

# NEWS letter



M.D. of Bighorn

Issue 15, September 2007

## 2007 Municipal Election

**October 15th, 2007 is Election Day This is Your Choice, Your Vote, Make it Count!!**


Elections are quickly approaching. Nominations papers are now available at the MD Office located at No. 2 Heart Mountain Drive, Exshaw, AB. The following are a list of important dates to remember. If you are considering running for office or have any questions about the election process, please call the M.D. office for further information.

**Nomination Day** – September 17, 2007 Nomination papers to be filled between 8:00 am and 12:00 noon at the MD office.

**Advance Vote** – October 1, 2007 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the MD Council Chambers \*NOTE this is the ONLY Advanced Vote Opportunity and Location.

**Incapacitated Voter** – October 1, 2007 By Appointment Only at Voter's Home from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Please call the MD office and speak to Valerie Flink, the MD's Returning Officer, no later than Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007 to set up a time.

### *Locations of Voting Stations*

<b>ADVANCE VOTE FOR ALL WARDS (IF NECESSARY) Monday October 1, 2007 at the MD Office in Exshaw between the hours of 10:00 am – 2:00 pm</b>		
 <b>This is the ONLY Advanced Vote Opportunity and Location</b>		
WARDS	LOCATION	ADDRESS
<b>1</b> (Exshaw and area)	MD of Bighorn Office	No. 2 Heart Mountain Drive, Exshaw
<b>2</b> (Lac des Arcs, Dead Man's Flats, Harvie Heights, Rafter 6)	Bandoleer's Restaurant	120, 1 <sup>st</sup> Avenue, Dead Man's Flats
<b>3</b> (South Ranchlands)	Beaupre Community Hall Jumping Pound Community Hall	Beaupre - Approx. 1 Kilometer North form the junction of Hwy. 1A and Hwy. 40 Jumping Pound –Approx. 4.5km west of hwy22/hwy 1 interchange. Take exit north, approx. 1.5km
<b>4</b> (North Ranchlands & The Hamlet of Benchlands)	Beaupre Hall Water Valley Community Hall	Beaupre – See Above Water Valley - Main Street West, Water Valley (across from the Water Valley Restaurant & Saloon)

*These locations may be subject to change depending on availability*

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## Running For Municipal Office In Alberta

**Before you file, here are some things you should consider before you file a nomination paper:**

### **Are you qualified?**

To become a candidate you must be at least 18 years of age on nomination day, a Canadian citizen and, except in summer villages, you must have been a resident of the municipality for the six consecutive months preceding nomination day.

### **Are you eligible to be nominated?**

You would not be eligible to become a candidate under any of the following circumstances:

- If you are the auditor of the municipality.
- If you are an employee, unless granted a leave of absence.
- If your property taxes are more than \$50.00 in arrears or you are in default, for more than 90 days, or any other debt in excess of \$500.00 to the municipality.
- If you are a judge, senator, or member of the legislative assembly, you must resign that position before you take office as a member of council.

### **Do you have the time?**

The demands on your time will be heavy. As a Municipal Councillor, you will be required to attend both daytime and evening meetings. You will be elected for a three year term of office and during that time you will be required to attend:

- Regular meetings of council.
- Meetings of other boards and agencies to which you were appointed as council's representative.
- Conferences, conventions, seminars and workshops for training and discussion.
- Social and other events promoting your municipality.

You will also need to spend time reading material and talking with residents, the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), and others. This will all be part of the necessary preparation for meetings so that you can make informed decisions. Don't forget the time you need for your personal life, work, etc.

### **Do you understand the position?**

As a member of Council you will have the opportunity to significantly influence the future of your community. Your power as a member of Council depends on your ability to persuade the other members of Council to adopt your view. All decisions must be made at meetings, held in public, at which a quorum is present.

### **Do you understand the powers of Municipal Council?**

The Canadian constitution delegates responsibility for municipal institutions to the provinces. Through a variety of Legislation, the Alberta Legislative Assembly had delegated some of its authority to Municipal Councils. The act you will use most often is the Municipal Government Act.

## **New Faces At the M.D. Office**

Within the past couple of months, the M.D. has added some new personnel into the organization.

Brenda Christie has taken on the temporary role of Director of Finance for the M.D.: she replaces Helene Hesse, who has gone off on a year's leave of absence. Brenda comes to the M.D. through the firm of Civic Solutions, on a contract basis. She has served as the Manager of Finance & Administration for the Town of Three Hills, and also worked with the Calgary Board of Education and the provincial Parks and Recreation department. Brenda will basically be working in the M.D. office two weeks every month, and from home via computer link the other two weeks of the month.

Lee Goller has taken over the Secretary/Receptionist position from Debbie Czank: Lee has a diverse work history, having been at the Universities of Manitoba and Alberta, as well as Public Works Canada, Westfair Foods, some tourism industry and small business roles.

We welcome both new employees to the M.D.

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## Planning On Voting in the Upcoming Municipal and School Elections? Bring Your I.D.!!!

As readers may be aware, the municipal general elections will be held in October of this year, with voting opportunities available on two dates (advance voting, for those who will be away on the regular voting day, will be on October 1<sup>st</sup>; while the regular voting day is October 15<sup>th</sup>), and in designated locations within the respective wards. If you are planning on voting, please note that you must be prepared to produce suitable identification, to verify that you are eligible to vote.

The Local Authorities Election Act was amended this past year, allowing municipalities the option on whether or not to pass a bylaw that would require voters to produce identification. The M.D. of Bighorn has chosen to enact such a bylaw. Accordingly, voters will not receive ballots, unless prepared to produce their identification, when requested by an election clerk.

In the M.D.'s bylaw, the following is considered suitable identification:

Canadian Driver's or Operator's Licence;  
Canadian Passport;  
Canadian Military Identification;  
Birth Certificate;  
Baptismal Certificate;  
Alberta Personal Health Card;  
Alberta Identification Card;

Certificate of Canadian Citizenship;  
Veteran Affairs Canada;  
Old Age Security (OAS) Card;  
Firearms Licence Possession – Acquisition;  
Firearms – Possession Only Licence; and  
Certificate of Indian Status Card.

Please remember to bring your ID to the voting station in your ward; otherwise you will not be allowed to vote.

### **Biodiesel**

The M.D of Bighorn Public Works Department is now burning Biodiesel in all its diesel trucks. The Biodiesel is manufactured in Sparwood by Agri-Green BioDiesel Inc. and delivered to the M.D of Bighorn. M.D of Bighorn staff then mixes the Biodiesel with regular petrol diesel.

Biodiesel can be mixed at any ratio with petrol diesel. The M.D of Bighorn is using a blend of 10% Biodiesel and 90% petrol diesel. This is called B10, pure Biodiesel is called B100.

Check out the Agri-Green website below for more information on Biodiesel.

<http://www.agri-greenbiodiesel.com/index.htm>

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## Council Briefs

*What follows are some of the highlights of Council actions since the last newsletter published in June 2007*

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Council received a delegation from the proposed CottageClub Ghost Lake project, which would be a controlled recreational housing development on the M.D. of Rocky View side of Ghost Lake, with access to the Bow River and Ghost River. The project proposes 310 small cabins, a private marina, recreation centre, swimming pool, general store and a large common area washrooms, showers and laundry: the cabins' use would be restricted to summer months only, by the control of the community water-supply (it would be shut off during the off-season period). At the regular meeting following the delegation, Council indicated, in a response to Rocky View, that the M.D. has no objection to the draft CottageClub Ghost Lake Conceptual Scheme, but noted seven areas of concern, with respect to water supply, boat launch and dock, moorage, and regional waste collection.

Another delegation spoke on her concerns regarding traffic in and around Exshaw: Mickey Matheson, a resident of Exshaw for 45 – 50 years, discussed her concerns with in town and Highway 1A speeders, Exshaw drivers circumventing the speed control devices on local streets, and other matters. Council noted that Highway 1A was a provincial responsibility, and that the M.D. had been pushing for greater enforcement activities on that road for years.

Bylaws 11/07 and 12/07, which authorized the installation of water and sewer services to the Exshaw Industrial Park as a local improvement, were given final readings; Council also decided that the local improvement charges would only be applied to those Industrial Park properties that are owned privately and those leased properties that decide to hook up to the services; for those leased properties that do not hook up to the services, the MD will front-end the properties' local improvement charges, to be recovered when the properties are sold, at a later date.

Other bylaws that were dealt with included Bylaw 13/07, which added the Executive Assistant (formerly the Municipal Secretary position) as a designated officer under the Municipal Government Act, and Bylaw 04/06, the Community Aggregate Payment Levy bylaw, which establishes a \$0.25/tonne levy on sand and gravel mined within the M.D. Both of these bylaws received final readings. Bylaw 19/06, the

Horseshoe Lands Area Structure Plan, was given second reading, with a list of twenty-seven conditions that needed addressing before final reading would be given (the Horseshoe Lands development is proposed for the former Transalta lands at Seebe). Council also gave third reading to Bylaw 06/07 to amend the Municipal Development Plan with respect to the Transfer of Subdivision Density: this is a new concept that was brought forward by the proponent of the Carraig Ridge development, on Highway 1A near Jamieson Road. The basic concept behind Transfer of Subdivision Density is that densities/development potential is taken from one parcel (the "sending parcel") and moved to another parcel (the "receiving parcel"), thus increasing the density on the receiving parcel, provided some sort of restrictive notation is placed on title of the sending parcel, to prevent future development of those lands. Administration was directed to set up a public consultation process regarding the transfer of subdivision density policy, with the intention of determining such things as the values that the community wants to protect and their ranking relative to one another; this process will be initiated in the early fall of this year.

Council agreed to two separate and special clarification meetings with the Horseshoe Lands Area Structure Plan proponents. The intent of the meetings was to allow Council to provide clarification on some of the twenty-seven points issued at the ASP's second reading. Council also authorized the sending of a draft letter to the Stoney Nakoda First Nations' Chiefs, regarding the proposed Horseshoe Lands access road, with a copy going to the Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation.

The Bow Corridor Regional Mobility Partnership agreement was renewed for two additional years (May 2007-May2009). The Partnership is looking at ways to make traffic movements more efficient and sustainable within the Bow Valley area.

There were a few appointments made, in the past few months: Council appointed Reeve Dene Cooper as the M.D.'s representative on the Biosphere Institute's Board of Directors, with Councillor Paul Adams replacing the Reeve on the Bow Valley Wild Smart Committee; Council also appointed Reeve Dene Cooper as the MD of Bighorn representative and

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Councillor Paul Ryan as the Bighorn Corridor Environment Committee residents' sub-committee representative on the Calgary Region Airshed Zone Board of Directors. Finally, the M.D.'s Executive Assistant, Valerie R. Flink, was appointed as the Returning Officer for the 2007 Municipal General Election.

The M.D. has purchased eight (8) used recycling bins from the Irricana Recyclers Association, with the intent of establishing a recycling and waste disposal depot near the West Jumpingpound region, for the convenience of those ratepayers. The program is a joint one, shared with the M.D. of Rocky View, which has a number of residents in the same region, who will benefit from a waste disposal/recycling site in the area.

Council agreed with the Municipal Planning Commissions suggestion, "that Council consider a revision of the Land Use Bylaw to establish a requirement that real property reports be provided as part of the development permit application on smaller properties or where a proposed structure is to be located close to a property line, and that this requirement be at the discretion of the Development Officer" and, further, that Council resolve that this suggestion be dealt with in a future, major review of the MD's Land Use Bylaw.

The Lac des Arcs Community Association's request for permission to develop a trail system around the new subdivision located at Mountaineer Close, in the hamlet, was approved, subject to the Community Association being issued a no-fee Development Permit.

The M.D. became one of nineteen municipal signatories to the Calgary Regional Partnership's "Terms of Agreement for Working Together – Our Commitment to Develop a Regional Land-use Plan for the Calgary Region. The nineteen municipalities, which include the Cities of Airdrie and Calgary, the M.D.'s of Foothills and Rocky View, and several towns of varying sizes, have agreed on a historic step to formulate a regional plan for the Partnership.

Council approved the "Updated Hamlet of Exshaw Water Master Plan"; directed Administration to apply for grant funding to construct a municipal water system in Exshaw based on that Plan, and to

undertake the preliminary engineering needed to keep the project moving, such as ensuring the proposed reservoir site is suitable from a geotechnical standpoint and available for use.

Council forwarded a letter to the Minister of Sustainable Resource Development, and the Reeves/Councils for the rural municipalities in the Southern East Slopes Municipalities area (and the M.D. of Willow Creek), congratulating and thanking them for their efforts in seeking protective measures for the Indian Graves area in the south-western area of Alberta. The south-western area of Alberta was in the news during the May long weekend, as rowdy partiers inflicted considerable damage on the environment/ecosystem in the area, prompting the Minister to enact a Forest Land Use Zone, which restricted such activities in the Zone.

Administration was directed to investigate the possible siting of a Class II landfill within the boundaries of the M.D. of Bighorn, and report back to Council on same. Initial contacts will be made with Alberta Environment officials, to determine if there are any suitable sites for such a facility in the municipality.

The C.A.O. advised that he had received notice of Municipal Affairs' intent to conduct an assessment audit in 2007. It was noted the last audit had occurred only a few years ago. Assessment audits are completed to ensure that assessment practices are consistent with regulations, and also that assessments are a fair representation of property values in the municipality.

Notice was again given to TransAlta Utilities Corporation indicating that Council would be considering adoption of a bylaw to designate the Superintendent's Residence and the school house in Seebe as municipal historic resources. Council wants to protect the buildings during the on-going discussion's between TransAlta, Moondance Land Company Ltd. and 991021 Alberta Ltd. regarding the Seebe lands, to ensure the buildings are not damaged or demolished before the M.D. can ascertain whether nor not to preserve the buildings for perpetuity.

With increasing pressures on the M.D.'s Planning department, as a result of on-going development, Council authorized the expenditure of up to

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\$25,000.00 in 2007, to be used for contracting a person or persons to assist with planning and development projects at the MD of Bighorn.

Council indicated it had no objection to the subdivision propose for NE 6-32-6 W5M in the adjoining Mountain View County.

A couple of caretaker agreements were also authorized by Council: caretaker agreements generally allow owners of property to take over undeveloped/unused road allowances adjacent to their

property, to be used for grazing or other similar benign uses. The agreements run for 3 – 5 years: the property owners holding the agreement are not permitted to restrict the general public from using the road allowance, for pedestrian purposes

(Please note that unadopted Council minutes, in their entirety, are usually posted on the M.D. web-site within a week of the Council meeting being held. Go to [www.mdbighorn.ca/](http://www.mdbighorn.ca/), and click on “Minutes” under Virtual Bighorn on the right hand side of the page

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## Direct Debit of Property Taxes and Utility Accounts

Another tax year has come and gone...would you like next year to be easier? Avoid late penalties on your tax and utility accounts and enjoy your summer! Now is the perfect time to sign up for our pre-authorized payment plan.

In order to qualify for the tax payment plan, your account must be paid in full. Payments would not commence until January 2008 and would be based upon your 2007 Tax Levy. The 2007 levy is divided by twelve (12) to arrive at the monthly payment amount. Your bank account would be debited on the last business day of each month. The amount of the debit is adjusted after the taxes are levied in May.

Utility services are billed on a bi-monthly basis and are also available for direct electronic funds transfer (DEFT). The total amount owing for the billing period is debited from your account on the due date.

Authorization forms can be found on the M.D. of Bighorn’s website: [www.mdbighorn.ca](http://www.mdbighorn.ca)  
Go to the menu navigation pane on the left side of the home page and choose Virtual Bighorn – Tax and Utility Information. There you will find an information sheet describing the program as well as an authorization form.

Simplify your life - call the M.D. office for more information.

## Electronic Banking Coming Soon!

The M.D. is currently in the process of setting up telephone and on-line banking. This fall, you will be able to set up your utilities and taxes for electronic payments. Simply add the MD of Bighorn Utilities or MD of Bighorn Taxes as a payee and pay your bills from the comfort of your home! We anticipate this will be functioning by the end of September 2007.

## Penalties Applied on Outstanding Property Taxes

A nine percent (9%) penalty was applied to the outstanding current tax levy on July 1 and another nine percent (9%) penalty will be applied to the total outstanding balance on January 1, 2008. A reminder will be sent this fall to any property owner with outstanding property taxes.

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## Cultivating an Idle-free Culture

One would think that with the cost of gasoline and diesel fuel being as high as they are these days, people would idle their vehicle engines less. Unfortunately, it looks like we will have to change our cultural acceptance and our understanding of car and truck engines first. Here is some food for thought on vehicle idling from Natural Resources Canada:

- Every 10 minutes of idling costs you at least one fifth a litre of wasted fuel; two fifths of a litre with an eight cylinder vehicle. Every litre of gasoline you use produces 2.4 kilograms of carbon dioxide.
- Thanks to fuel-injected engines, even on the coldest of winter days – coming soon! – you can drive away after only 30 seconds of idling your vehicle (provided, of course, your windows are defrosted). The best way to warm up a vehicle is to drive it at a moderate speed; avoid rapid acceleration until it is warmed up. Notice that the wheel bearings, suspension, steering, transmission system and tires on your vehicle are all best warmed up by driving.
- On cold winter days it still takes a considerable amount of time for your engine block to cool off after your engine has been running. So even if you are driving a diesel, there is no need to leave the engine running when you stop for a few minutes to undertake an errand.
- Contrary to popular belief, the extra fuel used to start your vehicle engine is about the same amount used when you idle your engine for 10 seconds. Also, the wear and tear on your starter system due to extra starts to avoid idling is only about \$10 per year, an amount easily made back in fuel savings.
- Idling your engine excessively can actually be harmful for it because an idling engine does not operate at peak temperature. Consequently, fuel residues can condense on cylinder walls, contaminate oils, and cause spark plugs to become dirty faster.
- If every driver of a light duty vehicle in Canada stopped idling for just five minutes a day, collectively we would save 680 million litres of fuel per year.

For more information visit  
[www.idling.gc.ca](http://www.idling.gc.ca)

### **M.D Of Bighorn Hazardous Waste & Toxic Round Up**

Household Cleaners, Automotive Products, Pesticides, Home Improvement Products  
Get rid of the dangers around your home

Jamieson Fire Hall  
& Ghost River Fire Hall  
**Saturday, September 30, 2006**  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Exshaw Fire Hall  
**Saturday, October 7, 2006**  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

#### **Hamlets pick-ups on Saturday October 7<sup>th</sup>**

Lac Des Arcs .....10 a.m.  
Deadman's Flats .....11 a.m.  
Harvie Heights .....12 noon

*For details on acceptable items, contact the M.D of Bighorn Utilities or check the MD of Bighorn website: [www.mdbighorn.ca](http://www.mdbighorn.ca)*

## Rules For 2007 Fall Clean-Ups And Landfill Hours

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>CLEANUP WEEKEND</u>	<u>PICK-UP DATES</u>
Harvie Heights	Sept 29& 30, 2007	October 1, 2007
Exshaw	September 22 & 23, 2007	September 24, 2007
Deadman's Flats/ Kananaskis Settlement	September 15 & 16, 2007	September 17, 2007
Lac des Arcs	September 8 & 9, 2007	September 10, 2007
Benchlands	October 6 & 7, 2007	October 9, 2007

- Only brush will be picked up.
- Material that is in bags will not be picked up. Please use compost facilities for leaves and grass.
- Other Materials will not be picked up and remain the responsibility of the resident to take to the appropriate recycling, or landfill site. Household garbage goes in the normal waste stream to Calgary.
- No materials may be place on roadsides after midnight on Sunday.
- There is a limit of one load per household. A truckload is considered to be 8'x7'x4'.
- Material for pick-up should be no longer that 8 feet in length and neatly stacked alongside the roadway in a manner, which does not impair traffic or become a safety concern. Branches and bushes stacked with all the trunks parallel will be easier to pick-up with our Skid Steer. Any brush longer than 8 feet will not be picked up.
- There is no charge for this service.

### Francis Cooke Regional Landfill

Hours Of Operation  
Monday though Saturday  
8:00am to 4:00pm  
For more information call 673-2708

### How to Contact Us

#### Reeve

Dene Cooper .....673-3968

#### Deputy Reeve

Hugh Pepper.....932-3700

#### Councillors

Maria Dunki .....932-6863

Paul Ryan .....673-2287

Paul Adams .....673-3512

#### Bighorn Office – Exshaw

Local.....673-3611

Calgary Direct .....233-7678

Fax..... (403) 673-3895

Email ..... [bighorn@mdbighorn.ca](mailto:bighorn@mdbighorn.ca)

Website..... [www.mdbighorn.ca](http://www.mdbighorn.ca)

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