



Fall 2015, Issue 30

Green Initiative - Full Circle



Scott Seaman Sports Rink at Heritage Heights is green!

The original green initiatives developed for SSSR were to help ensure the facility has a minimal footprint on the environment. The arena has enhanced insulation, recycled rubber and recycled concrete used for aggregate, along with the use of compressed air for the ice plant. LED lighting is used throughout and xeriscape landscaping has been installed outside the building. The really cool part of these initiatives is the new melt water recycling system that has been installed and is expected to save a significant amount of water and reduce operating costs.

How does the melt water recycling system designed for the rink work? The Zamboni is filled with recycled water to resurface the ice. During the resurfacing, the ice is scraped with a blade and the shavings are collected in a storage box within the

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M.D. of Foothills No. 31

Box 5605, 309 Macleod Trail
High River, Alberta T1V 1M7

Tel: 403.652.2341 or
403.931.1905
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www.mdfoothills.com



COMMUNITY SERVICES

Scott Seaman Sports Rink

We would like to welcome back all of our regular users for another action packed season of fun!

Concession

The Top Shelf Kitchen is now open for the 2015-2016 season and will close at the end of March.

SCHEDULES

Public and family skate

Family skate:

Sun: Sept. 20 - Dec. 20, 2015.
12:45-1:45 pm

Public skate:

Tues & Thurs: Sept. 22 - Dec. 22, 2015. 3:00-4:30 pm.

Okotoks Skating Club offers programs at the SSSR on Wednesday evenings. Details at www.okotoksskatingclub.com

Walking Track

is in full swing and can be used 7 am-11 pm 7 days/week.

Multipurpose Rooms

Multipurpose rooms are available to book.

Booking and general inquiries, call: 403.995.7397 or email Sean.Murphy@mdfoothills.com

Check the MD's website for future updates www.mdfoothills.com

Community Recreation Feasibility Survey

Thank you to all residents and stakeholder groups who completed the Spring Recreation Survey in Divisions 3, 4 and 5. The results will help to update the MD's existing Recreation Development Plan. Thanks to the Northwest Foothills Recreation Board members for helping to direct residents to the survey site.

Green Initiative - Full Circle *continued from page 1*

Zamboni. Once the resurfacing is finished, the ice shavings are dumped into a pit that is heated from the energy of the refrigeration plant. This uses existing energy so no additional boiler or other system is required to melt the shavings. Once the shavings have melted, the water is then pumped through a strainer and filter system before being treated with chlorine and eventually stored in an outside retention tank. When the Zamboni's water tank is empty, it's refilled with the recycled water from the retention tank. Circle complete.

A major reduction in water usage at the facility is anticipated along with a savings on hauling melt water away. An update with the specifics of water saved and reduced operating costs will be provided next fall after this new melt water system has been used for a full season.



Top: Zamboni preparing to dump ice shavings into pit.

Right: Pit for ice shavings.



Northwest Foothills Recreation Board

Seaman Sports Park

Construction at the Seaman Sports Park has continued throughout the summer. For further updates on the progress visit www.nwfoothillsrec.com

We are looking forward to the Millarville Sports Association's 2016 Baseball season!

Baseball diamonds at Seaman Sports Park



COMMUNITY SERVICES

Legacy Regional Field House



The Legacy Regional Field House has many activities and

events for you and your family during this Fall/Winter Season!

Tae Kwon Do

Join our Tae Kwon Do class for ages 7 to adult with Chris Howes starting November 16. This 2 day/week class is offered Monday and Thursday evenings until Dec. 31.

Second Session: Jan. 4 - Feb. 26, Monday and Thursday. Register today at legacyregionalfieldhouse.com

If you haven't been here yet for a Bubble Soccer event, we offer an amazing deal on bookings for birthday parties, special events and team building functions!

Call now for pricing and availability. 587.757.0338. All bookings include one hour in a meeting room for free!

Lastly, please come and join us for our **One Year Anniversary Celebration** on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 1-5pm. We will have plenty of free activities, demonstrations and refreshments for all our guests!

www.legacyregionalfieldhouse.com

Hogg Park

Provincial permits have been issued for flood repair and re-construction of Hogg Park. The park is an active construction site and people are asked to respect the "Closed" and "Construction" signs. Please check www.mdfoothills.com for future updates on reopening.



Blackie Sport Court

The Blackie Sport Court is complete. This project received funding from the Calgary Foundation and the Daryl K. Seaman Canadian Hockey Grant, the Blackie Community and District Association and the MD of Foothills. The multiseason surface will enhance community active living throughout the year.



Aerial view of Blackie Sport Court

Cemeteries

This summer the Foothills Cemetery Columbarium was placed on a new foundation, landscaping surrounding the columbarium is yet to be completed.

The MD of Foothills manages the Foothills Cemetery on behalf of the Foothills Cemetery Board. The Blackie and Cayley Cemeteries are owned and operated by the MD. Cemetery Specialist, Candace Rogers can be contacted for more information at 403.852.0500 or cemetery@mdfoothills.com.

Historical School Signs

You may notice that the one room school signs are being installed in a number of locations. After the signs have been installed, school information will begin to be posted on the website. Look for the next newsletter for more updates.

For more information, contact Johanna Kortenschyl-Allan at history@mdfoothills.com



Crime Prevention

Your home is the place where you and your family spend most of your time. By taking simple precautions you can prevent the opportunist thief from having the chance to steal from your home.

What a burglar looks for:

- A home which looks empty
- Easy access to back of building
- Trees and high bushes in surrounding area which provide good cover
- Homes with no visible signs of protection such as alarms or lighting.

Tips to keep your home safe:

- Keep windows and doors locked when you go out and even when you're at home
- Consider fitting an approved burglar alarm system
- When out in the evening, close curtains and set light timers
- Don't hide spare keys in the garage, shed or outside
- If you store larger items such as bikes in a shed make sure it is secure, and use bike locks.

Even the best security won't deter thieves if you don't LOCK THE DOOR.

The RCMP encourages anyone who witnesses suspicious or dangerous activity to contact their office and make a formal complaint.

RCMP Emergency: 911

RCMP Non-Emergency:

- High River: 403.652.2356
- Okotoks: 403.938.7046
- Turner Valley / Black Diamond: 403.933.4262

Rural Crime Watch Associations within the MD of Foothills:

- High Country Rural Crime Watch: www.hcrcwa.ca
- Okotoks Area Rural Crime Watch Association: www.oarpw.ca

PUBLIC WORKS

Flood Recovery Erosion Control (FREC)

Flood Recovery Erosion Control or FREC for short is a provincial government program that provides funding to address immediate repairs and includes long-term community mitigation projects. In the MD of Foothills, these are projects that reinforce river banks where infrastructure is threatened. Below are two more projects that have been completed.

Chinook Sod Project

96 Street near Chinook Sod is now protected from future erosion by the construction of an “out-of-channel” rock revetment structure. This rock structure constructed outside of the Highwood River, is buried below ground between 96 Street and the river. Post construction, the structure is not visible as it is completely buried. By building outside of the river, there is no impact on the fish habitat. In future flood events, erosion may expose the rock buried beneath the ground and create a hard bankline of rock that cannot erode any closer to 96 Street, protecting it from washing out in the future.



208 Street

The 2013 flood caused severe erosion on Threepoint Creek next to an access road for two homes. A rock structure was constructed to rebuild the bankline to ensure the access road is maintained and the homes remain safe in future flood events. As this structure was constructed within the creek’s channel, habitat features such as root wads, debris clusters, and boulder clusters were established to help reduce impacts to the creek and fish habitat. Additionally, a willow brush layer was placed behind the rock to help improve the strength of the structure and help re-vegetate the flood-damaged area.



Life in Rural Alberta

While owning an acreage can be a very fulfilling lifestyle choice, it is important to know that living in the country is a different way of life than living in the city.

Did You Know?

The *Alberta Agricultural Operation Practices Act* (AOPA) specifies generally accepted agricultural practices and states that agricultural operators cannot be considered a nuisance when carrying out these practices. The Act provides

guidelines that farmer and rancher must operate within to mitigate odour, noise, dust, smoke and other disturbances resulting from an agricultural operation.

Source: *The Green Acreages Guide Primer, Stewardship for Small Acreages*

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD

Brushing Program

The Agricultural Services Department will be implementing the brushing program on MD right of ways this coming winter. The brushing program will commence in October of 2015 and will continue through to April of 2016. The brushing crew and brush mowers will be working in areas of the whole MD depending on weather conditions. Trees will be removed in the MD right of ways one meter past ditch bottom and possibly to fence line in problem areas. All wood will be cut into six foot lengths and stacked in the ditch, branches will be chipped and piled in the ditch. Area residents are welcome to remove wood and chips for their own personal use. If you have any concerns please contact the Agricultural Fieldman, Jeff Porter at 403.603.5410 or the Assistant Agricultural Fieldman, Bree Webb at 403.652.2423.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

Snow Plow Season

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

Please know that the public are not allowed to plow snow from a municipal road. Contact the MD at 403.652.2390 to report a road that requires plowing.

The MD does not plow private driveways.

PLEASE 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

Vegetation Control on Roadside - Policy Statement

The MD reserves the right to maintain its right of ways from property line to property line for vegetation management and to comply with the enforcement of the Weed Control Act of Alberta. Examples are 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 weeds are left unchecked they create a myriad of problems for the MD ratepayers and the motoring public.



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.

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 MD of Foothills No. 31 Council.

The Agricultural Services Board awarded three scholarships!

2015 Ag Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to:

Oluwatimileyin Abolarin; Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, was accepted to University of Lethbridge, University of Guelph and/or Trent University

Kyla Nelson; Animal Health Technician, Olds College

Shantal Smith; Bachelor of Science, Animal Science – Equine Option, Montana State University



FOOTHILLS REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY Foothills Regional Landfill

Hwy 783 (16 Street E.),
5.5 Km south of Hwy 7,
5 km north of Hwy 543.
Tel: 403.938.5224
Open Monday-Saturday,
8:30 am-4:30 pm
*(Arrive with enough time to empty
your vehicle prior to 4:30 p.m.)*
Closed Sunday & stat holidays.



Black Diamond/Turner Valley Transfer Station
168 St. W & 402 Ave, Tel: 403.938.5224

Open Fri & Sat: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.
Transfer stations work on a \$2.00 per bag basis. Bags for use at the transfer stations are available at: Millarville General Store, Hi Ho in Turner Valley, Esso in Black Diamond and at the Priddis Transfer Station.

For a complete listing of landfill rates and recycling accepted, check the Regional Landfill web page at www.mdfoothills.com

TRANSFER STATIONS

Priddis Transfer Station
264 St. W & 178 Ave,
Tel: 403.931.3266
Open Tues & Sat:
10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Household Hazardous Waste



The new household hazardous waste collection facility at the Landfill.

The Foothills Regional Landfill completed a safety audit on the collection and disposal of household hazardous waste (HHW) in the region. Working with Alberta Environment and Parks, Occupation Health and Safety, EnviroSORT Inc., and other municipalities, the drop-off and sorting facility at the Regional Landfill has been revamped to be safe and compliant for residents and landfill staff.

HHW can be dropped off year round at the landfill, free of charge. Commercial quantities will be charged, as of 2016 at the landfill site.

The MD of Foothills will also be organizing free HHW and electronic waste roundups twice per year at the MD's transfer stations. These transfer stations are located between Black Diamond and Turner Valley and by the Priddis golf course. Details can be found at: mdfoothills.com/services/regional-landfill.html

COUNCIL STARS

STARS helicopter ambulance offers time, hope and life-saving transport to critically ill and injured patients. Through their mission, they are dedicated to providing a safe, rapid, highly specialized emergency medical transport system for the critically ill and injured. www.stars.ca/ab

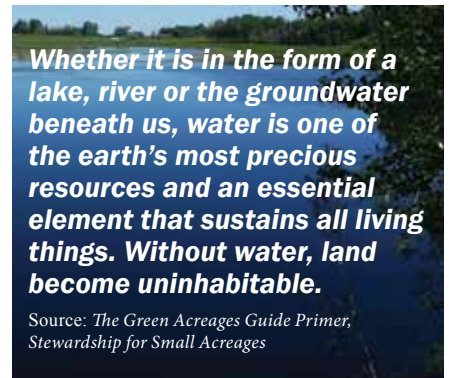


Ted Mills, Deputy Reeve presents Ms. Farnden of STARS organization with a cheque for \$20,000, May 6, 2015.

PLANNING

Did You Know?

Shelterbelts and windbreaks are rows of trees and shrubs that provide shelter from wind for buildings and fields. Although the terms can be used interchangeably, shelterbelts generally protect homes and other buildings, while windbreaks protect fields. Shelterbelts and windbreaks block and slow wind, which keeps heated buildings warmer, helps reduce erosion, and trap snow, which increases soil moisture. They provide good habitat and travel corridors for wildlife, and shade and protection for livestock.



Whether it is in the form of a lake, river or the groundwater beneath us, water is one of the earth's most precious resources and an essential element that sustains all living things. Without water, land become uninhabitable.

Source: The Green Acreages Guide Primer, Stewardship for Small Acreages



To ensure the safety of all users and staff, when wind speeds reach and exceed 70 km/hr, Foothills Regional Landfill will be closed.

Closure information will be posted on the MD of Foothills' website, Facebook page, Twitter and posted at the Foothills Regional Landfill.

If it's a windy day and you are planning a trip to the regional landfill, please check first.

T: 403.938.5224
www.mdfoothills.com
FB - MD of Foothills No. 31
Twitter @MDofFoothills

FOOTHILLS FIRE

The Cost of Fighting Fires

Note; with fire and emergencies that occur within the MD, ratepayers may be subject to the following charges.

1. For Fire Service responses located on residential or agriculturally zoned land within the M.D. for a fire not intentionally set by the occupant, or fires caused by an act of nature or vandalism, charges will be actual costs to a maximum of \$1,500.00.
2. For other Fire Service responses; to other types of property for pleasure or agricultural use, charges will be actual costs to a maximum of \$1,500.00.
3. For Fire Service responses located on commercial or industrial zoned land, or to other property used for commercial uses, charges will be actual costs to a maximum cost of \$1,500 plus 75% of costs over \$1,500.
4. Where costs are a result of responding to burning without a fire permit, failing to meet the conditions of a fire permit or simple negligence of the occupant or property owner, Council may at its discretion charge the owner or occupant of the land upon which the Incident occurred, the full Fire Service costs. This will include but not be restricted to, incidents involving residential, agricultural, commercial, industrial, all public use buildings and other types of property.
5. When the MD incurs firefighting costs with respect to a fire that spread or threatened to spread onto more than one parcel of land, the Council may, in its discretion, apportion and charge the firefighting costs actually incurred to the owners of the parcels of land involved in such manner as Council considers being reasonable.
6. Where Fire Service costs are to a result of an intentional act, failing to meet an evacuation order, or simple negligence of the person or persons requiring assistance Council may, at its discretion charge the person or persons the full fire department costs.
7. For Fire Service responses or requests for service into another municipality where there is no agreement specifying otherwise, charges will be as set out from time to time by Alberta Transportation.
8. Fees will not be charged for the following;
 - Medical Assists within the Municipal District of Foothills and not on a Provincial or Federal right of way;
 - First response to a "False Alarm / Alarm Bells" within a 12 month consecutive period.

The complete list of Foothills Fire Department Rates and Fees can be found online at www.mdfoothills.com under the Resource Library

ASSESSMENT

How Assessments are Prepared

Before an assessment can be prepared, property data is collected from property owners, Alberta Land Titles, the real estate Multiple Listing Service and financial institutions.

Detailed information is gathered by making on-site visits. MD assessors will visit all properties with building construction in progress, properties that have sold, newly subdivided parcels along with other purposes. As part of

our requirement to re-inspect each property in the MD of Foothills every five years we plan to visit approximately 2000 properties this year.

Assessors drive MD Foothills marked vehicles and have I.D. cards with them. Inspections are done 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 cooperation with the assessment process.

Contact: Phone: 403.652.2341 or email: MD-Assessment@mdfoothills.com

TAXES

Notice To Ratepayers Annual Property Taxes were due September 30, 2015

Taxes received after Sept. 30, 2015 are late and are subject to a penalty of 6%.

Taxes received after Dec. 31, 2015 are subject to a penalty of 12%.

SAVE MONEY ON YOUR ANNUAL PROPERTY TAXES!

Early Payment Discount

Prepay your 2016 property taxes and receive a discount!

- 6% Discount when taxes are paid in full by Jan. 15, 2016.
- 5% Discount when taxes are paid in full by Feb. 15, 2016.
- 4% Discount when taxes are paid in full by Mar. 15, 2016.

Monthly Tax Installment Payment Plan (TIPP) Discount

Pay your 2016 taxes in monthly installments and receive a discount!

- 5% Discount if payment is received by Jan. 15, 2016.
- 4% Discount if payment is received by Feb. 15, 2016.
- 3% Discount if payment is received by Mar. 15 2016.

Paying 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**.

Note - each financial institution has its own listing for the Municipal District of Foothills.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

Notify the MD of Foothills by:
Email: erin.frey@mdfoothills.com
Mail: Erin Frey, MD of Foothills, P.O. Box 5605, High River, AB T1V 1M7.

Land Titles Office requires notification of a change of address from you to update your title information. Contact Land Titles Office at 403.297.6511.

COMMUNITY

Not Receiving the Okotoks Western Wheel?

Delivery Options Have Changed

Prior to 2014, MD landowners received complimentary subscriptions to the Okotoks Western Wheel (OWW). Unfortunately, due to significant increases in postal rates, landowners not living within the MD no longer receive a complimentary weekly paper. If you wish to continue receiving the paper, contact the Western Wheel at 403.938.6397 to subscribe.

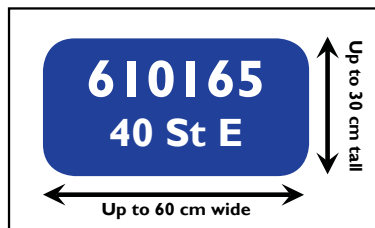
All landowners living within the MD will receive OWW through Canada Post's unaddressed admail program.

If you live within the MD and are not receiving the OWW newspaper, please contact your local post office and let them know you agree to have the Western Wheel delivered to you through the mail.

I Have My 911 Address Sign, Where Does It Go?

Your address is assigned to the point where your property joins with the municipal or provincial road. Your blue 911 address sign should be located as close to the approach and the property line as practical for your home or business operation. Please place the sign so it is facing the road, clearly visible and not an obstruction for road grading, snow plowing, or mowing.

If you do not know your 911 address please call: 403.652.2341 or email: ahmed.awad@mdfoothills.com



HUMAN RESOURCES

Welcome to New Personnel:
(permanent employees only)

- Michael Brennan – Assessment
- Arleen Estey – Public Works
- Ian Deacon – Public Works
- Ray Tavernier – Landfill
- Stephanie Cheesman – Public Works
- Russ Friesen – HP Firefighter

Goodbye to:

- Max Thevenot – HP Firefighter
- Geoff Carpenter – Community/Protective Services
- Gustav (Wiaan) Kruger – Public Works
- Lauchena Boutilier-Wiebe – Landfill
- Hugh Pettigrew – Public Works

Keeping You Informed
-a digital information newsletter.

Subscribe to our email list to be kept informed about MD initiatives. Sign up at www.mdfoothills.com.

2014 Municipal Maps Available

Municipal Maps are available in a folded or wall map format for \$15 each + GST.

For custom mapping of your property, email ahmed.awad@mdfoothills.com or call 403.603.6241.

COUNCIL CONTACT

Division 1

Rick Percifield, Councillor
C: 403-540-6615
T: 403-684-3695
rick.percifield@mdfoothills.com

Division 2

Delilah Miller, Councillor
T: 403-558-2415
delilah.miller@mdfoothills.com

Division 3

Jason Parker, Councillor
T: 403-931-1480
jason.parker@mdfoothills.com

Division 4

Suzanne Oel, Councillor
T: 403-931-2711
suzanne.oel@mdfoothills.com
www.suzanneoel.com

Division 5

Ron Chase, Councillor
T: 403-669-1916
ronchasemd31@aol.com

Division 6

Larry Spilak, Reeve
T: 403-233-8577
larry.spilak@mdfoothills.com
www.larryspilak.com

Division 7

Ted Mills, Deputy Reeve
T: 403-652-2584
ted.mills@mdfoothills.com

FCSS



Help at Christmas

The MD of Foothills provides Christmas support to residents within the MD.

If you wish to help, cash donations and gift cards for gas and grocery stores are appreciated. Please call FCSS Coordinator, Amanda Midgley at 403.603.6229.

Subscribe to our FREE emergency alert system.

If we can't reach you, we can't alert you.
www.mdfoothills.com



Visit us on-line!

Find us on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter @MDofFoothills

