

# RM of Clayton No. 333

JULY 2013

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## OFFICE HOURS

The office hours are: 9 – 4 Monday – Friday except  
Statutory Holidays, I do not close for lunch I am here

all day. I do close the office occasionally for training but it is always posted. Also if you need to receive a fax you can have it sent here and I will contact you when it arrives, the same for courier service, our street address is: 113 1st Ave. N Hvas, SK. **The RM now has a Face Book page! Search and like us at Rural Municipality of Clayton. We do put updates there it is a good source of information.**

## TAXES

The council introduced a base tax this year, it will replace the minimum tax that was used for the past couple of years. This means that every one will pay a \$75 tax then the mill rate will be added on top of that. This will be applied to every property in the RM even in Danbury. With the assessments going up and with this new taxation it has allowed us to lower the Mill Rate considerably. Most taxes will go up slightly, but due to the expenses this year it is inevitable and now everyone

shares the basic costs, and the Mill Rate is based on the value of your property.

If you are building, we do not have building permits but we do need a Data Building Form filled out so that when it does come time to assess the improvement the process is easier for everyone involved. And when removing a building the office should be notified so the adjustment can be made.

## Assessments

We are now assessing all buildings; we will be starting in Div. 5 & 6 in 2013, 3 & 4 in 2014, and 1 & 2 in 2015. So you will be getting a call in July or August about farm use buildings from SAMA, please try to meet with the assessor. These assessments should not make a difference to your taxes, just to the value of your property so it will be properly assessed; most of these buildings are tax exempt.

# TAX ARREARS

As of June 15, 2013 the municipal share of arrears was \$144,297.10, this is just the municipalities' portion and does not include the school or hail share of arrears. Council is working hard to get these arrears under control and would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who is helping in this effort. Arrears on December 2009 were \$518,456.79. This is great news; it is coming down and will continue to do so!!

Don't forget the 10% discount on your July paid and Prepaid Taxes! You can prepay your taxes for next year by postdated cheques, even monthly payments are acceptable, and by doing so you qualify for the discount.

## *Centennial Celebration*

*We are having a celebration for our 100 anniversary. It will be on August 10 at the Sandy Beach Picnic area. We are planning an old time picnic with a catered supper. More info will come but you will have to call the office to reserve a ticket. Planned events are horseshoes, ball tournament by division, and bouncers for the kids. Come and Join Us!!*

## Stenen Bridge

We did receive the bridge grant this year for the bridge north of Stenen. Council is now in the process of having the engineers put together a tender package and we will be awarding the tender hopefully by August. Culverts will replace the bridge and the work should commence in August/September and be completed this year. We are excited about the replacement but we will need everyone's cooperation while it is under construction the grid 662 will be closed and all traffic will be diverted around. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

## **SPRAYERS DRIVING THROUGH DITCHES**

*SPRAYERS are still driving through the ditches leaving huge ruts. This is hard on our mowers and destruction of municipal property, which is a chargeable offense. Please take your sprayer or instruct the custom sprayer to use the field approaches or the RM will have no choice but to start charging the land owner adjacent to the damage for the repairs. No one really wants to take this action but if the damages continue council will have no choice.*

## **Abusive Behavior Toward Employees**

Abusive behavior and language toward any RM employee will not be tolerated. The RM has a harassment policy, which it will enforce. As well, every employee in Saskatchewan has the right to report any abusive behavior to the Labor Standards Board and/or OH&S to have an investigation launched, which charges may arise from. These laws are in place to protect employees while carrying out their jobs. A safe workplace is all anyone wishes for and to not be verbally harassed while carrying that job out, in the case of RM employees their job is for your benefit so yelling, name calling and general harassment inevitably effects the quality of service that you are going to receive.

### **OFFICE CHANGES**

The office is becoming a Joint Office with the Village of Hvas. All this means is that the 2 municipalities will be sharing office staff; each will still have their own councils and function completely separately. This has come about because the Village of Hvas could not find a qualified administrator to run the office after Denise took a full time position in Pelly. The Village of Hvas is going to see their office now open 5 days a week and Margaret has become a permanent 2 day a week employee, wages will be shared by both municipalities and both offices will be run simultaneously every day.

Other than that RM ratepayers will notice no changes, as it is still business as usual.

## GARBAGE BINS & DUMPS

Our garbage bins have been placed in Norquay, Swan Plain, Danbury, Hyas and along the west boarder in the RM of Preeceville. Our ratepayers can use any of these bins. The bins say “Household Garbage Only” on them, a good rule is “If it fits in a large garbage bag it can go in the bin” and remember everything still must be bagged. NO COUCHES, FRIDGES, HOT WATER HEATERS, SHINGLES, SIDING, OIL CONTAINERS, PLASTIC CHAIRS. MATTRESSES OR CARCUSES. Thank you.

Boxes put in the paper bins also need to be flattened or they fill up too fast. You can now rinse your milk and plastic containers place them in a plastic bag and put them into the paper recycle bins and they will be recycled that way. Please remember they must be rinsed.

### *Hours of operation for the Dump:*

Swan Plain Monday 10-5 Saturday 9-12 (Winter 10-12)

**The Danbury Dump is now closed** and will be starting to be reclaimed. It is now illegal to dump anything at that site. The dumping of anything there will cause a fine from the Ministry of Environment, if proven the fine will go directly to the person committing the crime. Council is discussing putting up cameras at the pits because of the abuse that happens at the sites. All garbage now must to be hauled to the Swan Plain pit.

## PRIMARY WEIGHT PERMITS

All of the roads that are in the RM are secondary weight roads. With the exception of the 753 and the Dyck Memorial Road (Alfalfa Road), these two roads are primary weight roads.

This means that every vehicle travelling on our roads can only haul secondary weights, ***EVEN FARMERS***. We do have overweight permits that cost \$5.00 per trip or \$100.00 per year and it is available thru the office. The truck must be permitted to haul primary weights; these permits are only good on dry road conditions and are not valid during spring road restrictions.