

March 2020 Reeves report.

RM of Piapot held its monthly meeting on March 5th at Piapot. Present were Councillors, Travis Harlick, Lorne Kusler, Clay Moorhead, Anita Wasilow, Kelly Bertram, Derek Moorhead, Doug Casey, Keith Winzer, Road Foreman, Marc Beaupre, Administrator, Jenny Robinson and myself, Reeve John Wagner.

We welcome Keith Winzer as the new councillor for Division 8. This was Keith's first official meeting. I don't think he is going to have any problem getting up to speed on everything. He is familiar with ranching, farming, oil, gas and commercial business ventures, this will be a walk in the park for him.

The division reports consisted of a few soft spots and holes that needed repair. There are still a few snow problems in the RM, most of them up in the hills. The majority of the equipment has been gone through in the shop through the winter. They are currently working on the Degelman hitch that got tangled up on a rock. Looks like a lot less damage than originally estimated. A lot of it has been straightened and welded vs. replacing parts and it looks good. You will see Lyle Roode, one of our operators out trimming the lip or trough off the edge of the roads to allow proper drainage. He is also pulling up some gravel. There have been road bans on through a warm spell, then taken off when it was cold. They are back on now, however you can permit loads for movement on the frost in the mornings.

Joanne Engen from Zacaruk Consulting teleconferenced the meeting to go over their analysis of our five bridges in the RM. The idea is to come up with a repair or replacement plan over the years. There are a number of options available. Replacing a bridge is over 1 million dollars. Culverts are not inexpensive and don't flow the volumes of the old bridges unless you have a lot of them or are able to create higher water levels on the input side to increase pressure and volume. Another option we are looking at is prefab metal bridges that literally go in over the existing structure. For example, an engineered 20ft x 60ft, 60 tonne bridge costs \$107,500 fob Hudson Bay or a 24ft x 60 ft, 60 tonne \$127,500. The consultant is going to look into this option.

Spring is coming and hence the 4H ditch cleaning. The RM hires the Bear Creek 4H Club to clean 10 miles of road per year for \$100 a mile. They will be cleaning from the #1 Highway north on the Smith road to Justin Kruczko's (formerly Jack and Dianne Swanson's) this year. Council also did our annual donation to STARS of \$2 per capita. Our newest population number in the RM is 302, this includes Piapot.

Mike Monk has been running our water plant in Piapot for years. He does a good job, however keeps telling us that we need to train someone to take over eventually. Glenn Bonnet from the Piapot Saloon had expressed interest in taking the training to acquire the necessary certificate. Council agreed to pursue the training with Glenn. Knowing Glenn he will end up with the entire plant running off an app on his phone.

We did year end inventories. We are having a problem with balancing gravel inventories and have to do some work there. We are now flying the pits with drones every year to measure what is left. Some RM's have bucket scales on the loaders and log every load and where it is spread. There are a number of options.

We got some bad news on the strychnine gopher poison. The bottom line is that they will stop manufacturing in March 2020, which is now. No sales after March 2021 and you are not allowed to use it after March 2023. SARM is appealing this decision as it is entirely made based on emotion versus science. SARM did an extensive study with

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the RM of Maple Creek which showed virtually no secondary kill. Two deer mice and that was it.

March 9 - 12th was the SARM Convention in Regina that Clay, Kelly, Jenny, Nancy, Marc and I attended. Clay, Kelly, Nancy and Jenny were representing SARM Division 3 in the provincial RMAA curling. They won one game and lost one game, however did a good job. Nancy returned after the first day, Kelly and Marc stayed two days to tour through the large trade show and go to a retreading tour at KalTire. Clay, Jenny and I attended all three days of the convention. At the spring convention you have access to the premier, Scott Moe, the majority of the Saskatchewan cabinet ministers plus executives from some of the crown corporations. There were sessions with individual cabinet ministers, Andrew Scheer addressed the convention, and SARM's lobbyists from Ottawa give a report. There are sessions with the RCMP, broadband forums, CN Rail update, provincial hail report, and a 4H forum of which Lacey Bauer from Maple Creek was one of the participants. Resolutions from across the province cover any and everything. This convention is pre-budget so generally no major announcements. It was announced that Saskatchewan will be appointing our own provincial firearms officer instead of the current federal firearms officer. The SUMA name change will not be allowed until there is resolution from the SUMA membership. There is a new hospital for Prince Albert. A lot of discussion around blockades, pipelines, carbon tax, world markets, last year's ongoing harvest and the future of agriculture.

One very interesting speaker was Claude Elliott, the former mayor of Gander, Newfoundland population 13,000. Claude was the mayor when 911 happened. At that time there were 5,500 aircraft in the air and none outside the USA were allowed to land in the USA. Flights that were over halfway to Gander to fuel were told to continue to Gander. If they were less than half way there, they were turned around. Thirty eight aircraft with over 7,000 people landed in Gander and were grounded there for five days. Some passengers were on the planes over 28 hours before they were allowed off and were only allowed carry on luggage as the planes were being treated as possible bombs. The mayor called the Salvation Army in Gander and they showed up with 400 volunteers. The Salvation Army and volunteers prepared over 285,000 meals over the course of the five days. Schools were opened for the airline passengers and the students came to work as volunteers. There were people there from 95 different countries and one plane with 85 children from the Wish Foundation on their way to Disney World. All of this was provided at no charge to the passengers. It cost over 4 million dollars. Gander was reimbursed, however one lady set up a 1.8 million dollar scholarship for the schools and a New York firm donated all new computers to the school. The mayor said the only problem they had is that when the flights were scheduled to leave they could not find a Nigerian businessman anywhere. As it turned out he had gone hunting with two local guys. If you get a chance to hear Claude Elliott the presentation is excellent.

Back at the RM, spring is near, we are bringing back our crew Marvin Moir, Cody Bertram, Allan Moorhead and Mason McKay on April 6th. Dugouts are full and the main runoff has not come yet, so it is looking hopeful.

With the school closure our grandchildren have been around more. I heard some grandparent stories that I thought you might enjoy.

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A young grandson called the other day to wish his grandfather a Happy Birthday. He asked him how old he was, and he told him, 72. His grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"

A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like. "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

A grandmother didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colors yet, so she decided to test her. She would point out something and ask what color it was. The granddaughter would tell her and was always correct. It was fun for her, so she continued. At last, the granddaughter headed for the door, saying, "Grandma, I really think you should try to figure out some of these colors yourself!"

A second grader came home from school and said to her grandmother, "Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today." The grandmother, more than a little surprised, tried to keep her cool. "That's interesting," she said. "How do you make babies?" "It's simple," replied the girl. "You just change 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'."

A 6-year-old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the airport, and whenever we want her, we just go get her. Then, when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport."

Our next meeting is April 8th at 1PM.