

RM of Usborne No. 310 2021

Summer Newsletter

COVID-19 – we are so thankful there appears to be a light at the end of the tunnel! What a challenging 16 months we've all been facing in this pandemic.

If you're feeling unwell or showing any symptoms of illness, please do not enter the office. If you do visit the office, we ask that you please sanitize and follow all protocols as signed/mandated by the province.

PG 668 – as our resurfacing project for 6.7km of PG 668 was cancelled in the 2020 year, we contracted Resterra Land & Road Reclamation (Melfort, SK) to mulch up portions of the road, and applied a seal coat to the top – we found this to be a much more cost-effective option, and it worked well. Resterra was also contracted to do stretches of Bloomfield Road, and the Lockwood Grid this construction season.

The RM was eligible for more funding through the SARM RIRG program this year (applications are carried forward from year to year); however, since the stretch of road we applied for was mulched up in 2020, we could not take advantage of this funding.

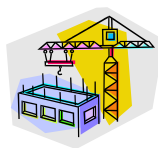
We continue to work on plans for 668 rehabilitation, and monitor the road very closely. Patch work & crack sealing are completed annually.



Website – a reminder that our website is live! Visit us at www.rmusbome.ca for policies, information and updates – we are always posting new items!

Beaver Control – in conjunction with the SARM Beaver Control program, you **MUST** have a trapper license number to be eligible for beaver bounty. The RM cannot pay bounties without this number. Also note: land locations of removal are required!

Civic Addressing – NUVU completed the mapping portion of the civic addressing project. Next step will be submitting the data & ordering signs for each yard. Stay tuned as this process continues!



Development & Building Permits – If you are building, you must apply for both development and building permits and our building official will

ensure that the building is built to code. Ag buildings are exempt; please see the website or contact the office for further details.

Tax Payments – A reminder that we're registered with "Telpay", which allows ratepayers to pay taxes and invoices online with most major banks and Credit Unions. Your billing account number is your owner number (shown after your name, upper right corner) followed or led by zeros – usually 6 digits total. We also accept e-transfers to rm310@sasktel.net – **we do not offer credit card or interact.**

Assessment – you may see a representative from SAMA out and about in the spring months (annually) performing assessment maintenance, if there have been any changes to your property or any clarification is needed for your assessment. Ratepayers are reminded to be respectful while the assessors complete their data collection. Please contact SAMA or the RM office for any assessment related questions. **New maps will be printed this summer/fall and will be available for purchase at that time – price is to be determined once we review printing fees.** Our map is also available on our website, or the iHunter app. **We will post on the website when new maps are in!**



293 Exemptions – as many of you know, 2021 was a revaluation year for SAMA, across the province. If you are eligible for a 293 exemption on your house due to your Ag land, you **MUST** fill out the form that was sent out previously and return it to the office. The form is also available online at www.rmusbome.ca



Noxious weeds – our weed control plan is underway for 2021; and we're happy to report that we've once again contracted Marksmen Vegetation to handle weed control for us this year. Scentsless Chamomile, Leafy Spurge and Common Tansy have been noted in several areas, and Diffuse Knapweed is next door. Clubroot has also been a popular topic, with the nearest outbreak in the RM of Corman Park last year.

Dust control – in recent years, we have received an influx of complaints regarding the dust control program. As dust control is not something the RM is required to provide, the program is currently in jeopardy. Please visit the website for the dust control policy and updates regarding this program. Applications are complete for 2021.

Bridges – some of our bridges and culverts have reached/are reaching their life expectancy! We are working diligently to replace these as required. We completed several last season, and more are on our agenda for this summer/fall – Old Highway 20 remains on our radar.



RM operators – residents, ratepayers and road users are reminded to **be respectful** of the equipment operators while they clear/maintain the roads and streets. The RM is responsible for a vast area, including Guernsey and Lockwood, and the operators tend to all areas as quickly as they can and to the best of their ability.



Another reminder to please **SLOW DOWN** when meeting or passing RM operators & equipment on the roads – travelling by at excessive speeds is a serious safety hazard to all parties and many reports have been received in this regard.



Municipal Hail - Crop Exemption Forms had to be received before **April 30th. Remember!** If you want to withdraw from the hail plan, you must notify the office by **March 31st**. If you have a **Hail Claim**, the claim form can be submitted directly to SMHI, or the RM office if you wish. **Additional Hail Insurance** is also still available at the office.



REACT - you can take your garbage (for a fee) to the transfer sites at Lanigan, Watrous or Drake *or* a farmer or group can rent or purchase a bin that will be emptied on a regular basis.

Recycle centers are set up and are free. Used oil & filters can be taken to the transfer sites at Watrous and Lanigan. Updated REACT information, including fees, can be found at www.rmusbome.ca

Grain Bag Recycling – a new program addressing grain bag recycling was launched in 2018. Please visit <http://cleanfarms.ca/programs/grain-bag-recycling-sk/> for more information, including collection sites & preparation steps prior to dropoff.



Controlled Burns - if you are planning on burning at any time of the year, be sure to call in a **Controlled Burn at 1-866-404-4911**, otherwise you may be looking at a Fire

Department bill. You will be asked for the land description, reason for fire and to call back when finished. **Be advised that it is solely the ratepayer's responsibility to confirm if a fire ban is on or not** – this can be done online at www.saskatchewan.ca , www.rmusbome.ca, or by contacting the office. **The RM accepts no liability or responsibility for ratepayers burning when a fire ban is on.**

Water Availability: If you have water available on your farm for local fire department use in case of an emergency, please notify your Councillor or the office to be put on a list.

Rustic Scrap Metal – we often receive questions about scrap metal pickup. A new company has approached the RM in this regard. They can be reached at 306-270-9922



Office Hours – Hours are 9:00am – 5:00pm Monday-Thursday & 9:00am - 4:00pm on Friday. If you have any questions re: any of the enclosed, please contact your Councillor.

You can reach the Reeve or your Councillor at:

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| REEVE | Jack Gibney | 365-7348 |
| DIV 1 | Ryan Morningstar | 365-7283 |
| DIV 2 | Darren Carlson | 946-7739 |
| DIV 3 | Howard Toews | 222-5271 |
| DIV 4 | Lance Gunther | 365-7727 |
| DIV 5 | Fred Toman | 365-7724 |
| DIV 6 | Don Shantz | 365-8624 |

Other important numbers:

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|-----------------|----------------|
| Controlled Burn | 1-866-404-4911 |
| CP Emergency | 1-800-716-9132 |
| CN Emergency | 1-800-465-9239 |

(Dangerous Rail Crossing)