

Rural Review



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
BONNYVILLE NO. 87

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Rural beauty celebrated



The third annual Rural Beautification Tour was held August 15. Clockwise starting from top: a beautiful lily found at E-Tree; Bruce and Cynthia (and Rudy) Sloychuk accept their award from Councillor Mike Krywiak; Luc Tellier presents Ron and Bridgette Middagh with their award; another stunning lily at E-Tree, making a new friend at Ye Olde MacLean Hobby Farm; staff at Lakeland Agricultural Research Association show off some of the vegetables grown on site this year.



Clubroot spores can live up to 20 years in soil

It's been four years since weed inspectors first found clubroot infecting a canola field in the southwest corner of the M.D.

Now, in 2019, M.D. Assistant Agricultural Fieldman, Janice Boden, says there are 10 confirmed fields infected with the soil-borne disease.

"We do a 100 percent canola field inspection," Boden explains. "That means every one of the over 300 fields of canola growing in the M.D. are visited by an M.D. weed inspector to check for clubroot."

So far, the disease seems to be contained in the southwest of the municipality. Boden attributes that to canola producers adhering to some best practices when it comes to planting and harvesting.

"Soil movement is how it spreads," she says. "That can happen when vehicles, quads and farm equipment move from field to field. Wind blowing dirt around can spread it. Rain can also be a contributing factor."

With the heavy rains we've had this summer, Boden is urging farmers to make sure they knock off any soil left on equipment before they move to a new field. She also encourages farmers to leave a small strip of grass at the driveway of fields and having a separate entrance and exit to help brush soil off of equipment as it moves in and out of fields.

"It's important infected soil is contained," Boden says.



Clubroot is a disease that affects the roots of plants in the Brassicaceae (Cruciferae) family - which includes canola, broccoli, cauliflower, radishes, some weeds and a host of other vegetables.

The photo above shows a canola plant affected by clubroot, while the photo to the left shows a health canola root.

"Clubroot spores can live in soil for up to 20 years. We really want to slow the spread of this disease as much as possible."

She also recommends farmers plant clubroot resistant varieties of canola, even if clubroot hasn't

been detected in their fields.

Do you have any questions about clubroot? Give Boden a call at 780-826-3951.

But it's temporary!

A conversation about building sheds in the M.D.

You've heard it before from the coffee shop crew, "you don't need permits if it's temporary."

We are here to clear the air. Neither the Land Use Bylaw nor Alberta Safety Codes offer exceptions for temporary structures, but they do for buildings under 150 sq feet. This means you can build a nice little shed for your garden tools without obtaining development or building permits, but be aware, if you put in electrical, gas, plumbing, or sewer, you are required to obtain those service permits.

So you're saying I can build as many 150 sq ft sheds on my property as I want and it's all good?

Not quite. You still need to comply with setbacks from

property lines, other buildings, and maximum building coverages.

Wait a minute, where do all these rules come from?

The M.D. of Bonnyville's Land Use Bylaw. All municipalities in Alberta are required to have a Land Use Bylaw to ensure orderly development of the lands with as little conflict as possible.

This is a lot more complicated than I thought. I was just going to build a shack for my quad.

We are here to help! From sheds to shops, and mobiles to mansions, the Planning and Development team can guide you through your permitting needs - just call 780-826-3171.



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A message from the Reeve



Reeve Greg Sawchuk

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It has been a good news/bad news summer, if we can really call it a summer at all.

The rain arrived just in time for most crops in the spring, but then it never quit. Probably the happiest people in the M.D. are those people who are living on Muriel Lake. The lake has come up a couple of inches. But there are a lot of residents who are dealing with too much water. And it doesn't disappear easily.

All this rain has caused existing wetlands to get larger, and create wetlands where they have not existed for many years. The M.D. is dealing with flooding issues across the municipality. Sometimes a solution put in place on one section of land creates an issue for another resident. Draining one portion of land, creates a water filled ditch other residents have to deal with. I have learned there are no easy answers in this water struggle. Council and administration are working diligently to put solutions in place for all residents.

Council recently received notification from Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) that a decision has been made to remove the weir structure located downstream of Moose Lake on the Moose Lake River. A lot of residents on Moose Lake have long advocated for this solution. The decommissioning process will begin in the fall of 2019 and will include: the development of a decommissioning plan; Water Act Approval, which will determine the appropriate level of public, First Nations and Metis consultation; and weir removal and reclamation. Council urges all Moose Lake residents to attend the AEP Open House to make sure your voice is heard.

Council is also encouraging residents to come out to the 2020 Budget Open Houses in November. Council begins budget deliberations on October 10, and those discussions continue on October 17 and

29. Public consultations will be held on Tuesday, November 5 in Glendon at the RCMP Hall, at the Ardmore Community Hall on Thursday, November 7 and then at Willow Prairie Hall in La Corey on Monday, November 18. On November 25 Council will review the feedback from the public consultations and make any required budget amendments. The 2020 budget is scheduled to be approved on December 11.

The intent is to have the budget passed in December in order to release project tenders early in the new year. Council will continue to focus on road maintenance, new construction and paving. The road priorities list will be developed using the new Road Classification System. The road classifications are defined by traffic volumes, traffic composition, function and design speed. The new standard will be used in the planning and upgrading of M.D. road infrastructure in a consistent and sustainable manner.

In 2020, the M.D. will be signing Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks (ICFs) with the Town of Bonnyville, City of Cold Lake, Village of Glendon, and the Summer Villages of Pelican Narrows and Bonnyville Beach. These ICFs have been mandated by Alberta Municipal Affairs. The frameworks lay out how, and what, services are funded and delivered between individual municipalities. The documents cover funding agreements for recreation, Family and Community Support Services (FCSS), libraries, fire services, water and waste. All these negotiations means 2020 is slated to be a busy year.

Council will also continue to focus on recreation projects. If all goes according to plan, the Adventure Park at Kinosoo Ridge should be completed next year, bringing a new tourism attraction to the region. Campground upgrades will continue, as will trail construction and improvement.

While Council makes plans for a project packed 2020, we are optimistic for a good fall harvest to close out a tough 2019 growing season.

Meet Your Councillors



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