

# NEWS *letter*



M.D. of Bighorn

Issue 28, March 2011

## Municipal Development Plan Review

**The MD of Bighorn is undertaking a review of its Municipal Development Plan.  
Learn how it affects you and how YOU can get involved!**

The Municipal Development Plan (MDP) is the principal planning document that guides the long-term use and development of land in the MD of Bighorn. A Municipal Development Plan generally considers:

- How land is used, subdivided and developed, in the present and 20 to 30 years into the future
- The provision of municipal transportation, and other services and facilities
- The protection of agricultural operations
- Economic development and environmental matters

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Please visit [www.mdbighorn.ca](http://www.mdbighorn.ca) for more information and to view a copy of the current version of Bighorn's Municipal Development Plan.

The Municipal Development Plan review process will be guided by a Steering Committee of seven members who represent various sectors and areas of the MD of Bighorn, such as industry, the environment, agriculture and Bighorn's hamlet communities. The Steering Committee members will be responsible for assisting in developing a comprehensive and effective public consultation and communication strategy; acting as liaisons between the various stakeholder groups; and ensuring the direction for orderly and sustainable growth and development is based upon the visions of Bighorn's residents and other stakeholders.

The Municipal Development Plan review process will involve the following key steps, with public input being sought throughout the various stages:

1. Visioning and Direction Setting – A general review of existing policies and setting future goals and priorities.
2. Research and Strategic Input – Identifying and exploring specific issues and objectives to guide policy development.
3. Drafting the MDP – Creating MDP policies and indicators.
4. Plan Confirmation and Revisions – Reviewing and refining the MDP.
5. Plan Approval – Council approval by bylaw, including a formal public hearing process.

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*MDP Review Cont'd...*

All residents and stakeholders of the MD of Bighorn are encouraged to participate in the initial Visioning and Direction Setting sessions which will take place this spring. If you are unable to attend one of the sessions that will be held, you can stay informed and involved through upcoming newsletters, local newspapers, Bighorn's website ([www.mdbighorn.ca](http://www.mdbighorn.ca)) or directly contact:

**Tracy Woitenko, Community Planner**  
**tracy.woitenko@mdbighorn.ca**  
**Tel: 403-673-3611**  
**Calgary Direct: 403-233-7678**

## **Property Assessment Notices**

The MD will again be sending separate Assessment and Tax Notices this year. The Assessment Notices will be mailed in March and the Tax Notices will be sent in May. If you do not receive your notices by the end of March and May respectively, please contact the MD office and we would be happy to send you another copy.

### **Items to Be Aware of:**

1. The deadline to file an appeal of your Assessment is 60 days after the Assessment Notices are mailed. Forms for filing an appeal will be available on our website, picked up at our offices, or mailed to you upon request.
2. The 60 day appeal period begins on the date the notices are originally mailed. An advertisement that assessment notices have been sent is placed in three local newspapers, which constitutes mailing, whether the owner actually receives the notice or not. We make every effort to ensure notices are sent to all property owners to the addresses we have on file for them, but sometimes addresses are incorrect or there may be mailing delays that occur once the notices leave our office. Any such delays do not impact the appeal deadline.
3. The fees for appealing 2011 assessments are \$50.00 for each residential/farmland appeal and \$650 for each commercial/industrial assessment appeal; the same as those set for 2010. If your appeal is successful, these fees will be refunded to you.
4. The MD encourages you to contact the Assessor to discuss any concerns you have with your assessment before filing a formal complaint. The assessor's contact information can be obtained by calling our office or found on the Assessment Notice.
5. June 30, 2011: Property Taxes are due.

## **Exshaw Municipal Water System Update**

With a bit of luck, by the time you receive this newsletter the MD of Bighorn will have water flowing through the distribution lines of the new water system in Exshaw. This means that residents of the hamlet will have an alternative to their existing, private water sources and the fire hydrants will be operational. It will also mean that this \$13 million project, the largest ever undertaken by the MD, will be nearing completion. Some points of interest:

Although the project is slightly behind schedule, it is on budget.

Grant funding is covering almost 90% of the project's capital cost.

The local improvement levy required of Exshaw property owners will be billed with property taxes and is due by June 30, 2011, or may be paid annually over a 20-year period.

The water comes from an aquifer that is about 215m (710 feet) deep and is well protected from surface contaminants.

The raw water is treated through a low pressure sand filter to remove the iron and manganese that is in it. This is for aesthetic, not health, purposes as the levels of iron and manganese in the raw water are low.

There will be chlorine added to the water, but no fluoride.

And for those that may have to answer a question in a trivia contest, the reservoir is sized to hold about 4,000m<sup>3</sup> (1,000,000 gallons) of treated water.

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## Council Briefs

*What follows are some of the highlights of Council actions since the last newsletter published in December 2010*

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*The new Council dealt with a lot of business, following their October election: here's what went on at the November, December and January Council meetings:*

A petition was received from a group of West Jumpingpound landowners, who were seeking a short connector road to run westerly from the under-construction Township Road 250 to the Alberta Surface Rights Board road in the south-west quarter of Section 36 in Township 24. It was determined that the petition received was insufficient, as a number of signatures were declared invalid (for a number of reasons).

A major topic of discussion was the Rocky Mountain Legacy Trail, the pedestrian/cyclist trail that runs from the Banff National Park gates into the Town of Banff. While the majority of the Trail within the Park has been constructed, there is no connection to the existing Canmore/M.D. trail that terminates at Harvie Heights, and perhaps more importantly, no safe means of crossing the Trans-Canada Highway, for trail users. The Bow Corridor Regional Mobility Partnership, which consists of a number of agencies/organizations within the Bow valley (including the M.D. of Bighorn), has reviewed options, and feels that a stand-alone pedestrian/cyclist bridge over the Highway, near the current Harvie Heights' overpass, would be the best solution. While capital cost is a major issue, M.D. Council was more concerned with annual operating - and eventual replacement- costs for the bridge. In the end, Council agreed in principle to the M.D. taking ownership and maintenance responsibility for that portion of the Rocky Mountain Legacy Trail that is proposed to be built within the M.D. between the Banff National Park East Gate and the existing trail in Harvie Heights, but only on the condition that the M.D. not be responsible for the associated proposed pedestrian bridge over the Trans-Canada Highway. The Regional Mobility Partnership will now look further into the situation.

A request from an Exshaw dog-owner for an exemption from dog license fees was denied by Council. The dog owner's request was based upon her dog being physically handicapped (deaf, blind and unable to walk without great difficulty), aged (around 12 – 13 years old: it is estimated the breed has a 14 – 15 year life expectancy), and therefore highly unlikely to be “at

large”. Council held to the policy that all dogs within the M.D. should be licensed.

Given the number of times the M.D. has to deal with encroachments onto municipal lands (reserve/parklands, roads and alleys, etc.), Council directed Administration to develop an Encroachment policy for consideration so that all encroachments are handled in a consistent fashion throughout the M.D., in the future. The policy will be considered at an upcoming spring meeting.

The annual Community Services Board recommendations on community grants were brought forward: overall, Council approved, conditional upon final 2011 M.D. operating budget approval, grants totaling \$16,352 to various community organizations throughout the M.D., and \$13,000 in operational funding to the Exshaw Library Society for the Bighorn Library. Funds were provided to such groups as the Water Valley Library, the Benchlands Community Association, the Ghost-Waiparous Trails Association, and others. The M.D.'s operating budget will be considered for approval at the March Council meeting.

Also on the grant scene, Council agreed to provide a one-time \$10,000 grant to the Town of Cochrane for the building of a new Seniors' Drop-In Centre in Cochrane. The funds had previously been provided to Cochrane as a contribution towards the Town's ambulance operational costs; with the Province taking over ambulance services as part of the delivery of health services, the M.D. was no longer required to contribute to Cochrane. The funds will not be included in the M.D.'s 2011 budgets.

A proposal for a new trail in the Ghost Waiparous area came back to Council: the Rocky Mountain Dirt Riders Association, an organization representing dirt bikers, brought a revised proposal back to the Ghost Stewardship Monitoring Group (GSMG): the original proposal had come out in 2009, with the M.D. responding negatively to the proposed trail, for a number of reasons. The GSMG sent the revised proposal out to the various members for review; the M.D., being a member of the GSMG, then posted the revised proposal on its web-site, seeking comments.

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*Council Briefs Cont'd...*

After receiving submissions, Council forwarded a letter to the GSMG on the proposal, thanking the proponents for revising the trail design to accommodate some of the M.D.'s earlier concerns, but also indicating the M.D. could not support the proposal, as the comments received from M.D. residents and businesses still did not approve of the trail.

There was only one delegation over the three month period: Jumpingpound Creek Watershed Partnership representative Sandi Reimersma presented an update on the Jumpingpound Creek Integrated Watershed Management Plan to Council. Ms. Reimersma gave a brief background on the Partnership and went on to outline the Partnership's achievements including the State of the Watershed Report, water balance study, and development of proposed targets and thresholds.

Following discussions on a revised terms of reference for the Heritage Resources Committee, Council directed Administration to undertake, in early 2011, a review of the numerous bylaws that establish the MD of Bighorn's committees and boards, with the intention of updating those bylaws to make the format of each relatively similar. The review is to be complete by March.

After a proposal call and rigorous review of the submissions received, Council accepted the proposal from Ec Dev Solutions Ltd., in collaboration with Millier Dickinson Blais Inc., to complete the Sustainable Economic Development/Tourism Strategy, at a cost not to exceed \$45,000.00. Five qualified firms had responded to the proposal call: the selection committee felt Ec Dev's proposal was the best one received. Richard Pauls of EcDev Solutions was present at the January Council meeting, to meet with Councillors, introduce his firm, and discuss the expectations for the Strategy. EcDev will be conducting face-to-face meetings, telephone interviews, focus groups and a website link to a survey for general public input. The project is expected to be completed by no later than May of this year.

On the bylaw front, Council gave first readings to Bylaw 20/10, Exshaw Water System, and Bylaw 01-11, a new Fee Schedule Bylaw. Second reading was given to Bylaw 01/09, the Building Permit bylaw, with final reading expected at the February Council meeting. All three readings were given to Bylaw 21/10, the new Tax Installment Payment Plan bylaw.

Council also approved the Terms of Reference for the review of the MD of Bighorn's Municipal Development Plan (MDP): the review and re-draft of

the MDP is expected to take up to a year to complete, and will involve significant public input.

Due to the new Council learning the intricacies of municipal financing and budgets, 2011 operating and capital budgets' approval was delayed until after an early January visioning session was held. In order to comply with Municipal Government Act requirements, Council adopted an interim 2011 budget, to allow operations to carry on until such time as Council passes final Operating and Capital budgets for the 2011 fiscal year. The interim budget is, basically, the 2010 operating budget, with the addition of funds/expenditures for the Sustainable Economic Development/Tourism Strategy, and revenue/expenses for the Exshaw Water Department, scheduled to commence operation in early 2011. Council has indicated it anticipates finalizing and approving full budgets at the March regular meeting.

Council approved rate increases for a number of utilities: the Hamlets of Harvie Heights (commercial) waste-water collection system, the Dead Man's Flats and Exshaw waste-water collection/treatment systems, the Harvie Heights commercial water system, and the solid waste management system fees were all adjusted, effective January 1, 2011.

A long-awaited project in Harvie Heights is moving forward: Administration was authorized to proceed with a Request for Proposal to enclose the Harvie Heights garbage/recycling bins on Bow River Drive. The enclosure design is to incorporate additional pedestrian-style exits (in addition to the main vehicle access at the front of the enclosure), to ensure that neither humans nor wildlife get caught in the enclosure. Funding for the project is to be provided by grant dollars, Ward 2 Community Enhancement funds, or some combination of both, with total project cost not to exceed \$22,500.

Council has adopted a Development Impact Assessment Policy. The Policy allows the M.D. to require, where it is felt necessary, a development proponent to assess the impact of a development on the natural environment, and propose measures for reducing or mitigating such impacts. .../5

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*Council Briefs Cont'd from page 4...*

The M.D.'s Agricultural Service and Environmental Advisory Board has a new Chairperson: Council appointed Jackie Gemmill to take over the chair duties from long-time Chairperson Bryne Weerstra. Bryne remains on the Board, and was thanked by Council in gratitude for his lengthy service as the Chair.

Council agreed to a one-year renewal of the C.A.O. contract with current C.A.O. Martin Buckley. The new Council will assess the C.A.O.'s performance, over the course of the next year, before determining whether a longer contract renewal is warranted.

Councillor Carolyn Montgomery was authorized to attend the Economic Development Alberta 2011 Annual Professional Conference and Annual General Meeting in April on behalf of the MD of Bighorn. It is also anticipated that all Councillors will attend the Spring AAMD&C convention in Edmonton, in mid-March.

*(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.*

## **“Special Friend of Bighorn” Award Given to Ross Larsen**

At a November board/committee/commission meeting session, Ross Larsen, a long-time former Lafarge Canada employee with strong ties to the M.D., was given the prestigious “Special Friend of Bighorn” award. The award is given to recognize and honour specifically those non-residents who have contributed, in an on-going extraordinary fashion, to the continued well-being and enhancement of our community and the life-style enjoyed by its residents.

Ross Larsen was a resident of Canmore during his years with the Exshaw Lafarge plant, and later moved to Cochrane and Calgary, when he was promoted to the Calgary Lafarge offices. While at the Exshaw plant, Ross was responsible for the liaison role of community relations, and as such worked closely with the M.D. on a considerable number of initiatives and programs. He was instrumental in the M.D. acquiring leased land from Lafarge, for the new Exshaw water system reservoir, attended Exshaw Community (later Bighorn Corridor) Environment Committee meetings, worked with the M.D. on the Community Aggregate Payment Levy bylaw, and made numerous representations on behalf of Lafarge at municipal hearings, public open houses, etc.

While the initial presentation of the Special Friend of Bighorn award was made at the November session, Reeve Dene Cooper later attended a formal Lafarge Canada retirement party for Ross, where the presentation was repeated, this time in front of the company dignitaries. The presentation was well-received, and much appreciated.

Ross Larsen is the third recipient of the Special Friend of Bighorn award: the previous recipients are Gordie Miskow, also a retired long-time Lafarge Canada employee, and Harvey Buckley, a long-time rancher and former Rocky View County councillor.

# Spring/Fall Clean-up 2011

## Rules for the Spring/Fall Clean-up:

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 road sides after midnight on Sunday.
5. There is a limit of one load per household. A truck load 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. **ANY BRUSH LONGER THAN 8 FEET WILL NOT BE PICKED UP.**
7. There is no charge for this service.

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>CLEANUP WEEKEND</u>	<u>PICK-UP DATES</u>
Benchlands	May 21 & 22, 2011 September 17 & 18, 2011	May 24, 2011 September 19, 2011
Harvie Heights	May 28 & May 29, 2011 September 3 & 4, 2011	May 30, 2011 September 6, 2011
Lac Des Arcs	June 4 & 5, 2011 September 10 & 11, 2011	June 6, 2011 September 12, 2011
Exshaw	June 11 & 12, 2011 September 24 & 25, 2011	June 13, 2011 September 26, 2011
Dead Man's Flats/ Kananaskis Settlement	June 18 & 19, 2011 October 1 & 2, 2011	June 20, 2011 October 3, 2011

## FRANCIS COOKE REGIONAL LANDFILL

### HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday through Saturday

8:00am to 4:00pm

For more information call 673-2708

## Garbage Collection

Household garbage is collected from all containers within the M.D of Bighorn every Monday, Thursday and sometimes on Friday. All garbage must be in garbage bags and deposited inside the residential container. A list of acceptable materials is listed on each container as well as materials that need to be placed in recycling containers. In the past few years, the M.D of Bighorn has noticed an increasing amount of unacceptable items in and around garbage containers. Items such as cardboard, computers and computer equipment, sofa cushions, household furnishings, televisions, microwaves, lumber and clothing have been found in and around containers throughout the M.D of Bighorn. As Bighorn direct hauls all garbage to Calgary, these unacceptable items have in the past constituted an extra trip to the city and that costs money. The larger items that are found around the bins have to be picked up by one of the operations people using a pick-up truck and again this costs money. So let's all work together to try and make this a more economical department.

## Recycling Program

The M.D of Bighorn has been operating a fairly extensive recycling program and approximately 75 tonnes of recycled material a year are removed from the waste stream. Remember, quality is critical to the success of any recycling program and the M.D of Bighorn asks all residents to please keep all recycling containers free of contaminants as our staff must spend time removing any of these contaminants. If in doubt about any item please call the Utilities Department at 673-3611 or Calgary direct at 233-7678.

*The following is a list of all the recycling depots within the M.D of Bighorn:*

- Exshaw-** located just north of the fire hall on Mount Allen Drive.
- Lac Des Arcs-** located at the garbage bins just off McGillivray Lane.
- Harvie Heights-** located across from the postal kiosk on Bow River Drive.
- Dead Man's Flats-** located near the lift station on Second Avenue.
- Jamieson Road-** located beside the fire hall.
- Ghost River-** located at the transfer site just west of the SV of Waiparous on Hwy 940.
- Sibbald Area-** located next to the Volker Steven yard on Hwy 68.



### **All Depots Accept the Following Recyclable Materials**

#### **Metal Food Cans**

This includes all metal cans and other small metal pieces such as coat hangers and pie plates. Please ensure all metal food cans are rinsed and free of paper labels. To minimize cuts and lost lids ensure the lid is inserted into the can and pressed shut.

#### **Glass**

Clear and coloured glass. This includes all glass jars, drinking glass, Pyrex™ and windowpanes. Please ensure all glass is rinsed, free of paper labels and lids.

#### **Corrugated Cardboard & Boxboard**

This includes flattened moving boxes & cereal boxes.

#### **Newsprint/Catalogues/Magazines**

This includes newspapers, catalogues, magazines and all inserts are acceptable.

#### **Mixed Paper**

This includes envelopes, junk mail, office paper, etc. Please ensure only paper products that do not fit the other categories are placed with the mixed paper.

#### **Plastics**

The M.D of Bighorn is now collecting mixed plastics at these same depots. Examples of mixed plastics that can be placed in the cages are: Shampoo bottles, Ketchup bottles and Margarine tubs. Items that should not be placed in the cages are: plastic bags of any type, Styrofoam or large plastic items such as lawn chairs etc.

# FIRE SEASON

## Starts April 1

Fire permits will be required for any burning the Forest Protection Area (excluding campfires).

What should you do?

Visit your winter burn sites to ensure the fires have been completely extinguished.

Get a free permit by contacting your local sustainable Resource Development office.

Calgary (403) 297-8800

**REPORT WILDFIRES 310 - FIRE**

## Refundables

At all our recycling depots listed in the article on Page 7, there are also refundable bins for all types of drinking containers.

**This includes:**

**Liquor**

**Pop**

**Juice**

**Water**

**AND NOW – All types of milk containers, both plastic and cartons.**

Please remember not to put your refundables into the regular recycling containers. In some communities, these refundables are picked up by a local community organization and the proceeds are used to support their work.

## Census jobs

## Emplois au recensement

**35,000 jobs across Canada**

**35 000 emplois à travers le Canada**

**Period of employment:**

early March to end of July (start date varies by assignment)

**Période de l'emploi :**

début mars à la fin juillet (la date de début de l'emploi varie selon la tâche)

**Rate of pay:**

\$14.72 to \$18.04 per hour plus authorized expenses

**Taux de rémunération :**

14,72 \$ à 18,04 \$ l'heure plus les dépenses autorisées

**Hours of work:**

flexible, but must commit to at least 20 hours per week

**Heures de travail :**

flexibles, mais doit s'engager à travailler au moins 20 heures par semaine

**Requirement:**

must be 18 years of age or over

**Exigence :**

doit avoir 18 ans ou plus

**Apply now /  
tell a friend**

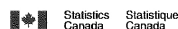
[www.census2011.gc.ca](http://www.census2011.gc.ca)

1-866-773-2011 – TTY: 1-800-363-7629

**Postulez dès maintenant /  
Dites-le à un ami**

[www.recensement2011.gc.ca](http://www.recensement2011.gc.ca)

1-866-773-2011 – ATS : 1-800-363-7629



## How to Contact Us

### Reeve

Dene Cooper ..... 673-3968

### Deputy Reeve

Erik Butters ..... 932-2649

### Councillors

Carolyn Montgomery ..... 678-5556

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