

Bonjour! Welcome to 2021!

Lets start with good news. We received Gas Tax Fund approval for our upgrade of 7.24 km of grid road south of the Bradwell access Hwy. (Hwy 763). That means that we should be upgrading a total of about 10.5 km of grid road this summer with out any direct cost to the rate payers of Blucher. This includes the improvements to Blucher Road that I mentioned in a previous newsletter.

More information on road construction: Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure (MHI) is holding an online meeting, Feb. 4 from 6-8 pm, to discuss segment three of the HWY 5 improvements. This is the segment from Old 27 HWY going west. (The twinning portion) If you are interested in attending you must register. Send an email to MHIEngages@stantec.com Once you RSVP you will be sent the link. If you are new to online meetings and need help call Zoe at 306-667-2541

Some of you might remember a spring-ratepayer's meeting a few years ago, when it was suggested that council do something about metal and nails on our roads especially in the area of the transfer station. They believed this material was responsible for many flat tires and wondered if we might try installing magnets on a grader blade to see if this might collect at least some of the metal debris. We have purchased such a magnet and we will be installing it on a grader soon.

Good news from The Blucher Aberdeen Emergency Services Building. Mike and Joan Steckhan have stepped up to serve on the Volunteer Fire Department. Mike to perform the duties of Fire Chief, and Joan to help with the administration. The Steckhan's have been involved in the past, with both of these positions. Thanks to both of you, and to the other 10 dedicated members of the department for your service. Special thanks to Adriene Hamoline from Aberdeen for his continuing help. This does not mean we still do not need more help. If you, or anybody you know is considering being a volunteer fireman or a first responder now is the time to step up!

I have a couple of phone calls I would like to tell you about. First one was from our MLA, Bronwyn Eyre. She was requesting a meeting with myself and other council members to discuss any issues the we would like her to bring forth to her government colleagues. This is an opportunity to forward to myself or any councillors topics you would like us to discuss. We have not set a date for this meeting yet, but forward your suggestions sooner rather than later.

The second call was with the Chairman of the Board of Prairie Green Renewable Energy (PGRE), Ernest Nycz. They are progressing with their plans to build a grain meal and ethanol plant in the Clavet area. The plant will require 25 million bushels of feed barley and 5 million bushels of feed peas per year to produce 196 million litres of ethanol and 228,000 tonnes of high protein livestock feeds. Their plan is to be operational by Jan. 21, 2024 and be purchasing barley and peas by the fall of 2023.

Council has decided it is time to explore the possibility hiring of a journeyman mechanic. This has been a topic of discussion at council meetings on and off for years. We will be advertising this position shortly. The ideal candidate would also have some management skills, a 1A license and be able to operate equipment. If you know anybody that would be interested in this position please tell them about it. Just by word of mouth, we have already received one application and I have received one phone call.

Guess what? I don't really have any bad news for you, and that is about all I have to say this month except that I did actually get a bit of feed back about the newsletter. Thanks for that Joan, and I would like to here from more of you. Stay healthy and stay safe. Blair Cummins