

Phone: 204-437-2284
office@rmofpiney.mb.ca
Hours: Monday – Friday
8:30am – 12:00pm
12:45pm – 4:30pm



Need to Contact your Councillor?

Wayne Anderson: 204-527-0569
Ken Prociw: 204-429-2143
Dale Edbom: 204-423-2089
David Beaudry: 204-437-2528
Mark Bernard: 431-997-5077

September 2026

MONTHLY REMINDERS

The RM Office will be closed:

**Monday, September 7th for Labour Day
AND**

**The Woodridge Transfer Station &
RM Office will be closed:**

**Wednesday, September 30th for Truth
and Reconciliation Day**

The Woodridge Transfer Station as well as the RM Office
will re-open to the public on Thursday, October 1st.

NATIONAL DAY FOR
**TRUTH AND
RECONCILIATION**



White Spruce Seedlings Available

\$7.50 per bundle + GST (25 seedlings)

Seedlings are available to ratepayers only. Contact the RM office to reserve your seedlings today! Payments can be made by cash, cheque, debit, or by credit card (with a 2% service fee).

Seedlings will be available for pick up mid-September. Ratepayers with pre-orders will be contacted directly with pick up dates. Seedlings must be picked up during regular office hours.

Notice of Nominations

FORM 12, Subsection [41(1)]

Notice is hereby given that on the following days:

September 16, 2026 to September 22, 2026

Between: 8:30am – 12:00pm and 12:45pm – 4:30pm
Monday to Friday

Location: The RM of Piney municipal office in Vassar, MB

I will receive nominations for the offices of:

Reeve / Councillor, Ward 1 / Councillor, Ward 2 /
Councillor, Ward 3 / Councillor, Ward 4

**The nomination deadline is September 22nd at 4:30pm.
Nominations cannot be accepted after this day.**

All nominations shall be made in writing and shall be signed by at least twenty-five voters, or NOT less than 1% of the voters (whichever is the lesser) of the authority or ward (as the case may be), but in all cases by at least two voters. Each nomination shall also be accompanied by the candidate's declaration of qualification.

Nominations must be filed in person at the above location, on the date and hours specified, by an agent or the candidate. To obtain a nomination paper, and/or candidate's declaration of qualification, contact the SEO at the telephone number listed below.

Nomination papers not accompanied by the required documents and not properly filed shall be rejected.

Rural Municipality of Piney

Martin Van Osch, Senior Elections Official (SEO)
6092 Boundary St. Box 48, Vassar, MB R0A 2J0
Phone: 204-437-2284

CONGRATULATIONS!

**TWO WINNING TICKET NUMBERS
HAVE BEEN DRAWN FOR THE JULY
RECYCLING INCENTIVE PROGRAM:**

007793 and 007904

**PLEASE CALL 204-437-2284 IF YOU ARE
THE HOLDER OF EITHER OF THESE TICKET
NUMBERS TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE!**

Council and the CAO – Turning Vision into Reality

One of the most important relationships in municipal government is the one between Council and the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). When this relationship is strong, the municipality is able to move forward with purpose, focus, and accountability. Understanding this relationship is essential for every new councillor.

At its simplest, Council determines the direction of the municipality while the CAO leads the administration responsible for carrying out that direction. Council establishes priorities, approves budgets, adopts policies, and makes decisions on behalf of the community. The CAO, as the senior administrative leader, is responsible for implementing those decisions and managing the day-to-day operations of the municipality.

This distinction is fundamental to effective local government. Council focuses on the what, why, and when, while administration focuses on the how. Councillors bring community perspectives and establish priorities, while administration provides the professional expertise, technical knowledge, and operational experience needed to achieve Council's objectives. Clear roles create clear accountability.

Equally important is understanding who Council represents. While councillors may be elected from a specific ward, once elected they become members of the governing body for the entire municipality. Council's responsibility is not to advocate solely for a particular area or special interest group, but to consider the needs and interests of the municipality as a whole. Every decision should be evaluated based on its overall impact, long-term benefit, and alignment with the community's broader goals and priorities.

An important principle of municipal governance is that the CAO oversees and directs municipal employees, while Council oversees the CAO. Councillors are accountable for setting expectations, evaluating results, and providing direction through policy and strategic priorities. The CAO is accountable for managing staff, municipal operations, and the implementation of Council's decisions. This structure ensures that everyone understands who is responsible for what and helps maintain a professional and effective workplace.

A common challenge for new councillors is recognizing that even straightforward ideas often require significant work behind the scenes. Municipalities operate within legislative and regulatory requirements while balancing budgets, resources, and competing priorities. Not every idea can be implemented immediately, and some may require modification before they become achievable. One of the CAO's key responsibilities is helping Council understand what is realistic and attainable within available resources, timelines, and organizational capacity. Good governance is not simply about setting ambitious goals; it is about setting achievable goals that support the municipality's long-term vision.

Strong Council-CAO relationships are built on trust, respect, and communication. Council and the CAO are not in competition; they are partners. Council defines the vision and desired outcomes for the community, while administration develops the path to achieve them. When both respect their respective roles, the result is a municipality that delivers meaningful and lasting outcomes for its residents.

2026 Important Municipal Election Dates

Notice of Nominations: September 16th to 22nd

Registration Deadline: September 22nd

Municipal election candidates must register with the SEO before beginning to accept contributions, incur expenses, fundraise or borrow money for their campaign.

Voters List Revision Deadline: September 22nd

Any person who is eligible to vote in the RM of Piney can have changes/revisions made to the Voters List or request to have their name/address obscured from the Voters List.

September 30th: First day to apply in-person to vote by sealed envelope

October 17th: Advanced Poll from 8am to 8pm
at the RM of Piney Council Chambers in Vassar

October 28th: Election Day from 8am to 8pm
Ward 1 & 3: Woodridge Hall
Ward 2: Piney Hall
Ward 3: Vassar Hall
Ward 4: Sprague Hall

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

RAIL SAFETY WEEK

September 21st – 27th, 2026

STAY OFF THE TRACKS

Never walk, cycle or drive along railway tracks. It's hard to judge how far away a train is or what speed it's travelling at. Trains can go as fast as 160 km/h and can take up to 2 kilometres to come to a complete stop. That's the length of 18 football fields.

KEEP OFF RAILWAY PROPERTY

Railway yards, tunnels and bridges are all private property. If you are caught trespassing on them, you could be fined up to \$50,000. But it isn't just illegal to trespass on railway property—it's extremely dangerous. Railway tunnels and bridges are often only slightly wider than the rails, leaving little or no room for you if a train does come along.

USE DESIGNATED RAILWAY CROSSINGS

Always cross railway tracks at designated crossings. Trying to cross tracks anywhere else could be deadly. Remember, trains can come at any time, from either direction, and on any track. They also don't always run on a set schedule.

OBEY ALL RAILWAY SIGNS AND SIGNALS

Obey all railway signs and warning devices, such as lights, bells and gates. Before proceeding through a crossing, look both ways and listen for approaching trains. If a train is coming, or railway warning signals are activated, stop behind any gates or stop lines—or no closer than 5 metres away from the nearest rail—and wait for the train to pass. Cross only after the warning signals have ceased and you are certain no other trains are approaching, from either direction and on any track.

STAY ALERT

You can't avoid getting struck by a train if you can't hear it or see it coming. Today's trains are extremely quiet, so don't be distracted by cell phones or other devices when in the vicinity of a railway crossing. Although trains sound their whistles at most crossings, or in the case of an emergency, you won't hear the warning if you are wearing headphones.

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Trains can overhang the tracks by as much as 1 metre on each side. They can also carry loads that are wider than the railway cars themselves. So, stay clear. You could also be hit by chains, straps or other equipment swinging loose from the train if you are too close.

REMEMBER

- An optical illusion makes it hard to determine a train's distance from you, or its speed. Trains are usually a lot closer than they seem—and travel a lot faster.
- A train hitting a car is like a car running over a pop can. The average freight train weighs more than 5.5 million kg. In comparison, a car weighs around 1,375 kg.



Sprague RCMP

As September arrives, residents of the RM of Piney will notice some familiar changes. School buses are back on the roads, daylight hours are getting shorter, and harvest activity means more farm equipment travelling on local highways and rural roads.

Drivers are reminded to slow down and give themselves extra time, especially during the morning and late afternoon. Watch for children near school bus stops and remember that vehicles must stop when a school bus has its red lights flashing. When approaching tractors or other slow-moving equipment, be patient and only pass when it is safe and legal to do so. A little extra patience and attention behind the wheel goes a long way.

September also brings increased wildlife activity. Deer can appear suddenly, particularly around dawn and dusk. Reducing your speed and staying alert can make a significant difference when travelling through wooded and rural areas.

Hunting season is also upon us. Hunters should let someone know where they are going, carry a charged cellphone when possible, and be mindful of private property. Hunters should also take the time to properly identify their surroundings and follow all applicable firearm and hunting regulations.

The Sprague RCMP encourages everyone to help keep our roads safe as we transition into fall.

For all non-emergency matters, please contact the Sprague RCMP Detachment at (204) 437-2041. Until further notice, we will not be completing Criminal Record Checks. Please contact the Steinbach RCMP or your closest RCMP detachment to have them completed. Should you require immediate Police assistance you can call (204) 437-2222 or 911 in the case of an emergency.

Cpl. Kevin Reimer
Sprague RCMP

Board of Revision

October 13th, 2026

If you have concerns about your 2025/2026 additions or reductions, or your 2027 property assessment, you may request to appear before the Board of Revision on Tuesday, October 13, 2026. **To do so, please submit your written request by letter or email to the RM office no later than 4:30 PM on October 2nd, 2026.**

Enter Our Simply Better Website Contest

The RM of Piney website was recently updated to start reflecting our Simply Better messaging, but what exactly does that mean? Simply Better isn't about saying Piney is better than somewhere else. It's about celebrating the qualities that make our municipality the right fit for people who value space, nature, community and opportunity. The website brings the Simply Better idea to life through four themes: Live, Experience, Build and Grow.

Live Simply Better is about the quality of life found in our rural communities. Whether you live here year-round or seasonally, Piney offers room to breathe, welcoming neighbours and the peace and quiet of rural living. It also reflects the municipal services and infrastructure that help make our communities safe, sustainable places to call home.

Experience Simply Better invites residents and visitors to discover Piney's Sunrise Corner. From the forests and recreational trails of Sandilands Provincial Forest to wildlife viewing, geocaching, local history and community events, there are plenty of reasons to explore. Our updated tourism content celebrates authentic rural experiences and the natural surroundings that make this corner of Manitoba special.

Build Simply Better focuses on opportunity. Piney is a cost-effective, business-friendly municipality where entrepreneurs, existing businesses and investors can find room to turn ideas into action. Our website highlights six priority sectors, our local business directory and the support available through Sunrise Corner Economic Development.

Grow Simply Better looks toward the future. It reflects our commitment to responsible governance, environmental stewardship, strong communities and thoughtful development. Growth in Piney should create opportunities for today while protecting the qualities we want future generations to enjoy.

Now we'd like you to see the changes for yourself!

Visit the RM of Piney website at www.rmofpiney.mb.ca, explore the updated pages and then complete our Simply Better Website Contest survey. Everyone who correctly answers the five questions will be entered for a chance to win one of three \$50 Clearview Co-op gift cards.

Contest deadline: September 30th, 2026.

<https://4eyes.io/s/3S8dY/>



Explore the website. Discover something new about your municipality. And see what it means to Live, Experience, Build and Grow Simply Better in the RM of Piney.

Monique Chenier,
Economic Development Officer
monique@rmofpiney.mb.ca



Ready for a healthy adventure?

Funded by the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program, our wildly popular Culinary Adventures (cooking & health sessions) throughout the RM of Piney are back! Come cook, learn wellness tips and catch up with old friends or meet new community members. Watch the RM newsletter for dates and sign up fast to secure your spot!

Health info sessions:

Oct 27th 2pm Woodridge
Nutrition as we Age

TBD South Junction
Nutrition as We Age
Nutrition Trends
Fibre in the Diet

TBD Vassar -Diabetes
TBD - Men's Health

Hand-on cooking classes \$5/class:

Sept 14th 5pm Piney - Italian

October 20th 5pm Woodridge
Wild Meat Recipes

November 17th 5pm Woodridge
Mediterranean Diet

TBD Sprague
TBD South Junction - High Tea
**more dates available for communities*

Transportation through BPP Rent & Ride may be available for anyone who may have difficulty getting to the event. Reach out when you register to arrange a ride for you to join us.

Register at least a week in advance by emailing connie@rmofpiney.mb.ca or call ph 204 905 3740.

Rural Municipality of Piney

Funded by the
Government of Canada's
New Horizons for Seniors Program

Canada



You're Invited!



Thursday, September 10, 2026



6:00 PM – 9:00 PM



RM of Piney Municipal Office
6092 Boundary Street, Vassar, MB



Members, past members, guests and spouses welcome to attend



RSVP by September 1, 2026
hello@pineyregionalchamber.ca or call 204-392-3849

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Complimentary BBQ • Door Prizes •
- Networking with business and community leaders • Reflection on a decade of success •



www.pineyregionalchamber.ca



Access Government Services
September 1st & October 6th from 9:30am-3:30pm
 East Borderland Primary Health Care Centre, Sprague

Woodridge Community Club Fall Supper
Saturday, September 12th from 4:00-6:00pm
 Woodridge Community Centre, 69 Denis Street
 To purchase tickets, call 204-429-2344

Southeast Farmer's Market
Saturday, September 26th from 10am – 2pm
 Pine Grove Seniors Center in South Junction

Middlebro Outdoorsman's Dinner & Auction
Saturday, October 17th - Buffet at 6pm
 Middlebro Community Club

"Meet Your Neighbours" – Coffee Groups
Mondays at 1pm – Pine Grove Seniors in S.J.
Thursdays at 1pm – Evergreen Seniors in Sprague

Exercises at Vassar Hall
Monday-Friday 9-9:30am Weights/6:30-7pm Cardio
 Cost is \$20.00 from September-June or \$2.00/visit
 Vassar Community Recreation Centre

REMINDER:

Does your community organization have an event you want advertised in our newsletter? Don't forget to get your posters to the RM office in JPEG format by the 21st of the month prior to the month of the event.



STARTING SEPTEMBER 3RD



PINEY ANNUAL FALL ATV DERBY

Saturday, September 26th, 2026
Registration from 10 am – 3 pm
Piney Community Hall

Prize Money is 20% - 15% - 10% - 5% OF TOTAL HANDS
 (less insurance fees)
All hands - \$5.00 each
Quick Pick available at Piney Hall until 6 pm



**50/50
Draw**

**Rainbow
Auction**

FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE AT PINEY HALL
Food Available on the Trail

For information call:
 Madison 204-902-0183 * Terry 204-795-8591 * Nancy 204-408-0874

RM OF PINEY Forest Tours with Bob

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2026 from 9:30am – 3:30pm

FORESTS & PEATLAND: FPM & ST. LABRE SAWMILL TOURS

This tour will show participants how peat land was formed over thousands of years, alongside the boreal forest. We will see how forest products are processed at FPM in Vassar. From there, we will proceed to St. Labre to visit the local sawmill for an in-depth tour.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7TH, 2026 from 9:30am – 4:30pm

WEST FRASER MILL TOUR IN BARWICK, ONTARIO

Participants will get a behind the scenes look on how our local poplar trees are processed into sheets of particle board known as "OSB". A significant amount of poplar harvested in our RM is eventually processed at the West Fraser mill in Barwick for distribution across North America. Only participants with steel-toed footwear and a valid passport will be able to attend this tour.

Participants are to meet at the RM office in Vassar. Transportation will be provided from the RM office to and from each touring site. For Ages 12 & up;

To reserve your spot, email: carrie@rmofpiney.mb.ca



Supporting local entrepreneurs and businesses across southeastern Manitoba.

Community Futures Triple R is here to help local businesses start, grow, and succeed. We provide **business advisory services, financing, and support** to entrepreneurs and small businesses throughout our 16-RM service area, including the RM of Piney.

Whether you're starting a new business, looking to expand, purchasing equipment, or need guidance with your business plan or financing options, our team is here to help.

Our services include:

- Business planning and one-on-one business advisory support
- Business loans and financing for start-ups, expansions, equipment, and more
- Guidance for entrepreneurs at all stages of their business journey
- Referrals to additional programs, resources, and community supports

Thinking about starting or growing your business?

We're here to help. Call us today to learn more about our business advisory services and lending programs at 204-746-6180.



Arborgate School

Meet the Teacher Night: September 8
Start Date: September 10

Ross L. Gray School

Kick Start Day: September 9 from 9am-3pm
Start Date: September 10
(K-12 school day)

Ste. Anne Collegiate

Grade 9 Start Date: September 10
Grades 10-12 Start Date: September 11