

# RM of Birch Hills No. 460

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Birch Hills, SK  
S0J 0G0

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## Website

[rmbirchhills460.ca](http://rmbirchhills460.ca)

## OFFICE HOURS

**Monday to Friday**  
**9:00-12:00**  
&  
**1:00-4:00**

**Control Burn Number**  
**1-866-404-4911**

**Locate Requests**  
**Sask 1<sup>st</sup> Call**  
**1-866-828-4888**  
**www: sask1stcall.com**

## Reeve's Message:

2016 has been a good year so far. We had a nice mild winter and a beautiful summer to date. The crops are looking good and hopefully the storm clouds stay away until the crops are in the bins.

With every year come changes and the biggest change this year is in the RM office. Shirley Pratchler resigned as the RM Administrator earlier this year. We would like to thank her for her dedication and hard work over the past 5 years as the Administrator. She went above and beyond in all her administrative duties. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors. On that note, we would also like to welcome Lois Lange as the new Administrator. Please stop by the office and introduce yourself anytime as

Lois is looking forward to meeting the residents of our RM. We are grateful that Shirley continues to work on a contract basis to assist with the transition as Lois becomes familiar with our RM.

This year one of the major projects we are undertaking is to remove the bridge located on NE-08-46A-25-W2 and replace it with 2 large diameter culverts which will be placed side by side.

On a different note, we are asking for your assistance in a few areas. First of all, please notify the RM office if there are intersections with sightline issues as we would like to address these problems with maintenance and/or proper signage. Secondly, please report any suspicious activity or

crime you witness to the RCMP or to Safer Communities & Neighbourhoods Investigations Unit at 1-866-51-SAFER.

Lastly, Council appreciates and takes seriously any unresolved issues brought forward. Please contact the RM Office by email, letter or telephone. Alternately, you can contact myself or your Division Councillor with your questions or concerns. We ensure a response will be sent to all inquiries. Also, any resident is welcome to attend RM council meetings as they are open to the public. However, an appointment is required to be made at least two business days prior to the meeting if you wish to address Council on any matter. Please contact the RM office if you would like to make these arrangements.

**Alan Evans**

## Municipal Election and Employee Changes

### Council

Reeve: Alan Evans

Div 1: Chris Hovdebo  
Div 2: Kyle Jensen  
Div 3: Steven Adams  
Div 4: Ted Boutin  
Div 5: Dean Manson  
Div 6: Leyton Elsaesser

Administrator:  
Lois Lange

Office Assistant:  
Cherie Opseth

### **The next Municipal Election will take place on October 26, 2016.**

The positions open for the election are: Reeve and Divisions 1, 3 and 5 Councillors. The nomination process for these positions will begin September 6, 2016.

Please mark your calendars.

### **Staffing:**

#### **Office Staff:**

Lois Lange was appointed as the RM Administrator effective April 1, 2016 and Cherie Opseth continues to be the Office Assistant.

### **Public Works Staff:**

Todd Devenis, Pat Lepine, Brian Evans and Vic Doderai all continue to provide excellent service to the RM in the Public Works Department. Todd & Pat work full-time year round and Brian & Vic continue working full-time on a seasonal basis. Gaylen Torgunrud helps out

**PEST****CONTROL**

*Please contact the RM office if you find evidence of a rat infestation and the information will be passed onto the PCO. Rat bait is available from the RM office free of charge to RM ratepayers.*

**WEED****CONTROL**

*Barry Swanson continues to serve as Weed Inspector for the RM. Please contact the RM office if you are having issues with prohibited, noxious or nuisance weeds.*



Please report any suspicious activity to the RCMP; even the smallest tip can help an investigation.

**Public Forum held on May 2, 2016**

The RM and Town of Birch Hills held a public forum on May 2, 2016 with guest speakers from the RCMP. The advice given was to report all suspicious activity. Write down license plate numbers, make and model of vehicles and a description of the people involved prior to calling the RCMP. USE COMMON SENSE. Do not leave boxes outside from recent purchases. Leave your outside lights

on, lock your house, garage, vehicles, etc. Be aware that most crime takes place between 10 pm and 6 am. Look out for your neighbor and have them do the same for you. Crime Stoppers is 100% anonymous. All tips are encrypted to protect those reporting criminal activity. To contact Crime Stoppers call 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or email [www.saskcrimestoppers.com](http://www.saskcrimestoppers.com)

text TIP206 with your tip to CRIMES (274637) or call Safer Communities & Neighbourhoods Investigation Unit at 1-866-51-SAFER or visit the Sask Justice website [www.saskjustice.gov.sk.ca/safercommunities](http://www.saskjustice.gov.sk.ca/safercommunities).

Every piece of information is a puzzle piece and may lead to an arrest so please report all suspicious activity.

**Items of Interest:****Public Works Equipment:**

The RM purchased a Gravel Reclaimer/Sloper which pulls the gravel up from the ditch to spread and slope the road appropriately. This process enables us to reuse gravel which has the potential to save the RM between 10 - 15% of the funds allocated for gravel costs. The RM also purchased a gravel truck this spring.

**Fire Protection:**

The RM jointly owns the Volunteer Fire Department with the Town of Birch Hills. This only provides for the costs associated with having the Fire Department trained and equipped to respond to calls 24/7. **RM residents are responsible for the charges associated with the Fire Department responding to a call and are encouraged to carry firefighting insurance.**

***\*Please remember to call the Control Burn number prior to starting all control burns @ 1-866-404-4911 to avoid unnecessary charges.\*\****

**Taxation Discount Periods**

August 31 – 6%  
September 30 – 5%  
October 31 – 4%  
November 30 – 2%  
December 31 – no discount  
**\*\*Please Note\*\***  
**the discount applies only to the municipal portion of your taxes.**

**For Your Information ...****Property Taxes:**

Property taxes are due at the usual time regardless of a postal strike. Please email [rm460@sasktel.net](mailto:rm460@sasktel.net) your email address so we can forward your Tax Notice in the event we are unable to use the postal service. Cash, cheque, Telpay and e-transfer are accepted methods of payment.

**Financial Statement:**

The 2015 audited Financial Statement is available at the RM office or on the RM's website.

**SAMA:** Questions about the assessment of your property? Visit SAMAView at [www.sama.sk.ca](http://www.sama.sk.ca) to view your property details.

**Waste Disposal:**

A reminder that a \$150 one-time payment per site is available to ratepayers who have entered into a contract with a waste removal company for a waste disposal container – contact the RM office for further details.