

# A.S.B. NOTES

In 2011 we will be in our 3rd year of the 3-year integrated mowing and spraying programs. The integration means we:

- ◆ Have 2 mowing crews working 4 days on, 4 days off; the mowers keep working as long as weather allows.
- ◆ Mow the full right-of-way on at least 1/3 of our ditches each year. The area receiving full ROW mowing this year is all roads East of RR220 from our Northern border South through the Falher/Donnelly & McLennan areas to the Beach Road.
- ◆ 'Shoulder cut' all other ditches in the M.D. Market roads will all receive a full cut.
- ◆ Spray the area which received the full-cut last year (Blue Bridge to our Northern border, all roads West of RR220) to clean up the thistles and brush re-growth.

For the month of May, before mowing gets underway, our mowing crews are out scouring the ditches, picking up rocks & other debris that cause problems for the mowers. The M.D. purchased a picker truck and dump trailer over the winter, we will outfit it with a grapple and hope to collect many of the large rocks too big to pick by hand.

Please DO NOT dump rocks, tires and other debris into the ditches. This can cause severe damage to the mowers, increases downtime due to repairs and reduces productivity. This is a significant cost to you, so please help keep our ditches clean.



## Roadside Spray Program

Northern Sunrise County will be helping us with our main spray program again this year. The M.D. purchased a used spray truck in 2010, so you can expect to see three units spraying in the Girouxville/Culp/Jean Coté West areas towards the end of July to mid-August. Spraying will not take place adjacent to yard sites & dugouts unless we have spoken to the landowner. In "No Spray Zones" landowners are responsible for controlling the weeds. If you object to the M.D. spraying along your property, please contact the M.D.

## Roadside Spray Request Form

If you are an M.D. farmer, there should be a green form enclosed with this Newsletter. Complete this form if you are willing to give us permission to spray into your crops a few feet when we are going by doing ditch weed control. This lets us get to those weeds that so often are just on the edge of our ditch and just into your crop. If getting rid of those field edge weeds interests you, fill in the information and send it in or drop it off at the M.D. Any forms signed in the last 3 years are still valid unless they were cancelled or specified as one year only.

## Urban and Rural Inspection Programs

Weed & Pest inspectors will be out inspecting properties in the M.D. as well as the 2 towns & 2 villages within our boundaries. We will be speaking with landowners and lessees throughout the summer.

In addition, we will be spraying & picking noxious weeds on municipal properties as we see them. Call us if you need help identifying and controlling problem plants, preferably before they become large infestations. The M.D. owns an incinerator which we use to burn weeds that are picked and bagged to prevent seed spread. Landowners are responsible under the Weed Control Act of Alberta to destroy prohibited noxious weeds and control noxious weeds. We will do what we can to ensure invasive plants are controlled to the benefit of our landowners and their ability to produce food.

**Pest Inspections:** M.D. staff will again be actively looking for Clubroot infected canola fields in 2010. Our highest priorities will be fields with apparent symptoms, fields with oilfield activity or those fields that are farmed by landowners who also operate outside the Peace Region. In addition, last year we again made note of the location of all canola fields and we will start inspecting short rotation fields because of the disease building dangers associated with canola/snow rotations.

## Pesticide Container Collection

The M.D. operates PESTICIDE container collection sites at our Whitemud, Guy & Jean Coté landfills. The Smoky River Regional Landfill also accepts empty Pesticide containers. There is no charge for bringing empty pesticide containers to the Regional Landfill but there is a fee to dispose of cardboard at that site. Please make use of these sites so the containers can be properly recycled. Containers need to be triple rinsed, and the booklets and caps should be land-filled.



**Shelterbelt Trees** The AESB offers free tree & shrub seedlings to any person who owns 5 acres or more. Applications can be submitted June 2011 to March 2012 for seedlings arriving in May 2012. Application forms and information are available at the M.D. office. There is no cost for the trees (except perhaps a nominal freight cost).

## Rental Equipment

The ASB has rental equipment available at reasonable rates. For a complete listing and rates check out our website at mdsmaryriver.com To book equipment, please call the M.D. **Should you have any questions or concerns about our programs, insects & diseases, or about weeds either on roadsides or in fields, please do not hesitate to contact your A.S.B. staff at 780-837-2221, or Normand Boulet Agricultural Fieldman on his cell: 780-837-0043. e-mail: asb@mdsmokyriver.com.**



# Municipal Matters

www.mdsmaryriver.com

## MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL

VOLUME XII

On behalf of Council and I, we wish to extend greetings to all of you in this edition of Municipal Matters. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our two new council members, Mr. Raoul Johnson from Whitemud & Mr. André Cloutier from Falher. I would also like to extend my sincere thank you to our two former councillors Mr. Richard Aubin & Mr. Luc Desaulniers for their years of contribution to the Smoky River Area.

We are looking forward to many new & ongoing ventures in the Municipality this year including: the Peavine to McLennan connector road, the revitalization of Donnelly Corner, the Car-gill Agro Center & Elevator & the Agrium Agro Center. All of these projects are of great importance to our region & will bring economic benefits for years to come.

Council is also committed to several road upgrades & graveling projects over the next three years.

On behalf of Council, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to our fire chief & all of the volunteer firefighters in our region for getting us through an extremely dry & challenging fire season.

We'd like to thank the Alberta Government and the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation for providing our Municipality with a \$12,000 grant in support of upgrades to the Little Smoky Ski Area. A new snow cat & modifications to the tube run were some of the highlights. We once again would like to thank our partners from the M.D. of Greenview, the M.D. of Big Lakes, the Town of High Prairie & the Town of Valleyview for helping make the ski season at the Little Smoky Ski Hill a success.

We would like to thank the entire staff of the M.D. & all of the ratepayers for making our jobs easier.

Robert Brochu, Reeve

**SMOKY RIVER EXPRESS SUBSCRIPTION CANCELLATIONS/CHANGES MUST BE MADE THROUGH THE M.D. OFFICE. PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE SMOKY RIVER EXPRESS OFFICE DIRECTLY.**

Please provide the M.D. with a forwarding address if you move.

## WAYS TO PAY YOUR TAXES

Taxes are due by July 31st.

Cash or Cheques accepted.

You may send us a post-dated cheque along with your tax notice. Your notice will be returned with the receipt after processing.

If you have any questions, please contact the office or visit our website at www.mdsmaryriver.com and click on "Council & Departments", "Administration" and lastly, "Tax Assessment"

## DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

Any development (residential/commercial/farm buildings) requires a permit. A development/building permit must be obtained from the M.D. and/or a provincially certified agency prior to start of project. Thirty (30) days are required to process the permit.

## SUBDIVISION APPLICATIONS

Setbacks regarding farmstead separations and country residential subdivisions are site specific and preplanning is required. Discussion with the M.D. Development Officer prior to the subdivision process is recommended.

## SUBDIVISIONS & PRIVATE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS

The Alberta Safety Codes Council has adopted a new Standard of Practice 2009 pertaining to private sewage disposal systems that are in use and permitted for a single family residence in the Province of Alberta. I will comment on the open discharge system (pump outs) that the majority of our residences currently use. The minimum required setback from a property line for an open discharge system has doubled from 150 feet to 300 feet. There is a 150 foot setback from a residence, farm dugout and a watercourse. As a result; the minimal parcel size for a single residential parcel has increased to a minimum of 8.5 acres and more in most cases. The parcel size is dependent on the location of buildings, water reservoirs and the open discharge in relation to existing or future property lines in the case where a subdivision hasn't been applied for. **Preplanning** a subdivision **prior** to submitting the actual application is strongly recommended for either a farmstead separation or a first parcel out. Failure to do so can substantially add to the cost. There are several approved methods of treating effluent from rural residences that reduces property line setback, all which are included in 2009 Standard of Practice.

For more information please contact Dave Gervais, Development Officer.



Smoky River Regional Economic Development is excited to announce the launch of ThinkLocalMarket.com!

This shop-local initiative is designed as an e-commerce website that provides a free, online storefront to merchants to showcase the products and services available in the North-Western Alberta. This site has boundless potential, whether merchants are agriculture producers, artisans or offer professional services. This website enhances traditional methods of advertising, such as print or word of mouth, reaching a worldwide audience through the medium of the internet. In addition, "store hours" are no longer a deterrent as everything is open 24/7 online. The initiative has created a support system for local entrepreneurs and caters to the niche market of consumers who are searching for ways to buy more locally produced products. Additionally, it is created as a support system for local entrepreneurs looking to reach wider markets without the strain of increased staffing requirements and franchise regulations.

Smoky River Regional Economic Development invites entrepreneurs in the region to register their business with ThinkLocalMarket.com! Within a week you will be contacted with a log-in name and password. Then it is just a matter of uploading photos and product / service descriptions and you are on your way to developing the e-commerce side of your business. This site has been designed with all scopes of business in mind.

Sign up online at [www.thinklocalmarket.com](http://www.thinklocalmarket.com) or by contacting Jennifer Moore with Smoky River Regional Economic Development at (780) 837-2364.

**2011 Public Works Happenings**

- Approximately \$1,088,000 of additional road improvements in various locations was completed in 2010 under the Alberta Municipal Infrastructure Program and the Municipal Sustainable Infrastructure Funding. This is above and beyond our normal maintenance program. If you receive any right of entry or backslapping agreements, please sign and return them promptly to expedite the process.
- Bridge File 75889 (locally known as Roy's Bridge) was repaired in 2010.
- Bridge File 09572 (locally known as Limoges's bridge) was repaired in 2010.
- The M.D. has scheduled the gravelling of 286 kilometres of road this season.



**LANDFILL HOURS:**

**MD LANDFILLS:  
780-837-2221**

**GUY & JEAN COTE**

	WEDNESDAY	SATURDAY
JANUARY	11:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.	11:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.
FEBRUARY		
MARCH		
APRIL	4:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.	
MAY		
JUNE		
JULY	11:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.	
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER (hours change mid-month)		
OCTOBER	11:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.	
NOVEMBER		
DECEMBER		

**WHITEMUD**

	TUESDAY	SATURDAY
JANUARY	11:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.	11:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.
FEBRUARY		
MARCH		
APRIL		
MAY		
JUNE		
JULY	11:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.	
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER		
OCTOBER	11:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.	
NOVEMBER		
DECEMBER		

**REGIONAL LANDFILL  
FOR HOURS OF OPERATION  
PLEASE CALL THE  
TOWN OF FALHER—780-837-2247**

**TREATED GRAIN COLLECTION**



**Jean Cote & Guy Landfills  
Date : June 29th, 2011  
Time: 4:00 to 8:00 pm**

**Please call Norm at 780-837-2221 if you have a large amount of seed to dispose of, or for more information**



**Smoky River Fire & Rescue**

For information or general inquiries, call 780-837-2455



**Smoky River Fire & Rescue Recruiting** - Are you looking to take an active role in your community? Are you looking for an adventure? Excitement? BECOME A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER! The greatest experiences of your life are waiting for you here with us! Smoky River Fire & Rescue offers a diverse range of volunteer opportunities; from administration to firefighter daycare services; from responding to emergencies in Falher, Donnelly, Girouxville and McLennan. You can become involved in one or many different areas relating to the fire services offered by Smoky River Fire & Rescue. These services include:

- Structural Firefighting
- Wildland Firefighting
- Vehicle and Agricultural Extrication (using the "Jaws-of-Life")
- Dangerous Goods / Hazardous Materials Response
- Ice Rescue
- High Angle, Low Slope and Confined Space Rescue (Technical Rescue)
- Fire Inspection / Investigation Services
- Fire Prevention & Life Safety Education
- Medical Response (First Responder Program)



A firefighter with Smoky River Fire & Rescue is a volunteer that helps improve the safety and quality of life in our communities, making them a more enjoyable place to live.

**The choice is yours.**

Personal protective gear, training and equipment are all supplied at no expense to you so that we may provide a quality service to our communities in a timely and efficient manner.

For more information or to get your application package, contact Fire Chief Cindy Conroy at 780-837-2455. Application packages may also be picked up at the Municipal Office, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. excluding holidays.

**Fire Season - NEW: Year round permit is now in effect in permit areas.** This means that in order for you to burn, you **must** obtain a fire permit. If you are unsure whether you require a permit, please contact Fire Chief Cindy Conroy at the Smoky River Fire Hall at 780-837-2455 or Mr. Dave Gervais at the Municipal Office at 780-837-2221. It would be appreciated if you would contact Smoky River Fire & Rescue for any planned fires, even if you are in a zone where a permit is not required.

**Ratepayers are encouraged to review their insurance to ensure that proper coverage is provided for liability & fire fighting costs.**

PLEASE WATCH YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER FOR DETAILS ON UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE FUTURE!!  
Contact Fire Chief Cindy Conroy at 780-837-2455 for more information.

**HELLO & GOOD-BYE**

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* Sue Charest, Municipal Clerk resigned as of \*  
\* November 2010. We wish Sue all the best in \*  
\* her new position at Smoky River Dental. \*  
\* Replacing Sue is Kristine Girard. \*  
\* \*  
\* Welcome Kristine! \*  
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**NEW SNOW REMOVAL  
Policy and Form**

**The policy & the hold harmless form have been updated for snow removal on private property. Please visit our website or call the office for more information.**