



ROSS L. GRAY SCHOOL
21 Canham Street
Sprague, MB R0A 1Z0
Phone: (204) 437-2175 Fax: (204) 437-2893
Principal: Mr. Jared Baines
Website: <https://rlg.blsd.ca/>



February 2021

Hello, February!

*Heart Health Month

*Valentine's Day

*I Love to Read Month



Special Kindergarten Announcement

If your child is turning 5 years old in 2021, they can join RLG as students in September!

To get the registration process started, please contact us and we will set up a meeting with you.
Phone the school (204 437-2175) or email:

Mrs. Carly Chubaty (ChubatyC@blsd.ca) OR Mrs. Adriane Culleton (CulletonA@blsd.ca)

Note: for your child to be registered, you will need:

1. your child's birth certificate
2. Manitoba Medical number
3. any important medical information if necessary:
4. custody or guardianship documents
5. proof of residence or confirmation of Permanent Residence-Canadian



Please register before **Friday February 12th**. We look forward to welcoming your child!



Special Snacks for Valentine's Day and Heart Health

- Stick a skewer into a strawberry or slice of banana
- Dip into your children's favourite natural yoghurt
- Roll the pop in granola
- Store the pops in the refrigerator or freeze them

RASPBERRY Chocolate Drops



Pop a chocolate chip into a raspberry – and serve!

Heart Health:

Berries have antioxidants & potassium.
White chocolate chips are brighter,
but dark chocolate will have more antioxidant benefits.



Fresh Fruit Pops

Special Activity for physical and mental health



Winter Parade!

Parades are all about showing off and celebrating...and a great reason to get moving!

So anytime you can, throw on a happy tune and march around the house.

A new dress...new shoes...a new stuffed animal or toy...potty training success...all reasons to happily march through all the rooms of the house.

And...it'll feel good for you too!

Special Crafts for Valentine's Day and I Love to Read

Valentine Heart People

- Put WASHABLE paint on your thumb.
- Press thumb down on paper, slanted a little.
- Do it again the opposite way.
- To make the point of the heart, smear the paint down with your pointer finger.
- Use a black sharpie to add faces, legs, and arms.



Crafts & Citizenship!

True generosity takes years to develop...and that's okay!

But we can start to teach our children even when they are young, that it feels good to care about others.

A Few Tips:

- Expect your child to learn about giving and sharing just a little bit at a time.
- It'll be easier for your child to share if there's something in it for them.

For example...

- Use these pictures → → → → → as an example for making bookmarks.
- Make several bookmarks together.
- Let your child keep one bookmark.
- Encourage your child to gift one (or more) bookmark to someone else.



PINEY REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Monthly Meeting



WHEN: FEB 11TH, 2021 @7PM
WHERE: VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

MUNICIPALITY 101
Your Guide to Local Government

Strategic Planning

The Strategic Plan is a framework for the goals, budget and governance of the municipality. Council uses the Strategic Plan as context and a guide in their decision-making.

The Plan is ideally assessed every five years, and is carefully developed with a long-term vision in mind. The Plan analyzes the municipality's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT Analysis) and provides a pathway of how to accomplish the long-term goals. The CAO develops the Plan, along with Council and professional advisory, using statistics, research, other municipalities' examples and public input.

Areas within municipality that require Councils attention are:

- 1) Government
- 2) Protective Services
- 3) Transportation & Drainage
- 4) Environmental Health
- 5) Public Health & Welfare
- 6) Environmental Development
- 7) Economic Development
- 8) Recreation & Culture
- 9) Fiscal Services

Within these areas, the Plan answers the following questions:
Who are we? Where have we been? Where are we now?
Where do we want to be? How will we get there? How will we know how we are doing?

You can view the latest strategic plan on our website:
www.rmofpiney.mb.ca.

Stay tuned for next month's article: "Administration & Staff"



Phone No.:
204-437-2284 or
204-437-2060
Fax No.:
204-437-2556
office@rmofpiney.mb.ca



Rural Municipality of
PINEY



February 2021

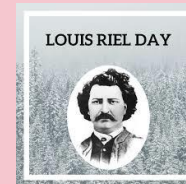
MONTHLY REMINDERS



Coffee with Council – ON HOLD

Coffee with Council has been put on hold pending public health orders. Council is reviewing all options and will likely to be holding these meetings via Zoom. Please stay tuned for more information on this matter.

Office Closed for Louis Riel Day Monday, February 15th, 2021



Road Weight Restrictions

Coming: March 2021

The RM of Piney will be imposing a 65% weight restriction of normal loading on the following roads:

- Menisino North (Rd 59E) from PTH 12 to PR 201
- Whitemouth Lake Rd (Rd 21N) from PR 210 to Rd 74E
- St.Labre Rd (Rd 27N & 63E) from PR 210 to Whitemouth Lake Rd (Rd 21)
- Vassar North - Vassar to Whitemouth Lake Rd (Rd 20N)
 - Vassar East MM (Rd 6N) from Vassar East Access to PR 308
- Municipal Road 12N from PTH 12 to PR 210

Road locations are subject to change. Once restrictions are implemented, they will remain until further notice.

RM Office Still Closed to Public

Due to Covid-19, the RM of Piney office is still closed to public walk-in traffic. We will be accepting visits by appointment only.

If you have a package at the RM office, please call ahead and we will have it set aside for you.



RM of Piney Building Inspector Yearly Report

Hi folks, I hope everyone had a safe and healthy holiday season. 2020 has been an extremely busy year for building permits in the RM of Piney in which we received a record number of permit applications. The RM has seen a large growth of development even during Covid and we do anticipate another busy year for 2021. Here are some commonly asked questions to what is required for a building permit or if a building permit is needed:

- Any structure over 108 sq ft requires a building permit, including attached porches/covered entries to dwelling
- Decks 24 inches above grade level or situated in the front yard require a permit; decks under 24 inches from ground and located on the sides or rear yard do not need a permit
- Houses, additions, cabins and garages require a set of working drawings at the time of application
- Engineered drawings may be required on some projects, I can help clarify this over a phone call
- Most agricultural buildings only require a development permit if the structure is for farm use
- A site plan is required for the application process to have an overview of the project in relation to property lines
- Average time to have a building permit released is approx. 2 weeks
- Fences, pools, dug outs, etc. normally require a permit so please contact the office for more information
- Electrical permits must be done through MB Hydro

With any project there can be a lot of questions a person may have before they start, so we are here to help answer those questions to help make your project go smoothly so please don't hesitate to call our office or myself, Gary Hora, at the provided contact information below.

Gary Hora

RM of Piney & RM of Stuartburn

Building Inspector & Weed Control Supervisor

supervisor@psweedbuilding.ca



Economic Development

Three Bright Lights from 2020

While we can all agree that 2020 will go down in the history books as a challenging year, there were three bright lights that will hopefully continue into 2021.

Supporting Local

During the pandemic, many of our stores and restaurants stepped up to provide new options for shopping, ordering and delivery. Local service businesses found safe ways to deliver their services, for as long as they were allowed to remain open. The Southeast Farmer's Market continued their long run out of Pinegrove Seniors in South Junction and the Stuartburn-Emerson Franklin Local Food Initiative offered outdoor markets. Even when they were forced to close, these dedicated vendors pivoted yet again to provide curbside pick-up, delivery and shipping options.

As pandemic restrictions begin to relax, let's be sure to keep supporting these dedicated neighbourhood businesses. Remember, money spent here stays here.

Building Community

Even though we were unable to gather at our usual festivals, tournaments and fall suppers, several community groups devised unique ways to create community while raising money for a good cause. Residents lined up for miles to enjoy drive-through fall suppers supporting community halls. A first-time gift card sales initiative successfully partnered volunteers with local businesses to raise funds for the local arena. The Vita Christmas Cheer Board and Piney Regional Chamber of Commerce adapted Christmas hamper programs to ensure safe donations, socially distanced packing, & curbside pick-up.

2020 has clearly demonstrated that with a little out-of-the-box thinking, long-held traditions can be adapted to meet changing needs. Let's strive for more of that in 2021.

Reconnecting with Nature

Many would agree 2020 made us more thankful than ever to be living in Sunrise Corner. With travel restrictions, many residents embraced rediscovering our own back yard and were not disappointed: taking a socially distanced walk down a country road, tubing down a river, fishing, snowshoeing.

Once businesses are able to open again, let's continue planning staycations in the area – a day spent under the pines at the Vassar Pool with a picnic from a local store, a walk in the Tall-Grass Prairie along with lunch at a Vita restaurant, a quad ride through Sandilands Provincial Forest and a stop for ice cream in Woodridge.

Monique Chenier
monique@sunrisecornermb.ca



Municipal Emergency Coordinator

Portable Space Heater Safety

This is traditionally the time of year when portable space heaters are sometimes used to maintain a more comfortable interior environment. I wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone to be mindful of the potential safety hazards of portable space heaters.

With more people at home, it's vital to use precaution when using a space heater. If you must use a space heater as a temporary heat source, follow these safety tips to avoid potential shock and fire hazards:

- Look for a space heater that has the CSA International Certification mark and check to make sure that it is suitable for your intended use.
- Choose a model with a tip-over switch that automatically turns off if knocked over and a guard to prevent fingers or flammable objects from touching hot elements.
- Keep space heaters away from drapery, bedding and other flammable materials.
- Always inspect cords for signs of damage; plug the space heater directly into the power outlet. Never use an extension cord.
- Don't use space heaters in rooms where children are unsupervised. Children may stick their fingers or other objects through the protective guards, which could cause burns or shock.
- Never use space heaters in damp or wet areas.
- Space heaters are meant to supply supplemental heat. Don't use them to warm bedding, cook food, dry clothing or thaw pipes.
- Turn off the space heater when you go to bed or leave the room. Never leave a space heater unattended and unplug it when not in use.

Source: https://www.hydro.mb.ca/articles/2020/04/be_safe_when_using_a_space_heater/

Richard Gamble
richard@rmofpiney.mb.ca

Approved 2021 Event Grants

South Junction Community Club

15th Annual Canada Day Celebration - \$2,500.00

Sprague Community Center Inc.

Sprague Fest – \$1,500.00

Vassar Community Recreation Centre

RM of Piney Summer Camps - \$1,500.00

Woodridge Community Club

3rd Annual Summer Fun on the Ridge - \$800.00

PROTECTIVE SERVICES



Sprague RCMP

Sprague RCMP Detachment is asking the public to please report suspicious vehicles, or persons that you notice in the area. All too often, our members are approached by the general public days, or weeks after witnessing a vehicle, or person that they feel is acting in a suspicious manner. There is very little we can do that long after the fact! Please call our emergency line at (204) 437-2222, so an on duty officer can be dispatched to the area to check it out for you! Leaving a message on our general line mailbox doesn't really help either. You're not bothering us.... It's our job! If it's suspicious to you, it's probably worth a closer look by us. Please gather as much information about the vehicle or person as possible. If you can get a licence plate number safely, please do so. If not, provide the RCMP dispatch with the best description of the vehicle, or person you can including direction of travel. In the words of the main character from the hit Netflix show The Mandalorian..... "This is the way".

Sprague RCMP Detachment continues to be closed for walk up service. If you are an essential worker, you can still get criminal record checks completed. Please contact our office at (204) 437-2041 to get further details. Should you require immediate Police assistance you can call (204) 437-2222 or 911.

Richard Graham Cpl.
NCO i/c Sprague Detachment

RM Transit Plan



Transit Grant Extension / CAA Car Costs

The transit grant has been extended for an additional year due to the restrictive COVID19 health orders. However, as transit research and information continue being compiled into a report, summarized portions may soon be available for your information and feedback.

In the meantime, *do you want to know the ownership cost of your vehicle?* According to CAA poll, 67% of Canadians don't know the cost of owning and operating a common vehicle for a year. Costs are dependent on a number of factors such as the age and condition of the vehicle, reliability of make and model, driver habits, weather and road conditions to list a few. CAA's on-line driving costs calculator www.carcosts.caa.ca allows you to input information such as annual mileage, the type of car you have, and how much highway vs. city driving you do. It even calculates fuel costs using MB information.

CAA's on-line driving costs calculator with a newer minivan driven less than 400 km per week or 20,000 km per year with good road and weather conditions, the operating cost could be approximately \$10,000 or 50 cents per km. The operating cost includes depreciation which is the reduction of value of your car over time with the wear and tear of everyday use, so the more you drive your car, the faster the car's value will drop. Also note that once a vehicle is 5 years old the upkeep can be considerably more.

Connie Gamble



RM of Piney Fire Departments

With winter weather still ahead of us, we would like to remind you that many of your "winter" appliances have been functioning for a number of months now. These appliances need regular maintenance and care. Telling yourself 'there is only a month or so left, why worry about it now.. I will check it next fall', is an invitation for a visit from your local Fire Department. Block heater extension cords could easily have been plugged / unplugged 150 times since November. Cloths dryer vents, furnace filters, and chimneys need regular inspection done throughout the year. Please take the few minutes now instead of waiting for the next season.

If you have questions or comments, I'd like to hear from you.
Watch for March Newsletter and tips to FireSmart your yard.

Bill Stowe
billstowe@rmofpiney.mb.ca