

NEWS letter



M.D. of Bighorn

Issue 21, June 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

**Volunteer Celebration
2009 2**

Council Briefs 3

**Board/Committee
Notices and
Agendas..... 4**

**Ghost FLUZ Trails
Mapped..... 4**

Financial Matters 5

**Ready to Survive 72
Hours?..... 6**

**Spring/Fall Clean-
Up..... 7**

**Looking For Bighorn
Artists..... 8**

Contact Us 8

We Want Your Input!

The MD of Bighorn is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of its Land Use Bylaw - the document that regulates the use and development of land and buildings within the municipality on a day-to-day basis.

This month we will be holding facilitated public discussions to assist planning and development staff in developing regulations for specific land use issues, such as home-based businesses, small wind energy conversion and other alternative energy systems, and camping in residential areas. Your participation in these discussions is important! Please choose the location most convenient for you to attend on the following dates:

Water Valley Community Hall – June 15th (7 to 9pm)

Exshaw Community Hall – June 16th (7 to 9pm)

Beaupre Community Hall – June 17th (7 to 9pm)

Questions? Contact Tracy Woitenko, Community Planner at the MD office or by email at tracy.woitenko@mdbighorn.ca. Hope to see you there!

Check out our new Planning and Development Website for more information and updates on the Land Use Bylaw review at www.mdbighorn.ca



OOPS – We Goofed

We mailed out your tax assessment without the MD's return address printed on it.

Please mail your tax payments to:

MD of Bighorn

Box 310

Exshaw, AB T0L 2C0

If you'd prefer to come and pay in person, you can find us at:

#2 Heart Mountain Drive

Exshaw Alberta

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you.

Volunteer Celebration 2009



In September, Bighorn Council will celebrate the efforts of Bighorn volunteers that have enhanced our communities and made the MD of Bighorn a wonderful place to live. As part of that celebration we are calling upon everyone to consider nominating an individual or organization under the following categories. Recognition will be given to up to two volunteers or organizations in each category dependent on nominations received. Your assistance in helping to identify these community members is very much appreciated. Please complete the registration below to nominate a deserving individual or organization.

Nomination Deadline: Friday July 24, 2009

Categories: (please circle)

Individual

Corporate For-Profit

Corporate Non-Profit

Lifetime Service

Youth (under 18)

Name of Nominee: _____

Description of Volunteer Activity (please provide as many details as possible)

Name of Nominator: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

Email Address: _____

Forms can be faxed to (403) 673-3895, emailed to bighorn@bighorn.ca dropped off at our office (there is a night slot) or mailed to the MD of Bighorn, Box 310, Exshaw, AB T0L 2C0. Nominations must reach our office by 4pm on Friday July 24th in order to be considered.



Council Briefs

What follows are some of the highlights of Council actions since the last newsletter published in March 2009

Your Councillors have been extremely busy of late, and have attended many valuable sessions: Reeve Cooper and Councillors Dunki and Ryan attended Mountainview County's one day Growth and Sustainability Workshop, where Drs. Brad Stelfox and Cathy Ryan were the featured speakers.

Deputy Reeve Pepper attended a sustainability conference in Calgary focusing on international water issues, and noting that Alberta would be feeling the same stresses, in the future, with respect to water supply, that many parts of the world are encountering today. The Deputy Reeve also attended a two day Pathways to Sustainability Conference in Cochrane, in late May.

Councillor Adams attended the annual Alberta Senior's Citizens Housing Conference where Mary Anne Jablonski, Minister of Seniors and Community Supports said there would be funds available to underwrite assisted-living resources for seniors in the Bow Valley, where there are currently no resources.

Reeve Cooper attended the May 1st, 2009 Legacy Water Conference in Cochrane, where he participated as a panelist, conveying the message that the MD is interested in land, air and water as an integrated ecosystem approach.

Councillor Ryan attended two southern Alberta sessions pertaining to waste management:

the MD has become involved with the Southern Alberta Waste to Energy Board, and also the Southern Alberta Waste Management Alliance, and Councillor Ryan has been authorized to attend their sessions till October, when the M.D. will formally evaluate continuing participation.

Finally, Reeve Cooper, Deputy Reeve Pepper and Councillor Ryan all attended the spring AAMD&C convention in Edmonton: the convention included an opportunity to meet with provincial officials, including Alberta Transportation, where a number of topics were discussed, including Highways 1A, 40, 579, and the Highways 1A/22 intersection.

On to other matters: M.D. Administration was authorized to prepare an application for construction of an east-west road north of Section 12-25-6-W5 in the West Jumpingpound area, for submission to the Alberta Municipal Infrastructure Program, for a grant in the amount of \$500,000. If the grant is received, and the project advanced, this road might be the first municipal road within the West Jumpingpound area.

The M.D. continues to pursue a noise abatement/control bylaw: Council accepted information regarding the use of sound level meters for noise Bylaw enforcement purposes, but directed staff to update the proposed Bylaw No. 07/09 to remove any requirement for measured noise level readings.

Council gave final readings to Bylaw 02/09, a bylaw establishing the Heritage Resources Committee and the terms under which it will operate. This committee has been very active on the historical resources inventory front, examining many submissions, reviewing the necessary criteria, and planning several field trips. The inventory includes an examination of Saint Bernard's Catholic Church in Exshaw, and the Committee is also looking into a photo repository with the assistance of the Bighorn Library librarian.

In a related issue, Council again gave notice to TransAlta Utilities Corporation stating that the M.D. is considering adoption of a bylaw to designate the Superintendent's Residence and the school house in Seebe as municipal historic resources pursuant to the Historical Resources Act. The action is intended to protect the buildings during the on-going discussions between TransAlta, Moondance Land Company Ltd. and Stoney Nakoda Development Ltd. regarding the Seebe lands: it is the seventh time that the M.D. has provided notice.

Council postponed a decision on a request to provide a grant of \$1,000 to Didsbury Search & Rescue, to assist with their operating costs that will be incurred during the 2009 May long weekend coverage in the Burnt Timber/Ghost Waiparous area. Didsbury Search & Rescue sets up a camp, in the northern area, where a considerable

Council Briefs Cont'd...

number of emergency services personnel locate, during the very-active long weekend. The request will be reviewed by the Emergency Services Committee, for recommendation back to Council.

The M.D. entered into a contract agreement with MJR Contracting Services Ltd. for the crushing and stockpiling of 45,000 tonnes of crushed gravel for an amount not to exceed \$160,000. M.D. Administration was also

authorized to engage the services of qualified testing firm material & compliance testing services required during the crushing operations, for a sum not to exceed \$20,000.00. Every few years, the M.D. replenishes its stockpile of crushed gravel, used for road grading in the rural areas of the M.D.

Sgt. Roger Waidson of the Cochrane RCMP detachment, met with Council to discuss his detachments' rural policing efforts, the May long-weekend

and other matters pertaining to eastern-edge law-enforcement.

The Agricultural Services & Environmental Advisory Board's Strategic Business Plan for the year 2009 was endorsed by Council.

(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.

Board/Committee Notices/Agendas

It has long been practice, here at the M.D. office, to post a monthly schedule of board/committee meetings, at the entrance to the M.D. building. While this has "served the purpose", so to speak, and will be continued, the monthly schedule practice misses out, on a couple of fronts: first of all, not every resident of the M.D. comes into our offices, on a regular basis, and secondly, not every meeting is set before the schedule is posted.

In an effort to provide better notification, M.D. staff will start posting board/committee meeting notices on the M.D.'s web-site, on a more frequent basis, and when/where possible, will also post the meeting agendas as well. Web-site notification will be provided at least three business days in advance of the meeting, but more likely the notice will be on the web-site a week before the meeting is scheduled to take place.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at 403-673-3611 or Calgary direct at 403-233-7678.

Bow Valley WildSmart – It's Not Just For Those In The Bow Valley

Although its name might suggest otherwise, the Bow Valley WildSmart group provides valuable information on living with wildlife to just about all residents of the M.D.

Formed a few years ago, WildSmart is a community-driven program, with thirteen partners (including the M.D. of Bighorn, the Town of Canmore, several Provincial departments and non-governmental organizations) involved in spreading the message that humans *can* live with wildlife in the vicinity, as long as both parties have a healthy respect for each other. The Bow Valley WildSmart program is a proactive conservation strategy that encourages efforts by communities to reduce negative human-wildlife interactions. The goal is to develop a coordinated approach to education/outreach programs and help support direct management activities that will aid in increasing public safety and enjoyment as well as contribute towards sustainable wildlife populations.

Among some of the topics covered by WildSmart, on their web-site, you'll find:

- Living Smart with Wildlife,
- WildSmart at Home,
- WildSmart on the Trail,
- advice on garbage handling, recycling and composting,
- horticultural advice on what to plant on your property (and what not to plant).

M.D residents are encouraged to view the WildSmart web-site at www.wildsmart.ca/, and see what information of value you can find.

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, Bow Valley 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. If you find that there are not enough spaces for the full account number, please use the numbers following the first three numbers. For property taxes, these are the numbers following 382 and for utilities they are the numbers following the initial three numbers, which will be 100, 200, or 300.

For example, if your property tax notice lists your account number as 382 123456, you would enter 123456. If your utility invoice indicates that your account number is 200 123456 005, then you would enter 123456005. 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 or in the mail drop box located to the right of the front door of our offices.

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

2009 Tax Payment

Combined assessment and tax notices were sent out in the middle of May. If you have not received your notice, please contact the M.D. office. Taxes are due June 30, 2009 and current taxes unpaid shall have a 9% penalty applied on July 1, 2009 and all arrears shall have an additional 9% added on January 1, 2010.

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 or on our website (mdbighorn.ca), 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 were sent out to those entitled to a rebate. If you did not receive a notice and believe you are entitled to a rebate, please contact the office. Both the 2008 and 2009 rebate has been credited to the property tax account of those qualifying residents, thus reducing the property taxes otherwise payable for 2009.

Address Changes – Utility Bills

For those residents who receive water and/or sewer services from the MD, you are billed for these services every two months. When you move, you are responsible for the utilities up to the date possession changes, even though the bill for this period of time may not be issued until a couple of months later. To ensure that you are only billed for the utility services up to the time you moved and to avoid possible late payment penalties, please contact our office to make payment arrangements or to provide your new address.

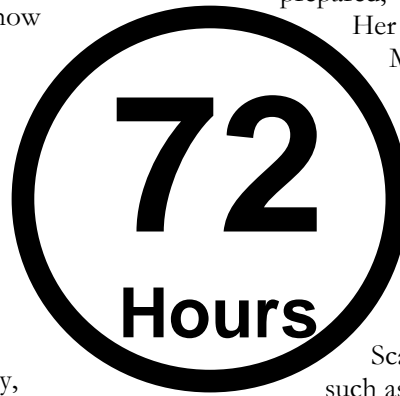
What's in Your Kit?

It's March and a vicious ice storm has just torn through the MD. The highways are closed. Utilities and power have been knocked out and there's no word yet how long it will take to restore them. You could be without heat and access to supplies for days. What's your plan?

Looking at a map of our MD, it's clear how vast an area we cover and how isolated some of our residents are. In the event of a disaster, emergency assistance getting to all affected areas may take longer than expected, so the onus to ensure your family is prepared to manage alone for 72 hours is on you. If you haven't given much thought to making a disaster kit, you're not alone. Kylie Degeling, Training officer for the Alberta Emergency Management Agency, says most Albertan's don't seem to be aware of the importance of being prepared in the event of an emergency,

"At every course I teach I ask the participants who has their 72 hour kit ready and generally, I find less than 10% have even thought of it," she said.

"Everyone seems to think that it (a disaster) is not going to happen, or if it does happen they believe that Emergency Services will be there to help. They don't realize that Emergency services will be helping people who are dying or hurt in the disaster, they won't be helping people who are trapped in their houses."



MD Fire Chief Rick Lyster echoes Degeling, "MD firefighters are volunteers and residents so they'll be facing the same issues as you. Our emergency services will be taxed with the high priority calls related to the emergency itself. Residents can assist us by being prepared," he said.

Her position with Alberta Emergency Management Agency has given Degeling a unique perspective. "I'm a little obsessed with being prepared," she explained, saying her important documents are scanned and stored on an encrypted thumb drive she takes with her everywhere. "I also have family photos scanned. The photos are the most important things to me," she said.

Scanning and storing important documents, such as banking and insurance information on a USB flash drive, or thumb drive will save you time later if you are evacuated. Thumb drives are inexpensive and easy to carry with you or store in your car. If you're not home when disaster strikes, collecting these items after the fact may not be an option, so having a backup is a great idea.

If your family doesn't have an Emergency Kit yet, now is the time to get one together. It's easy and most of the things you'll need are already in your home. The Government of Canada's site www.getprepared.ca is a great resource. Here's what they suggest should be included in your emergency kit:

- Water – two litres of water per person per day (Include small bottles that can be carried easily in case of an evacuation order)
- Food – that won't spoil, such as canned food, energy bars and dried foods (remember to replace the food and water once a year)
- Manual can opener
- Flashlight and batteries
- Battery-powered or wind-up radio (and extra batteries)
- First aid kit
- Special needs items – prescription medications, infant formula or equipment for people with disabilities
- Extra keys – for your car and house
- Cash – include smaller bills, such as \$10 bills (travelers cheques are also useful) and change for payphones
- Your family's [emergency plan](#) – include a copy of it and ensure it contains in-town and out-of-town contact information. For more information on how to complete an emergency plan, go to www.getprepared.ca

What's In Your Kit Cont'd...

Preventing a disaster may not be possible, but being prepared for one is. Waiting, Degeling says, is not wise. "Do it now! Don't wait. Don't say you'll do it tomorrow or next week, sit down with your family today and plan it out."

So, what's in your kit?

Tell us what we missed. Do you pack extra pet food in your kit? A copy of your family's prescriptions? Tell us and you will be entered in a draw to win an important item for your Emergency Kit.

Just email bighorn@mdbighorn.ca with "Disaster" in the subject line or call our office during business hours to enter. Please include your telephone number and mailing address so we can send you your prize. Deadline to enter is June 26, 2009.

2009 Spring and Fall Clean-Up

Rules:

1. Only brush will be picked up.
2. **Material 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'×7'×4'.
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.
7. **Any brush longer than 8 feet will not be picked up.**
8. There is no charge for this service.

LOCATION	CLEANUP WEEKEND	PICK-UP DATES
Benchlands	May 23 & 24, 2009 October 3 & 4, 2009	May 25, 2009 October 5, 2009
Harvie Heights	May 30 & May 31, 2009 September 26 & 27, 2009	June 1, 2009 September 28, 2009
Lac Des Arcs	June 6 & 7, 2009 September 12 & 13, 2009	June 8, 2009 September 14, 2009
Exshaw	June 13 & 14, 2009 September 5 & 6, 2009	June 15, 2009 September 7, 2009
Deadmans Flats/ Kananaskis Settlement	June 20 & 21, 2009 September 19 & 20, 2009	June 22, 2009 September 21, 2009

Francis Cooke Regional Landfill

Hours of Operation

Monday through

Saturday
8:00am to 4:00pm**Contact Information**

673-2708

www.bvwaste.ca

New Look – Utility Bills and Tax Notices

Earlier this year the MD updated its financial software, resulting in a change to the look of our invoices; they now include a barcode in the remittance portion. By scanning this barcode we can ensure your payment is applied to the correct account and invoice, so please include the remittance portion with your payment.

M.D. Welcomes New Staff

The M.D. has welcomed two new, and one returning, staff to the organization, this past month.

We welcomed Gail Iverson as our new Accounting Assistant. Gail, a resident of Banff, has extensive experience in Accounts Receivable/Payables, computer operations, and general accounting, having worked for (amongst others) the Town of Banff, the Banff School District, the Banff YWCA, and several area businesses.

William Davies, a resident of the Sundre area, has come on board as the seasonal Assistant Environmental Fieldman. His twenty-plus years of experience includes stints with Olds College and Alberta Agriculture, along with some private work; he has certificates/diplomas from both Olds College and Lethbridge Community College, in applicable fields, and is a licensed pesticide applicator. He will be assisting our Environmental Fieldman, Dwight Tannas, over the next five months.

And a familiar face is back, for one more summer: Sandy Lyster has re-joined our Operations crew. Sandy has been with the M.D., in a similar capacity, over the past few summers, while spending the school year in Lethbridge, pursuing her post-secondary education.

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

Gravel Sales

Due to depleted quantities, there will be no gravel sales this year from the Griffin Valley Gravel Pit. For alternative gravel suppliers, please contact the MD of Bighorn Roads Foreman.

Coming Soon...

Watch for Bighorn's latest editions of:

The Dirt

Issues Facing MD of Bighorn Landowners
-From Barnyard to Backyard-

Community Bulletin

Highlighting programs and opportunities that are available to Bighorn residents and community organizations

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

Website.....www.mdbighorn.ca

Mailing Address:

Box 310

Exshaw, AB T0L 2C0