



M.D. of Foothills No. 31

# NEWS

Winter 2009, Issue 18

## MD and Longview Sign Shared Services Agreement



*L to R: Alana Healy-Newton, Ivor McCorquindale, Mayor of Longview, Larry Spilak, Deputy Reeve, MD of Foothills and Leslie Fitzgerald, MD Foothills*

The Village of Longview and the MD of Foothills signed a shared services agreement in October 2009. This agreement provides for closer ties and joint use of resources. MD staff will supplement the Village's existing personnel working in Longview's water and waste water system, bylaw enforcement, planning and the position of Chief Administration Officer. This agreement will allow Longview to maintain its own entity while providing more resources for it to access.

Alana Healy-Newton, Longview's CAO has retired from her position and MD employee Leslie Fitzgerald will take over the job. Fitzgerald was the former CAO of Longview and of Cayley before it dissolved and became a hamlet.

With the new Shared Services Agreement in place between the Village of Longview and the MD of Foothills, we will move forward into 2010 with the hope of learning from each other.

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# Winners of the Rural Character Photo Contest

The MD had a great response to our 1<sup>st</sup> photo contest. In all, we received 335 photos. Currently all the photos are on display in the lobby of the MD's administrative building at 309 Macleod Trail, High River.



Chantel Goodman, 1<sup>st</sup> prize



Tycen Allan,  
Honourable Mention



Hailey Stewart,  
Honourable Mention



Ella Nuttgens, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize



## Youth Category

*Winners of the youth category won a Nikon Coolpix L20 camera.*



Leslie Sim, Honourable Mention



Bethany Harris, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize



Bethany Harris,  
Honourable Mention



Bethany Harris,  
Honourable Mention

## Adult Category

*Grand prize winners of the adult category received \$200.00 and Honourable Mention winners received \$50.00 each.*

For more winning photos, go to:  
[www.mdfoothills.com](http://www.mdfoothills.com)



Elaine Hutchings, 1<sup>st</sup> prize



Ian MacDougall, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize



Barry Dickieson, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize



Barry Dickieson,  
Honourable Mention



Jim Robins, Honourable Mention



Heidi Brown,  
Honourable Mention



Regina Sacheli,  
Honourable Mention



Leslie Sim, Honourable Mention

## Reduce Your Emissions - Stop Idling

### When should you turn your engine off?

As an individual, you can be instrumental in reducing environmental impacts. If every driver of a light duty vehicle in Canada avoided idling by three minutes a day, collectively over the year, we would save 630 million litres of fuel, over 1.4 million tonnes of GHG emissions, and \$630 million annually in fuel costs (assuming fuel costs are \$1.00/L).

Idling for over 10 seconds uses more fuel and produces more CO<sub>2</sub> compared to restarting your engine. However, as a more practical guideline, balancing factors such as fuel savings, overall emissions and potential component wear on the starter and battery, 60 seconds is the recommended interval. You will save money on fuel that should more than offset any potential increase in maintenance costs from any wear and tear on your starter or battery.

If you're going to be stopped for more than 60 seconds – except in traffic – turn the engine off. Unnecessary idling wastes money and fuel, and produces greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

an ecoACTION Initiative  
 source: Natural Resources Canada

## Public Hearing Regarding the Municipal Development Plan - MDP2010

The Council of the Municipal District of Foothills No. 31 held a Public Hearing regarding the MDP2010 on Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup>.

The MDP2010 is proposed as a revised Municipal Development Plan. The current Municipal Development Plan was originally adopted by MD Council in 1998. The purpose of the plan is to provide guidance to Council members and the public on growth and development in the MD of Foothills.

The draft MDP2010 as well as the current MDP are available on the MD website and at the MD office in High River. Should you wish a copy mailed to you or have questions about the MDP2010, please contact Heather Hemingway, Municipal Planner at 403-603-6225 or email your request to [heather.hemingway@mdfoothills.com](mailto:heather.hemingway@mdfoothills.com)

[www.mdfoothills.com](http://www.mdfoothills.com)



## Foothills LAND TRUST

are protected for future generations. Incorporated in 2004 by neighbours, just like you, the Foothills Land Trust Board members work collaboratively with all the stakeholders in the MD to conserve open spaces, working landscapes, viewsapes and wildlife habitat and corridors. Acre by acre we hope to connect landscapes and neighbours to form a web of countryside that protects and enhances our way of life in this MD. Whether you have an acreage that is a gem for the wildlife in your part of the MD or wetlands that bring in flocks of birds every spring or large parcels that you know are special places, Foothills Land Trust is there to provide you with the options that allow you to take action on conservation. For more information on 'your local land trust' visit our website at [www.foothillslandtrust.org](http://www.foothillslandtrust.org).

## Foothills Land Trust

"Conserve Our Common Ground" is the message of the Foothills Land Trust. Working with MD of Foothills landowners, this non-profit volunteer land trust uses Conservation Easements to allow private landowners to conserve, protect and enhance the biodiversity of their home places in the MD.

Conservation Easements enable landowners to remain on the land they love while ensuring that these lands are protected for future generations. Incorporated in 2004 by neighbours, just like you, the Foothills Land Trust Board members work collaboratively with all the stakeholders in the MD to conserve open spaces, working landscapes, viewsapes and wildlife habitat and corridors. Acre by acre we hope to connect landscapes and neighbours to form a web of countryside that protects and enhances our way of life in this MD. Whether you have an acreage that is a gem for the wildlife in your part of the MD or wetlands that bring in flocks of birds every spring or large parcels that you know are special places, Foothills Land Trust is there to provide you with the options that allow you to take action on conservation. For more information on 'your local land trust' visit our website at [www.foothillslandtrust.org](http://www.foothillslandtrust.org).

## Riparian Areas - What is a riparian area?

Cows and Fish (the Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society) defines riparian areas as

"...the lands adjacent to streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands, where the vegetation and soils are strongly influenced by the presence of water."

The MD of Foothills has begun work on a riparian areas protection tool, the Riparian Setback Matrix Model (RSMM). In consultation with Aquality Environmental Consulting Ltd. a multi-disciplinary firm based out of Edmonton, the MD has taken the initial steps to prepare the RSMM for use in the Foothills region. The goal of developing the tool and accompanying educational materials is to ensure the preservation, protection, and enhancement of riparian areas and aquatic resources in the MD of Foothills.



*A natural riparian area.*

While development of the model will continue into the winter, it is anticipated that a finished product will likely be available in the spring of 2010. Public consultation may take place early in 2010 so please remember to check your weekly issue of the Western Wheel.

Questions and comments can be directed to Spencer Croil of the MD of Foothills Planning Department. He can be reached at [spencer.croil@mdfoothills.com](mailto:spencer.croil@mdfoothills.com) or 403-603-6227.

## Dark Sky Initiative

The Dark Sky Initiative has seen some interesting activity over the past six months. The MD of Foothills and University of Calgary's Rothney Astrophysical Observatory teamed up for the university's annual howdy neighbour barbeque, held last August during Milky Way week at the observatory. The barbeque was a success, drawing over one hundred 'neighbours' of the observatory for a night of food and astronomical fun. More recently, major lighting retailers in the area have been notified of the MD's Dark Sky Bylaw, with the hope of having more dark sky compliant lighting options on the shelves in the near future. Stay posted for dark sky related activity for the coming year.



## 2009 Municipal Map

The 2009 Municipal Map is now available in two formats, the traditional flat wall map and a new "vehicle friendly" folded version. Please visit the website for new products as they become available.

The "Bird's Eye View" with 2007/08 (colour), 2005(colour) or 2000 (b/w) aerial images are now available. Custom mapping is also available.

For information call Johanna at 403-603-6244 or email Johanna.Kortenschyl-Allan@mdfoothills.com

## Changes to Procedures for Appeals on your Assessment

The Province of Alberta has introduced changes to the Municipal Government Act as contained within Bill 23. The *Matters Relating to Assessment Complaints Regulation* was approved on November 5, 2009 and will be implemented effective January 1, 2010. As a Municipal Ratepayer, you are urged to familiarize yourself with the new process and procedures for assessment complaints and appeals. You can get a copy of Bill 23 at: [www.assembly.ab.ca](http://www.assembly.ab.ca) (under Bills and Amendments) or a copy of the Matters Relating to Assessment Complaints Regulation at: [www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca](http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca) (under Municipalities and Communities/Property Assessment & Taxation). We will be providing additional information in the future on our website and with the 2010 assessment/tax notices.

## How Assessments are Prepared

An Appraisal is an estimate of value. Assessors' value properties in Alberta using a method called mass appraisal. Mass appraisal techniques allow assessors to accurately value a large number of properties in a short period of time.

## Data Collection

Before an assessment can be prepared, property data must be collected. Sources of information are property owners, Alberta Land Titles, the real estate Multiple Listing Service and financial institutions. Detailed information about each property is also gathered by making on-site visits. The assessors will visit all properties with building construction in progress, properties that have sold, as well as newly subdivided parcels. As part of our requirement to re-inspect each property in the M.D. of Foothills every five years we plan to visit approximately 2000 properties this year.

With the number of inspections that

need to be done each year, the assessors are unable to make appointments. We will arrive at your door unannounced in the hope that you may be home. In the event no one is home we will make note of any progress or changes visible from the exterior of the buildings.

The assessors will be driving MD Foothills vehicles and will 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 past and future cooperation with the assessment process.*

## Winter Energy Saving Tips ...At Home

- Close off heat and doors to unused rooms.
- Switch to compact fluorescent lighting. Compact fluorescent light bulbs use about 75 per cent less energy than incandescent bulbs.
- Check windows and caulk, weather-strip, and foam to seal air leaks.
- Change your furnace filter monthly during the heating season. Most hardware stores now carry a washable, universal-size filter that should fit most furnaces.
- Close the damper on your fireplace when not in use.

*Source: Alberta Government*

## Foothills Regional Landfill

Hwy 783, 5.6 km south of Hwy 7 and Okotoks  
Tel: 403-938-5224  
Open: Monday-Saturday, 8:30 am-4:30 pm

### NEW RATES : Effective January 1, 2010 the rate increase at the Foothills Regional Landfill will be set as follows:

- \$5 minimum charge for loads up to 100 kg.
  - \$60/metric tonne over 100 kg.
  - \$90/metric tonne for hard to handle garbage.
  - \$20 Freon removal per appliance plus tonnage fees
- \$10 surcharge for load not tarped

### Salvage Centre

No fees to leave good reusable items at the Salvage Centre.

### Recycling Centre

On-site recycling includes scrap metal, appliances, batteries, tires, used oil, propane bottles, antifreeze, oil filters, cardboard, wood waste & greens pile (compost), household hazardous waste. Tonnage fees apply. Pesticide containers only at no charge – must be triple rinsed!

## FireSmart Don't Be the Cause of a Wildfire

This set of objectives is aimed at not becoming the source of the fire.

### FireSmart your chimney

Chimneys should be constructed to meet current Alberta building code requirements and should be screened-in with the appropriate approved spark arrestors.

### Power lines and propane tanks

Vegetation should be cleared back from power lines, propane tanks and other fuel supplies.

### Emergency facilities

FireSmart building sites have adequate emergency vehicle access, and a readily available water supply such as a pond or dugout nearby.

### Shovels and rakes

Every home should have shovels, rakes, axes, garden hoses, sprinklers and roof ladders to assist in suppressing wildfires.

### Burn barrels and ash pits

Burn barrels should be well away from buildings and other combustible sources. Burn barrels should have proper ventilation, screens and should never be left burning unattended. For safer disposal, bring your debris to a landfill site.

## A Well Thought Out FireSmart Protection Plan!

- Prune tree branches to a height of 1 or 2 metres
- Store fire wood well away from the house
- Remove trees within 10 metres of house
- Trees thinned (crowns don't touch) for at least 30 metres from the house
- Branches are clear of power lines (if possible bury power service)
- Remove brush, mow and water lawn
- Your name and lot number clearly visible for quick identification
- Driveway is wide enough to accommodate emergency vehicles
- Provide additional emergency exit
- Pond or cistern with emergency water supply
- A FireSmart ash pit or burning barrel
- Driveway clear of trees to a distance of at least 3 or 4 metres
- Chimney installed to code complete with spark arrestor screens
- All soffit vents and gutters should be screened
- Porches and balconies screened, crawl spaces enclosed
- Position propane tank with valve pointing away from house
- Fire resistant exterior roof and walls
- Protective drapes and or shutters on windows to protect interior from radiant heat

Source: *The Home Owners FireSmart Manual, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development*

## Foothills Regional Landfill - Winner, 2009 Collection Site of Excellence

The Foothills Regional Services Commission is the recipient of Alberta Recycling's second annual 2009 Collection Site of Excellence (large population category).

This award recognizes the Foothills Regional Waste Management Facility for the exceptional organization of its electronics, paint and tire collection areas, as well as the overall state of the facility.

# Proliferation of Weeds

Time never stands still. Neither does the proliferation of weeds within our municipal boundaries.

Weeds, if left unchecked, greatly reduce the productivity of all farmland. Since 1964, with the implementation of the Weed Control Act of Alberta, this municipality has been waging war with weeds both on municipal lands, public lands and private lands. Over the years, the municipality has won most of the wars, tied a few and lost the odd one.

Resulting from the increased population in the MD along with the increased movement of hay and straw, we are finding new weed species that we have not experienced in previous years. The weeds are Wild Caraway, Houndstongue, Dalmation Toadflax and Leafy Spurge.

If you have any of these weeds on your land or any other weeds you are unable to identify, call the Agriculture Fieldman at 403-603-5410 to attend your property and assist you in control or eradication of these weeds.

During the course of weed spraying in the Municipal right-of-ways, the MD will be using a mixture of a Dow Agro product called Milestone mixed with 2-4-D. Another Dow Agro product we will be using will be that or Tordon 22K for specific weeds. This product will only be used in a spot treatment application.



*Wild Caraway, L: plant TR: leaves, BR: flower*



*Houndstongue, L: plant TR: flower seed, BR: rosettes*



*Leafy Spurge, L: plant TR: flower, BR: buds on root*



*Dalmation Toadflax, L: plant TR: leaves, BR: flower*

## 2009 Agriculture Scholarship

The 2009 Agricultural Scholarship worth \$1000 was awarded to Catherine Hepp. Catherine is currently enrolled in at University of British Columbia studying Global Resource with sustainable agriculture as part of her specialization.

## MD Staff Boards And Committee Vacancies

### New Personnel

*(Permanent employees only)*

Phillip Tyschuck  
Inventory Clerk

Claire Lacey  
GIS Technician

Will Galloway  
Graderman

### Goodbye

Blair Gates  
Electrical Inspector  
11 years

Ryan Payne  
Planner, 3 years

Positions will be available for the following Boards and Committees of the Municipal District of Foothills No. 31:

- Agricultural Service Board
- Assessment Review Board (according to Provincial legislation, appointed members will be required to successfully complete training in order to hold a seat on this Board)
- Cayley Recreation Board
- Community Standards Appeal Board
- Dunbow Recreation Board
- Family and Community Support Services Committee
- Fire Guardians
- Foothills Foundation
- Historical Review Committee
- Marigold Library Board
- Subdivision and Development Appeal Board

Interested parties are encouraged to submit a resume, legal land description and covering letter stating which Board or Committee they wish to serve. Board or Committee members whose terms will be expiring and whose wish is to be reappointed are required to submit an application for consideration.

Applicants are asked to please submit their application no later than Friday, December 18, 2009 at 4:30 pm to:

Mr. Harry Riva Cambrin, Municipal Manager, M.D. of Foothills No. 31, Box 5605, 309 Macleod Trail, High River, AB T1V 1M7, email: [hrc@mdfoothills.com](mailto:hrc@mdfoothills.com)

## Organizational Meeting determines Reeve and Deputy Reeve

Roy  
McLean  
Reeve



Larry  
Spilak  
Deputy  
Reeve



The Council of the Municipal District of Foothills No. 31 met on October 20, 2009 for the annual Organizational Meeting. Roy McLean was elected Reeve and Larry Spilak elected Deputy Reeve for the coming Council year.

## Commercial Vehicle Permits Overload / Over Dimensional Commercial Vehicle Permits - New After Hours Toll Free Line

A new toll free permit request line for drivers operating commercial vehicles that require an overweight or over dimensional permit for travel on municipally controlled roads has been implemented.

If you will be operating a commercial vehicle, that exceeds maximum allowable weights or dimensions as set out in the Traffic Safety Act and associated Regulations, you require a valid permit from the MD of Foothills for travel on locally controlled roads.

**NEW After Hours Permit request line: 1-877-603-MD31 (6331). Monday through Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm., contact the Protective Services Office at 403-603-6300**

Check the MD website: [www.mdfoothills.com](http://www.mdfoothills.com)

## Dog Bylaw

Municipal Enforcement is in the process of drafting a new Dog Bylaw. If you have any suggestions please contact Geoff Carpenter at the Protective Services office, 403-603-6300, or email direct to [geoff.carpenter@mdfoothills.com](mailto:geoff.carpenter@mdfoothills.com).

Please check the MD website in months to come for a draft copy and information about open houses. The current Dog Bylaw is on our website.