

## Reeve's Ramblings

In 1925 my grandfather settled in the Borden area. He exclaimed to his sister in southern Saskatchewan that this is a "beautiful country". 100 years later, I fully agree with his assessment. The RM of Great Bend changes vastly as you drive the roads. On our East Border we have the North Saskatchewan River with miles of native pasture land that the local ranchers make good use of. As we head south the river bends (hence our name) and the land turns sandy with some very interesting sand dunes. As we continue west, gravel has become a very sought after commodity. On the west side is some flat, heavy and very productive farm land. As you get to our north end, we get into rolling hills and many bodies of water. This is a very popular snowmobiling area in the winter months and hunting area in the fall. All of this has provided opportunities for many landowners to make a great living farming the land for 3, 4 and 5 generations. As farmers have retired, there has been an opportunity for numerous acreages to be established. All of you rate payers make the RM of Great Bend a great place to live.

As I am writing this report, winter does not want to give way to spring. On April 6<sup>th</sup> I went for a snowmobile ride. It was interesting to see all the wild life especially the gophers running on the snow.

Spring road bans are on at this time. The purpose of these is to protect the structure of our roads. Our roads are RM 405's largest asset and our greatest expense. Last year we spent a lot of time and money capping Great Deer Road. This summer we plan to do extensive grading to build the crown on our roads. Graveling will begin after seeding, and mowing ditches will start in mid July.

Wishing you all a safe seeding and safe travels on the road.

*Gary*

## Road Maintenance

This season our maintenance department will be focused on improving crown on all RM roads and increasing grading frequency. We are sourcing higher quality gravel to improve road conditions.

As a friendly reminder, road maintenance equipment with warning lights in operation has the right of way, and may operate in any direction on any portion of the road.

Traffic Safety Act Sections 219(7) and 224(1)

## Borden Golf Club

Daily Rates: \$5/day **OR** purchase a yearly membership.  
 Yearly Memberships: Youth \$10, Adult \$50, Golf Cart Storage \$100

New this year: Youth League (Included with Youth Membership) Tuesdays, May 13 – June 7, 3:30 – 5PM

### Office Hours:

Monday to Friday  
 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

### Staff:

#### Administrator:

Tonia Derksen

#### Assistant:

Beth Usselman

#### Foreman:

Nigel Cutting

#### Operators:

Terrence Reichert

Murray Mikituk

Doug Olmstead

Jerry Baker

### 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

Any questions call Ken Coutts, Operator at 306-827-7991.

Please call Ken before bringing large loads.

### Controlled Burn Reporting:

1-866-404-4911

### RM Office:

#### 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

## Gopher Control



This is the time to control gophers! Baiting prior to green growth is the most effective, as gophers are hungry and more likely to consume bait. Visit the Government of Saskatchewan's [Control of Richardson's Ground Squirrel](#)

webpage (code above) for control methods and approved rodenticides. Gopher poison is no longer available through the RM, visit your local retailer to purchase.

## Designated Heavy-Haul CTP Route

Producers within the RM are to travel the most appropriate roads from their farms to connect to the CTP route. Please note that Township Road 412 (Great Deer Road) is a Class 5 Grid, not a CTP or Primary Weight Grid.

**Vehicles 10T or greater are to travel at 60 km/hr.**

CTP and Primary Weight roads are highlighted to the right, all other roads in the RM of Great Bend are secondary weight roads.

## Weed Control

If you have questions or see noxious weeds anywhere in the RM, please call or text Weed Inspector Alana Gunsch. Leafy Spurge and Absinthe are of particular concern in our area. For help identifying weeds, the RM has two weed ID books available for purchase:



Rate payers may purchase these valuable guides at a discount rate at the RM Office:

Small ID Guide \$2.00

Pocket Guide \$8.00

## Pest Control

Please contact PCO Kelly Wall if you have any pest concerns. Kelly visits yards throughout the RM looking for any signs of rat infestation, and has rat bait available.

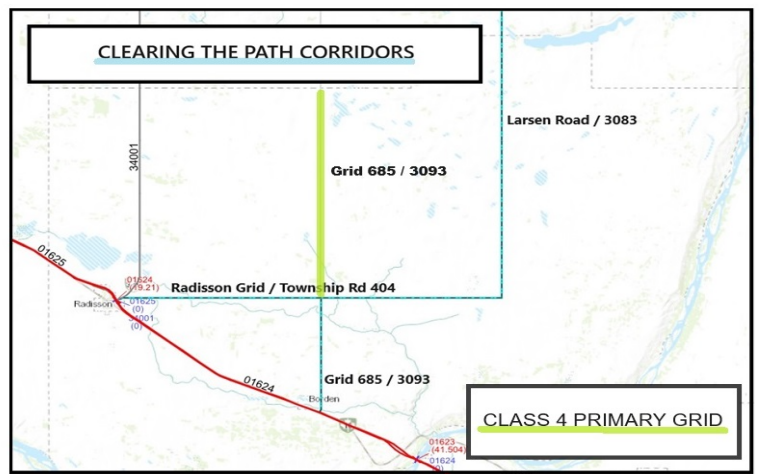
## Contact Information

Now that many Canadians have switched to cell phones from home phones, contacting ratepayers can be a challenge for the municipality. Please consider calling our office and verifying that we have the correct address and contact number on file.



## Haying Policy - Bylaw No. 3-1991

Adjacent landowners or lessees have the first option to salvage hay along municipal roads. Other persons must contact the landowner or lessee prior to July 15. After July 15 any person may cut and salvage without permission, provided salvage operations have not already begun by landowner or lessee. All bales must be removed within one month of baling. The RM may enter the right of way for maintenance or construction if deemed necessary with no compensation or re-imbursement to the party salvaging the hay therefrom.



## How Property Taxes are Calculated

**Taxable Value:** The Province of Saskatchewan requires rural municipalities to conduct a revaluation of all properties every four years. 2024 assessed values were based on the property value as of January 2, 2021, with a few exceptions (such as sale of property or a new build). The RM of Great Bend contracts SAMA (Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency) for all property valuations.

**Taxation Percent:** Provincial legislation determines the percentage of the assessed value that is taxable. The taxable assessment for residential properties is 80%, agriculture 55%, non-arable (range) 45% and commercial 85%.

**Tax Collection & Rates:** Education rates are set by the province, municipal rates by the RM. The RM collects municipal and education property tax from all property owners then remits all collected education property taxes to either Prairie Spirit or Living Sky School Division as designated.

**Mill Rate** is the amount of tax payable per dollar of the assessed value of a property. The mill rate is based on "mills"; as each mill is one-thousandth of a currency unit, one mill is equivalent to one-tenth of a cent or \$0.001. Property tax in dollar terms is calculated by multiplying the assessed property value and the mill rate and dividing by 1,000.

### Prairie Spirit & Living Sky School Divisions 2025 Mill Rate

Category	2025 Mill Rate
Agricultural	1.07
Residential	4.27
Commercial / Industrial	6.37
Other	
Commercial / Industrial Resource	7.49

### 2024 Municipal Mill Rate 5.9 %

Mill Rate Factors	
Agricultural	1.131
Residential	.98
Commercial / Industrial	1.00
Other	
Commercial / Industrial Resource	1.00

**Note:** Your tax notice already has the taxation percent applied to property values (Taxable Assessment).

**Municipal Taxes** = Taxable Assessment x Municipal Mill Rate x Mill Rate Factors / 1000

**School Taxes** = Taxable Assessment x School Division Mill Rate / 1000

For Assessment Information: [www.sama.sk.ca](http://www.sama.sk.ca)