

NEWS letter



M.D. of Bighorn

Issue 18, June 2008

MD Welcomes New Employees

Three new permanent and two summer staff persons have joined the M.D. in recent months.

Our new Director of Finance, Katherine Van Keimpema, commenced work with the M.D. in early April. Katherine is a Certified General Accountant, who has extensive experience in the non-profit sector, the federal Canada Revenue Agency, First Nations, school divisions, and housing authorities. Katherine and her family reside in Canmore. She replaces Helene Hesse, who decided not to return from her year's leave of absence.

Natalie Germann is our new Secretary/Receptionist, who comes from Cochrane, where her family resides. She has experience at the Provincial health level, with banking institutions as an assistant

investment advisor, and with oil companies in reception and administrative assistant roles. Natalie replaces Cindy MacArthur, who was with the M.D. for a short period before deciding to return to pursue post-secondary education. *Cont'd on page 3- New Staff*

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M.D. COUNCIL MEETING – CHANGE OF DATE

Due to the absence of three Councillors on the regularly-scheduled Council meeting date, the July meeting has been postponed.

The date for the July Council meeting will now be **Monday July 14, 2008**, starting at 9:00 a.m., at the M.D. office in Exshaw.

For all other regular Council meetings, the meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month, starting at 9:00 a.m. (unless notice is given of a meeting change).

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause

Council Briefs

What follows are some of the highlights of Council actions since the last newsletter published in March 2008

Council received a number of delegations over the past three months:

-Larry Van Wieren, and Frank Liszczak representing the Bar C Ranch, discussed possible amendments to the Land Use Bylaw to allow limited development opportunities on the 208 acre parcel of the Ranch's freehold land, while retaining the ranch/agricultural basis for the remaining lands. Council advised them to seek community input: meet with neighbours and affected land-owners, to see what the community was prepared to consider.

-Brian Low and Karen Lassen from Parks Canada provided information on the 2008 Prescribed Fire Areas within Banff National Park and areas located near the Hamlet of Harvie Heights.

-Sergeant Blaine Smuk and Staff Sergeant Shannon Johnston of the Canmore RCMP detachment gave Council an overview regarding the Safety of Emergency Personnel (Police Officers, Fire Fighters, Ambulance Attendees etc.) on the highways while responding to emergency calls, and about getting pertinent information on road conditions out to travelers.

Hamlet spring and fall clean-up dates were tentatively set; there was also considerable discussion regarding the "no bag" and "one load per household" rules. Council also set dates for the 2008 gravel sale out of the Griffin Valley pit: July 4th and 5th were selected, and anyone interested in purchasing gravel should contact the M.D.'s Roads Foreman.

A number of bylaws were considered by Council: Bylaw 02-z/07, to amend the Land Use Bylaw with respect to hamlet residential districts (conditionally allowing basement/secondary suites in certain zonings) received final reading; Bylaw 02/08, to amend the Fee Schedule bylaw, received all three readings; while Bylaws 04/08 and 05-z/08, to amend the South Exshaw Area

Structure Plan and the Land Use Bylaw respectively, were given first reading and a June 10th public hearing date established. Council also requested that Administration bring forward revisions to proposed Bylaw 14-07, the Private Sewage Disposal Systems Maintenance Bylaw, that reflect comments submitted by the Benchlands, Harvie Heights and Lac des Arcs Community Associations and the Alberta On-Site Waste Management Association, with respect to a clearer definition of maintenance/inspection, private sewage system, inspector, and other recommended amendments. It is anticipated the Bylaw will be back before Council in the fall.

Council had a couple of issues regarding the Lafarge Exshaw cement plant on their table. After receiving some complaints (a 147 signature petition) about the noise levels emanating from the Lafarge plant in Exshaw, Council directed Administration to research the noise issue and prepare a Council decision report with respect to passing a new noise bylaw. On a second issue, Council discussed the response letter from Alberta Environment Re: Lafarge Canada Inc. Exshaw Cement Plant Approval Renewal and the Proposed Plant Expansion. The M.D. had submitted a letter outlining the municipal concerns, regarding Lafarge's proposed upgrading and expansion. A third issue noted that Lafarge had been exploring the options of burning pelletized meat and bone meal, which is produced from animal wastes generated at slaughter-houses. The pelletized remains would be used as fuel in the process: the pellets could allow the company to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide the plant produces by decreasing the amount of coal it burns. On a final Lafarge matter, the M.D. joined with the Town of Canmore in nominating Lafarge Canada Inc. – Exshaw for the Wildrose Corporate Volunteer Award of Excellence.

Cont'd on page 3...

Council Briefs Cont'd

There were a number of donations/contributions agreed to: \$3,000 to the Bow Valley WildSmart program for the 2008 calendar year, for public education on wildlife interfacing purposes; \$1750 to the Bow Valley Victim Services Association and \$1575 to the Cochrane and Area Victim Services Society, for operational assistance; \$250 to the 2008 Action for Agriculture conference, held March 14th; \$3,000 to the Biosphere Institute of Canmore; and a one-time contribution of \$1,000 in capital funding towards the Cochrane Activettes' Food Bank building in Cochrane.

Council also extended its membership in outside organizations: the M.D. is now a member of the Red Deer River Watershed Alliance, and renewed its membership in the Partners for the Saskatchewan River Basin.

Council directed Administration to consult with the ratepayers living within S ½, Sec. 32, Twp. 26, Rge. 6, W5M with their ideas on a name for the road that extends west of Courville Road. The road has not received a formal name from the M.D. yet.

Council reviewed and submitted comments on the Bow River Basin Council's Water Management Plan Phase One (Water Quality Objectives & Indicators) report, noting in particular concerns with wetlands, riparian areas'

protection, and any adverse impacts on restrictions of agricultural pesticide use.

Council approved amendments to the Council and Committee Remuneration Policy, with respect to annual Reeve/Councillor honoraria and the per-diem meeting rate, retroactively effective to January 1, 2008.

Reeve Cooper, and Councillors Adams, Pepper and Ryan attended the March Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties Spring convention in Edmonton. Reeve Cooper had also been asked to address attendees at the Calgary Regional Partnership's "Environment Matters" conference, at Nakoda Lodge, and Councillor Pepper was authorized to attend the Red Deer River Watershed Alliance in late March.

The M.D. took on a partnership role in the Exshaw School Peaceful Play Project, a program aimed at reducing bullying through development of skills around play and informal activity.

(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/, and click on "Minutes" under Virtual Bighorn on the right hand side of the page.

New Staff Cont'd...

Tracy Woitenko is our newest permanent employee, taking on the new position of Community Planner. She comes to the M.D. from the Town of Stony Plain, and will be very heavily involved with all of the upcoming planning/development issues that face the M.D. in future years.

On the summer staff side of things, Sandy Lyster has re-joined our Operations crew, and while Karl Harvey becomes our assistant Environmental (Agricultural) Fieldman. Sandy is a native of Exshaw, who is studying at the University of Lethbridge; she has also worked the past two summers with the M.D. Karl, a native of Wales, is a new-comer to our organization, and currently resides in Banff.

We welcome all new (and returning!) employees to our family

2008 SPRING AND FALL CLEAN-UPS

As a service to residents living in rural hamlets, the MD of Bighorn provides a twice-annual pick-up of brush materials. Please be aware of the rules for pick-up and the dates for your area.

1. Only brush will be picked up.
2. MATERIAL THAT IS IN BAGS WILL NOT BE PICKED UP. PLEASE USE COMPOST FACILITIES FOR LEAVES AND GRASS.
3. 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.
4. No materials may be place on roadsides after midnight on Sunday.
5. There is a limit of one load per household. A truckload is considered to be 8'x7'x4'.
6. 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.
7. There is no charge for this service.

LOCATION	CLEANUP WEEKEND	PICK-UP DATES
Benchlands	May 24 & 25 October 4 & 5	May 26 October 6
Harvie Heights	May 31 & June 1 September 27 & 28	June 2 September 29
Lac Des Arcs	June 7 & 8 September 13 & 14	June 9 September 15
Exshaw	June 14 & 15 September 6 & 7	June 16 September 8
Deadmans Flats/ Kananaskis Settlement	June 21 & 22 September 20 & 21	June 23 September 22

LANDFILL HOURS

FRANCIS COOKE REGIONAL LANDFILL

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday through Saturday

8:00am to 4:00pm

For more information call 673-2708.

Municipal Enforcement in the MD of Bighorn

Residents of the M.D. may not be aware of the municipal enforcement services and practices available to them, and as a consequence, may be frustrated that some of their concerns do not get addressed.

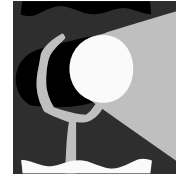
The M.D. has a Complaint Policy, which is the first step for any problem that can't be addressed by an individual. The Policy requires complaints to be in writing, and to spell out the specific issue being complained about. The complainant must be prepared to sign the complaint, provide their contact information (daytime and evening phone numbers, addresses, etc.), and submit same to the M.D. office. The personal information provided is kept confidential; however, in an escalating enforcement situation (e.g. one that requires court action), at some point the identity of the complainant may have to be revealed as a result of a requirement for testimony in court. Before this occurs, the complainant will be given the opportunity to withdraw the complaint and keep their identity confidential.

Depending on the nature and location of the complaint, the M.D.'s Municipal Enforcement officer or another member of M.D. staff will be asked to investigate and determine if any violation of provincial act, regulation or municipal bylaw is occurring. Contact is then made with the appropriate parties, and a case file is started.

The M.D. is reluctant to use court action to resolve matters; it is preferred that the involved parties discuss and reach a satisfactory resolution to problems. However, if court action is necessary, legal assistance is engaged, notices served and applications made.

One of the most important factors to stress is that enforcement action is not pro-active in the M.D. of Bighorn (unless a hazardous or injurious situation is present): Municipal enforcement becomes engaged and action initiated upon receipt of a complaint. Our staff and services, therefore, react to complaints received, as opposed to actively patrolling for violations.

If you have a complaint, contact the M.D. office during regular business hours to provide the necessary information. If you have any questions, please contact the M.D. office at 673-3611 or Calgary Direct 233-7678.



SPOTLIGHT ON HEALTH FOR 55+ YEARS BOW VALLEY WELLNESS FAIR

Date: Monday June 9th, 2008
Time: Booths/Displays
12:30 pm to 4:30 pm
Presentations: 1pm to 4 pm
Place: Canmore Seniors Centre,
600B – 9th St.
Fee: It's Free!!
Refreshments: Will Be Provided

For Bus Transportation from
MD Bighorn 673-3611

TOPICS

- "How to Find Reliable Health Information in the 21st Century" by Elizabeth Aitken Calgary Health Region Library Services.
- "How to Maximize your Quality of Life as You Age" by Dr Mary Dumka, Psychiatrist, Acupuncturist and Meditation Teacher & Panel.

BOOTH DISPLAYS BY: Bow Valley College, Family & Community Support Services (Banff/Canmore), Bow Valley Mental Health Services, Canmore Library, Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Nutrition, & Calgary Health Region Bow Corridor Volunteer Resources

Financial Matters

How Can I Pay My Utility and Tax Payments?

In order to better serve you, the M.D. of Bighorn accepts the following methods for paying your utilities and taxes:

1. On-Line through your bank:

In October of 2007, the MD of Bighorn began offering telephone and on-line banking payments options. If your financial institution is one of the following: Royal Bank, Bank of Montreal, Credit Union or CIBC, you can make a tax or utility payment through electronic banking.

For tax payments, the description listed in the payee section will be MD Bighorn Tax or Bighorn Tax.

For utility payments, the payee description will be MD Bighorn Util or Bighorn Utilities. Please ensure you are using the correct payee or payments will be applied to the wrong account.

You will need to have your invoice or statement in front of you for the account number information. For utility accounts, please do not enter the dash or any spaces. If you are having problems setting up the payment, it is best to call your bank for assistance.

Please remember to allow at least two (2) business days for your payment to reach us. While they are electronic, they are not automatic and payments made in the evening or on the weekend are not always processed that day. If you are paying the last day of the month, your account may be subject to penalties.

2. Cash or Cheque:

Payments by cash or by cheque can be made in person at the M.D. offices from 8:30 to 4:30, Monday through Friday. Cheque payments will also be accepted via the mail.

Debit and credit card payments cannot be accepted for taxes, utilities, or permit fees but will be accepted for purchases of goods and services.

2008 Tax Payment

Combined assessment and tax notices were sent out in the middle of May so if you have not received your notice, please contact the M.D. office. Taxes are due June 30, 2008 and current taxes unpaid shall have a 9% penalty applied on July 1, 2008 and all arrears shall have an additional 9% added on January 1, 2009.

In order to avoid late penalty charges on your account, you might consider joining the M.D.'s pre-authorized payment plan. You can sign up any time during the year by completing an application form available at the office, providing a cancelled cheque, and ensuring the taxes relating to the period of time before you sign up are paid in full.

Garbage Rebate – Residents North of Township 27

Garbage rebates are issued to those residents who are not provided with garbage service and notices will be sent out shortly to those entitled to a rebate. If you do not receive a notice by the end of July and you believe you are entitled to a rebate, please contact the office. Please note, however, that residents of West Jumping Pound no longer qualify for garbage rebates, as garbage service is now being provided in your area at the new waste transfer site

Community Programs

Seniors – Join the Exshaw School for Lunch

To celebrate Senior's Week this year, the Exshaw School is inviting all Bighorn seniors to join them for lunch and entertainment on

Thursday, June 5, 2008 12:00-12:50

Exshaw School Multi Purpose Room

Please rsvp to Emily at 673-3611

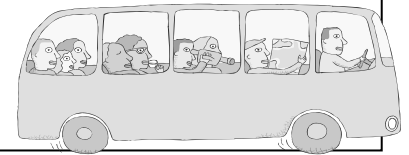
Transportation Log

Are you depending on family members/neighbours to drive you to medical or other appointments in Calgary?

Do you have need of a Handi-Bus for trips to Calgary?

If you have answered "YES" to either or both of these questions, please telephone MD of Bighorn at either 673-3611 or 233-7678 to add your name to a confidential "transportation needs log".

This information will help us identify the need for special transportation to Calgary from the MD of Bighorn.



Exshaw Parent Link – Open All Summer

parentLINKcentre

Join us throughout the summer on Thursday mornings between 9:30 -11:30am at the Exshaw Parent Link program. This is a developmental play program for children 0-6 and their caregivers. It is a great way to meet other families with young children in the community. The program is located in a portable at the east end of the Exshaw School and is drop-in and free of charge.

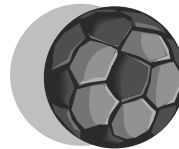
Children's Soccer Camp - Exshaw

Looking for a great local summer activity for your children?

Consider the Upward 2008 Soccer camp being held from July 14-18 at the Exshaw School.

The program is open to all children in kindergarten through grade 6.

For more information, call 673-3081



Beaupre Community Association Spring High Tea/Plant Swap

June 14 – 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm

High Tea fit for a queen/king. Helga has once again planned an elegant high tea, an opportunity for everybody to get out, dust off those cobwebs, and hook up with everybody else after a long winter. The Litschke family will be on hand with their fabulous hanging baskets and potted plants, and we will enjoy an afternoon of socializing. Tickets are \$5, available at the door.

Congratulations on cleaning out your flower beds, and please bring along any plants for swapping – we will have a plant swap table set up.

Community Associations in Bighorn

Are you new to your community and looking to connect with your neighbours? Most hamlets in the MD of Bighorn have a community association. If you are interested in contact information for the community organization in your area, give the MD of Bighorn office a call

Gravel Sales 2008

Friday, July 4th. & Saturday, July 5th. 2008 at the **Griffin Valley Gravel Pit**.
Gravel will be available from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily.

The MD will be loading the material; all residents will be responsible to arrange for their own gravel hauling.

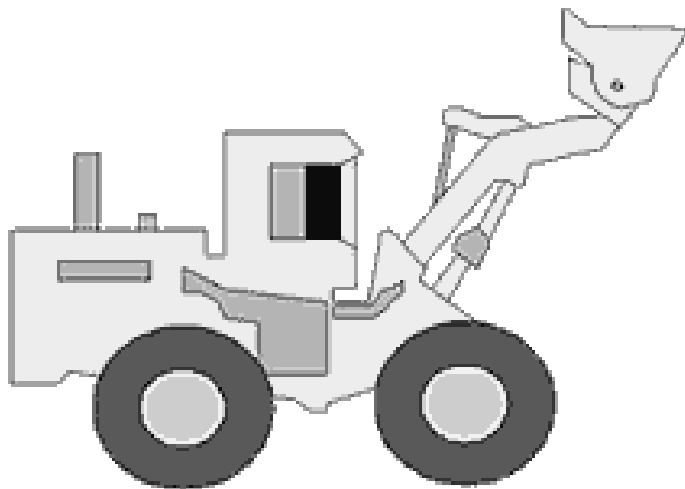
Gravel Prices Are as Follows:

Loaded by the MD:

- 20mm. (3/4in.) road crush \$11.00 per m³ (\$8.41 per yd³)+GST

Conditions:

- Gravel loading will be done by the MD only.
- Payment by cash, cheque or prepayment only (call the MD office to arrange prepayment before sale date). No Billing/invoicing will be allowed.
- At this time there is no load limit however, a limit could be placed if there is a high demand for gravel.
- The purchaser is responsible to arrange for trucking of the gravel, there will be trucks for hire on site throughout the sale but they will be limited to the haul dates only. **Payment/billing for the trucking is the responsibility of the purchaser.**



How to Contact Us

Reeve

Dene Cooper673-3968

Deputy Reeve

Maria Dunki932-6863

Councillors

Paul Ryan673-2287

Paul Adams673-3512

Hugh Pepper.....932-3700

Bighorn Office – Exshaw

Local.....673-3611

Calgary Direct233-7678

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

Email bighorn@mdbighorn.ca

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