

R.M. of Battle River No.438 Newsletter 2025

Council Members; Stewart Mitchell (Reeve), Roland Radchenko (1), Pat Scherman (2), Jason Russell (3), Allan Rumpf (4), Jaden Jamieson (5), David Blais (6),
Acting Administrator: Jim Puffalt & *Assistant Administrator:* Simon Bior

Municipal Government:

Council members are Elected Officials responsible to implement policy & provide services according to Provincial Legislation. Regular council meetings are held the first Thursday of every month. Throughout November 2025 and until November 2026 the office will be open Wednesday & Thursday, 9am to 4pm. During that time, Aspen will be on a temporary leave and Jim Puffalt will act as administrator for the RM and Simon Bior will act as his assistant administrator. The office will be closed occasionally for training seminars, office errands, and lunch. It is best to give the office a call before you plan to stop in to inconvenience you as little as possible.

Planning & Development:

As of January 1st, 2024, the RM had a mandatory additional Building Bylaw in place, as well as the RM's Zoning Bylaw & Basic Planning Statement, in which involve criteria of Buildings Standards, allowable improvements, subdivisions, etc. Every person who desires to make an improvement or subdivide their property requires an application be submitted to council for review at a regular council meeting. For residential buildings, the approval from Council must then be sent to Building & Technical Standards Branch. Application Forms can be obtained from the office or the website. The result will be mailed after the Council Meeting in which it was discussed.

Assessment & Taxation:

The Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA) assess' all property. The Provincial Government sets the taxable portion of value. We use this assessment information to come up with a mill rate that will cover expenses contained in the yearly budget. School mill rates vary between agriculture, residential and commercial property and are set by the Province. Tax discount & penalty rates have remained the same for many years, to take advantage of the opportunity to pay less tax, note the discount information contained on your tax notice. We accept e-transfers to rm438@sasktel.net. If you e-transfer or mail your payment, a receipt will be mailed back to you. With costs always rising, it's a challenge to stay within budget & still provide services. Council is very careful how tax dollars are spent for necessary improvements.

Fire Protection Services:

We have a great relationship with the Battleford Fire Department to provide service to your property. We ask that if you are planning on burning, **please call 1-866-404-4911 to advise of your burn**, if you do not call & the fire truck is called out, (regardless of who called them), you are responsible for the costs. Also contact your property insurance agent for Fire Fighting coverage, you should obtain a minimum \$8,000 coverage. The fee is usually pretty reasonable compared to paying for firefighting costs invoiced to you if a fire should occur, or false alarm costs.

Club Root & Weed Management:

Every property owner is responsible to prevent the spread of all invasive plant species (Noxious Weeds), our weed inspector has the authority to request that you spray if a problem exists, if you do not comply, the RM can do the work & charge the property. DO NOT remove or transport hay containing Noxious Weeds. Clubroot has become apparent in our area and everyone is to follow Provincial Protocol & eliminate spread.

Road Services & Recycle Waste:

Our road maintenance operators are kept very busy maintaining roads throughout the year, our first priority is main roads & school bus routes. We can do custom work at a cost of \$250/hour depending on time. You will need to make other arrangements to keep your own laneway or driveway open, especially during the stormy winter months. We follow the Provincial Highways mowing regulations regarding cutting along road allowances, and ask that you do not leave any cut hay, debris or snow from your laneway on our road top, it makes it very difficult for our graders to work with. Thank-You for abiding by road weight limits when weather conditions warrant. ATVs are NOT ALLOWED to tear up road allowance or private property & please be respectful when passing horses, riders, buggies and pedestrians.

LORAAS: Has opened their waste site in the Town of Battleford, just down the gravel road South of our office, they accept a variety of material and charge a small fee for recycle and waste.

I hope the Newsletter has been helpful to you, and if you have any questions, please contact the RM office.

Merry Holiday Season & Happy New Year to You, and Yours. Aspen Johnson
Administrator

We are NOT set up for Credit or Debit cards ~ (Cheques, E-transfers or Cash ONLY)

(306) 937-2235 ~ Box 159, Battleford, SK. S0M 0E0 ~ rm438@sasktel.net ~ <https://rmofbattleriver.ca/>