



Spring 2008, Issue 15

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Municipal Development Plan – A Review

MDP 2010 is officially underway

The current MDP was adopted in 1998 and now 10 year later, the MD Council has approved an official review of this important planning document.

The Municipal Development Plan is the key strategic plan that provides the vision, goals and policy used to guide Council in their decisions relating to planning.

The project has begun with Council appointing a 14 person Steering Committee made up of two individuals from each electoral division who are in charge of guiding the work. Council has directed Municipal Planner Heather Hemingway to assist the Steering Committee with their task.

A complete review is anticipated to take approximately 18 months, in order that a revised plan can be in place by January 1st, 2010. The revised MDP will build on the current MDP, incorporating the plans and studies that have been creating since the last version was adopted, as well as direction received from the public.

The current MDP can be viewed on the MD website. The first in a series of open houses on the MDP review will be undertaken this coming June.

Watch the local newspapers for the specific Open House dates and locations and check the website www.mdfoothills.com.



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Mapping Information

The 2007 2nd Edition Municipal maps are now available!

2008 Foothills Road Network Map Book- available July 2008. This new product will be a great resource for all who travel in the M.D. of Foothills for work (delivery, service, realtors, etc.) and to enjoy the views. Please check the website often for the date of availability!

“Birds’s Eye View” aerial images of your property are still available (aerial photography flown in summer 2005) as well as other custom products.

For more information, call Johanna at the M.D. office or email Johanna. Kortenschyl-Allan@mdfoothills.com

How Assessments are Prepared

An Appraisal is an estimate of value. Assessor's value properties in Alberta using a method called mass appraisal. Mass appraisal techniques allow assessors to accurately value a large number of properties in a short period of time.

Taxes

The tax department would like to advise that the combined Assessment and Tax Notice will be mailed in May of 2008.

Property taxes are due by September 20, 2008

Environmental Reserves

Municipal and Environmental Reserves within the MD are owned by the M D of Foothills, and have rules for usage applied to them.

Environmental Reserves are restricted to "foot traffic only" no motorized vehicles allowed, to remain in a "natural state". Municipal Reserves can be leased from the MD. There is no dumping of garbage or refuse on any M D property.

You can report any incidents to the Municipal District of Foothills #31 Peace Officers.

Tax Assessments

Before an assessment can be prepared, property data must be collected.

Sources of information are property owners, Alberta Land Titles, the real estate Multiple Listing Service and financial institutions.

Detailed information about each property is also gathered by making on-site visits.

The assessors will visit all properties with building construction in progress, properties that have sold, as well as newly subdivided parcels. As part of our requirement to re-inspect

each property in the M.D. of Foothills every five years we plan to visit approximately 2000 properties this year.

The assessors will be driving M.D. Foothills marked vehicles and will have I.D. cards with them. We do inspections 12 months of the year. We encourage you to take the time to go over your assessment with them if they come to your house for an inspection visit.

Thank you for your past and future cooperation with the assessment process.

Photo Contest

The M.D. of Foothills is launching its first Photo Contest on June 1, 2008.

Enter your photos that explore and celebrate the rural character within the M.D. of Foothills. Photos will be judged on their representation of the social, environmental and economic characteristics found in the MD. These three elements, together and separately make up what is known as rural character. Rural character embodies a quality of life found in the lifestyles, activities, economic development (business, employment), landscapes and aesthetic values found in the M.D. of Foothills.

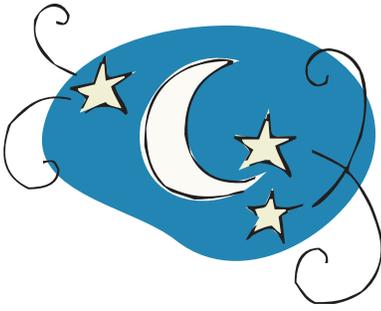


The contest is open to everyone - adults and youth. Photos must be taken within the boundaries of the M.D. of Foothills and not have been published previously. Contest will run from June 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.

Watch for further announcements through the Okotoks Western Wheel and online at www.mdfoothills.com.

Water Conservation Bylaw:

Council has passed a Water Conservation Bylaw restricting water use by those residents serviced by a M.D. water system. This would include the hamlets of Aldersyde including Silvertip and Maple Leaf Water Co-op, Blackie and Cayley. The bylaw restricts outdoor water use between April 15 and October 15 every year. In addition, should water shortages occur, there also are staged restrictions on the supply of water from the Aldersyde and Blackie bulk fill stations. The bylaw is available for viewing and can be downloaded from the M.D. website.



FCSS

The M.D. is currently accepting applications for funding under the provincial program for Family and Community Support Services. The application and guidelines are available on the M.D. website.

For further information contact,
Carol Robinson,
Community Services.

Cayley Lots

We have begun construction of Phase II, Chinook Meadows, in Cayley. Nineteen lots will be created and will be available in the fall of 2008.

Visit our website for updates or contact
Carol Robinson,
Community Services.



Dark Sky Initiative: Keeping Us in the Dark

The MD of Foothills is home to two astronomical observatories, the University of Calgary's Rothney Observatory and the Calgary Chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada's Wilson Coulee Observatory. These are just two of the many reasons why municipal staff, in conjunction with a number of identified stakeholders, is pursuing the development of a Dark Sky Initiative.

Light pollution is an issue that affects everyone. Light pollution is a result of too much light that shines where it is not needed or desired and is too bright. Excess lighting wastes energy, adversely affects our health, harms nocturnal wildlife and the ecosystems around us. Light pollution also reduces visibility and reduces safety and security.

The primary goal of the Initiative will be to keep the skies dark. This will be accomplished two ways, through the introduction of a Dark Sky bylaw, and the provision of an ongoing educational initiative.

Education and awareness is important to create understanding and find solutions for light pollution.

To find out more about this exciting opportunity that will to benefit people, animals, and the environment, please attend the open houses for the Municipal Development Plan review, scheduled to take place this June. For further learning opportunities, visit www.darksky.org.

Lost & Found Dogs

The Protective Services Section has signed on with www.petlynx.net to help assist in locating lost and found dogs. This service allows owners to register their pets as well as help find their animals should they become lost. This information can be shared and searched by all shelters, animal control agencies, and veterinarians. The Found Reports can be viewed by the public and automatically make matches.

Check the MD website for the link. For more information contact Geoff Carpenter through the MD's Municipal Enforcement Section.

High River Wallace Building

The M.D. has grown at such a rapid rate over the past five years. We have had to explore the option of additional office space. The M.D. purchased the Wallace Building (old J.Ross Building) in the fall of 2007.

The Community and Protective Services Department will be relocating to the building. Foothills Regional Emergency Services currently located in the lower level of the administration building will also be relocating to the Wallace Building.

Agriculture Services

The Agriculture Services Department for the M.D of Foothills carries acreage sprayers, solar livestock watering system, no-till seed drill and Exit gopher eliminator along with the cattle scale for rent to residents of the M.D of Foothills.

Agriculture Scholarship

We also offer an annual scholarship to rate payers whose children are going to attend a post secondary institution in the faculty of Agriculture or a related field of study. The application deadline for this program is May 31 2008.

Brush Spraying Program

Our brush spraying program will be commencing in May and go through till June, roadside weed spraying will begin in late June, going through till September.

Roadside ditch mowing will also begin in mid June through till late September. Our brush control program operates in early spring till end of May, then starts again in early fall till heavy snow.

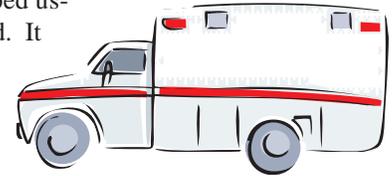
Please obey road signs, and if you have any questions regarding any of these programs feel free to contact the shop at 652-2423.

9-1-1 Addresses

In mid-February we mailed over 9,000 letters to landowners in the municipality, advising them of their new 9-1-1 driveway address. We have received approximately 900 phone calls and emails in response to the letter, asking for clarification, or advising us that there appears to be an error in the address. We will be mailing letters to about 250 landowners, confirming that their address has been changed.

At the moment, we have a back-log of about 100 calls to return. Please be assured that we will call or email everyone who contacted us.

Your new 9-1-1 service address was developed using the municipality's existing street/avenue grid. It consists of a simple number combined with a municipal or provincial road name or number – and it will identify the location of the driveway that accesses your home or business. Our addresses were developed according to the following principles:



1. Our addressing system is based on a 1-Mile grid – which “assumes” that there is potential for a road to be built on every side of a section. Your 9-1-1 address is based on this grid, and therefore it does not always describe the best route to your property. If you have occasion to call 9-1-1, please be prepared to provide the dispatch operator with clear DRIVING directions to your property.
2. Addresses increase from north to south, and from Meridian St in both directions (east or west).
3. Driveway addresses are Even on the north and east sides of roads. They are Odd on south and west sides of roads. Exception: in hamlets or subdivisions with pre-existing civic addresses.
4. Driveway address numbers may be 1 to 6 digits long – depending upon the reference intersection number.
 - a. Driveways on streets: First 3 digits are reserved for the real or virtual avenue number at the intersection immediately north of the driveway – e.g. if the property is between 242 Av and 248 Av, the first 3 digits will be 242 even if the only access to the property is north from 248 Avenue.
 - b. Driveways on avenues west of Meridian St.: First 3 digits are reserved for the real or virtual street number at the intersection immediately east of the driveway. If this street is Meridian St, then the first 3 digits are omitted, and the address consists only of a number between 1 and 260.
 - c. Driveways on avenues east of Meridian St.: First 3 digits are reserved for the real or virtual street number at the intersection immediately west of the driveway.
 - d. Last 3 digits are reserved for the driveway's address unit. We allowed for 260 driveways per mile (per 1609 metres). The address unit is calculated by dividing the distance from the street/avenue intersection to the driveway by 1609 and then multiplying the result by 260. If the address unit is less than 3 digits (between 1 to 99), then 0's are used as placeholders in the second part of the address – e.g. 005 or 065



Community Standards Bylaw

The M.D. is currently looking at implementing a "Community Standards Bylaw". This bylaw will address nuisance, unsightly premises, noise and improper use of ATV's. A public meeting was held on April 3, 2008.

For further information visit our website or contact Carol Robinson, Community Services.

Hogg Park

We have hired a new caretaker for Hogg Park, near Longview. His name is David Hobbs and he also works in the Public Works Department for the M.D. of Foothills No. 31.

We are currently working on developing the upper level of the park, due to the loss of several sites, following the flood of 2006.

The park will be undergoing several upgrades and improvements over the next year. Group Camping is also available. Check it out!

For further information contact: Carol Robinson, Community Services.



Foothills Regional Landfill

The Foothills Regional Landfill currently has landscaping materials such as compost, wood chip, gypsum and landscaping rock for sale.

Compost

Compost contributes nutrients and beneficial life to soil structure. Compost can be used as mulch on flower and vegetable beds, on lawns, as ground cover and as erosion control. \$20.00/tonne

Wood Chips

Construction chip is ground new and used lumber and wood furniture passed through 2" screens and over a powerful magnet to remove the most ferrous metals. May contain pressure treated or painted material. \$20.00/tonne

Green Chips

Green Chip is ground trees and branches, ideal for mulch and reclamation projects. \$40.00/tonne

Pallet Chips

Pallet Chip is dimensional unpainted or nonz-treated lumber and used pallets passed over a powerful magnet to remove most nails and screws. \$40.00/tonne

Road Work

Road construction and maintenance season is almost upon us again. Unfortunately, as a result of improving and maintaining the roads and other infrastructure, delays and detours may be necessary. We will endeavour to create as little disturbance as possible when performing these necessary tasks. Please obey all signs and slow down when in construction zones and thank you for your cooperation. If you see a road related problem, please report it the Public Works department at 652-2341.

Road bans

As of March 7, 2008, road bans have come into effect. Please refer to the website or alternatively call the M.D. if you have any questions. The Public Works department is requesting that should you have any work that involves the use of trucks or transport of equipment, that you wait until the road bans are lifted in June. This will minimize the amount of damage to the road and could also save you a significant amount of money relating to your project.

Gypsum

Gypsum is ground new dry-wall cut-offs. This material is pH neutral which assists in correcting both acidic and basic soils.

It improves swelling clays, increases water retention in soil, improves water efficiency, fruit quality and prevents some plant diseases. \$20.00/tonne



Landscaping Rock

Landscaping rock is sandstone from landfill cell excavations that have been screened from clay liner material. Sizes range from 150 mm to over 4 cu. Metres. Unfortunately we do not load sandstone into private vehicles. For larger pieces please arrange for heavy equipment to load and transport. \$20.00/tonne

Hours of Operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Saturday. Landfill closed on Sundays and Statutory holidays. Please contact the Landfill for more information at 938-5224.

M.D. Staff Road Construction:

New Personnel

(permanent employees only)

Ev Neighbour, Reception

Ken McCormack, Landfill

Geoff Carpenter,
Bylaw enforcement

Alison Barr,
Protective services

John Shruger,
Public works office

Raymon Lubeck,
Public works

Malcolm Gareau,
Public works

Samantha Payne,
Planning

Erin Frey,
Taxation/Mapping

Catherine Reiter,
Public Works

David Hobbs, Public
Works

Leslie Lambert,
Corporate Communication

Retired

Leonie Lyttle, Taxation/
Mapping – 14 years

Goodbye to former councillors

Ron Laycraft
Pat Stier

Welcome new councillors

Larry Spilak
Barbara Castell

Babies

Susie Jurcik, Baby girl
born July 2007

Julie Peters, Baby girl
born July 2007

The following road construction projects started in 2007 will be completed this year:

- 48th Street East between 338th Avenue and 370th Avenue, (road reconstruction and surfacing north half mile),
- 48th Street West between Highway 7 and 410 Avenue, (road reconstruction and bridge replacement),

The approved road construction program for 2008 is as follows:

- Dunbow road from Highway 2 to Highway 2A, (surface widening and intersection at Pine Creek Road),
- 434th Avenue between 32nd and 48th Street East, (road reconstruction),
- 32nd Street East from 338th to 306 Avenue, (road reconstruction),
- Plumbers Road between 240th and 288th Street West, (road reconstruction),
- 112th Street West south of Highway 22, (road reconstruction),
- 498th Avenue from Highway 2 to 176th Street East, (road reconstruction),
- Parkins Road east from Highway 762, (road reconstruction).

2008 Paving Program

The paving program has been approved for the 2008 season. Overlays will be done on all those projects not completed in 2007 including:

- Old Highway 773,
- 30 Street East, both north and south of 306 Avenue (Willowside and Shenandoah),
- 280th Avenue East, west from 112th Street East (552 Estates),
- Old Quarry Rd West from 242 Avenue south to Quarry Springs Lane East entrance,

The projects approved for 2008 are as follows:

- 32nd Street East from Dunbow to Highway 552,
- 324 Avenue west from Highway 22,
- 466 Avenue east from Highway 2A (Cargill Access).

Spot Treatment Control Program - Dust Control

For those residents in the municipality who are adjacent to gravel roads and are negatively affected by the dust, there is a program available for relief. The spot treatment program provides residents with 100 meters of dust control at no charge adjacent to their residence. Applications are accepted yearly from May 1 to July 31 for the program with actual work starting in August. Requests may be made by phone to the Public Works department at 652-2341 between 8:30AM to 4:30PM. Additional dust control is also available in excess of the free 100 meters at a nominal cost to the applicant.

It is also suggested that should you already have a spot treatment, to call in and request a new one every year. This will enable the Public Works department to inspect your spot treatment and redo it, if necessary. If a call is not placed on a yearly basis, the spot treatment could degrade making it necessary to turn it back to gravel for safety reasons.