

# NEWS letter



M.D. of Bighorn

Issue 22, September 2009

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## **Board/Committee/Commission Appointments**

The Municipal Government Act requires all Councils in Alberta to hold an Organizational meeting every year. For rural municipalities such as the M.D. of Bighorn, this meeting must be held not later than two weeks after the third Monday in October

Organizational meetings are the time at which Councils generally cover a number of administrative housekeeping matters: appointment of Reeves and Deputy Reeves, setting of Council meeting dates and times, and (perhaps most importantly) Councillors are assigned to the various boards/committees/commissions. It is also at organizational meetings that public representation on the various boards/committees/commissions is established. Applications are reviewed, and decisions made as to who will serve on the various bodies. The M.D.'s Organizational meeting will likely be held in mid to late October, following the general elections.

Members of the Public are invited to submit their names to the M.D., if individuals are interested in participating on a board/committee/commission. Most of the boards/committees/commissions are advisory bodies, providing advice and recommendations to Council, although some are autonomous and make decisions on their own (such as the Municipal Planning Commission, the Subdivision/Development Appeal Board, and the Assessment Review Board). Members receive a per-diem for attending meetings, mileage for vehicle travel to and from the meeting location, and (when the meeting overlaps a regular meal-time) meals. Time commitment varies: some boards/committees/commissions meet regularly, on a monthly basis, while some meet only when necessary (at the call of the Chairman), or when an issue arises that requires their review.

Some of the boards/committees/commissions have specific -and sometimes mandatory- training requirements, that are provided by Provincial staff or other personnel. Attendees will be provided per-diems and, if incurred, coverage of expenses (mileage, meals, accommodations).

A brief explanation of what each board/committee/commission does is provided; if you would like more information, please contact the M.D. office at 403-673-3611 (Calgary direct 403-233-7678).

CHECK OUT PAGES 11-12 for descriptions and application forms. Deadline to submit an application is September 25, 2009.

## Council Briefs

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

Council received only one delegation over the past three months: Melanie Watt and Kim Titchener made a presentation to Council on the Bow Valley WildSmart program, a proactive conservation strategy that encourages efforts by communities to reduce negative human-wildlife interactions. The M.D. has financially supported this program, over the past years. It was requested that WildSmart ensure that the program information is circulated more widely so that the eastern parts of the MD could participate in opportunities as well.

M.D. Administration was authorized to engage engineering services on the planning for construction of an east-west road north of Section 12-25-6-W5 in the West Jumpingpound area. The initiative marks the second application to construct a road in the West Jumpingpound community, an area that currently has no municipally-managed roads. The first application, on a road in the south end of West Jumpingpound, has reached a point of needing to move forward: Council sought either a firm commitment to construct a public road from highway 68 to the north east corner of 36-24-6-W5M, from Shell Canada Ltd. by September 15th, 2009, or the development of the road allowance running east-west between SW Section 1-25-6-W5M and NW Section 36-24-6-W5M in West Jumpingpound could take place, as proposed a number of months ago, by a consortium of area land-owners. Shell has fixtures within the east-west road allowance that would need to be relocated, if this allowance was to be developed,

and it is anticipated that the relocation expense would be substantial: Shell is considering whether the development of an alternate road would make better business, and community benefit, sense.

Council did not support a proposal from the Rocky Mountain Dirt Riders Association/Second Gear Club, for the development of a new single-track vehicle (motorcycle) trail, to be known as the Transalta Loop Trail, in the Ghost/Waiparous area. The reasons indicated, for the non-support, included environmental concerns, watershed conflicts, a lack of information on safety issues, and impact on adjacent developments/users.

Council did agree to provide a letter of support for the Calgary ATV Riders Association's grant application to the National Trails Coalition, for funding towards backcountry trail upgrades and environmental repair programs in the Ghost/Waiparous area on the current designated trail system. The support was conditional upon the Ghost Stewardship Monitoring Group review and approval of the plans for the upgrades and environmental repair programs, before work commencement.

As other municipal Councils undoubtedly did, M.D. Council submitted its concerns on Bill 36, the Alberta Land Stewardship Act, to our MLA and the Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Sustainable Resource Development. Council's letter expressed that further work and consultation with municipalities is needed, on Bill 36, before the regulations are developed.

Council endorsed the M.D.'s participation in a regional volunteer driver one year pilot program with the Towns of Banff & Canmore commencing in September 2009. The program is intended to enlist volunteer drivers for M.D. residents, particularly seniors, needing assistance in getting to medical appointments. Council passed on their congratulations to the Community Services Coordinator Emily Smith on helping bring this much-needed plan to the valley.

Council replaced their Community Services' Policy CS-1 with new policy CS-8, M.D. Grant Policy. The old policy covered only the annual community services grant program, while the new policy adds the Council discretionary funds program, and also provides a standard grant application form.

The Ghost River Fire Hall will be getting a new vehicle: Council authorized Administration, in conjunction with the EMS Committee, to commence the process to replace two front-line Fire Department vehicles at the Hall with a single new vehicle. The 2009 budget contained an allotment of up to \$300,000 for the new vehicle, with the funds to come from reserves; delivery time may be up to a year, given that the vehicle will have to be built, once the order is placed.

The M.D. received two circulation notices, from adjacent municipalities: Council directed Administration to respond that the MD of Bighorn has no objections to the proposed new Clearwater County Municipal Development

Plan, and further that the M.D. has no objections to the proposed amendments to Rockyview County's Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw policies, regarding Accessory Dwelling Units.

The M.D. continues work on the proposed Exshaw municipal water system: Council approved tendering of the water system construction, as soon as the tender documents are complete, but with the understanding that once the tender price is known, a local improvement tax bylaw will be prepared to secure the final component of the project funding. In normal local improvement situations, approval has been sought first, before tendering occurs: the decision was made to tender first, then have an definitive firm price for the affected property owners to consider, before approving.

Council endorsed the Agricultural Services & Environmental Advisory Board's recommendation to provide a "Alberta Wetlands: From Classification to Policy" course, as offered by Aquality Environmental Consulting Ltd., to members of Council, Staff, MPC, S/DAB and ASEAB. The course will likely take place in early October.

Council appointed Gordon Halliday as a temporary Bylaw Enforcement/Safety Codes Officer for the M.D. for the period of July 15 to September 30. He will work on both Bylaw Enforcement, and assist with fire department administrative duties over the summer months.

On the bylaw front, Council dealt with a few planning-related matters, but also moved forward on the noise situation, and a sewer maintenance bylaw for Harvie Heights. Council directed Administration to hold an open

house regarding draft Bylaw 04/09, a bylaw to adopt a new Bar C Area Structure Plan, before considering first reading of the proposed bylaw, and further directed Administration to publicize and obtain input on draft Bylaw 05-Z/09, a Land Use Bylaw amendment, also in conjunction with the Bar C. The proposed Area Structure Plan sees a 45 unit residential bareland condominium development, complete with an equestrian area/facilities, and a possible commercial centre with accommodations, restaurant, and meeting rooms. First reading was given to bylaw 08-Z/09, an application to amend the Land Use Bylaw as it pertains to subdivision on SW Sec. 1-31-6-W5M, with the public hearing set for September 15, 2009 in the Water valley hall. Finally, Council gave first reading to a new noise control bylaw 07/09, and second reading to Bylaw 14/07, the Harvie Heights Private Sewage Disposal Systems Maintenance Bylaw (which is reported on separately, in this newsletter).

When requested for an update on the pedestrian bridge replacement in Dead Man's Flats, Administration advised that some preliminary testing had shown the gravel base to unsuitable for the type of bridge the Operations department was hoping to install. As a result, solutions are being investigated, and more information should be available later in the summer. A second request to Administration was about the volunteer-constructed bike park off the TransCanada Trail near Dead Man's Flats and liability/risk management for same. Administration reported that the M.D.'s insurance company has approved the structures, provided those structures conform to standards.

A funding request from Didsbury Search & Rescue was received and considered: the organization was seeking funds towards operating costs of their May long-weekend camp in the Burnt Timber area, when Search & Rescue volunteers (comprised, in part, of off-duty Emergency and Protective Services professionals) move into the area in case their services are needed, given the large influx of campers and recreationalist on that weekend. Council suggested that Didsbury Search & Rescue complete and submit a grant application for grant funding towards any capital needs the organization might have, instead of seeking financial assistance with specific operating costs for the May long weekend.

Council approved the "Wildlife Corridor/Habitat Patch Development Guidelines Review, Terms of Reference – December 11, 2008", and the MD of Bighorn's participation in this Review, providing \$2,500 towards the \$30,000 project. Additional funding will come from the provincial government, the Town of Canmore, and Banff National Park.

Council received and accepted the Year 2008 Financial Statements, as prepared by M.D. Administration and audited by the accounting firm of Chengkalath Van Eyck. The statements show the M.D. continues to be in good financial shape (the financial statements are available on the M.D.'s website, at [www.mdbighorn.ca](http://www.mdbighorn.ca)). While not directly connected to the issue of the 2008 Financial Statements, Council authorized the Reeve to submit a letter to the Province's Standing Committee on Community Services, on proposed Bill 202, which would see the creation of a Municipal Auditor General. The M.D. objected the suggestion that a Municipal Auditor General was

needed, indicating that the current level of municipal finance reporting, to the Province, was sufficient.

Council authorized Administration to enter into a contract agreement with Bow Valley Property Valuers, to continue as the M.D.'s assessor, for a four year term with a two year renewal option.

Following up on a delegation and request a while ago, Council indicated that owners of certain lots on Windridge Road in Exshaw should remove any non-structural encroachments on Municipal Reserve Lot MR-15 that abuts the

lots, by August 31, 2009. Some owners had landscaped out onto the reserve lot: the delegation had requested that the M.D. and the owners formalize the arrangement, through some sort of agreement or possible sale of the lands to them, but after review and legal advice, Council indicated it did not want to set any precedences, and dealt with the encroachments in similar fashion as was done elsewhere in the M.D.

The M.D. has entered into a contract agreement with A&A Paving Ltd., to complete some initial restoration work on Burnt

Timber Road, at a cost of just under \$100,000.00. The work will commence in late July/early August, and should be completed within a few weeks: this work should lay the foundation for future major work on that same road, within the next few years.

*(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.*

## Canmore Terminates Five Year Old Multi-Services Agreement

In June 2008, the Town of Canmore served six months notice (in accordance with the terms) of termination of the 2004 Multi-Services Agreement with the M.D. of Bighorn. The Agreement had addressed services that the Town provided to the western-most portions of the M.D., and the subsequent compensation paid by the M.D. to the Town, for the services received. The services included recreation facilities/program usage, fire protection, ambulance, business directory, bylaw enforcement\*, and Family/Community Support Services (FCSS). A similar agreement is in place with the Town of Cochrane, for the services that municipality provides to the eastern-most rural portions of the M.D.

After serving notice of termination, representatives of the two municipalities met, with the intent of negotiating a new Multi-Services Agreement, which would include previous and additional services, and address some other concerns that were not captured within the 2004 Agreement. When it became apparent that negotiations would not be concluded before the end of the 2008 calendar year (and thus there would not be an Agreement in place), a time extension was agreed to, setting a new Agreement termination date of June 30, 2009. While a number of issues were settled, in the first six months of 2009, the two parties could not conclude a new Agreement, due to the inability to come to a common ground on a couple of key matters. The M.D. was then asked, by the Town, if any specific services were needed, that could be addressed by stand-alone agreements: the M.D. identified three key concerns, being FCSS, access to the Canmore cemetery, and fire protection for the Harvie Heights-Dead Man's Flats corridor. While Canmore Council agreed to the M.D.'s FCSS service request, the Town turned down the requests for a continuation of fire protection and cemetery access. As a result, the Town will not act as the first response unit on fire calls to the Harvie Heights-Dead Man's Flats' corridor, (that response will now come from the Exshaw Fire Department) and M.D. residents purchasing a lot in the Canmore Cemetery will be required to pay the non-resident fee (which is substantially higher than the Canmore resident fee).

While the M.D. is prepared to meet with Town officials again, to see if any further consensus can be reached towards a new Multi-Services Agreement, it is anticipated that meetings will not occur until later in the summer, or early in the fall. M.D. Administration, in the meantime, has been asked to report to Council, in September, on the possibility/feasibility of establishing an M.D. firehall somewhere in the Harvie Heights- Dead Man's Flats' corridor, and on setting up a business licence/registry program in the municipality.

\* - *Bylaw enforcement services were withdrawn by the Town after only a couple of years into the Agreement.*

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

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### 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, 2010. A reminder will be sent this fall to any property owner with outstanding property taxes.

### DIRECT DEBIT of Property Taxes and Utility Accounts

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 2010 and would be based upon your 2009 Tax Levy. The 2009 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. Just complete the form and send it and a cancelled cheque to us and we would be happy to add you to the program. ☺

**Simplify your life - call the M.D. office for more information or visit our website.**

### Exshaw Water System Update – August 2009

Council is moving ahead with the proposed Exshaw Municipal Water System. Engineering was completed in July and the project was then tendered, with the work being divided into two contracts. Contract A deals with the water piping and the street reinstatement. Contract B covers work at the reservoir site, including water treatment, as well as the tie-in of the existing, deep well in south Exshaw.

When the two tenders closed on August 7, the MD of Bighorn was in receipt of eight bids, four on each contract. After verification of the submissions, the two lowest bidders were selected: Slimdor Contracting Ltd. for Contract A and Tritech Group Ltd. for Contract B. The total price of the project, including engineering and contingencies, is approximately \$13 million.

The next step undertaken by the MD was the establishment of the amount of the local improvement tax needed to be collected from the landowners benefitting from this system. The MD is fortunate to be proposing this project at a time when infrastructure projects are receiving substantial grant support from the federal and provincial governments. Approximately 80% of the project will be funded by grants. It is difficult to imagine that there will be a better time to undertake this project.

The local improvement tax bylaw was discussed by Council on August 20, 2009 at a special council meeting. The bylaw received first reading and notice is now being given to all Exshaw landowners that sets out the improvement tax that will apply to each property. There will be an option to pay the tax in one payment or to pay it over the course of 20 years in conjunction with the annual property tax. Notice of the bylaw starts a 30 day petition period. Assuming that there is not a petition against the bylaw, Council's intention is to consider second and third reading of the local improvement tax bylaw in late September. If that passes, the contracts will then be awarded. Construction of the water system could start immediately thereafter, in early October. The project is expected to take a year to complete, meaning that there could be municipal water available in Exshaw before year end 2010.

## 2009 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 placed 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 than 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**

**Exshaw**

September 5 & 6, 2009

September 7, 2009

**Lac Des Arcs**

September 12 & 13, 2009

September 14, 2009

**Deadmans Flats/**

September 19 & 20, 2009

September 21, 2009

**Kananaskis Settlement**

**Harvie Heights**

September 26 & 27, 2009

September 28, 2009

**Benchlands**

October 3 & 4, 2009

October 5, 2009

### 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 26<sup>th</sup>  
 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Exshaw Fire Hall  
 Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Hamlets pick-ups on Saturday October 3<sup>rd</sup>:

Lac Des Arcs .....10 a.m.  
 Deadmans Flats .....11 a.m.  
 Harvie Heights .....12 noon

For details on acceptable items, check out the notice board on Bighorn's website or the Bow Valley Waste Management website [www.bvwaste.ca](http://www.bvwaste.ca) or call the MD of Bighorn Utilities Department at 673-3611

### Francis Cooke Regional Landfill

**Hours of Operation**

Monday through Saturday  
 8:00am to 4:00pm

**Contact Information**

673-2708

[www.bvwaste.ca](http://www.bvwaste.ca)

## New Bylaw for Harvie Heights Targets Waste-Water System Maintenance

Residential property owners in the hamlet of Harvie Heights may be required, on an on-going scheduled basis, to provide proof of regular maintenance of their waste-water systems, if a proposed bylaw receives third reading in September.

Bylaw 14/07, the Harvie Heights Private Sewage Disposal Systems Maintenance Bylaw, is intended to provide a measure of scrutiny on private residential sewage disposal systems, to ensure those systems are functioning properly, and not posing any hazard/contamination possibilities to ground water. Dependent on the type of system on the property, owners will be required to provide a certificate, from an authorized person qualified to perform maintenance, showing that the system has been maintained/inspected, and is functioning properly.

It is anticipated that the first request for proof of maintenance will go out with the 2010 property tax notices. Failure to provide a certificate when required to do so, will result in the M.D. completing the work at the property owner's expense; the owner could also face a fine for non-compliance.

While other areas/hamlets in the M.D. were also considered for this bylaw, it was determined that property sizes were the most critical issue, with respect to water/waste-water systems: given the smaller lot sizes in Harvie Heights, and the possibility of improperly-maintained sewage disposal systems affecting nearby ground-water sources, the decision was to limit the proposed bylaw to Harvie Heights.

The Bylaw has been sent out to every residential property owner in Harvie Heights, requesting feedback and comments. Council will consider final reading at the regular meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup>. If passed, the Bylaw will apparently be a first for the Province: it is believed that no other Alberta municipality has, or is venturing to pass, a similar bylaw.

If you would like more information, please contact the M.D.'s C.A.O. at (403) 673-3611 or Calgary Direct (403) 233-7678.

## Update On Land Use Bylaw Review

A comprehensive review of the MD of Bighorn's Land Use Bylaw – the document that regulates the use and development of buildings and land within the municipality – is still ongoing. Planning staff would like to extend a sincere thank you to all those who participated in one of the four public/stakeholder facilitated discussions that have taken place so far, on issues including visitor accommodations, home-based businesses, wind energy systems and camping.

The first portion of the draft Land Use Bylaw, which contains the general and specific development regulations, and the development setback regulations, has been reviewed and is available for public viewing. It can be accessed on the MD of Bighorn's website ([www.mdbighorn.ca](http://www.mdbighorn.ca)) in the Planning and Development section, or is available at the MD office in Exshaw. Please feel free provide any comments or feedback on the draft regulations to Tracy Woitenko, Community Planner by phone or email ([tracy.woitenko@mdbighorn.ca](mailto:tracy.woitenko@mdbighorn.ca)).

Planning and development staff are currently reviewing regulations for each individual land use district with the Steering Committee. Once the final draft document is prepared, public open house meetings will be held at various times and locations, which is anticipated to occur by the spring/summer of 2010.

Please direct any comments, questions or concerns on the Land Use Bylaw or the review process to Tracy Woitenko, Community Planner for the MD of Bighorn at (403) 673-3611 or Calgary direct at (403) 233-7678. Alternatively, you may also contact members of the Municipal Planning Commission, who is the Steering Committee for the review process, including: Rhody Litschke, John Haasen, Carolyn Montgomery, Maria Dunki and Paul Adams.

## Updated Municipal Maps

New Municipal Maps updated 2009  
now available.  
\$14.95 +tax at counter  
\$25 + tax mailed

## General Information For House Builders Alberta Building Code Changes – May 3, 2009

The Alberta Building Code has been changed to reduce the effect of fires which start outside a building. Sources could include other buildings, spaces between buildings, attached garages, balconies, etc. The following information highlights some of the changes that may affect the design of a house:

1. **Windows within 6' - 7" (2 m) of a Neighbour's Property Line. \***  
Maximum individual window size is 1/2 of window area allowed for the complete wall.  
Windows within a room to be at least 6' – 7" apart.  
Calculations for window sizes to be based on complete wall, rather than random vertical portions.
2. **Wall Construction within 4' (1.2 m) of a Neighbour's Property Line.**  
Provide a 45 minute fire-resistance rating at inside face of wall (this may be achieved with fire-rated gypsum board).  
Cladding to be non-combustible, or vinyl on 1/2" gypsum sheathing (other finishes are available: refer to a designer who is familiar with the Alberta Building Code).  
Windows are not permitted.
3. **Soffits within 4' (1.2 m) of a Neighbour's Property Line. \***  
Soffits must be at least 18" from a property line. \*  
No perforations or openings permitted (note that roof may require an alternative form of ventilation).  
Soffit material to be steel, aluminum, 1/2" gypsum board, 7/16" plywood, 1/2" O.S.B., or 7/16" solid lumber.
4. **Enclosed Combustible Projections, such as chimneys or fireplaces within 4' (1.2 m) of a Neighbour's Property Line. \***  
Wall construction rules apply to side walls as well as projected wall.  
If soffit is higher than 2' (0.6 m) above ground, treat as per roof soffits.
5. **Attached Garage.**  
Finish walls and ceiling with 1/2" gypsum board or similar product.  
Insulate walls and roof. This also implies vapour control.
6. **Detached Garage or Shed.**  
Wall design within 4' (1.2 m) of a neighbour's property line is the same as that for a house.  
Windows within 6' – 7" of a neighbour's property line is the same as that for a house. \*



The above is a **summary only** of **some** of the requirements for a house, and is specifically applicable to the MD of Bighorn only. The changes also include rules for larger residential buildings and for walls of houses closer than those setbacks as outlined in the MD of Bighorn Land Use Bylaws. For further information or details please refer to the revised Alberta Building Code, 2006, or contact John Bennett, the MD of Bighorn Safety Codes Officer for Building at the municipal office in Exshaw (ph: 403-673-3611 or 403-233-7678 Calgary Direct Line).

*\*Double distance in Lac des Arcs and Dead Man's Flats, due to Fire Department response time.*

## Canine Complaints

A quick call to nearly any Alberta municipality asking what the number one bylaw complaint is will almost always result in the same answer: Dogs.

Dogs at large, barking dogs, dogs attacking people, dogs attacking other dogs, dogs not being curbed by their owners, and dog harassing wildlife make up nearly 50% of the complaints most municipalities receive from ratepayers. The MD of Bighorn is no exception.

Anyone could argue that it's not really *dog* complaints we're getting, but owner complaints, as the dogs are only doing what they are permitted to do by some owners. Most of what we do for our pets is out of love, so nobody wants to think of themselves as an irresponsible dog owner.

In an effort to be clear, here is what you need to know if you own a dog in the MD of Bighorn:

**All dogs must be under your care and control at all times.** The fine 'Running at Large' is \$100, regardless of where you live in Bighorn, and in the Hamlets of Harvie Heights, Dead Man's Flats or Lac des Arcs your dog is required to be on a leash. Dogs running free through the MD do more than just annoy humans, they also harass wildlife which can lead to a change of migration patterns and add further pressure on some threatened species.

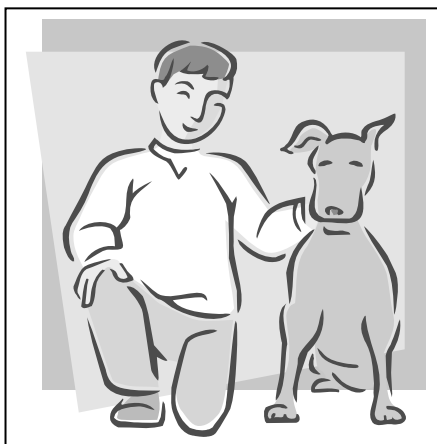
A case in Timberline illustrates this very point. After being chased and harassed by dogs, a female grizzly started pursuing every dog it encountered. Unfortunately, this made the bear danger to humans, and it had to be taken out of the ecosystem. Something Glen Naylor, District Conservation Officer says wildlife officials hate to see.

"The Timberline bear is a prime example of what can happen when dogs are allowed off-leash. When a bear has to be removed, it impacts the ecosystem very negatively." He said. Undue stress to wildlife caused by being chased by domestic dogs can also be deadly, explained Naylor. "In the winter when an animal's energy stores are low, and if they have to expend them running away from a dog, it could mean the difference between life and death." He said.

Worse still, Naylor said agitated wildlife may chase your dog back to you, putting you at risk in a dangerous confrontation.

Wildlife biologists Carolyn A. Sime, completed a 1999 study on the impact our canine companions have on wildlife areas. She found that human effects on the environment is widened beyond what it would be in the absence of a dog. In short, you should treat every step your dog takes as though you took it yourself.

Sime also found some indications that the seeds of noxious weeds can be carried on a dog's coat and deposited in environmentally sensitive areas, where they can rapidly spread when not detected early.



**Care and control also extends to picking up after your pet;** all owners are expected to immediately remove animal feces, the fine for failure to do this \$250. PLEASE PICK UP YOUR DOG'S POOP!

**Dogs in all hamlets, with the exception of Benchlands are required by law to have a license.**

Having a license is the law, and the law does not differentiate between dogs that never leave the property and those who do. If you live in one of the above hamlets, you have an obligation to have your dog licensed.

Getting a license is simple – just call the MD of Bighorn office and they can take care of all the details over the phone. If you are licensing the dog for the first time in the MD of Bighorn you will have to supply proof of spay or neuter, this can be either faxed or mailed in. You can pay for your license using Visa/Mastercard over the phone or cash/cheques/debit in person in the office.

**The fine for Excessive Barking is \$75.00 per incident.**

Imagine if your neighbour's teenagers had a loud party every time their parents left the house. The noise would cut into your sleep and generally start to affect your quality of life. Dogs have the same impact when they bark continuously.

Rick Lyster MD of Bighorn’s Bylaw Enforcement Officer says Excessive Barking complaints are very common in the MD. “The biggest problem is when dogs get left outside alone. Believe it or not, your dog barks when you’re not home.” He said.

Finally, as the instance of complaints continues to rise, the MD of Bighorn is looking at ways to obtain greater voluntary compliance. We are asking that you please take a few moments to license your dog and be respectful of

“It’s all of our responsibilities to ensure the wildlife stays where it is,” Naylor reminds us.” Don’t think you’re safe because you’re in town. It doesn’t matter where you are, you *can* run into wildlife.”

To see Wildlife biologists Carolyn A. Sime, complete study, go to:  
<http://www.jasperenvironmental.org/downloads/dogs-wildlife-society.pdf>

**A Shout Out to Petro-Canada**

For the better part of a decade, Petro-Canada has been providing the funding to place extra garbage bins in the Ghost Waiparous Area during the Victoria Day Weekend in May. Their support of this increased level of service is helping to reduce the amount of garbage left behind and improve the environment and wildlife habitat as a result. Our thanks for your support again this year.

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

Where to get all the latest information, notices and forms from the MD of Bighorn

**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)

**Mailing Address:**  
 Box 310  
 Exshaw, AB T0L 2C0

**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

## **MD of Bighorn – Board and Committee Descriptions**

### **Agricultural Services and Environmental Advisory Board (ASEAB)**

The ASEAB deals with the following:

Agriculture issues (livestock production, forage production, etc.); Environmental issues, logging, water conservation, etc.); Weed control/vegetation control; Soil/water conservation; Problem wildlife.; Liaison to the MPC regarding redesignation and agriculture issues.

The ASEAB is responsible for administering various Provincial Acts that include:

- Agriculture Service Board Act.
- Weed Control Act.
- Soil Conservation Act.
- Pest Control Act.

### **Assessment Review Board (ARB)**

Local and Composite ARBs may be established to decide complaints received regarding property assessment. The hearings are held on an as-needed basis and vary in length depending upon the number of appeals. Both ARBs operate as prescribed by the Municipal Government Act. There are mandatory training requirements for members of these Boards.

### **Bighorn Corridor Environment Committee (BCEC)**

This committee operates to continue an ongoing and effective communication link for industry related environmental issues between the residents of the M.D. portions of the Bow Valley and the local Rock Industry. The BCEC meets every third month (March /June/September/December), on the first Wednesday afternoon.

### **Community Services Board (CSB)**

This board acts as an advocate of Community Service needs. Focusing on recreation, parks, open spaces, and culture, it encourages and supports community driven projects and activities that enhance the quality of life of MD residents.

### **Emergency Services Committee (EMS)**

This Committee meets to review emergency and disaster services to the Municipality including budget priorities, service levels, agreements with other agencies, disaster plans etc. The recommendations of the EMS committee are made to Council. The EMS meets at the call of the Chair, usually no more than five times a year.

### **Heritage Resources Committee (HRC)**

This new committee was established to examine how best to identify and preserve, as appropriate, other buildings, structures or sites in the MD of Bighorn, that may have local historical significance. The HRC meets on an irregular basis.

### **Marigold Library**

The representative to the board liaises with the Marigold Library System to provide library services to the MD residents.

### **Municipal Planning Commission (MPC)**

This commission makes decisions on subdivision and development applications, and responds to referrals from Public Lands on Crown lease proposals. These decisions are based on Provincial and MD of Bighorn policies and regulations, but considerable discretion must be applied. The MPC also makes recommendations to Council regarding municipal planning and development issues. Both development proposals and subdivisions proposals require site inspections from time to time. These inspections are undertaken either during or immediately after the MPC meeting. The MPC meets the third Wednesday every month, in a full-day meeting.

### **Subdivision And Development Appeal Board (S/DAB)**

This Board is a quasi-judicial board that hears appeals against decisions made by the Municipal Planning Commission or Development Officer on subdivision or development applications. It meets when appeals are received.

***APPLICATION FORM ON NEXT PAGE....***

**MD of Bighorn  
Municipal Board/Committees/Commission  
Application Form - 2009**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work)

E-MAIL (if available): \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the Boards/Committees you are interested in serving on, in the order of your interest, why the Board/Committee interests you, and any experience that you have that would be of benefit to the Board/Committee, if you were appointed.

#1 \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#2 \_\_\_\_\_  
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#3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: September 25, 2009**

**Submit to MD of Bighorn:  
By Fax: 403-673-3895  
By Email: [Bighorn@mdbighorn.ca](mailto:Bighorn@mdbighorn.ca)  
By Mail: Box 310, Exshaw, AB T0L 2C0**