

FROM THE REEVE'S DESK...

What a difference a couple of inches of rain makes to your week!

This Reeve's Message was going to be super positive. I was going to be talking all about our M.D. projects underway, as we reach the halfway point of the construction season.

And then the rain fell. And kept falling, and falling. Some places in the M.D. had over eight inches of rain come down. Records show this was the most rain falling over a five-day period in 50 years.

Now, we are talking about road closures and flooded fields. And once again the Lessard Bridge is closed to vehicle and pedestrian traffic. On a positive note, the new steel pilings on the bridge held out against the onslaught of water, but pieces of the bank have eroded. Once the water recedes, the M.D. has to wait for engineers to assess the damage and hopefully give us the green light to open the bridge.

The Beaver River is the highest it's been since the 1960s, as you can see from the pictures on page one. We are urging people to take precautions, and to be aware of the deep, fast flowing water. The M.D. will notify residents through our Facebook page when it is safe once again to venture on the river. On a positive note, the water levels in Muriel Lake have increased once again, so maybe we can look forward to the

lake returning to its former glory.

Recently, Lac La Biche County Mayor Omer Moghrabi jokingly told me he was sending half the water that deluged his community our way. He was not wrong! I think more than half came southeast, through the Sand River and into the Beaver River. At one point, observers at the junction of the two rivers could not tell them apart. It was just a mass of swirling, powerful water.

Now, all that rainfall is running off in places many residents have never seen it appear. The M.D. is dealing with over 15 washed out roads, staff are pumping water away from a few homes and farmers are looking at a lot of fields completely underwater.

Council is investigating the possibility of declaring an agricultural disaster, as our next door neighbours did in Lac La Biche County. Once farmer's fields are underwater, a lot of the seed is washed away or new shoots are severely damaged and won't produce a good crop. The only positive for some of our farmers is that the rains will produce a good hay crop and great pasture land.

Nature seems to always be throwing us a curve ball lately. It was not too long ago the M.D. was declaring a fire ban. Now, we are dealing with lots of flooded land.

The inclement weather does delay



REEVE

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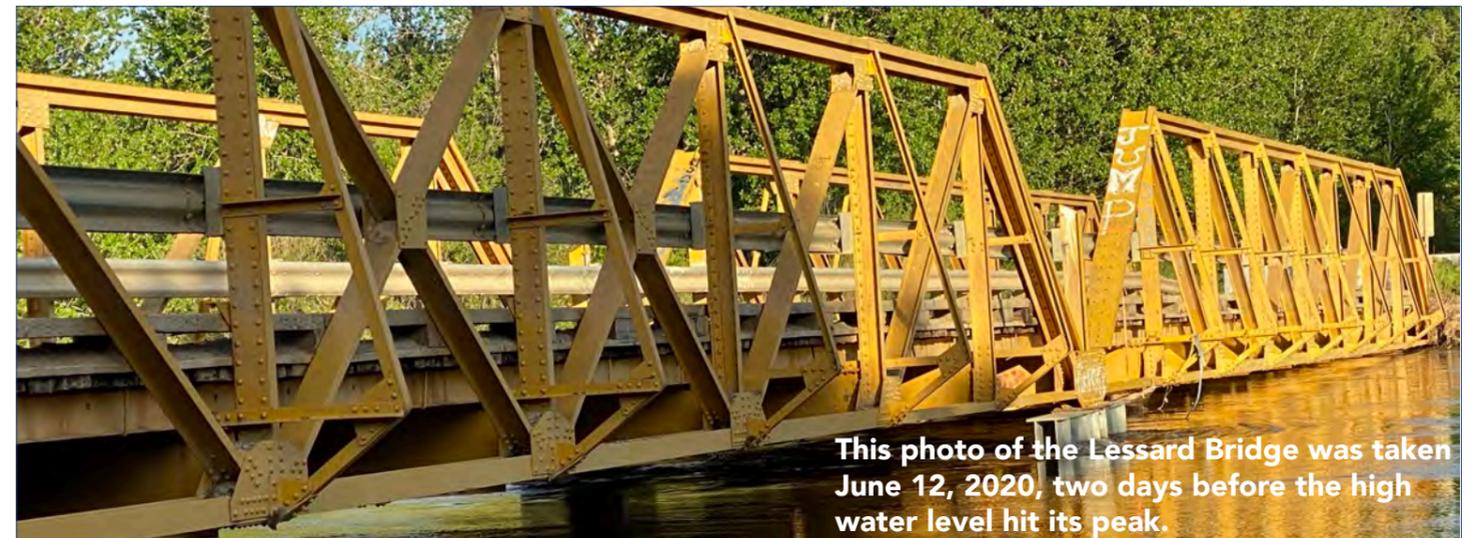
construction on our road projects. But it is early in the season and we hope to be back on track in a couple of weeks. In the meantime, we can all appreciate the abundance of waterfowl that are enjoying all the standing water.

While nature decided to deal the area a bad weather hand, there was a winning solution signed at the ID 349 negotiating table.

All the regional partners, Municipal District of Bonnyville, Town of Bonnyville, City of Cold Lake and the Village of Glendon, have signed off on an agreement to share the tax dollars coming from ID 349. While we cannot talk about the specifics until the Minister of Municipal Affairs signs off on the agreement, I can say that it will be beneficial to all residents living in the region. Unfortunately, it may take until the fall for everything to be signed and formally announced. I do want to say that it was encouraging to see all the municipalities sit down to hammer out a solution and advance our communities forward. This is a significant agreement that will bring about a lot of community development in our region.



HISTORIC WATER LEVELS CLOSE LESSARD BRIDGE



This photo of the Lessard Bridge was taken June 12, 2020, two days before the high water level hit its peak.



The two photos to the left were taken at the Ardmore Bridge, off of Secondary Highway 892 in 1962. Based on these photos and recollections of local, long-time residents, that was the last time the Beaver River reached the water levels we've been experiencing this spring. At time of printing, the Lessard Bridge is still closed to all traffic, including pedestrians. Follow us at facebook.com/MDBonnyville for updates. Thanks to Colleen Fraser for providing the photos from 1962.

MEET YOUR M.D. COUNCILLORS



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MEET THE M.D.'s NEW MUNICIPAL ENERGY OFFICER

by Joad Clement

In May, the Municipal District of Bonnyville launched a new energy efficiency initiative to boost its environmental performance and reduce its utility costs.

As the Municipal Energy Officer hired to lead this energy conservation program, I am pleased to join the Infrastructure Services Department and contribute to enhancing the M.D.'s operational and energy performance.

In the first phase of the program, I will be assessing energy use and costs for each of our facilities, and will identify the best energy-saving opportunities through procedures called energy benchmarking and auditing. To do that, I will get help from our internal

Energy Team, a dedicated team of M.D. staff who will advise me on prioritizing and implementing energy efficiency projects which will increase building occupant comfort, while delivering greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions and operational cost savings.

These initiatives are significantly funded by the provincial Municipal Climate Change Action Center and are carried out in partnership with the Village of Glendon.

The collaborative program also represents a great opportunity to review and improve our maintenance procedures in order to extend equipment life.

A snapshot of me: I am new to the



M.D., though I have called Alberta home since 2008. Born and raised in Sherbrooke, Quebec, with a background in mechanical engineering, I worked in energy auditing and energy efficiency engineering prior to starting in this new role.

I am a big fan of cross-country skiing, being a certified ski instructor and amateur racer in the wintertime.

POOLS, PERMITS AND YOU

What you need to know could save a life.

Did you know that private swimming pools over 600 mm (1.97 feet) deep are required to comply with the M.D.'s Land Use Bylaw and National Building Code (Alberta Edition)?

This means that it is a homeowner's responsibility to obtain a development and building permit from the municipality.

You will also need to ensure there is no unauthorized access. This may be achieved by having the required 1.7 metre (5.6 ft) tall fence with a self-closing gate that is capable of being locked.

You can also utilize a building wall

or other enclosure to prevent access to people, including children.

Some examples of pools that fall into these requirements are: inflatable ring top pools, frame pools, and in-ground pools.

Permits for private swimming pools are \$204.50. The fine for not having a permit for a swimming pool matching the description above is \$1,500. This doesn't include the cost of applying for a permit, or having to dismantle/close the pool should you choose to not acquire a permit.

For complete details, please contact Planning and Development at 780-826-3171.

TAX NOTICES IN THE MAIL

Are you a Municipal District of Bonnyville landowner? Have you received your annual Tax and Assessment notice yet?

The notices went in the mail on June 12, 2020. If you haven't received your 2020 Tax and Assessment notice by July 6, please give our Tax Department a call at 780-826-3171.

Please note – due to COVID-19, this year's tax payment deadline has been extended to October 15, 2020.

ASSESSORS VISITING PROPERTIES IN M.D.

Municipal District of Bonnyville Assessors are out inspecting properties in the municipality.

If you have purchased a property and/or applied for any permits in the past year, or if you live in Ranges 8, 9, or 10 (all properties between Range Road 480 and Rge. Rd. 4103), you can expect a visit from one of our property assessors over the next few months.

These inspections are in compliance with Section 294(1) of the Municipal Government Act.

During the assessors visit, please help us maintain the recommended six foot (two metres) of space for social distancing.

Assessors will be driving vehicles which have the M.D. logo on it.

For more information, call the Assessment Department at 780-826-3171.



EVERYTHING IS COMING UP (OX-EYE) DAISIES



Every year, from mid-June until the end of September, the M.D. uses herbicide to reduce the spread of noxious and nuisance weeds in ditches and right-of-ways along M.D. roads. Provincial and secondary highways are looked after by the provincially contracted road maintenance company Emcon.

Residents who wish to take responsibility for the

control of weeds in the ditches and road right-of-ways adjacent to their land can sign a Weed Control Agreement. You can find the M.D.'s policy for vegetation control at bit.ly/mdweedcontrol, which includes a copy of the Weed Control Agreement that you can print, sign, and send to us.

If you're interested in finding out more about what kind of noxious and nuisance weeds grow in the M.D., we have a web page for that!

From Common Tansy to (you guessed it!) Ox-eye Daisy, our Identifying Weeds page has the commonly seen problem plants. The page includes photos of the weeds, as well as ways to identify, prevent, and control each specific plant. Controls include biological solutions, such as the goats seen chowing down on Ox-eye Daisy to the left.

Check out the web page at md.bonnyville.ab.ca/417/Identifying-Weeds.

For more information on our Roadside Spraying program, or if you have a question about noxious and nuisance weeds in the M.D., call our Ag Services Department at 780-826-3951.