



Winter 2013, Issue 26

Council for 2013-2017



Councillor for 2013-2017 term, L-R: Ron Chase, Suzanne Oel, Larry Spilak, Rick Percifield, Jason Parker, Delilah Miller, Ted Mills

Introducing the new council for the next four years. A mix of familiar and new faces make up the new council that will represent the residents in the MD of Foothills for the next four years. Larry Spilak, Ted Mills, Ron Chase and Suzanne Oel welcomed Delilah Miller, Jason Parker and Rick Percifield to the team.

The new Council of the Municipal District of Foothills No. 31 met on October 30, 2013 for the annual Organizational Meeting. Larry Spilak was elected Reeve and Ted Mills elected Deputy Reeve for the coming Council year.

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Foothills County or MD of Foothills? WHICH NAME DO YOU PREFER?

Take our online survey and let us know.

In anticipation of our 60th Anniversary as a municipality in 2014, we want to re-evaluate our name. What do you think about calling us: Foothills County vs. Municipal District of Foothills? We want to consider revitalizing our image. Do you think that changing to “county” would be more clear, shorter, and make it more obvious as to what we are? Let us know.

Take our online survey at www.mdfoothills.com.

M.D. of Foothills No. 31

TEMPORARY OFFICE LOCATION:
Mullen Trucking,
100-80079 Maple Leaf Rd East,
Hamlet of Aldersyde

Mailing Address:
Box 5605, High River, Alberta T1V 1M7
Tel: 403.652.2341
Fax: 403.652.7880
mdfoothills.com



COUNCIL 2013 - 2017

DIVISION 1



Councillor Rick Percifield

Mr. Percifield was sworn in for his first term. He grew up near Blackie and to this day, continues to farm with his father and son near Blackie.

Boards and Committees:

- Highwood River Advisory Committee (HRAC)
- Foothills Agricultural Services Board
- High River Regional Airport Limited
- Inter-Municipal Industrial Lands Project Committee
- High River Inter-Municipal Negotiating Committee
- Highwood Management Plan II Sheep River Study Group
- Blackie Recreation Board
- High River Recreation Board
- Blackie Seed Cleaning Plant

DIVISION 2



Councillor Delilah Miller

Ms. Miller was sworn in for her first term. She grew up near Black Diamond and has resided near Longview for the past 35 years. While employed in the financial industry for over 15 years, Ms. Miller also promotes music through her own company for the past 18 years.

Boards and Committees:

- Highwood River Advisory Committee (HRAC)
- Turner Valley Oil and Gas Group
- Safety Committee
- Rural Fire Board
- Foothills Agricultural Services Board
- Longview Inter-Municipal Negotiating Committee
- Turner Valley and Black Diamond Inter-Municipal Negotiating Committee
- High River Inter-Municipal Negotiating Committee
- Longview Recreation Board
- Development Appeal Board
- Quad Regional Water Project Committee

DIVISION 3



Councillor Jason Parker

Mr. Parker was sworn in for his first term. He previously lived in Saskatchewan and Calgary prior to residing in the MD of Foothills for the past six years. Mr. Parker is a professional speaker who was a former Olympic speed skater who won a silver medal at the 2006 Winter Olympics.

Boards and Committees:

- Audit Committee
- Historical Committee
- Family & Community Support Services Committee (FCSS)
- Longview Inter-Municipal Negotiating Committee
- Turner Valley and Black Diamond Inter-Municipal Negotiating Committee
- Highwood Management Plan Phase II Sheep River Study Group
- Millarville Recreation Bd
- North West Recreation Bd
- Leighton Art Centre Bd
- Foothills Cemetery Board
- Dark Sky Initiatives Stakeholders Working Group
- Sheep River Health Trust Board of Trustees
- Quad Regional Water Project Committee

DIVISION 4



Councillor Suzanne Oel

Ms. Oel was sworn in for her second term. She has resided in the MD for 17 years and has successfully operated two businesses; a design and advertising company, and was a partner in a pipeline inspection and R&D company.

Boards and Committees:

- Highwood Management Plan Advisory Committee
- Assessment Review Bd
- Calgary Inter-Municipal Negotiating Committee
- Rocky View County Inter-Municipal Negotiating Committee
- Cross Conservancy Area
- Foothills Regional Emergency Services Commission
- Highwood Management Plan Phase II Sheep River Study Group
- Bow River Basin Council
- Priddis/Red Deer Lake Recreation Board
- North West Recreation Bd
- Dark Sky Initiatives Stakeholders Working Group
- Foothills Land Trust Bd
- Calgary Regional Airshed Zone (CRAZ)
- Foothills Regional Water Cmte
- Calgary Regional Partnership
- Calgary Metropolitan Plan - Mediation Comte.



COUNCIL 2013 - 2017 DIVISION 5



Councillor Ron Chase

Mr. Chase was sworn in for his sixth term. He and his wife moved to the MD of Foothills 41 years ago and established “The Chase Cattle Company.”

Boards and Committees:

- Audit Committee
- Assessment Review Board (to be qualified in accordance with the regulations)
- Community Futures – Highwood Bd
- Inter-Municipal Industrial Lands Project Committee
- Calgary Inter-Municipal Negotiating Committee
- Okotoks Inter-Municipal Negotiating Committee
- Okotoks Recreation Board
- North West Recreation Board
- Subdivision Appeal Board
- Foothills – Okotoks Field House Steering Committee
- Community Standards Appeal Bd
- Okotoks Public Library Board (effective November 1, 2013)



DIVISION 6



Reeve Larry Spilak

Mr. Spilak was sworn in for his third term. He has been a resident in the MD of Foothills for over 30 years with a background in marketing, sales management, land development and farm management.

Boards and Committees:

- Rural Fire Board
- Inter-Municipal Industrial Lands Project Committee
- Family and Community Support Services Committee
- Calgary Inter-Municipal Negotiating Committee
- Okotoks Inter-Municipal Negotiating Committee
- Rocky View County Inter-Municipal Negotiating Committee
- Dunbow Recreation Board
- Foothills – Okotoks Recreation Society Board of Directors
- Foothills Regional Water Committee
- Calgary Regional Partnership
- Okotoks Post Secondary Ad Hoc Committee
- Foothills – Okotoks Recreation Society Board of Directors
- Disaster Services Committee
- Vehicle Weight Order Committee
- Staff Review and Council Remuneration Committee

Wreath laid in memory of Community Peace Officer Rod Lazenby at the 2013 Police and Peace Officer Memorial at the Provincial Legislature in Edmonton, September 29, 2013.

DIVISION 7



Deputy Reeve Ted Mills

Mr. Mills was sworn in for his fourth term. Born and raised in the MD of Foothills, Mr. Mills left the MD in 1972 and returned in 1995 where he continues to farm today.

Boards and Committees:

- Audit Committee
- Historical Committee
- Assessment Review Bd
- Foothills Agricultural Services Board
- High River Inter-Municipal Negotiating Committee
- Okotoks Inter-Municipal Negotiating Committee
- Foothills Foundation
- Foothills Regional Services Commission (Landfill and Waste Treatment)
- Vehicle Weight Order Committee
- Staff Review and Council Remuneration Committee
- Development Appeal Board
- Foothills – Okotoks Field House Steering Committee
- Foothills – Okotoks Recreation Society Board of Directors



MD of Foothills float at Little Britches Parade in High River, May 2013.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

After the Flood... Repairing Roads & Bridges

Last June rivers in the MD overflowed their banks and left a trail of damaged roads and bridges in their wake.

The flood left more than 30 kms of damaged or impassible roads.

MD road crews repaired 90% of the damaged roads within the first four days. The remaining 10% of damaged road were repaired within two weeks.

Bridges were also damaged by the flood. A total of 23 structures had abutment washouts, rip rap damage, or complete failures. Repairs will include rebuilding head slopes and abutments, reinstallation of Rip Rap and removal of debris.

Three bridges were completely destroyed and two were found to be structurally unsound.

Construction is planned for the following bridges for spring of 2014:

- 2311 Dr. W. (Maximum West Rd.), Bridge Damage
- 232 St. E. South of 626 Ave. Bridge Destroyed
- 168 St. E. North of 626 Ave. Bridge Destroyed
- Old 2A 104 St. E. North of Airport, Major Damage (full structural failure) to bridge and road

A total of 15 other bridge structures with damage will be repaired by spring 2014.

For the most up-to-date information on roads and bridges, check the MD website at mdfoothills.com



40th Street S flooded



40th Street S after the flood



40th Street S after repairs

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP): Black Diamond, MD of Foothills, Turner Valley

A review of the existing Intermunicipal Development Plan is underway. A review committee was formed and have undergone a series of five “Planning for Progress Workshops” to review strengths and weaknesses of the current plan, intentions and interests of each municipality within the plan area, and opportunities and constraints for future growth.

The first open house was held on October 3rd to introduce the project, provide an understanding of why we are reviewing the current IDP, illustrate each municipality’s independent work on growth aspirations, and get the public aware and involved in the process.

Following the municipal elections, components of the plan will be drafted and presented to the public for review and feedback through landowner meetings and/or additional open houses. We hope to involve the public throughout the process and keep them informed through periodic updates of the project on the municipal websites. Stay tuned!

For more information, contact: Coreena Carr, Planner, MD of Foothills, tel: 430-652-2341 or email: coreena.carr@mdfoothills.com

Calgary Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP) Review

An IDP with Calgary will be initiated in early 2014. Watch for upcoming engagements with landowners.

ASSESSMENT DEPARTMENT

How Assessments are Prepared

An Appraisal is an estimate of value. Assessors 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.

Data Collection

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.

MD assessors visit all properties with building construction in progress, properties that have sold, newly subdivided parcels along with other purposes. Part of our requirement is to re-inspect each property in the MD of Foothills every five years. We plan to visit approximately 2000 properties this year.

With the number of inspections that need to be done each year, the assessors are unable to make appointments. We will arrive at your door unannounced in the hope that you may be home. When no one is home we will make note of any progress or changes visible from the exterior of the buildings.

Our assessors will be driving MD Foothills marked vehicles and have ID cards with them. We do inspections all 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.

TAX DEPARTMENT

Paying Property Taxes Online or by Phone?

When making payments using online or telephone banking, please make sure that you are directing your payment to the **Municipal District of Foothills No. 31**.

Please note that each financial institution has its own listing for the Municipal District of Foothills.

MD of Foothills Change of Address

Send change of address: via email erin.frey@mdfoothills.com or via mail to Erin Frey, MD of Foothills, P.O. Box 5605, High River, AB T1V 1M7.

Land Titles Office also requires notification of a change of address in order to update your title information. Contact Land Titles Office at 403-297-6511.

The Assessment Department would like to hear from you if your property was damaged by the June 20th flood.
Phone: 403-603-6257 or
email: MD-Assessment@mdfoothills.com

TAX DEPARTMENT

Notice To Ratepayers**Annual Property Taxes due September 30, 2013**

Taxes received after Sept. 30, 2013 are late and are subject to a penalty of 6%.

- Taxes received after Dec. 31, 2013 are subject to a penalty of 12%.

SAVE MONEY on your annual property taxes!**Discounts for Early Payment of Taxes**

Prepay your 2014 property taxes and receive a discount.

- **6% Discount** when estimated taxes are paid in full on/or before Jan. 15, 2014.
- **5% Discount** when estimated taxes are paid in full on/or before Feb. 15, 2014.
- **4% Discount** when estimated taxes are paid in full on/or before Mar. 15, 2014.

Discounts for Monthly Tax Installment Payment Plan (TIPP)

Pay your 2014 taxes in monthly installments and receive a discount:

- **5% Discount** if payment is received on/or before January 15, 2014.
- **4% Discount** if payment is received on/or before February 15, 2014.
- **3% Discount** if payment is received on/or before March 15, 2014.

www.mdfoothills.com

Tel: 403-603-6224

Paying Taxes in person?**PLEASE NOTE:**

Due to the June 2013 flood, the MD of Foothills temporary office location is:

**Mullen Trucking,
100-80079 Maple Leaf Rd E,
Hamlet of Aldersyde**

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD

Roadside Vegetation Control

The MD of Foothills will remove the vegetation along all MD roads in order to:

- Improve sight distance at intersections and curves
- Restore proper drainage in ditches
- Reduce snow drifting problems
- Allow for dissipation of dust clouds created by traffic on gravel roads
- Allow for safety from wildlife
- Protect the MD from any liability should the ditches not be cleared
- Enforce the Weed Control Act of Alberta

Brush control requirements will be revised and prioritized on an annual basis. The MD of Foothills reserves the right to clear to the property line.

Ratepayers in these districts who have any concerns can contact the Agricultural Fieldman, Jeff Porter at (403) 603-5410, or the Assistant Agricultural Fieldman, Bree Webb at (403) 652-2423.

Vegetation Control on Roadside Policy Statement

The Municipality reserves the right to maintain its right of ways from property line to property line in regards to vegetation management and to comply with the enforcement of the Weed Control Act of Alberta. For example, but not limited to vegetation includes grass, weeds, brush, etc.

- Vegetation control on roadsides is imperative to improving site distances at intersections and curvatures in the road systems for the safety of the motoring public.
- By removing the existing and dead vegetation the MD is able to restore and maintain proper drainage in the roadside ditch system. Standing water in the roadside ditch system leads to higher maintenance costs and dangerous soft spots.
- Further to removing standing and dead vegetation, in the right of ways, we are able to reduce and in some instances eliminate snow drifting problems which plague our roadways during the winter months. Also, through removal of trees and brush, the heat of the sun can reach the road surface allowing for quicker dissipation of ice and/or snow on the right of ways.
- Vegetation control also allows for the dissipation of dust clouds created by vehicular traffic on the gravel roads. This again provides the situation whereby the MD can improve on traffic safety.
- Wildlife has always been a major concern of the motoring public and by controlling and removing vegetation the public is able to be more aware of wildlife sooner and avoid colliding with same thereby reducing possible vehicle damage and injuries.
- This Roadside Policy is also pertinent to protecting the MD from liabilities should a vehicular accident occur, as a result of the ditches not being cleared of vegetation.
- Under the Weed Control Act of Alberta, it is the responsibility of the MD to control and eliminate the growth of noxious weeds on their right of ways. If these weeds are left unchecked they would create a myriad of problems for the MD ratepayers and the motoring public.

Vegetation Control will be carried out as per guidelines set out by the Province of Alberta under Section 1 – Highway Maintenance Guidelines – Subsection 4.7 Brush Control and reviewed by the M.D. of Foothills No. 31 Council.

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD

Brushing Program

Agricultural Services for the MD of Foothills will again be implementing their Brushing Program on the MD right of ways. This operation will commence in November 2013 and will go through to April 2014.

Motorists need to exercise caution when travelling through brushing crew work areas or passing brush mowers.

The brushing crew will be working primarily in District 3 and 4 and will be removing brush and trees one meter past ditch bottom. They will also be removing brush and trees to fence line in problem areas throughout the whole MD. All wood is cut in the ditch and branches are chipped into piles located in the ditch. Area residents are welcome to pick up wood and chips for their own personal use.

The two tractor mounted brush mowers will be operating in Districts 3 and 4. The brush mowers will also be commencing November 2013 and will be brushing through to April 2014. Brushing will entail removing the brush from roadside to fence-line to increase visibility, reduce snow drifting, and increase public road safety.

Ag Scholarship Recipients

Agricultural Services Board was pleased to presented three scholarships in the summer of 2013, to the following students.

Savannah Hari
Biochemistry degree
University of Victoria

Brent Arkes
Environmental Assessment and Restoration Diploma Program
Lethbridge Community College

Nicole Bokvist
Agricultural Technology
Plant Soil Major
Lethbridge Community College

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Snow Plowing

Motorists are asked to use caution when approaching road maintenance equipment as the operators' visibility is restricted.

The public is not allowed to plow snow from a municipal road. Please contact the MD @ 403-652-2390 to report a road that requires plowing.

The MD does not plow private driveways.

DO NOT PLOW SNOW FROM THE APPROACH ACROSS THE ROAD INTO THE OPPOSITE DITCH.

When clearing any driveway, please deposit the plowed snow on the parcel, not on the approach. Any snow remaining on the approach is to be

plowed to the RIGHT SIDE of the approach. DO NOT deposit/pile snow along the shoulder of a municipal road because it creates a significant hazard to the traveling public.

In the hamlets of Cayley and Blackie, it is the responsibility of the residents with fronting sidewalks to clear them off following a snow event.

Winter Driving Tips



- Winterize your vehicles. Examine the spare tire, battery, belts, hoses, anti-freeze, tires, brakes, heater, defroster and windshield wipers.
- Carry an emergency road kit in your vehicle's trunk or cargo space.
- Clear all snow and ice completely off windows, side view mirrors, headlights, taillights and licence plates.
- Keep your vehicle's fuel tank more than half full. The extra volume can help reduce moisture problems in your fuel system and it adds extra weight to your vehicle. A topped-up gas tank will also be an asset if you become stranded.
- Drive safely in accordance with road conditions.
- Stay back from snowplows. They will let you pass when it is safe to do so.
- Keep your headlights on all the time - don't rely on daytime running lights. Low beams are more effective than high beams in fog or heavy snow conditions.
- Never use cruise control in winter conditions.
- On a wet or slick surface, allow yourself at least three times the normal following distance to stop.
- Remember that bridge decks may be slippery even when other parts of the highway are not, since they are subject to greater temperature fluctuations.
- Know your braking system and how it reacts on ice. Always be gentle with braking pressure on slick roads.
- Avoid braking on curves by driving through them at a safe, steady speed.
- Accelerate slightly when approaching a hill and then maintain a steady speed going up.
- Consider purchasing winter tires.

MD STAFF & COUNCIL

Welcome to New Personnel *(permanent employees only)*

Candace Rogers,
Cemetery Specialist

Ted Dierickse,
Recreation Facility Operator

Adrian Thibault,
Recreation Facility Operator

Gustav Kruger, Road Technologist

Jeff Major, Assessment

Sean Murphy,
Arena Operations Manager

Semra Kalkan, Planning Officer

Darcy Duce, Utilities Officer,
Water/Wastewater

Cory Lyons, Utilities Officer,
Water/Wastewater

Mike Robinson, Grader Operator,
Public Works

Brad Lewis, Mechanic

Scott Ferguson, Firefighter

Kaitlyn Doyle, Landfill

Brian Williams, Landfill

Goodbye

Sheila Storoschuk, Landfill

Russ Friesen, Fire Captain

Denice Stewart,
Land Use Bylaw Officer

Pat Holt, Cemetery Specialist

Marty Mailey, Public Works

Dan Eldridge, Public Works

Dave Hill, Landfill

Goodbye to Former Councillors

Ralph Nelson

Barb Castell

Doug Longson

Welcome New Councillors

Delilah Miller

Jason Parker

Rick Percifield

Babies

Robert Miller,
baby boy born June 2013

Kristine Moorman,
baby boy born October 2013

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Scott Seaman Sports Rink is Open!



NHL-Flames Alumni vs Peak Athletics Grand Opening game, Saturday, November 16, 2013 at the Scott Seaman Sports Rink.

The Scott Seaman Sports Rink is a hub for community sport, recreation, social and leisure activities for the residents of the MD of Foothills and Okotoks. It includes one regulation ice surface, six dressing rooms, running/walking track, two multi-purpose rooms with seating capacity of 175 and 225, concession, office space and seating for 279 people.

Ice Arena

Public Skate:
Tuesdays and Thursdays,
3:30 - 4:45 pm

Family Skate:
Sunday, 12:45 - 1:45 pm

Walking Track

Available 7 days/week,
7:00 am – 11:00 pm

Multipurpose Rooms

Multipurpose rooms are
available to book.
Booking inquiries:
403-995.7397

Scott Seaman Sports Rink

For booking and general inquiries, call: 403- 995.7397

Email: sean.murphy@mdfoothills.com



Dunbow Recreation Board

The Dunbow Recreation Board (DRB) is working to support the development of this facility. You can help through: sponsorship opportunities, make a donation, join the K-Club, “Buy a Brick”, the “Great Dunbow Seat Sale”, attend an event, or volunteer. For details check out, dunbowrecreation.org

Temporary Administrative Office

The administrative building for the MD of Foothills, in High River was flooded during the devastating floods of June 20, 2013. Work continues with restoration of the building. The MD of Foothills expects to be back in the administrative building in High River by spring 2014. Check the the website for updates.

Our current temporary office is located at: Mullen Trucking, 100-80079 Maple Leaf Rd East, Hamlet of Aldersyde.

Mailing address is: Box 5605, High River, Alberta T1V 1M7

Tel: 403.652.2341, Fax: 403.652.7880, mdfoothills.com

