



RM OF MARTIN NO 122

JULY 2021 NEWSLETTER

OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION:

Cheryl Barrett – Chief Administrative Officer
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Moosomin SK S0G 3N0
Phone: 306-435-3113 extension 2
or 306-435-4951 (direct line)
Fax: 306-435-4313
Email: rm122@sasktel.net

COUNCIL:

Reeve	Garry Bonkowski (306-435-8008)
Division 1	Chris Leeds (306-435-7783)
Division 2	Glen Ekert (306-532-4844)
Division 3	Peter Currie (306-435-9092)
Division 4	Hal Garrett (306-435-7757)
Division 5	Ray Donald (306-435-7457)
Division 6	John Gordon (306-435-7414)

PUBLIC WORKS INFORMATION:

Foreman	Darcy Jamieson
Maintenance Operator	James Greening
Maintenance Operator	Dave Osborne
Maintenance Operator	Leo Beier

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Thursday (May-Aug) 8 am to Noon and 1-4 pm
Monday to Friday (Sept-April) 8 am to Noon and 1-4 pm

WEBSITE: www.rmofmartin.com

Council meetings are generally held the **second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 am** in the Municipal Office located in Moosomin. If you would like the opportunity to speak to Council, please make an appointment by contacting the office at least one week before the date of the meeting.

WHAT HAS THE RM OF MARTIN BEEN UP TO THIS PAST YEAR?

RM of Martin Website

The website is always evolving and changing. Last year Cheryl added a lot of information, a good portion which was history of the RM. Feel free to email Cheryl with comments or suggestions on the website. It is constantly changing so check back often!

- under *About Us* you will find a detailed history of the RM of Martin – it is a very interesting read!
- under *Administration* you will find Administration Through the Years which lists all the Administrators who have worked for the RM of Martin since 1913
- under *Council* you will find Council Through the Years which lists all members of Council as well as the dates of terms that they served
- under *Council* you will also find updated contact information for your Councillors (including new email addresses). Approved Minutes are also posted after Council Meetings.
- under the *Municipal Services* tab you will find a plethora of information on Assessment, Taxation, Assessment Notices, Financial Statements, Budgets, as well as the current Bylaws
- another tab that is constantly changing is the *Public Notice* section. All Public Notices are posted here and is a really good resource to check out each time you are on the website.
- Lastly, there is a copy of the latest RM Map that you can view in PDF form. Maps are updated yearly with changes in ownership.

2020 – The Year of Virtuality

We have all been grappling with Covid and I'm sure more than a few of us are fed up with even hearing the words Covid, Masks, Social Distancing and Zoom! The RM of Martin has adapted with the public health measures by putting up a plexiglass barrier, wearing masks in the office, more cleaning, and even holding meetings in our shop where we could be more social distanced. During most of the winter the majority of our meetings were via ZOOM and therefore virtual meetings. Although having meetings virtually works it is not the best scenario for meetings and starting in April we began meeting in person in the RM of Martin Shop. Things are starting to get back to normal and starting in June meetings resumed in the Council Chambers in Moosomin.

2020 also saw elections for Reeve and Divisions 1, 3 & 5 Councillors. Peter Currie (Division 3) and Ray Donald (Division 5) were both acclaimed back to their positions on Council. Wayne Beckett did not wish to run again in Division 1 and Chris Leeds stepped up and became Division 1 Councillor by acclamation. Thank you to Wayne for 8 years of service to the RM of Martin as Councillor for Division 1. Something that hadn't happened for a while in the RM of Martin an election! There was an election for Reeve

between Gerald Flaman and Garry Bonkowski with Gerald losing his position and Garry becoming the new Reeve. Thank you to Gerald Flaman for over 15 years of service with the RM of Martin both as Division 4 and Division 6 Councillor and Reeve.

We are lucky in the RM to have a number of employees and Councillors who have quite a few years of service:

Darcy Jamieson (Foreman)	21 years
Peter Currie (Division 3 Councillor)	14 years
Glen Ekert (Division 1 Councillor)	10 years
Ray Donald (Division 5 Councillor)	9 years (plus 5 years from 1999 to 2004)
Cheryl Barrett (CAO)	7 years
James Greening	6 years
David Osborne	6 years

2021 was an Assessment Revaluation Year – this happens every 4 years where the entire province's assessment calculations are redone. In the RM of Martin Agriculture land assessment went up almost 24%, Residential went down by about 27% and Commercial in general went up about 14%. The challenge was to try and keep overall taxes relatively the same as last year, which we were able to accomplish by increasing the Mill Rate Factors for Commercial and Residential and lowering the factor for agricultural land. There had not been an increase in Agriculture taxes for a few years and because of the juggling of Mill Rate Factors and another increase in ag land the average farm quarter will go up approximately \$50. Overall tax levy is expected to increase only about \$15,000 with the increase to farm land.

Correction Line (Township Road 150) Repair

The Correction Line (Township Road 150.3 to 150.7) road was a project that has been on the radar for a number of years. The job ended up being a bigger fix than originally expected and we ended up doing almost 4 miles of repairs instead of the 2.0 that we had originally estimated. There was extra money in the budget as the Provincial Government gave some stimulus money for COVID that was expected to be used for construction.

Construction (Budget \$150,000 for 2 miles)	\$407,117.28 (ended up doing 4 miles)
Engineering (Budget \$13,000)	\$ 950.00
Fuel (Budget \$30,000)	\$ 43,687.12
Clay Crop Damage (Budget \$30,000)	\$ 18,374.10
Miscellaneous (Culverts, Gravel, RM Labour)	<u>\$146,096.30</u>
GRAND TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST	<i>\$616,224.80 (this amount includes PST)</i>

SO..... WHAT'S UP FOR 2021?

- \$20,000 to Wapella Fire Department towards the purchase of their "new" fire truck
- \$20,000 approximately to Moosomin Fire Department for our percentage towards their new Pumper Truck
- \$500,000 for almost 6 miles of MG30 road upgrade to the Moosomin/Kipling (Grid 709 – Township Road 133.1 to 133.3) and Lake Road (Range Road 1321.1 to 1321.4 – from Moosomin/Kipling Road to south RM border)
- \$5,000 into Health Reserves
- \$40,000 into Special Savings Reserve
- \$55,000 into Capital Equipment Reserve
- \$10,000 into Fire Reserve

HOW ARE WE GOING TO ACCOMPLISH THIS?

As you can see from your Tax Notice there is no mill rate tax increase this year – Mill Rate remains the same! The Mill Rate is 10.25 Mills. Council did however adjust the Mill Rate Factors to lessen the impact of the changes to assessment. The Mill Rate Factors are: Agriculture 0.50, Residential 0.71, Commercial 1.635. Commercials still account for over 75% of Tax Revenue and help keep farm and residential taxes down. The RM has approved a budget of \$2,292,430 in expenses and \$2,382,730 in revenue for 2021. Going forward in the next few years you can expect more road upgrading, culvert replacement and on-going bridges maintenance to extend the bridges lives.

CIVIC ADDRESSING

You may have heard about Civic Addressing or are starting to see little blue signs in neighbouring RM's. Civic Addressing is a province-wide standardized system of identifying and locating properties by establishing unique access point locations and can be used to assist emergency responders.

The RM has been working on this project for a couple of years and one of the early steps was to review all the road names in the RM. Addresses were verified, deleted and modified based on a list that was generated for the RM by the Civic Addressing Registry (CAR). This required another level of training and access to the CAR website in order to validate the address points.

The addresses were determined by distance/lots and either the east Range Road or south Township Road. For Instance: **132130** Township Road 150 means the Range Road **1321** to the east and **30** means the Lot Number and of course Township Road 150 is the road where the house is located. **15222** Range Road 1335 means the Township Road **152** to the south and **22** means the Lot Number and of course Range Road 1335 is the road where the house is located. If the road has a special name or Grid Road Name then the number means the Lot # (ie 1261 Highway 1 or 7180 Grid Road 703 or 90 Sharpe's Bridge Road).

It is up to each RM to decide how they will handle signage and as there are different options ranging from the RM paying for and installing signs to having ratepayers pay for the signs. There will be more information coming about signage in 2022 so please stay tuned!

You will notice on your Tax Notice your Civic Address – in preparation of the Civic Addressing coming into effect your address is being entered into the Civic Address Database, but currently is not operational.

REMINDER OF YEARLY NOTIFICATION FOR USERS OF NON-POTABLE WELLS

Please be advised that the water from the Jacobi/Gillich Well (NE 01-13-33-W1); Correction Line Well (SW 02-15-33-W1) and Red Jacket Well (SE 33-14-32-W1), that is available to the public, is not potable (the water is not safe for human consumption). The water from these wells is **NOT TREATED or TESTED** and is considered unsafe for human consumption. **DO NOT USE** this water for drinking, cooking, food preparation and/or oral hygiene purposes.



MOWING REQUEST

Mowing will soon be underway for 2021. Please remember **not to drop gates in the ditch area!** Please put the gates along the inside of your fence so they are visible to the mower operator – your gates will inevitably last longer!

NOTE FOR NEXT YEAR – if you wish to cut ditch hay please contact the office before June 15th to let us know so that we leave you something to cut!

THIS IS THE LAW!

SPEED LIMIT on gravel roads is 80 km/hour

Section 203 (1)(c) of the *Traffic Safety Act* states: “No person shall drive a vehicle on a highway at a speed greater than 60 kilometres per hour when passing... (c) any highway equipment on a highway that has ministry issued warning lights in operation, whether in motion or not.” This means gravel road and municipal equipment with flashing lights!

PLEASE SLOW DOWN TO 60KM/HR when passing and meeting RM Graders and workers.

PAYMENT METHODS FOR TAXES & ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

In 2014 the RM implemented **On-Line Banking** through the *Royal Bank and Conexus Credit Union*.

On-Line Banking name is: **Martin No 122 (RM)**

Please use your **4-digit account** number found on your tax notice (add zeros in front to make it 4-digit).

In 2017 the RM started accepting **DEBIT CARD, MASTERCARD, and VISA**. We still accept cheques or cash!

Did you know that you may also make arrangement to pay your taxes **MONTHLY** either by Internet Banking or via Post-Dated Cheques? This option makes budgeting for your tax payment easier! You can also set that up automatically on your own through your financial institution.

If you smell natural gas, call

1-888-7000-GAS (427)

How do you detect a leak? Follow your senses!

Use your NOSE

SaskEnergy adds an odour to natural gas so you will quickly know if there's a problem. If you smell an odour that is similar to skunk or rotten eggs, there may be a natural gas leak.

Use your EYES

You cannot see natural gas, however if you SEE a vapour, ground frosting, or a significant area of brown vegetation, that could be an indication of a natural gas leak. As well, if you SEE continuous bubbling of wet or flooded areas, or dust blowing from a hole in the ground during drier conditions, there may be a natural gas leak.

Use your EARS

If you HEAR a high-pitched hissing or roaring noise, there may be a natural gas leak.

TAKE ACTION!

If you suspect a leak indoors or outdoors:

- Leave the home or area immediately.
- DO NOT use any electrical switches, appliances, telephones, motor vehicles, or any other sources of ignition such as lighters or matches.
- Call SaskEnergy's 24-hour emergency line from a safe place 1-888-7000-GAS (427).
- DO NOT assume that the issue has already been reported or that someone else will call.

How will SaskEnergy respond?

In the event of a natural gas emergency, SaskEnergy and local community response teams will:

- Respond to the suspected site immediately
- Assess the source of the problem and ensure the site is cleared of anyone whose safety may be at risk
- Communicate and advise customers regarding a resolution plan

DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

ALL RATEPAYERS must contact the Administrator for a **DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION** for any and all development(s) on their property. **Development must not proceed until the Administrator has issued a Development Permit.**

The reason for the issuance of a Development Permit is to ensure that all development meets the Zoning Bylaw requirements and most importantly that the Ratepayer (you!) have not developed on a road allowance, too close to the road or property line, on environmentally sensitive land, etc.

This is for your protection!

The office will be **CLOSED**
Fridays in May to August

RCMP Non-Emergency Line
310-RCMP (310-7267)

Remember these tips for a safe fire burn



As a farmer, there are times when you have no choice but to start a controlled fire to burn things like windrows, grass, stubble and piles.

Before you burn, please consult your local RM Office to verify no fire ban is in place for your area and call and report your activity to the Control Burn line at 1-866-404-4911. If you plan to burn within 4 km of a provincial forest, please call your local fire base.

Dry grass, grain/hay fields and pastureland
Reducing dry grass, hay and stubble will help prevent a yard fire from spreading, or stop a fire from entering your yard.

Barn barrels and fire pits
Never leave your barn barrel or fire pit unattended when not in use.

Windrows
Avoid building windrows on swamps/bogs and use a brush rake or excavator to reduce the amount of dirt in the rows.

Grass and stubble
Blade or plow down to mineral soil, at least five metres around your burn, to create a guard that keeps the fire from spreading.

Piles
Burn when there is no snow cover and frozen ground, whenever possible — and always re-pile and re-burn, if necessary, until the pile is completely gone.

When to burn
The early mid-morning or late afternoon is your best time to burn.

When not to burn
Do not burn under extremely dry conditions, at the end of the day, or when the forecast calls for high temperatures or windy conditions.

Mow your lawn
Short, green grass can help prevent the spread of grass fires.

saskatchewan.ca/fire



If you are planning a controlled burn please call the number above so you are not billed for a fire call.

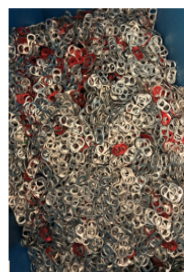
The number is answered 24/7 – 365 days a year!
1-866-404-4911

If there is a FIRE BAN issued by the Municipality and you burn you will be charged with a fire call (if fire department is called out) as well as a fine. **Most importantly DID YOU KNOW you may NOT be covered by your insurance and could be liable for any damages that occur as a result of the fire!**

Fire Ban Notice is emailed to ratepayers who have given their EMAIL address, posted on Facebook, posted to the RM of Martin Website and a poster in the Wapella Post Office.

DID YOU KNOW...

The RM of Martin can accept donations for Earlswood Cemetery and issue you a tax receipt for the donation?



SILVER FOR GOLD

The RM of Martin is participating in a fundraiser for **Childhood Cancer** by collecting “pop can” tabs in our office until May 2022.

Collect your tabs and drop them off at the RM Office – the container is just inside the door and accessible during office hours. 1250 tabs equal one pound and each pound is worth \$0.80

Silver for Gold was created by [EcoGenX](http://EcoGenX.com) and has partnered with Small [But Mighty](http://ButMighty.com) SK and the Rural Municipal Administrators Association (RMAA).

For more information visit:

www.SilverforGold.org

or email [Dallon Leger](mailto:dallonleger@econgenx.com) – dallonleger@econgenx.com

Email the RM of Martin at: rm122@sasktel.net to add your email address to our emailing list for updates on important events that effect ratepayers.



Follow us on Facebook at: **RM Martin** Check out of website at: rmofmartin.com



Innovate. Grow. Prosper.

FARM STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (FSP) & FARM & RANCH WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (FRWIP)

The Farm Stewardship Program provides funding to Saskatchewan producers to implement Beneficial Management Practices in the priority areas of water, climate change and biodiversity.

It focuses on:

- Improving water quality
- Reducing in greenhouse gas emissions
- Enhancing resilience in the agriculture sector
- Maintaining biodiversity

The Farm & Ranch Water Infrastructure Program is designed to:

- support the development of secure and sustainable water sources for agricultural use in Saskatchewan
- Mitigate the impact of drought
- Improve public safety and reduce potential groundwater contamination through well decommissioning

Projects eligible for funding through the Farm Stewardship Program:

- Seeding annual cropland to perennial tame or native forage
- Fencing projects for riparian grazing management and native grassland management
- Livestock stewardship – corral relocation, surface runoff control, improved manure storage, improved carcass disposal, nutrient management planning
- Drainage Stewardship – installation of water control and erosion control structures
- Invasive Plant Biocontrol & Targeted Grazing – targeted small ruminant grazing and insect biological control
- Variable Rate Mapping – consultation and soil sampling to create initial zone maps for variable rate fertilizer application & variable rate irrigation (rebate)

Projects eligible for funding through the Farm & Ranch Water Infrastructure Program:

- New dugout or dugout expansion (of at least 1/3 size increase) - *rebate*
- Large or small diameter well - *rebate*
- Deep or shallow buried pipeline - *rebate*
- Well decommissioning – *pre-approval*
- Special projects – including community water development - *pre-approval*

****remote watering systems and fencing can be included as an add-on to a dugout, well or pipeline development project.**

**** Rebate projects completed anytime after October 1, 2017 can be applied for provided eligibility requirements are met!**

To be eligible for cost-share funding to implement beneficial management practices (BMPs) on your farm or to apply for water development or well decommissioning projects, you must:

- Demonstrate a minimum of \$50,000 gross farm income in Saskatchewan
- Provide a Premises Identification Number (PID) if involved in livestock operations
- Comply with any regulatory requirements, including any required permits or approvals
- For pre-approval projects, no work can be done prior to receiving written approval for the project
- For the Variable Rate Mapping BMP, you must have an Environmental Farm Plan certificate or other sustainability initiative (Verified Beef Production Plus, 4R Nutrient Stewardship or an International Sustainability and Carbon Certificate)
- ****BMPs may have additional eligibility requirements**

For more information and to apply for these programs:

- 1) Call Karmen Kyle, Agri-Environmental Advisor with the Lower Souris Watershed, at 306-452-7953
- 2) Check out Saskatchewan.ca/cap
- 3) Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377





Manage empty seed, pesticide & inoculant bags...

Environmentally safe way to manage empty seed, pesticide & inoculant bags now available!

Get a free Cleanfarms ag collection bag from this participating ag-retailer.

Fill collection bag with 50 to 60 small (<100kg) empty seed, pesticide and inoculant bags. When full, securely tie top and return bag to ag-retailer.

Bags accepted May 1 to October 31.

Seed, pesticide & inoculant bags safely managed at a waste-to-energy facility.



Easy steps to manage seed, pesticide & inoculant bags

1. Empty

Empty bags completely.
To avoid dust, do not shake the bags.

2. Bag or fold

SMALL BAGS 1-100 kg	LARGE TOTE BAGS 500-1,000 kg
Place small bags in ag collection bag	Fold large bags in bundles of 5 or 6
When full, close and secure with tie wrap, rope or knot	Secure with twine



3. Return to ag-retailer

Return full bag or bundle to participating ag-retail site for proper disposal.

WHAT'S IN	WHAT'S OUT
All seed, pesticide & inoculant bags: small (up to 100 kg) or large (greater than 100 kg, usually 500 kg or 1,000 kg)	Feed bags
	Fertilizer bags

IMPORTANT

Only one type of material per bag or bundle. Do not place jugs and bags in the same collection bag.

This pilot program is supported by the Canadian Seed Trade Association (CSTA).

To learn about other Cleanfarms programs visit [Cleanfarms.ca](https://www.cleanfarms.ca)



GRAIN BAG BURNING THAT'S A BIG NO NO!!!!

It is illegal to burn grain bags on public OR private property. Fines for burning grain bags range from \$0 to \$1 Million based on the severity of the offense. The most relevant restrictions related to grain bag burning can be found in *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002* under Section 4(1) and *The Clean Air Regulations* under Section 11.