



DIVISION #8 Councillor – Wendy Trask

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"Coffee & Coffee Talk"

*I'm not sure where summer & fall went, but here we are fast approaching Christmas!
I am reflecting on a year of change in the RM of*

Corman Park. Most recent is the change of a few faces around the council table and in the Reeve's chair.

I truly enjoyed and respected working with Reeve Harwood for the past 12 years. Judy was a true leader with integrity, knowledge and experience. Her dedication to the RM and the ratepayers speaks volumes to the commitment she made to all of us when she was sworn in as the Reeve of Corman Park. We thank Judy and wish her all the best in her retirement.

- Wendy

SASKATCHEWAN ATV ACT

As we all know, the ATV/quad/side-by-side is a common form of transportation on properties in the RM. What a lot of us are not familiar with is the law governing where/how we can operate these.

We also have an issue in Division 8 where we have people on ATVs purposely "cutting wheelies" in the intersections of our rural roads, creating large circular ruts for the rest of us to drive through/over. I have received numerous calls/texts from angry ratepayers regarding this activity. The police have advised us to take pictures if we catch someone in the act of doing this. On occasion they have found the culprit and the said person has been responsible for the cost of the RM grader coming to re-blade the road and smooth out the intersection. It is challenging enough as it is to keep the roads in good condition for us all to drive on. I have also heard of ratepayers receiving fines for infractions that they did not realize were the law. Therefore, I am going to focus a lot of this newsletter on the Saskatchewan ATV Act and the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Act.

I have pulled some of the information out to include here, but not anywhere near all of it. So for anyone using any one of these units, if you haven't already done so, google these "acts" and *familiarize yourself* with the laws.

Did you know?

- Saskatchewan law requires that all ATV riders (including passengers) wear a helmet and goggles (if the helmet doesn't have a face screen) on public property or on property that the rider does not own. This includes side by sides that do not have windshields.

- Drivers of ATVs must have a valid driver's license. Individuals of the age of 12 years or more under the age of 16 must be accompanied or supervised by a person who has held a license that allows them to operate an ATV continuously for the past 365 days (a license in this case could be a drivers license) or must have successfully completed an approved ATV training course and must have proof of completion of that course to produce on demand by a police officer.
- ATVs are not required to be registered. But, if you want to ride your ATV on public land, you need a minimum of \$200,000 in third party liability insurance and must be able to provide proof of that insurance if asked by a police officer. This covers you for damage or injury you (or whoever is riding your ATV) may cause to another person or their property.
- You cannot ride your ATV on any highway, pathway (all public roads are defined as public highways), but if it is insured and you have a valid driver's license, helmet, (helmet must have a label indicating it complies with one of the standards listed in the ACT) and goggles, you can ride it **beside** many highways and roads. (ie: ditch)
- Section 6 states that no one is allowed to ride an ATV on private land or crown land being used or occupied by other than the crown without permission by either the owner or land user

SASKATCHEWAN SNOWMOBILE ACT

- Before you can ride a snowmobile on public land you must: have a driver's license; or be at least 16 years old and have completed a Snowmobile Safety Course; or be between the ages of 12 and 15, have completed a Snowmobile Safety Course, and be either supervised or accompanied by someone with a driver's license.
- Riding beside a road If riding in a highway ditch or right-of-way, you should travel in the same direction as the nearest traffic lane. This is a requirement at night when you are within 30 m (100 feet) of the road, to prevent confusing and dangerous situations for automobile drivers. Riding in the median of divided highways is dangerous and illegal

***These are only a few excerpts from the acts.
I realize that we all want to enjoy our ATVs in the country as we like and for many uses. I did not make these laws, I am just sharing them with you.
So please "don't shoot the messenger"!***

ROAD SIGNS & GARBAGE IN DITCHES

Traveling around Division 8, I have noticed a lot of our TWP/Range Road signs that have faded to the point that they are difficult to read. If you see a faded TWP/Range Road sign, a damaged or missing sign, please report on-line or call the office at 306-242-9303. If the sign is extremely important (ie: stop sign), please call the R.M. office or notify the Corman Park Police Service if it is outside regular office hours.

And as always, the RM remains an easy, cheap disposal ground for some people. When you see garbage, appliances or furniture in our ditches or on the road, please contact the Public Works department with the location specifics and it will be picked up and disposed of.

EMAIL: publicworks@rmcormanpark.ca or call 306-975-1655

FIRE FIGHTING SERVICES/CHARGES

Division 8 Newsletter would not be complete if I did not include my usual lecture on the importance of having "Fire Fighting Insurance". If you are new to the RM and you are not familiar with this subject, please contact me. You MUST have separate "Fire Fighting Insurance" from regular "Fire Insurance". Some residents have seen invoices in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. I still have ratepayers saying "they did not know" and I can only assume these are people that do not read my Newsletters. Please contact your insurance broker to ensure sufficient coverage for your property. Council is currently in the process of reviewing and revising our Fire Services Bylaw, so please stay tune for when the new bylaw is in place in 2025. The RM website will always have the most recent Fire Services Bylaw in the Bylaw Section of the R.M. website. I will also include any changes in my Spring 2025 Newsletter.

CONTROLLED BURNS

Any landowner planning to have a controlled burn on their property MUST call the controlled burn hotline at 1-866-404-4911. Failure to do so may result in fines and/or fire department response charges. The Controlled Burn office will advise the proper department of the date, time and location of the burn. Review a map of the fire department boundaries here:

<http://rmcormanpark.ca/151/Fire-Protection>

Remember - you could have a neighbor or someone passing by that sees smoke and calls in a fire. If you have not called in a controlled burn you will be responsible for the charges by the responding fire department(s). PLEASE NOTE: DO NOT burn in very windy or dry weather and always provide adequate fire guarding before proceeding with a controlled burn.

If your "Controlled Burn" gets "out of control", you are liable for the fire fighting charges.

CIVIC ADDRESSING

All civic addressing signs should now be installed. If you still do not have one at your property entrance, please contact Public Works Dept. to advise.

I have been told by some ratepayers that they have had courier parcels delivered to their yard by providing their civic addressing information. I have not tried this yet myself, but I will be looking into this option.

TIPPS - Tax Installment Payment Plan Service

This is a monthly automatic withdrawal payment plan which alleviates the pressure of paying taxes in a lump sum in December or the additional cost of interest in the case of a late payment. For additional information regarding TIPPS, contact the RM office at 306-242-9303 or visit www.rm.cormanpark.ca

Another option to check out for paying your property taxes monthly is your On-line Banking. The financial institution that I deal with has the RM of Corman Park Property Taxes on their system so that you can set up an automatic transfer on a schedule and amount of your choice. This also allows you to pay towards your property taxes throughout the year on a schedule and budget that works for you. Check your on-line banking system or contact your financial institution if you need assistance in setting up this option for yourself.

DOGS RUNNING AT LARGE Bylaw No. 32/20

We continue to have an issue in Division 8 with some dog(s) running at large. Please realize that your neighbors like to enjoy the outdoors, going for walks, riding their horses, etc without the fear of your dogs chasing or intimidating them or their children. We all love our dogs, but please keep them at home.

The bylaw states that no dog shall run at large in the Municipality, and for the purpose of this bylaw, a dog shall be deemed to be running at large when it is beyond the boundaries of the land occupied by the owner, possessor or harbourer of the dog, or beyond the boundaries of any lands where it may be with the permission of the owner or occupant of the said land and when it is not under control.

We hope to reduce/eliminate these issues. We now have a full-time Bylaw Officer with the RM that will be following up and enforcing bylaws of the municipality such as this.

NOTIFY ME - "Alerts & Notifications"

In order to keep yourself informed of what is happening in the RM, visit the RM website and sign up for "Alerts & Notifications".

Alerts include: Construction Updates, Fire Bans, Road Bans/Closures, Power Outages and Inclement Weather. Notifications include: Bid Postings, News Flash, Calendars, Agenda Centre, Alert Centre.

To sign up: <http://rmcormanpark.ca/145/Sign-Up-For>

You will be able to select which Alerts/Notifications you wish to receive.