

## Reeve's Ramblings

A fed up city slicker moved out to an acreage and decided he needed some animals on his place. He went over to a neighbor and bought 10 chickens. Next week he went back to the neighbor and ask for 10 more because the first 10 had died. The neighbor stopped by a week later and asked how the chicken farming was going. He said "Not too well, all the chickens died again." Astounded, the neighbor asked what went wrong. The new farmer said "Well, I'm not sure whether I'm planting them too deep or too close together."

Greetings from the RM of Great Bend #405. Another year has flown by. 2025 was a busy year with great crops and high cattle prices. At the RM a new grader was delivered in late fall. We now have 2 JD 872 machines and 1 older CAT 140.

We had a busy fall piling 52,000 yards of pit run on Lance Walker's land. This will supply us with gravel for the next 5 years. It is in a central location and will cut down on hauling expense.

With the bitter cold arriving in January, I'm always looking forward to Spring and all that comes with it.

*Gary*

## Gopher Control



Spring is around the corner, and so are the gophers! Last year the gopher population was out of control in many parts of Saskatchewan. To effectively manage gopher populations, control methods need to start early. When using rodenticides, be sure to start baiting as soon as the adult males emerge in mid February to early March. Once green growth appears, gophers are not likely to consume the bait and the

population will increase rapidly. Each female can produce 6 to 8 pups per season.

SARM will once again administer the Gopher Control Program for the Province of Saskatchewan and will post their updated guidelines soon. Rate payers can receive rebates of up 50% of their qualifying gopher control costs. Receipts for gopher control products must be submitted to the RM office by **July 31, 2026**.

Scan the QR codes below to visit the Government of Saskatchewan website for control methods and approved chemicals, and the SARM website for current program details. Eligible program methods include raptor platforms/nest boxes, and rodenticides.



Control of Richardson's  
Ground Squirrel:  
Saskatchewan.ca



SARM Gopher Control  
Program:  
(Watch for details)  
Sarm.ca

## Road Allowances

Seeding of crops into the right-of-way is not permitted. The RM owns 66 feet to 150 feet of right-of-way throughout the RM, depending on road type. Compensation for any right-of-way seeded areas will not be given when road maintenance occurs, the graders must have room to operate on all road allowances.

## Payments

The RM sometimes receives payments that require a little sleuthing to find out where they belong. When sending e-transfers, please make sure to state the land owner, land location or roll number the payment should be applied to. If a payment is to pay an invoice, please state that as well. Thank you for your anticipated assistance in this matter!

### RM Office:

Hours:

Monday to Friday  
8:30 AM – 4:00 PM  
*Closed all statutory  
holidays*

Phone:

306-997-2101

Fax:

306-997-2201

Email:

rm405@sasktel.net

Website:

rmofgreatbend.com

### RM Shop:

306-997-2072

### Building Inspector:

Lee Tracksell  
306-222-8241

### Pest Control:

Kelly Wall  
306-480-5965

### Weed Control:

Alana Gunsch  
306-292-8987

### Staff:

Administrator:

Tonia Derksen

Assistant:

Beth Usselman

Foreman:

Nigel Cutting

Operators:

Murray Mikituk

Doug Olmstead

Jerry Baker

Carl Kennedy

Andy Wiens

### Council:

Reeve: Gary Nickel

Div 1: Elizabeth Torrens

Div 2: Brett Larsen

Div 3: Dave Amson

Div 4: Darrel Wiebe

Div 5: Ian Hosegood

Div 6: Greg Flath

## Yellowbend Transfer Station

### Summer Hours

April 1 – October 1:

Wednesday 4 – 8, Saturday  
11 – 4

### Winter Hours

October 2 – March 31:

Saturday 11 – 4

Call Ken Coutts, Operator at  
306-827-7991 with any  
questions.

Please call Ken before  
bringing large loads.



## Controlled Burn Reporting:

1-866-404-4911



## Contact Information

Please make sure the RM has your current contact information! Call our office anytime to verify your e-mail, mailing address and phone number.



## Payment Methods Accepted:

Cash

Debit

Cheque

Online banking through  
Affinity Credit Union

E-transfer to:  
rm405@sasktel.net

## Theft of Road Signs

The theft of road signs has become an increasing problem in the RM of Great Bend. Missing signs are a safety issue, and replacement costs are an unnecessary expense for the RM and rate payers. This is a serious offence, and the RM of Great Bend will prosecute offenders.

If you have found a sign laying around, call the RM shop to retrieve it or leave it by the office.

The Highways and Transportation Act, 1997:

### Destruction of official signs

Section 28(1) No person shall damage, move or remove an official sign erected on or adjacent

to a public highway pursuant to this Act.

(2) Every person who contravenes subsection (1) is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine as set forth in Category C in Schedule A.

1997, c.H-3.01, s.28.

### Schedule A

3. Category C: Fines to a maximum of \$1,000

Provision Offence Description

b. 28(1) Damaging, moving or removing an official sign

## Passing Road Equipment

Have you ever wondered what to do when there is grader in operation on the road ahead of you? It can be an inconvenience, but they are working to improve road conditions for everyone's benefit. Here's how to handle the situation:

- If there is an approach close by, consider pulling off the road and allowing the machine to pass by.
- If there is room, pass the grader on the side with the most space at a maximum of 40 km/hr.
- If you are not comfortable passing, simply pull on to the shoulder, the operator will navigate around you.

Graders working as a team will leave enough room between machines to allow you to pass if needed.

When passing the gravel truck, lower your speed and leave plenty of room to avoid damage from loose gravel.

## Weed Control Resources

The RM Office has two invasive plant identification guides available for sale to ratepayers. These are a great tool for all landowners.

158 page spiral bound Pocket Guide... \$8

48 page Identification Guide..... \$2

## Emergency Text Notifications

The RM of Great Bend has set up a text notification system to quickly relay important information to rate payers. Information sent includes fire bans, road bans and other emergency situations that may affect you. Fill in the form below and return it to the RM office if you would like to sign up.



To sign up to receive notifications, please complete and return this form to the RM office.

I hereby authorize text notifications from the R.M. of Great Bend No. 405

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_