



An Update to the Ratepayers of RM of Francis No. 127

From Reeve Richard Morley

Due to COVID-19 and our spring rate payer's supper being cancelled, I am reaching out with an update about the RM's operations.

Having just finished the elections across Saskatchewan and the Municipalities with ours included, we had elections for Reeve, Divisions 1,3 and 5. Richard Morley (Reeve) and Darren Solie (Division 3) were elected by acclamation. Whereas, Ernie Gutzke (Division 1) and Daryl Hoffman (Division 5) both retained their divisions by election. I would like to thank Courtland Klein and Justin Schaeffer for their efforts in the political process, it is a big commitment and everyone appreciates their participation. Also, thank you to those ratepayers who participated and exercised their right to vote.

The operations of the RM have gone fairly smooth throughout the spring and summer. Due to the dry conditions, we reduced maintenance on the roads. Gravel usage was down, however, there is stock piled gravel located strategically for quick placement when needed in spring.

We had a very productive construction season with our crew. Clay capping 7 miles of road, re-shaping another 2 miles in addition to the small projects throughout the RM that required attention such as roadside mowing, culvert replacement and low-level crossings. "Hats off" to our Foreman Andrew and Maintenance Crew for getting the job done!

Our Administrator Shala has achieved her 'C' Certificate and has completed her first year fully in charge of the office, while Karen's excellent efficiency continues with the day to day operations. The RM office is ready to assist you with the regular office hours being 9am-4:30pm Monday-Friday, however, we encourage you to call ahead if planning a visit in case of unforeseen closures.

We are on budget, while forecasting a small surplus for the 2020 year, and still remain the lowest mill rate of the surrounding RM's.

We have retained the services of 'Kreate' to explore the possibilities of building a new RM Shop/Office with a clearer picture of the potential locations and building parameters towards spring.

With the forecasted snowy winter ahead of us, our maintenance staff and equipment will be poised and ready to clear roads for our ratepayers and those who travel within the RM.

Have an excellent winter, stay healthy and safe and remember your Council and Reeve are here to serve you.