

New Road Rehabilitation Program

History:

In the RM of Lumsden, the primary concern voiced by our rate payers relates to infrastructure; in particular, our roads and the condition of the roads. Like most RM's throughout our province we face the commonality of aging infrastructure and limited financial assistance from our Federal and Provincial Government partners.

Many RM's simply do not have the resources to address the growing infrastructure deficit and are looking for assistance that we feel may not come. For this reason, your current Council developed a long-term project plan and budget; this 25-year plan involved rebuilding our major roads throughout the RM primarily utilizing contractors to complete the work. Some of the issues with this initial plan were the lengthy timeline, the cost and it didn't include all roads. Due to the expense and time this plan required to address our short and long-term infrastructure concerns, we searched for alternative methods to complete this work.

Mulching Process:

After consultation with many other RM's throughout multiple provinces we have modified our plan and created a Road Rehabilitation Program which limits the need for contractors. To do so, this program involves purchasing a few key pieces of equipment and increasing staff to address our immediate and long-term goals.

Our new plan centralizes around an FAE Mulcher which addresses a major problem we have with large rock in many of our gravel road structures, making maintenance and road upgrading difficult. With this key piece of equipment, we also have the ability to use various methods of soil stabilization allowing us to improve most of our road structures.

The FAE Mulcher grinds the clay and rock, incorporating it back into the road structure as useable material. After the road surface is ground it can then be reshaped, packed, re-crowned and then graveled.

A semi and dump trailer were also purchased to support the mulching operation for hauling pit run, gravel, etc. This truck and trailer will also be used to do our regular maintenance graveling throughout the west side of the RM (Divisions 2, 3, 6).

The first section of road being rehabilitated is the most southerly portion of the Arm River Road. The finished road surface is meeting our expectations. Other roads of immediate concern are Piapot Grid, Russell Hill Road, Zehner Grid and Pense Grid.

We are very pleased with the program and the long-term savings it creates. Going forward our ratepayers can expect:

- Improved road infrastructure, completed on our schedule;
- Reduced maintenance on roads following rehab;
- Reduced gravel haul costs; and
- Improved reaction time to required spot-graveling.

Our current Council understands it is our responsibility to fund and maintain our infrastructure. The Road Rehabilitation Program addresses this responsibility, having said that we will continue to apply for all grants as they become available.