

MountainViews

Issue 2 – March 2010

It's that time again

It's hard to believe our Spring 2010 open houses are just around the corner. We started to do open houses in the spring of 2005, after the Councillors of the time—including Kathy Blain, Gwen Day, Liz Negropontes and myself decided this would be an effective way of keeping in touch with our neighbours and the folks we're elected to serve.

Over the years, Councillors have moved these events throughout their divisions to all halls, big and small, ranging from Midway and Reed Ranch in the east, to Bearberry and the Dogpound Rodeo Grounds in the west, and almost every hall in between.

As Councillors we really value the input we get from our ratepayers at these meetings and our one-on-one contact with you. But these Council open houses are more than just a chance to talk to your Councillor: They are also your opportunity to talk to County staff about items affecting the entire County or on a local level.

Each open house is a reflection of the style that works best for each Councillor and their constituents. Some will have a very relaxed come-at-your-leisure format without a public

presentation, while others have a short presentation followed by a question and answer period. Regardless of how it's done, there will be ample time to share opinions and ideas with the Councillors, administration and neighbors over coffee and doughnuts.

Finding a time of year that works for the various communities is always a challenge, so Council has spread the seven divisional open houses over a three week period in March and April. (To the right is a list of open houses, including the dates, times and locations of each). We realize that at times the weather, family commitments and even calving problems get in the way of attending the open house in your division, so if you can't make it to your local open house, you are more than welcome to attend any in the other County divisions. What is most important is that you have your chance to interact with Council and staff.

On behalf of Council, I encourage you to come out and have your say. We hope to see you at the Councillor open houses this spring and we all look forward to visiting with as many of you as possible over the next three months!

Reeve Al Kemmere

SPRING COUNCILLOR OPEN HOUSES

March 18 - Div. 2 Councillor Lana Yakimchuk - Dogpound Community Centre (Acme Road), 7-9 p.m. (Drop-in format)

March 19 - Div. 6 Councillor Liz Negropontes - Harmattan Community Centre, 7-9 p.m.

March 22 - Div. 5 Councillor Gerald Ingeveld - James River Community Hall, 7-9 p.m.

March 23 - Div. 1 Councillor Gwen Day - Carstairs Half Century Club, 7-9 p.m.

March 30 - Div. 4 Councillor Kathy Blain - Fallentimber Community Hall, 7-9 p.m.

March 31 - Div. 3 Councillor Everett Page - Didsbury 50 Club, 7-9 p.m.

April 6 - Div. 7 Councillor & Reeve Al Kemmere - Reed Ranch School, 7-9 p.m.

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Oil's well that ends well

If it looks like pavement, it's probably chip seal.

Anyone who's traversed the County more than a few times will tell you that some roads are clearly more prone to potholes than others. And whether a road begins to disintegrate or not likely boils down to the base the road was constructed on. There are several types of road surface in Mountain View County but one thing remains constant: the better the base, the better the road.

One major reason for potholes is simply that many existing County roads were built 50 to 60 years ago, and crews mixed the materials available on-site into the base, making the road more susceptible to pothole development.

"The standards suited the day these roads were built, but traffic's changed, and that's what beats the roads up," says Steve McInnis, the County's Director of Operational Services. "You'll never completely get rid of potholes – they're part of the normal wear and tear. You undertake maintenance and construction practices that will minimize them."

Over the long term, that involves better construction practices to deal with today's traffic volumes and vehicle weight. This means, among other things, building better roads from the base up; and keeping up with the maintenance of paved, chip seal and gravel roads throughout the County. A road constructed with a good gravel base and proper drainage will allow water that seeps into the base through cracks and fissures in the surface to drain, minimizing the amount of water retained by the road base. Other long term solutions to the problem involve level coursing roads, replacing gravel on the roads to remove the ruts and ensuring good ditch drainage before sealing it again.

There are over 500 miles of chip sealed roads in the County and the average lifespan ranges from five to seven years, though some County roads have stayed admirably serviceable for over 20. "If you've got a good base and you put chip seal on, the chip seal can last longer," says McInnis.

Chip seal is an oil application that has rock chips added to it to create a riding surface. It looks the same as asphalt but is only as thick as the size of aggregate used, and is traditionally used for preservation of asphalt roads that are structurally sound, not as a main riding surface. "Some of our roads were done because they were high travelled gravel roads, and they chip seal them to cut down on dust concerns," says McInnis.

A mile of road, depending on hauling time, takes about three hours to chip seal and has to sit for 6-12 hours before it's ready for traffic. If it's raining or likely to rain the procedure has to be postponed as the oil becomes diluted and may run down into the ditches.

The challenge with chip seal is that these roads are subject to seasonal bans in order to preserve the riding surface. "The long term solution to these issues is to reconstruct the road and apply the proper paved surface," McInnis adds.

Of course, not all road surfaces are chip seal, and repair methods vary. In the short term the County uses cold mix-a mixture of gravel, oil and primer-for quick fixes on chip seal and pavement. With gravel on the other hand, a pothole or washboard has to be dug or graded out and replaced with a fresh course of new gravel. The speed with which County crews are able to get to potholes can also vary depending upon the weather, the availability of a crew to respond, and the severity of the pot hole in question.

If you wish to report a pothole, please call the Operational Services office in Didsbury at 403-335-8020 to register an action request. All requests will be inspected and scheduled. Some potholes, if deemed an emergency, will be repaired within 24 hours, while others will be repaired when a crew is in the area.



Alberta's Land-use Framework

The Land-use Framework was approved by the Government of Alberta in December 2008. The intent of the Framework is to better manage land use patterns within Alberta.

The Land-use Framework document identifies three immediate priorities that the Alberta Government has moved quickly to implement:

1. Legislation to support the implementation of the Land-use Framework. The Alberta Land Stewardship Act (ALSA). ALSA received Royal Assent on June 4, 2009. It was proclaimed Oct. 1, 2009.
2. Metropolitan plans for the Capital and Calgary regions completed under separate planning initiatives of the Capital Region Board and the Calgary Regional Partnership.
3. The Lower Athabasca and South Saskatchewan regional plans to be completed in 2010.

Provincial policy priorities and areas of provincial interest within the Framework are:

- **Managing surface and subsurface activities.** The Upstream Oil and Gas Policy integration initiative and review of the current process for identifying major surface concerns prior to the public offering of Crown mineral rights will be completed in 2010.
- **Reducing fragmentation and conversion of agricultural lands.** A strategy to help reduce the fragmentation and conversion of agricultural lands to other purposes will be completed in 2010.
- **Transportation and utility corridors strategy.** A strategy to identify the

components and general locations of these types of corridors will be completed in 2010.

- **Managing recreational use of public lands.** A strategy that will enable a variety of recreational opportunities to occur on public lands; to reduce their impacts; reduce conflicts and increase cooperation between land users; and improve public safety will be completed in 2010.

- **Conserving and protecting diversity of land base.** The Alberta government is addressing issues associated with conserving and protecting the diversity of Alberta's land base. The recently released Alberta Plan for Parks provides guidelines and objectives that will be integrated into regional park plans, ensuring conservation opportunities. A 2009 update of Alberta's Environmentally Significant Areas has been completed. These will support regional plan development.

- **Managing flood risk.** The Alberta government will develop policy to minimize exposure of developments and settlements to flood risk.

The Calgary Metropolitan Plan and the Capital Region Plan have been completed and are in a draft format. The Lower Athabasca and South Saskatchewan regional plans have been initiated and will be completed in 2010. The North Saskatchewan and Upper Athabasca will be initiated in 2010 and completed in 2011. The

Red Deer, Regional Plan, which includes Mountain View County, will be initiated in 2011 and completed in 2012.

It is important for all residents to learn more about the Land-use Framework and to get involved, as the Red Deer Regional Plan will have a potentially greater impact that both the County's Municipal Development Plan and Land-use Bylaw. Landowners will have the opportunity to participate in public consultations during the development of regional plans.

For more information on the Land-use Framework please go to www.landuse.alberta.ca

In order to become proactive, Mountain View County is closely considering the following questions:

- What are the major impacts that we can foresee coming out of the Red Deer Regional Plan?
- How do we protect Mountain View County's existing developments?
- Can Mountain View County protect developments that have yet to be started?
- What stage does Mountain View County need to reach to protect our developments?
- How do we accelerate our processes and development?
- What resources do we need?



Getting a handle on ground squirrels

When it comes to controlling Richardson's ground squirrels – commonly known as “gophers” – there are several options available to Mountain View County producers. Not all solutions offered will be suited to the scope of the infestation, and may not be economically feasible in some situations.

CULTURAL CONTROL

Research on the effect of tall vegetation on ground squirrel populations and movements has produced limited data indicating that squirrels may move out of tall vegetation stands to more open grass fields, so avoid over-grazing. Once ground squirrels have been removed from a crop area, re-invasion can be substantially slowed by destroying their old burrow systems through deep tillage.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

Strychnine alkaloids - In Canada Ready To Use (RTU) Strychnine baits are legally bound by a maximum concentration of 0.4 %. Rumors often circulate about higher concentration baits, but they do not exist. There is also much debate over (fresh mixed) “wet” and dry baits. Chemically the concentrations are identical. Wet baits are intended to be prepared and used within one week. Dry baits have a wider application window because they will not mold if stored for extended periods. If the ground squirrels consume either bait, the effectiveness will be identical. 2% Liquid strychnine is also available from time to time under an Emergency Use Registration from the PMRA.

In 2010 Mountain View County will have 2% liquid available for agricultural use. When 2% liquid is mixed with grain the prepared bait becomes a 0.4% RTU product.

Chemical baits are most effective when applied early in the season. Repeated baiting with the same bait during the same year is generally unsuccessful. Baiting should be done thoroughly and correctly the first time. *Always carefully read and follow all label directions for products used.*

Anti-coagulants - Anti-coagulants (Rozol) may require more than one treatment to be effective.

NON-CHEMICAL

Ro-con® - Rocon® was registered in recent years as a fumigant. It is essentially a mustard concentrate soap-based foaming agent that asphyxiates rodents when applied in the burrow. It contains no toxic chemicals and therefore is safe for residential/urban areas where control measures are limited. Further details can be found on their website at www.roconrodentcontrol.ca

Shooting – This has proven to be perhaps the most effective method of control. When done safely and legally it is the most assured system for success.

Anhydrous Ammonia – While approved for use there are a lot of operator safety issues to consider. Gas exploding devices using propane or acetylene have not proven to be safe, reliable or effective. Studies have shown these devices reduced ground squirrel populations by only 40 per cent and did so at a very high cost.

For further information please contact the Agriculture Department at the County office at 403-335-3311.

Keep pests under control

Keeping pests under control is a major municipal responsibility.

It is the responsibility of municipalities under the province's Agricultural Pests Act to appoint inspectors to carry out pest control activities as required. Locally the Agricultural Service Board carries out Agricultural Programming on behalf of Mountain View County, and has identified numerous pests and nuisance species under the Act that the County targets with specific programs.

Currently special programs are in place to cover rat sightings, Coyote Predation Management and Richardson ground squirrels. The Agricultural Service Board has several other programs in place to monitor pest levels in the County as well as newly emerging pests such as Clubroot and Fusarium which either currently do not exist in the County, or exist at very low levels. Monitoring programs are also in place to deal with pests like wild boar and grasshoppers. General assistance and information is available from the Mountain View County office for any other declared pest or nuisance.

Mountain View County does not have a bounty on coyotes. The County does offer a Coyote Predation Management program, however, which allows for the distribution of restricted toxicants in cases of confirmed predation. The overall goal of the program is to eliminate predatory coyotes, but not a general reduction in population, therefore only cases with confirmed predation of livestock are eligible for use of toxicants. Situations involving pets or nuisance coyotes are not eligible for this program. All other predation cases such as cougar, wolf, and bear are handled by Alberta Sustainable Resource Development. A compensation program for livestock losses due to Coyote Predation operated by Sustainable Resource Development no longer exists.

Alberta is a rat-free province, and all suspected rat sightings must be reported to the Agricultural Fieldman at the County office. Upon receiving a suspected sighting Agriculture staff will investigate to determine if Norway rats or other species from the genus *rattus* are present. To date Mountain View County has never found a confirmed rat infestation. Muskrats and northern pocket gophers are the most common species mistaken for rats.

For more detailed information or for questions on managing pest and nuisance species please contact the Agricultural Department at Mountain View County, 403-335-3311.

IT PAYS TO KEEP WASTE PLASTIC UNTIL SPRING

Mountain View Regional Waste Management Commission (MVRWMC) is always accepting net wrap, tarps, twine and silage plastic at the Olds Transfer Station. The first 100 Mountain View County residents who deliver a minimum of 100 kgs of agricultural waste plastic for recycling will receive \$100. Local 4-H Clubs may recycle 100 kgs of agricultural plastics and receive the \$100.

When: April 5- October 31 (Monday to Saturday each week)

(Limit of one payment per farm. Mountain View County residents only)

If you are planning to recycle waste plastics, please remember:

- Upon delivery, twine and net wrap must be bagged in clear plastic bags, with no foreign material and tied off
- Black tarps, silage tarps and poly need to be in 3' x 3' bundles and secured for ease of handling
- The Waste Commission reserves the right to charge for any plastics deemed unacceptable
- The charges are \$150/tonne at the transfer site
- Silage plastic and tarps must be clean (no frozen lumps or clumps of silage please)
- If you are bringing in 500 kgs or more at one time contact the Waste Commission one day in advance at 403-556-8120

Please contact the Waste Transfer Station at 403-556-8120 before coming to pick up clear plastic bags, to ensure there are some available. Bags can also be picked up at the Mountain View County office.

Please Note- The Mountain View County newsletter *Up The Creek With A Paddle* has been discontinued, and will now be incorporated within Mountain Views. Environmentally sustainable agriculture updates and agricultural information will be found in the Agriculture in Action section of this publication.

Spring cleaning? Don't forget your septic system.

A full septic tank is less effective, so be sure to check your septic chamber each spring or early summer for accumulated sludge and scum. If your chamber has 45 cm (18") of sludge, it should be cleaned.

Emptying the tank in the spring will allow bacterial action to resume more quickly so bacteria can grow more rapidly in the warmer spring and summer months. Here are a few tips to help you maintain your septic system:

- The size of the septic chamber determines the intervals between cleaning. The larger the septic chamber, the better the separation of solids from the effluent, especially during peak flows.
- It is not necessary to thoroughly scrub and flush the septic chamber until it is visibly clean. The small amount of sludge that remains on the floor walls will serve as microbial inoculants, which will allow normal operation to resume as soon as possible.
- Vacuum-pumped sewage hauling trucks are available commercially to empty septic tanks. This equipment is capable of doing an excellent job without spillage.

Current disposal options for solid wastewater material or septic tank contents consist of two kinds: land application



and wastewater treatment plants. Where hauling distances make the delivery of the wastewater to a treatment plant not feasible, land application is the most economic and viable option. Disposal of private wastewater on agricultural land is an acceptable practice, however disposing of municipal wastewater is regulated and must follow certain restrictions governed by Alberta Environment. Always keep records indicating where, when, and how much wastewater was applied.

[Watch the Mountain View Gazette for any upcoming workshops at the Mountain View County Office related to septic systems.](#)

This information came from *Beneficial Management Practices-Environment Manual For Alberta Farmsteads and Water Wells That Last for Generations*. For more information or to order either publications contact Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development at 1-800-292-5697.

LAND APPLICATIONS WITH SUCH WASTEWATER SHOULD OCCUR:

- Between April and October each year
- On soil with a pH > 6.5
- On slopes <5 per cent
- On land with depth to water table >2m (7ft.)
- When wastewater can be injected or incorporated within 48 hours

Land application should not occur:

- When application rates exceed 100m³/ha.
- Near water sources and water bodies, dwellings, roads, public buildings, school yards, cemeteries, playgrounds, parks and campgrounds
- On ice, snow covered or frozen ground
- Near or in stream valleys or intermittent drainage areas
- On land being used for root, vegetable or fruit crops or dairy farming pasture

Minimum Distance Requirements for Water Wells:

- 10m (33ft.) from a watertight septic tank
- 15m (50ft.) from a subsurface weeping tile effluent disposal field or evaporation mound
- 50m (165ft.) from sewage effluent discharge to the ground
- 100m (329ft.) from a sewage lagoon

Private Sewage Treatment Systems - Bylaw 19/09:

A Bylaw of Mountain View County In The Province of Alberta To Provide For Effective Management of Wastewater

The performance, siting and management of private sewage treatment systems (also referred to as on-site wastewater treatment systems) and the need to effectively manage their entire lifecycle is a growing need. As the use of private systems grows, the need to adequately manage the site-selection, design, installation, operation and maintenance of these systems is important.

Mountain View County is bringing forward Bylaw 19/09, a Private Sewage Treatment Systems bylaw providing for the effective management of wastewater, in order to address the following issues:

- Inadequate design of some Private Sewage Treatment Systems
- Maintenance not occurring on some septic systems in the County
- Potential risks to environment and human health problems

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

The Private Sewage Treatment Systems (PSTS) bylaw requires that a Certified PSTS Installer must sign off on a homeowner issued permit. This is a new requirement that is not practiced in all municipalities in Alberta.

Because of the technical nature of the design and installation of Private Sewage Treatment Systems, a request was made to include the requirement that a Certified Installer must sign off on Private Sewage Treatment Systems permits in Mountain View County. This is to ensure that the system is designed and installed properly. This not only benefits the landowner, but his/her neighbours will also benefit by this requirement. Licensed installers are familiar with the detailed design guidelines for septic systems outlined in the Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standards of Practice 2009. A licensed contractor will be able to custom design a homeowner's septic system based on their present and future needs.

MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS:

When a septic system is maintained and functioning properly, it is an efficient, inexpensive, and safe system. If it is failing or not properly maintained, it can cause odours, pollute the surrounding environment, be a human health hazard, and be expensive to repair. Each year the County gets numerous complaints from landowners about failing sewage systems on neighbouring property. The most common complaint is sewage contaminating neighbor's wells. To combat this complaint Bylaw 19/09 requires a maintenance certificate to be submitted to the County as per Schedule A of the Bylaw.

[This maintenance certificate requirement is only for PSTS installed after October 1, 2009.](#)

2010 MOUNTAIN VIEW COUNTY GRANT ALLOCATIONS

RURAL COMMUNITY GRANTS

Bergen News	\$1,000
Foothills Curling Association	\$5,000
Mountain View Music Festival	\$4,000
Olds & Community Assistance Foundation	\$ 400
Strings and Keys Music Program	\$3,000
Word to the West Literacy Fest	\$1,600

TOTAL \$15,000

RURAL COMMUNITY HALL GRANTS

Bergen Community Association	\$5,000
Eagle Hill Hall	\$4,000
Harmattan Hall	\$5,000
Innis Lake Community Hall	\$1,000
Lone Pine Hall	\$5,000
Midway Community Centre	\$5,000
Rosebud Community Club	\$5,000
Rugby Hall	\$5,000
Water Valley Community Association	\$7,000
Westcott Hall	\$5,000
Zella Hall	\$3,000

TOTAL \$50,000

TRANSPORTATION GRANTS

Aspen Ridge	\$3,000
Chinook Winds Lodge	\$3,000
Foothills Lodge	\$3,000
Mount View Lodge	\$3,000
Alberta Health Services - Didsbury District Health Services	\$1,500
Carstairs and District Half Century Association	\$2,300
Cremona Gold & Silver Travel	\$2,300
Didsbury & District Community Bus Association	\$2,300
Five-O Club of Didsbury	\$2,300
Mountain View Choraliers	\$3,000
Sundre West Country Centre	\$2,000
Accredited Supports to the Community, MVAMH	\$3,000
Midway Community Centre Bus	\$4,800
Sundre Community Van	\$5,000
STARS	\$4,500

TOTAL \$45,000

Three white crosses and a small bouquet

By Rob Ridley, County Patrol

How is this for a statistic? 80 per cent of automobile crashes are urban, yet 70 per cent of fatalities occur in the rural area. How do we get 70 per cent of fatalities out of 20 per cent of the crashes? Speed.

How does speed affect the outcome of a crash? Decreasing speed by 15 km/hr increases your chance of surviving a crash by four times, while a 45 km/hr difference increases your chance of survival by 256 times!

The financial consequences of speeding

Driving over the speed limit cannot only cost you your life, it also costs your bank account. The fine for one km/hr over the speed limit is \$57 – and two demerit points. 25 km over is \$150 and three demerits. 40 km over is a \$264 fine and four demerits. Those fines double if you are passing an emergency vehicle, or in an active construction zone. If you think those numbers are not so bad, consider what your insurance company is going to do to your premiums for the next three years. Insurance companies are entitled to see these numbers and the fines given by County Patrol pale in comparison to the premium increases charged to your insurance.

Beyond financial consequences

If you are more than 50 km over the speed limit – or if the officer thinks there is something unusual the court should know about – you do not get the option of paying a fine. The judge wants to look you in the eye and will certainly be asking you why he should let you leave with your licence in your possession. Alberta Judges have levied speeding fines for as much as \$12,000, as well as often removing licenses from speeding drivers. How would a licence suspension affect your job – or your family? How would a jail term affect your life? Forget about the trip to Vegas. Criminals don't cross the border. Was it worth the time you saved by speeding?

In Alberta, on average, there is a crash every five minutes and a fatality at least once per day! Remember, every crash isn't just a number. It's a Mom. It's a husband. It's a son or daughter or someone's best friend. It could be yours. Remember this when you pass those tributes on the side of the road. Someone put those three white crosses there and tends the flowers with tears and the hope someone else will be spared. Slowing down will spare a life, maybe yours.

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VIEWPOINT

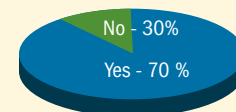
Q. Throughout March and April, Council Open Houses will be taking place in all seven County divisions. Do you think Councillor Open Houses are an effective way of communicating with the public?

Yes No (If no, please feel free to suggest how we can improve our communications with you.)

Fax your response to 403-335-9207; mail it to Mountain View County, Postal Bag 100, Didsbury, Alberta, T0M 0W0; or go online to www.mvcab.ca/views, and fill out our survey. A summary of responses will be printed in the May edition of Mountain Views. All comments will remain anonymous.

JANUARY, 2010 VIEWPOINT RESULTS:

Q. Do you agree with the proposal to raise the number of dogs allowed on a County Residential property from one to three in the County's Draft Land Use Bylaw?



To read public comments please visit www.mountainviewcounty.com/viewpoint

