

R. M. of Chesterfield No. 261 ~ July 2013 Newsletter

*rm261@sasktel.net ~ 304 Main Street
P.O. Box 70, Eatonia, SK S0L 0Y0*

Road Allowances

Farmers are reminded that cultivating and spraying road allowances destroys grass which is necessary to preserve the road. The municipality will have to re-plant grass in areas where it has been destroyed, and the cost of doing so will be charged to the abutting landowners.

Road allowances are a minimum of 66 feet in width, and many are 100 feet or more. Farmers who spray and cultivate the road allowances are trespassing.

Complaints about weeds growing on road allowances, as justification for ploughing, spraying and seeding to crop, are to be addressed as follows:

1. Grass takes a year to become established; so there will be weeds during the establishment period.
2. Once grass is growing, the road shoulder will be preserved, and the life of the road will be lengthened.
3. Building roads only to have them destroyed is a waste of all taxpayers' money.
4. Farmers who encroach upon the road allowances and destroy grass or tear up road shoulders should pay individually for reseeding.
5. Letters are sent prior to grass seeding to landowners adjacent to ditches where seeding will be done; signs are placed in the ditches as well.
6. The RM asserts its right to grass its road allowances.

Controlled Burns

1-866-404-4911 is the number to call prior to burning old buildings or anything that may alert a passerby and result in a 911 call.

Fire Calls

CEN Fire Protection Association (Chesterfield ~ Eatonia ~ Newcombe) charges a basic \$800 call-out fee for rural fires, plus an hourly rate for the truck and for firefighters. Firefighting bills may be several thousand dollars. Property owners need adequate insurance to cover fire fighting charges; any unpaid accounts are added to taxes.

Pest Control

Rat control is co-ordinated by the municipal foreman and PCO Gordon Roesch, who is also RM utility man. Ratepayers may obtain variety of poisons from the municipal office.

Nuisance Grounds

Eatonia Nuisance Grounds ~ NW 26-25-25-3

Hours:

1~6 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9 a.m. ~ noon Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Update Addresses

Property owners within the rural municipality are asked to provide updated mailing addresses, telephone numbers, and, **if possible, e-mail addresses.**

RM's e-mail address is **rm261@sasktel.net.**

Council & Staff

Reeve	Karrie Derouin	306-967-0000
Div. 1	Brent Watts	306-628-7601
Div. 2	Leah Cooper	306-967-2793
Div. 3	Dave Booker	403-565-2180
Div. 4	Ken Klein	306-967-2801
Div. 5	Jeff Bailey	306-967-2846
Div. 6	Duane Cridland	306-967-2869
Div. 8	Bill Francis	306-967-2709
Admin.	Bev Dahl	306-967-2222
A.Admin.	Tosha Stallmann	"
Foreman	Richard Adams	306-967-2481
A.Foreman	Shane Stusrud	"

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ENCLOSURES with this Newsletter:

1. 2013 Tax Notice
2. Abstract of 2012 Financial Statement
3. Mark's Work Warehouse 10% discount card (compliments of Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan)

TIMELY PAYMENTS?

The municipality has acquired updated software to levy and track property taxes. Tax notices and other forms have a new look, and also, **adjusting of discounts or penalties for late payments is no longer permitted.**

This year we must grant early payment discounts **only in the calendar month for which the payment arrives in our office.** Thus, if an August payment with 6% discount subtracted is being remitted, the payment must reach the municipal office **in August.** This includes online payments made through banks, payments mailed through the post office, and payments personally delivered. Late arriving payments are receipted the next month, and small outstanding amounts will be left owing.

Taxpayers need to send or deliver their property tax payments in a timely fashion to avoid these small amounts left owing.

The municipality accepts post-dated cheques which can be held to month-end, and also, cash, cheques and debit machine payments.

PROGRAMS & UPCOMING PROJECTS

Farm & Ranch Water Infrastructure program has been announced by Sask. Agriculture and includes 2/3 grants for water development projects; see website: www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/growingforward2

The municipality intends to complete tank loading sites at Eyre Well (W 26-26-28-3) and Sask. Wildlife Federation reservoir (SW 29-26-26-3) with a year or two. Possibly another community well or two may be developed, provided suitable locations are found.

PROVINCIAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE

The municipality has received designation under *The Provincial Disaster Assistance Program*, following the flooding in late June along the South Saskatchewan River.

It is the responsibility of municipalities to inform their ratepayers of the PDAP program and provide applications through the RM office.

A PDAP Private Property Application Form, Written Statement, Triage Form and Cleanup Form must be included in an application.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

The municipality's property tax base has increased after 2013 reassessment, to:

Property Class:	Assessment
Agricultural	\$97,984,390
Residential	\$2,671,725
Commercial	\$1,292,845
Resource Commercial	<u>\$43,133,600</u>
Total 2013 Assessment	\$145,082,560

With the use of Mill Rate Factors, the following tax levies were authorized for the current year:

Property Class:	Tax Levy
Agricultural (7 mills)	\$734,833.13
Residential (7.5 x 1.2)	\$24,045.53
Commercial (7.5 x 2.5)	\$26,738.33
Resource Com. (18.75)	\$836,516.28
Total 2013 Tax Levy	\$1,622,183.27

The 2013 municipal levy is approximately the same as was levied in 2012.

In addition to its municipal levies, the RM has levied school taxes in amount of \$761,956.71 and also municipal hail tax levy \$1,649,351.05 all of which is billed before end of July.

This year the province has eliminated early payment discounts on school tax payments. Municipal and hail tax payments are eligible for 6% discount in August, 5% in September, 4% in October, and 2% in November.