

Located at:

126 McCallum Avenue
Box 369, Birch Hills, S0J 0G0

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Shop: 306-749-2911
Email: rm460@sasktel.net

Office Hours

Monday to Friday
9:00 – 12:00 & 1:00 – 4:00

Closed – Statutory Holidays

Council

Reeve: Alan Evans

Division 1: Chris Hovdebo
Division 2: Kyle Jensen
Division 3: Steven Adams
Division 4: Greg Cochef
Division 5: Dean Manson
Division 6: Gerald Olsen

Administrator:
Shirley Pratchler

ONLINE PAYMENTS

The RM is now accepting payments using [Telpay](#), an online service that allows you to make payments directly from your bank account. We hope you find this service helpful. The RM is not set up to accept debit and credit card payments due to the high set up fees and service fees. Cash, cheques and money orders are still accepted.

Please contact the RM Office for more information.

Control Burn

Phone # 1-866-404-4911

Reeve's Message:

As Reeve in my first term for the RM of Birch Hills No. 460, I would like to give my appreciation to the rate-payers of this municipality for their understanding of our roads and infrastructure as we strive to make the necessary repairs. The unprecedented weather that we have received has created a great challenge to our farmers, acreage owners and of course the municipality itself.

The municipal council has declared a disaster and the damage to our infrastructure has been inspected. To date we have hired three contractors and the work has been assigned out to them. The goal is to complete these projects by September 1st. Funding has been provided to the municipality through the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program, but this funding only repairs existing infrastructure. The cost of any improvements will be covered by the Municipality. As a Municipal council our intentions are to improve our roads and provide an improved infrastructure. Through these issues a tax increase will take place in order to pay for increasing costs not only from the weather but fuel, gravel and other costs that the municipality pays.

As a municipality we welcome suggestions and constructive criticism, which we will act on to improve the Rural Municipality of Birch Hills. As a taxpayer you can either call our office or write us by letter or email. We ensure you that a response will be given to all correspondence.

Alan Evans

Staffing:

Gaylen Torgunrud and Todd Devenis continue to work full time year round for the RM. Seasonal operator Victor Doderai has returned as mower operator and Pat Lepine joined the RM in May 2013 as a full time, seasonal equipment operator. Cherie Opseth joined the RM as the part-time Office Assistant in March 2013.

Provincial Disaster Assistance Program (PDAP):

Due to the spring flooding we have received this year and the problems it has caused, the RM has passed a resolution to apply for designation as an eligible assistance area under PDAP. Designation was granted by the Ministry; as a result, individuals may also be eligible to file a claim for damage caused that is not covered by insurance. Please contact the Municipal office for further information.



Financial Statements:

The audited financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2012 are available at the RM office.

Please direct your inquiries, questions & concerns to the RM Office or your Division Councillor.

Waste Disposal

A reminder that a \$150 one-time payment per site is available to ratepayers who have set up their own waste disposal site – contact the RM office for further details.



Agriculture Health & Safety Newsletter

Farming families should have received an information package from The Agricultural Health & Safety network this spring with another one arriving this fall. Is the information helpful? Farm safety workshops are also available from the network, are you interested?

Please contact the RM office with feedback on the usefulness of this information.

STOP AND THINK
SAFE
SLURRY ANIMALS FALLS EQUIPMENT

Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA):

As per *The Municipalities Act*, all property in a municipality is subject to assessment. The RM is in the process of having SAMA assess properties in the RM, specifically Divisions 5 & 6 for 2013. Having your home assessed does not necessarily mean that it is taxable. Your cooperation when the assessor visits your home is appreciated.

SAMA created a website which you can access to verify your property assessment information, compare your assessment to similar or neighboring properties, and get a general idea of assessed values in your municipality. The link to SAMAView can be accessed by going to SAMA's website (www.sama.sk.ca) and clicking on the SAMAView link.

Beaver Control:

Beaver activity can have a major impact on roads and drainage. The RM participates in a beaver control program and there are designated individuals to remove problem beavers.

****If you are experiencing problems with beavers, please contact the RM office.****



Pest Control:

Vern Holland will be inspecting for evidence of rats and baiting (with the landowner's permission) throughout the summer.

Cleaning up old buildings, grain bags and keeping grass cut will help to reduce rodent infestations.

****Rat and mice bait is also available from the RM office free of charge to RM ratepayers.****

Website Development:

The RM is in the process of developing a webpage. Watch for upcoming details.

CLUBROOT Awareness: Clubroot is a serious soil-borne disease of cruciferous crops. In canola, it causes swellings or galls to form on the roots, which ultimately causes premature death of the plant. Currently, there are no economical control measures that can remove the disease from a canola field once it has been infested. However, it is possible to curtail the spread and reduce the incidence and severity of infection. Sanitation, management of infested fields through crop rotation, and the cropping of resistant varieties are the most effective methods of controlling this disease.

Further information is available at
www.clubroot.ca
www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca
www.saskcanola.com

