

NEWSLETTER



Date Issued: December 2016

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Greetings from the Reeve

This is an opportunity to present some of RM of Morris Council hi-lights of 2016 activities.

Council spent a day in early January touring businesses in Rosenort and Sperling including a visit to the Silver Winds Hutterite colony. We were pleased that our MP Candice Bergen and MLA Shannon Martin were able to join us.

Council was pleased to have Michael Toews join council in February 2016 as a result of a by-election. Mike has been a great addition to our municipal council team.

The Lowe Farm lagoon upgrade was approved thanks to contributions from the federal building Canada fund and the province of Manitoba. We are pleased that this project will finally be completed in 2017.

Bridge infrastructure: the Riverside Road bridge will be repaired this winter and ready for traffic in the spring of 2017. The #422 bridge will be replaced with a new \$10 million bridge this coming year. The Province of Manitoba anticipates this new bridge to be in place by the winter of 2017.

Maintenance of our drainage channels has always been a high priority for RM of Morris council. The drainage plan for 2017 will be circulated in the spring of 2017. Wet conditions in 2016 only re-emphasize the importance of an effective and aggressive drain maintenance plan. Council will also be meeting with Infrastructure Minister Blaine Pedersen to discuss long neglected provincial drain maintenance with emphasis on the Kronsgart and Anderson drains. Municipal gravel roads also suffered because of excess moisture in the fall of 2016. Council will be challenged to find resources to manage the impact on our roads and drainage ditches.

Council would also like to acknowledge the contribution by our Fire and First Responder personnel in the Rosenort, Sperling and Lowe Farm Fire departments. We continue to work with the leadership group of the three departments to identify resources, support and training required to keep our communities and residents safe. Thank you for your service.

The year is drawing to a close. Winter has arrived in full force. The holiday season is here.

On behalf of your Rural Municipality of Morris Council I want to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and holiday season.

Ralph Groening, Reeve

CAO Report

Utility Billing & Emails

Back in summer, when there was the possibility of a postal strike by Canada Post Employees, Council approved the purchase of a module that allows the municipality to email utility invoices to our utility customers. We currently have 994 utility customers and so far 46 have signed up to get their invoices via email. Way to go!

Recently there have been some news articles about this new system. One of the items mentioned in the news article was that there would be financial savings for the municipality. The main reason however, for acquiring this system, was to provide options to our customers, financial savings, if any will be a side benefit.

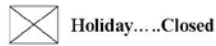
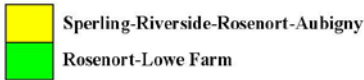
We did have an inquiry from one of our ratepayers about whether the savings would be passed back to the customers and the answer would be YES. Any time that we can find ways to save money or increase efficiencies, either with our utility system, or in municipal government operations, such savings are then passed on to our customers and ratepayers by keeping the rates as low as possible.

So for those 948 of you that have not yet signed up to receive your utility invoices via email we would encourage you to do so. We do have a contest whereby your name will be entered into a draw to win a \$50 gift card if you sign up prior to 3:00 PM on January 6th, 2017. Just call our office or email marley@rmofmorris.ca and we will set you up. Should you wish, you can also set up an automatic account withdrawal to allow your bill to be paid automatically.

WISHING YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A JOYOUS NEW YEAR!

Larry Driedger, CAO

2017 Recycling Pick-up



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Public Works Report

- **Drainage** – The drainage program has come to a sudden halt due to the Dec 6th to Dec 8th snow storm. Spreading of the dirt has come to halt. We managed to complete 46 ½ miles of drains in a very wet season. There will be 5 miles to carry over to 2017. The drainage requests received this year are more than we can handle for 2017; therefore the last ones received will be deferred to 2018. The deadline for drainage requests has always been October 31.
- **Roads** – Maintaining of municipal roads was quite a challenge November/December. With the conditions being wet, we had to wait for some frost to grade the roads before the snow storm Dec 6th to Dec 8th. We will keep trying to level out the rutted roads.
- **Bridges** – The Bridge on Riverside road (Rd 2E) will be closed this winter once ice is thick enough for the contractor to work underneath the bridge. The work should take approximately 2 months. The bridge on PR #422 over the little Morris River will be replaced with a new bridge in 2017. This is being done by Manitoba Infrastructure and is expected to start in the spring of 2017. A designated detour is in place for the closure of PR #422 from Rd 30N or Rd 31N (PR #205).
- **Various** – There is a long list of equipment maintenance and repairs for the shop this winter. We will be excavating another pit for garbage at the Rosenort landfill this winter.

Merry Christmas everyone!

I would like to thank my staff for all the work we accomplished in 2016.

Don Harder, Public Works Manager

Upcoming Council Meetings

- ❖ January 11/17
- ❖ February 8/17
- ❖ March 8/17
- ❖ April 12/17

*Council meets every second Wednesday of the month.

Council meeting Agendas and Minutes are posted on our Twitter, Facebook and Website!



Planning a new home next summer? Let's Communicate!

Ed Penner, Building Inspector

edinspect@gmail.com

204-324-4614

R.M. of Morris
Website

Please take the time to visit our website and check out our upcoming events. We want to include as many community events as possible, so please forward information to Jennifer Reimer at the R.M. of Morris office at 204-746-7300 or email her at jennifer@rmofmorris.ca



Water Works
Emergency Line:
204-746-7300

Animal Control
Officer: John
Doerksen
C: 204-746-0593

Reminders

Address Change: Please remember to advise the RM of Morris Office at 204-746-7300 if you are moving so changes can be made to your water and tax accounts.

Outstanding Utilities: Water bills are sent out quarterly. Any accounts overdue 45 days will be transferred to your tax account.

Rural Residents: Please refrain from dumping or blowing snow onto road allowances. This can be dangerous for snow clearing equipment travelling at high speeds.

Parked Cars and Snow Clearing Operations: Please remove parked vehicles from the street during snow plowing or clearing operations. Parked cars not only slow the operation, but also leave large amount of snow on the road after the car is dug out, which is inconvenient for everyone and dangerous. Our valued assistance during the winter season will help provide efficient and economical winter maintenance service.

Fire Department Report

Winter Safety Tips

Lights & Electrical

- Indoors or outside, always use CSA approved lights. Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections, and throw out damaged sets.
- Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.
- For added electric-shock protection, plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold. GFCIs can be installed permanently to household circuits by a qualified electrician.

Candles

- Extinguish candles when leaving the room or going to sleep. Keep lit candles away from items that can catch fire
- Place candles in sturdy, burn-resistant containers that won't tip over and are big enough to collect dripping wax.
- Don't place lit candles near windows, where blinds or curtains may close or blow over them.

Heating

- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.

In the Kitchen

Grease and fat fires are a leading cause of home fires in Canada, so be extra careful when doing this kind of cooking. Here's what to do if grease in a pot or pan catches fire:

- Smother the flames by covering the pan with a lid. Do not remove the lid until the pan is completely cooled.
- Turn off the heat immediately.
- Use baking soda (flour can be explosive) on shallow grease fires.
- Never turn on the overhead fan, as this could spread the fire.
- Never throw water on a grease fire.

Important Tips

Ensure all entry/exits in your home are cleared from snow to ensure you can get out in case of a fire. Make sure all windows are not frozen in case you need to use these as an escape route.

If there is a fire hydrant near your home you can assist the fire department by keeping the hydrant clear of snow so in the event it is needed, it can be located.

- See more at: <http://www.oafc.on.ca/winter-fire-safety-tips#sthash.0cNSAMew.dpuf>

Bernard Schellenberg, Fire Chief



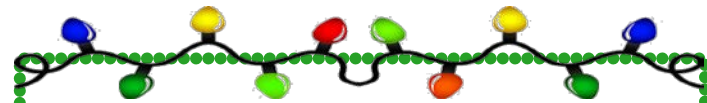
DAYS	Rosenort 204-746-0417	Low Farm 204-746-4337
Monday	9am - 4:30pm	CLOSED
Tuesday	9am - 4:30pm	1pm -5pm
Wednesday	9am - 4:30pm	CLOSED
Thursday	9am - 4:30pm	10am-8pm
Friday	9am - 4:30pm	CLOSED
Saturday	9am - 4:30pm	9am-3pm
FEES		
Scale per ton		\$25.00
1 Ton Truck		\$25.00
Half Ton Truck		\$10.00
Car with Trailer		\$10.00
1-5 Bags		\$5.00

Anyone bringing shingles mixed with other products to either the Rosenort or Lowe Farm Landfill will be charged triple the normal tipping fee for such loads.

*Residents of the Municipality are asked to use the Landfill Site closest to their residence.

Landfill Holiday Hours:

- | Rosenort | Low Farm |
|--|--|
| Dec 24 th 2016 – 9am-noon | Dec 27 th , 2016 – closed |
| Dec 26 th , 2016 – closed | Dec 31 st , 2016 – 9am-noon |
| Dec 27 th , 2016 – closed | |
| Dec 31 st , 2016 – 9am-noon | |
| Jan 2 nd , 2017 – closed | |



To allow us to properly identify you when you inquire about your tax account information, please email us your name, spouses name, roll number and address so we can send you tax information via email.

jennifer@rmofmorris.ca

Office Holiday Hours

December 23rd, 26th
& 27th 2016: Closed
January 2nd, 2017:
Closed

Public Works Shop Holiday Hours

December 26th,
27th, 2016 &
January 2nd
2017: Closed

Council Contact Information

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| Reeve Ralph Groening
Email: ralph.groening@rmofmorris.ca | Cell: 204-746-5394 |
| Deputy Reeve Stan Siemens
Email: stan.siemens@rmofmorris.ca | Cell: 204-746-5818 |
| Councillor Barry Fraese
Email: barry.fraese@rmofmorris.ca | Cell: 204-746-5824 |
| Councillor Denis Robert
Email: denis.robert@rmofmorris.ca | Cell: 204-746-5688 |
| Councillor Mervin Dueck
Email: mervin.dueck@rmofmorris.ca | Cell: 204-746-5010 |
| Councillor Michael Toews
Email: michael.toews@rmofmorris.ca | Cell: 204-746-4586 |
| Councillor Rick Giesbrecht
Email: rick.giesbrecht@rmofmorris.ca | Cell: 204-746-5355 |
| CAO Larry Driedger
Email: larry@rmofmorris.ca | Phone: 204-746-7300 |

Visit our new Website and “like” us on Facebook to keep up with the latest at the Valley Regional Library.
<http://valley.mb.libraries.coop>



Building Permits
Any new buildings, removals or demolitions, require a permit. Permits are done at the RM of Morris Office.



Online Banking

If you process your payments online please make sure you choose **THE R.M. OF MORRIS**. If you see “Town of Morris” listed under your selected payees, **DO NOT USE IT**. Otherwise your payment will not be applied to your account and you will receive penalties if it is late. Please allow **5 days** for your bank to process your payment. This will ensure we receive your payment by its deadline.

***Please Note:**

We do not deal with TD bank.

Merry Christmas