

August, 2007 Newsletter

R.M. of Pense No. 160, Box 190, Pense, Sask., S0G 3W0

Phone: (306) 345-2303, Fax: (306) 345-2583

e-mail: rm160@sasktel.net, website: www.pense160.ca

Provincial Education Tax Credit

The Provincial Government announced the program would be extended to 2008-09, the credit will increase from 8% to 10% on residential and commercial properties. Agricultural property will remain at 38% tax credit. There is a \$2,500 cap on the credit for commercial/industrial property. As in 2005 and 2006, the amount of the education property tax credit will be shown on your tax notice.

Mill Rate Comparison

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Municipal	4.75	4.75	4.5
Potash Tax Sharing	6.9943	6.2908	5.5406
Prairie Valley S.D.	21.75	19.75	18.5
Prairie South S.D.	23.0	21.3	19.0
Stony Beach St. Lights	2.45	2.69	3.41
Keystown St. Lights	1.43	1.53	1.02

Building and Development Permits

We have seen an increase in development inquiries in the municipality over the past year. Most development within the R.M. requires a development permit. New homes in the hamlets and all commercial/industrial buildings require a building permit. Check with the office ahead of time to ensure the process moves along efficiently.

Gopher Control

The gopher population continues to cause damage to crops and pastures. The R.M. has participated in the lobby to reinstate 2% liquid strychnine. Council has decided to continue to offer one 7kg pail of Wilson Gopher-Kill bait per farming operation free of charge. The deadline to order is November 30, 2007 for pick-up in April/May, 2008. The bait is most effective when put out in early spring.

Emergency Contact Numbers

Police, Fire & Ambulance 9-1-1
To report Controlled Burns 692-2792
(Moose Jaw Fire Department)

R.M. Contact Numbers

Administration

Carolynn Meadows, Administrator 345-2303
Cathy Ripplinger, Assistant Administrator

Road Crew

Ken Lovell, Foreman - R.M. shop 345-2424
Bob Nuttall, Grader Operator
Laurent Deneve, Grader Operator
Don Kelln, Grader Operator
Ron Ball, Mower Operator

Pest Control Officer/Weed Inspectors

Grant Peeling, Pest Control Officer 694-8485
Devon Parcher, Tom Beingessner
Prairie EcoSystems, Weed Inspectors 737-2180

Council Members

<u>Division</u>	<u>Council Member</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Reeve	Tom Lemon	345-2230
#1	Terry Anderson	345-2015
#2	Lorne Straub	345-2390
#3	Roy Morrison	693-5116
#4	Bruce Good	345-2029
#5	Janet Lemon	345-2230
#6	Brian Short	345-2514

Nominations will be open for the positions of Councillor for Divisions 2, 4 & 6 this fall.

2006 Financial Statement

We would be happy to mail you a copy upon request. A copy of the financial statement is posted in the municipal office on the bulletin board.

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Haying Policy

The R.M. has a policy similar to the Department of Highways concerning the salvage of hay on municipal right of ways. Some of the conditions contained in the policy:

- The adjacent landowner or lessee, in the case of rented land, has first option to salvage hay within the right of way of municipal roads. Other persons must contact the adjacent landowner or lessee to salvage hay on or before July 15th each year. **In addition the R.M. must be contacted as early as possible in the spring to prevent conflict with R.M. mowing operations.** For information purposes: primary grid roads and heavy truck traffic roads are the first to be mowed.
- After July 15th, any person may cut and salvage hay without the permission of the adjacent landowner or lessee, provided the adjacent landowner or lessee has not begun salvage operations, **contact R.M. as well.**
- Bales of hay must be at least 8 metres from the edge of the shoulder of the roadway. If bales can't be left 8 metres from the edge, they are to be moved as soon as possible (see following point).
- All bales must be removed from along municipal roads within one month of the bailing of the hay.
- In order to minimize hazards to motorists, any bales not removed within one month may be removed by the municipality and any bales so removed shall become the property of the municipality.

Palliser Regional Library

The R.M. of Pense along with 82 others within the Palliser Regional Library boundaries participates in an inter-municipal agreement to provide library service to the region. The R.M. pays an annual levy to the Regional Library based on population.

Ratepayers may apply for a library card at the Moose Jaw Public Library (461 Langdon Crescent) or at the Palliser Regional Library office (366 Coteau St. W.). This library card can be taken to a library branch in Regina, they will issue a separate card. Ratepayers will then have access to library service in both cities. The R.M. is looking for a representative from the municipality to be our board member for Palliser Regional, they hold two meetings a year – one in April and one in November. Please call the office if you are interested.

Division Books

Our map provider, Bradley Directories, has made a Division Book for our municipality. These books are coil bound, laminated books with each division expanded to letter size page size. The following surrounding R.M. maps (in a smaller size) are also included:

R.M. of Marquis No. 191
R.M. of Dufferin No. 190
R.M. of Lumsden No. 189
R.M. of Moose Jaw No. 161
(R.M. of Pense No. 160)
R.M. of Sherwood No. 159
R.M. of Baildon No. 131
R.M. of Redburn No. 130
R.M. of Bratt's Lake No. 129

These smaller maps show yard sites including the owner name and phone number.

The cost of these books is \$50 – great to keep in your vehicle or to give as a gift. Once we receive 10 orders our map producer will print them for us.

New Municipal Maps

A new map is being produced due to the physical revaluation as all assessment numbers changed. Ratepayers are eligible for one map free of charge. The maps should be ready for pick up by the end of September.

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Terra Grain Fuels

Construction of the Terra Grain Fuels ethanol plant on the SE 22-17-24 W2 (north of the Saskferco plant) continues “on schedule” per Al McDonald, Owner’s Representative. They expect to be receiving grain by the end of August, 2007. The Administration building should be ready for occupancy by mid-August. Commissioning is on schedule to begin the third week in November with production to begin in the middle of December, 2007. We were pleased to see some local people find employment with Terra Grain Fuels during construction. Their website address is www.terragrainfuels.com.