this past season and look forward to the year ahead.

Coffee with Council resumed in Divisions 3 and 1 with plans to schedule the other divisions later in 2023. We have enjoyed the opportunity to hear directly from our ratepayers about issues they see in their Divisions. We look forward to meeting with Divisions 2, 4, and 5 in the coming months. Stay tuned for announcements of these dates and locations.

The 2023 Budget, passed last Fall, once again seeks to fund the services you have come to expect in a fiscally responsible manner. The economic climate continues to put pressure on MD finances, as we, like many of you, face soaring prices and supply chain issues. Our MD Team has a big year of capital projects planned. These projects are funded mainly through grants and reserves. Some of the major projects include the completion of the Beaver Mines Water and Wastewater Systems, installation of the Fisher Bridge replacement structure, Airport Runway Lighting Replacement, and large culvert replacements at Heath Creek and the Landfill road. We en-

courage all of our ratepayers to review the 2023 Budget on our website for a detailed list of all the capital projects.

Utility Bylaw 1344-22 came into effect on March 1, 2023. The new bylaw supports solid waste, water and wastewater services offered in the Hamlet of Lundbreck and Beaver Mines, along with our Rural users. Detailed information on these changes can be found later in the newsletter.

Council and senior staff are set to kick off the process of a Strategic Plan in May 2023. Strategic planning is the process of developing specific strategies that help to establish a direction for the organization. It helps set priorities and ensures all employees and stakeholders work toward common objectives. We look forward to working through this process in order to find alignment between our priorities and goals and set the MD on a clear path forward. We look forward to engaging our ratepayers where possible.

Council and staff wish you a happy Spring and Summer.

MD Council

MD of Pincher Creek
No. 9
1037 Herron Ave / Box
279 / Pincher Creek, AB /
ToKiWo

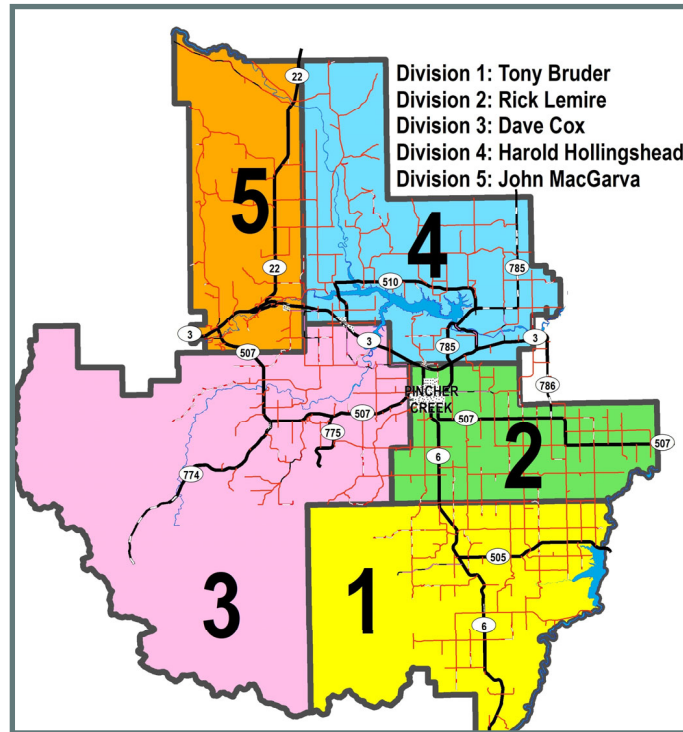
Phone: 403-627-3130 /
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info@mdpincercreek.ab
.ca

Spring 2023 News

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROPERTY ASSESSMENT VALUE AND PROPERTY TAXES

Assessment and taxation are very different. Although one impacts the other, each is a distinct and independent process. "Assessment" is the process of estimating the dollar value of a property for taxation purposes. This value is used to calculate the amount of taxes that will be charged to the owner of the property. "Taxation" is the process of applying a tax rate to a property's assessed value to determine the taxes payable by the owner of that property.

The property tax system is comprised of two distinct processes—preparing the assessments, and setting the tax rate. The assessor's job is to prepare assessments. The municipal council is responsible for completing the second process, setting the tax rate.



Division 1: Tony Bruder
Division 2: Rick Lemire
Division 3: Dave Cox
Division 4: Harold Hollingshead
Division 5: John MacGarva

IMPORTANT TAX DATES:

- *June 30 – 2023 taxes are due
- *July 1, 2023 – 2% penalty on current tax owing
- *November 1, 2023 – 4% penalty on current tax owing
- *January 1, 2024 – 12% penalty on total outstanding tax balance



The focus of Rural Crime Watch is promoting Crime Prevention through awareness, education and encouraging reporting of suspicious activity when observed. The Rural Crime Watch works in cooperation with the local RCMP detachments. For more information, visit the website: www.ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca

ECO CENTRE INFORMATION



- The Eco Centre location is 1036 Herron Ave (between the MD Administration building and Public Works shop).
- To prevent misuse, the center is now staffed and operated by the Pincher Creek Waste & Recycle Centre (Crowsnest/Pincher Creek Landfill Association).
- Hours of operation are 7:30 am to 5:30 pm 6 days a week (closed on Tuesdays).
- Hazardous materials will not be accepted and would need to be taken directly to the landfill.
- Bins include household refuse, recycling (plastic/cardboard/paper/metal), appliances, furniture, and yard waste.
- The Eco Centre is for both Town and MD residents.

Operational changes may be made moving forward depending on feedback from the public. For questions specific to the Eco Centre and what can be brought, please contact Pincher Creek Waste & Recycle Centre directly at 403 628-3849, all other inquiries can be made to your local municipal office.

COUNCIL CONTACT

Division 1 - Tony Bruder, Deputy Reeve
Phone: 403-360-4789
CouncilDiv1@mdpincercreek.ab.ca

Division 2 - Rick Lemire, Reeve
Phone: 403-627-8380
CouncilDiv2@mdpincercreek.ab.ca

Division 3 - David Cox
Phone: 403-627-8164
CouncilDiv3@mdpincercreek.ab.ca

Division 4 - Harold Hollingshead
Phone: 403-628-2040
CouncilDiv4@mdpincercreek.ab.ca

Division 5 - John MacGarva
Phone: 403-628-2447
CouncilDiv5@mdpincercreek.ab.ca

DUST CONTROL 2023

Dust suppression is a method of stabilizing the light materials on the surface of a gravel road. Once applied, the dust that would normally be generated from passing vehicles is minimized.

MD of Pincher Creek residents who live beside county gravel roads are eligible for dust suppression services. Following the submission of the dust suppression application form, the MD will apply dust suppression to the identified road surface. Please note that the scheduling of this work will be subject to the Municipalities regular dust suppression program priorities and will be combined with other requests in the same geographical area as much as possible to maximize cost effective-

ness.

To allow for product ordering and timelines, you need to have an agreement completed prior to the deadline of May 1, 2023. If you are interested in purchasing **dust control** from the MD in 2023, you need to have an agreement completed prior to the deadline. If you have not completed the application to purchase dust control prior to that date, there is no guarantee the service will be completed this year.

Forms are available on the website, through calling the MD Office 403 627 3130, or email-info@mdpincercreek.ab.ca.



Photo by Josh Harder—Cabin Hill Road Division 4

With road construction and weed spraying season coming up, the MD 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.

TYPES OF TAX LEVIES

Property tax notice includes separate tax levies collected by the MD:

- Municipal levy -Municipal infrastructure, facilities, services, and programs.
- School levy – Paid directly to the Province of Alberta for maintenance and development of the school system. All municipalities must collect and forward these funds to the province.
- Pincher Creek Foundation levy – Paid directly to the Pincher Creek Foundation for affordable senior housing in our community.
- Designated Industrial Property levy – Paid directly to the Province of Alberta. Only applicable on properties that identify as Designated Industrial Property, such as linear property, property regulated by the AER, or major plants.



DEADSTOCK BINS

For those of you reading this but not using these bins, they are used to keep predators, mostly bears, from being attracted to cattle producers operations by dead calves. During spring calving season, when producers can't (because the bears won't!) wait a week for the renderer to do an on-farm pick-up, this is a valuable program that keeps these attractants off the landscape and reduces the risk of a bear/person (and bear/live cow) conflict.

For those of you that do use the bins, your Ag & Environmental Services Department in partnership with the Waterton Biosphere Reserve Association, would like to remind you that your Ag Fieldman will be getting in touch with those of you that need renewed CFIA Transport Permits for bringing [only] cattle to the collection [bear] bins. If needed we can help with filling out the form but we will need your signature.

If you need more information, or want to get it done on a day you know you'll be in town, please feel free to contact Shane Poulsen at 403-339-8741.

WEDNESDAY WEED & WILDFLOWERS WALK – JULY, 2023

Ag & Environmental Services, in conjunction with various agencies, will be hosting the 'Wednesday Weed & Wildflower Walk', Wednesday mornings in July at 8:00 – 10:00. We will meet at the Pincher Creek Airport and go from there to a location in our MD, TBA that morning. We'll have various experts in invasive species (yes weeds!) and wildflowers leading the walk. This year those Wednesday mornings are July 5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th, leaving from the Pincher Creek Airport Terminal Building at 8:00 each morning.

If you are interested please call Shane at 403-339-8741 to sign up.

All are welcome, from farmers, ranchers and long time residents, to newly minted MD of Pincher Creekians! Attendees will receive free Invasive Plants of Alberta and Invasive Plants of the Crown of the Continent books, as well as plenty of other information relevant to living in a wild and woolly, yet highly agricultural, area. An area that is highly vulnerable to Invasive Species...yes, weeds...with a lot of cows, crops and nature to be aware of, as well.



Photo Credit—Alberta Invasive Species Council—Caraway



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.

Application forms may be obtained online, or from the Administration Building located at 1037 Herron Ave.

Please contact 403-627-3130 or email info@mdpincercreek.ab.ca for further information



Did you know that by transitioning our lights from Fluorescent to LEDs the MD has saved a projected \$2,221/year! At a total project cost of \$4,994 that's a payback in less than 3 years.



Premix Sales (Weed Spray)

Available to Order:

May 15 through September 15

To order, call (403) 627-3130 Monday to Friday, ask for premix

PICKUP AVAILABLE THURSDAY'S AT THE AIRPORT ONLY

6:30 am to 5:00 pm

Available to MD of Pincher Creek residents ONLY

Limit of ten (10) jugs per order

Jugs are 10 Liters

Any further questions please call Shane at (403) 339-8741

TAX RATE

Each year, Council determines the amount of money required to operate the MD. From this amount, Council then subtracts known revenues (for example, utilities, grants, permits, transfers from reserves, etc.). The remainder is the amount of money the MD needs to raise through property taxes in order to provide services for the year. This revenue requirement is then used to calculate the tax rate. This reflects the amount of tax to be paid for every dollar of assessed value.

WORRIED ABOUT ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY YOUR TAXES BY JUNE 30TH?

Enroll in the Tax Installment Payment Plan (TIPP).

A monthly payment will be debited from your bank account. Payments are spread out over the year, rather than having to pay by June 30th to avoid penalties. While enrolled in the TIPP program, penalties are waived. Enrolment will require a catch up payment to pay the monthly payments missed from January to the date of enrollment. **The enrollment deadline for 2023 is May 31st.**

Note: tax arrears from prior years must be paid in full prior to enrollment in the TIPP program. For more information contact our office.

UTILITY PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT PLAN



What are the benefits of a Pre-Authorized Payment Plan?

- Save time and expense of paying in person or by mail.
- No worries about due dates and late fees!
- Utility Statements are delivered to you electronically – Fast and efficient!

For more information or to register, contact the MD office or you can register through the MD website www.mdpincercreek.ab.ca

SENIOR'S PROPERTY TAX DEFERRAL PROGRAM

The Seniors Property Tax Deferral Program allows eligible senior homeowners to voluntarily defer all or part of their residential property taxes, including the education tax portion. This is done through a low-interest home equity loan with the Government of Alberta.

Eligibility is **not** based on income. To be eligible for this program, you must:

- * Be 65 years of age, or older (Only one spouse/partner needs to be at least 65).
- * Be an Alberta resident, having lived in the province for at least 3 months.
- * Own a residential property in Alberta and the home must be your primary residence (the place where you live most of the time).
- * Have a minimum of 25% equity in your home to allow the government to secure the loan and ensure repayment when the loan is due.

If there are outstanding municipal property tax

amounts owed from previous years, you can still apply for a loan, as long as you have a minimum of 25% equity in your home.

If you qualify, the Seniors Property Tax Deferral Program will pay your residential property taxes directly to your municipality on your behalf.

You must apply at least 30 days before the municipal property tax deadline of June 30th of each year. This deadline is to avoid penalties and allow enough time for the application to be processed and for the payment to be made on your behalf to the municipality.

For more information contact the Alberta Supports Contact Centre at 1-877-644-9992.

Website: www.alberta.ca/seniors-property-tax-deferral-program.aspx



IS YOUR ADDRESS CORRECT ON YOUR LAND TITLE?

It is the property owner's responsibility to keep their Land Titles record accurate. 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. If you require assistance we would be happy to help fill out the form(s) for you, just contact our office AdminTaxClerk@mdpincercreek.ab.ca.



We emphasize and request if you have issues, requests or complaints, that you contact Reception at **403 627-3130**.

Your name, phone number and civic address will be required. The more information you can provide the easier it is for us to understand what you require.



Photo by Josh Harder—MD Council and Staff Safety Event

CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE—HIGHLIGHTS

Beaver Mines Water Distribution, Collection, & Treatment was a primary focus for the MD over the last year. Construction of Water Distribution & Collection in the Hamlet progressed over the year, with about 80% of services to property edge installed along with some initial paving on 2nd Avenue. The MD also broke ground on the Water Treatment system site for the Hamlet and the associated lift station. The value of these projects exceed \$14 million and are primarily grant funded. The MD is currently anticipating the system will be operational come Fall 2023.

Here is to a good weather season for construction!

The MD received higher than expected tender costs on a few projects which resulted in delaying a culvert replacement at Heath Creek until 2023. Construction has been completed for the Screwdriver Creek (with some touch-ups required in the Spring) culvert replacement on 7 Gates Road and the Gladstone Creek bridge repair work over the last year.

The removal of Fisher Bridge, North of Lundbreck, was completed over the Winter months and the MD anticipates the replacement structure will be installed by end

of Summer.

A bulk water fill station was installed South-East of Beaver Mines and the Pincher Creek bulk fill station was reconstructed on Pronghorn Ave South of HWY 785. These stations (along with Cowley) now accept credit card/debit (tap) or coin. The MD experienced significant issues with the implementation of the new payment acceptance systems for months. We thank residents for their patience during the ongoing troubleshooting. We are optimistic that the issues have been resolved and have continually seen an uptick in the usage of these stations.

The MD (in partnership with the town and CNPC Landfill) opened a new eco centre near the Administration Office (1037 Herron Ave). Details on Eco Centre hours of use and accepted items can be found on the MD website at www.mdpinchercreek.ab.ca under "Waste and Recycling"

A few smaller projects worth highlighting include: replacement of 2 valves and hydrants in Lundbreck; and connection of Patton Park in Lundbreck to the water system.



Burn Permits are required 12 months of the year for any sort of burning, including fire pits, controlled burns, burning barrels. You can apply online at www.pincherville.ca or in person at

Pincher Creek Emergency Services (Fire Hall) 655 Charlotte Street in
Pincher Creek (403) 627-5333

ALUS PINCHER CREEK - WHERE AGRICULTURE & NATURE MEET

What is ALUS?

ALUS is a national, non-profit charitable organization that partners with local organizations and community leaders to deliver the program at the local level.

Originally, ALUS was an acronym for Alternative Land Use Services.

ALUS helps farmers create projects on their lands that produce ecological goods & services (EG&S).

ALUS provides participants annual per-acre payments in exchange for managing and maintaining their project acres for optimal EG&S production.

ALUS facilitates the transparent, voluntary marketplace exchange of ecosystem goods and services produced by ALUS participants through their projects.

What is ALUS Pincher Creek?

ALUS Pincher Creek was launched in April 2022 to assist farmers and ranchers in the M.D. of Pincher Creek in implementing projects that deliver locally valued ecosystem services.

ALUS Pincher Creek is principle-based, community-developed and farmer-delivered.

ALUS Pincher Creek recognizes the important role our local farmers and ranchers play as stewards of the land.

ALUS Pincher Creek empowers local agricultural producers to deliver, manage, and maintain nature-based solutions on their land.

UTILITY BYLAW CHANGES

The Utility Bylaw governing the regulation of water, wastewater, and solid waste services was recently updated (passed third reading February 28th, 2023), following a public hearing held Jan 10th, 2023. Key changes to the bylaw include:

- * Council and the CAO have the ability to make connections mandatory to the Water and Wastewater systems for developed properties adjacent to distribution system water mains (i.e. in Hamlets).
- * Clarity provided around responsibility of construction for private property work related to water and wastewater.
- * Changes required to support private connections within the Hamlet of Beaver Mines.
- * High Strength Wastewater Limits and Surcharges added.
- * Clarity fixes for many definitions between Rural and Hamlet connections.
- * Modified Transmission System connection (Rural) fees based on installation type and usage instead of a bulk flat fee.

The MD continues to maintain some of the lowest water rates in the area with this bylaw modification. Hamlet rates were not changed.

The updated Utility Bylaw (1344-22) can be found on the MD website at www.mdpinchercreek.ab.ca under "Bylaws". If you have any questions about your bill or the bylaw changes please reach out to the MD Office.

Contact: Kelly Cooley, Coordinator at coolprosolutions@gmail.com

alus.ca/alus_community/alus-pincher-creek/

"Conservation will ultimately boil down to rewarding the private landowner who conserves the public interest."
Aldo Leopold, 1934



ALUS PINCHER CREEK PARTNERSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC):

- Tony Bruder (Councilor Division 1 & Farmer Liaison)
- Dixon Hammond (Beaver Creek Watershed Group & Farmer Liaison)
- Dennis Lastuka (Drywood-Yarrow Conservation Partnership & Farmer Liaison)
- Mark Zoratti (Castle River Area & Farmer Liaison)
- Mike Uchikura (Alberta Conservation Association - Technical Advisor)
- Shane Poulsen (Agricultural Fieldman)
- Kelly Cooley (ALUS Pincher Creek Coordinator)
- Christine Campbell (ALUS Senior Hub Manager - Calgary)