

## Wet Weather Causes Poor Road Conditions

*(adapted with acknowledgement to article published by Sturgeon County)*

As our residents already know, the last part of 2016 and most of 2017 have been very wet. This has created havoc for farmers trying to harvest and seed, but also for residents driving on gravel roads. Many of our roads are very soft and have formed ruts and are generally in terrible shape.

### **The Past**

Many of our roads were built decades ago when construction standards are not what they are today. Our pioneers built the roads extremely well with the material available nearby, meaning many of our road bases are constructed of black dirt or other soils instead of hard compacted clay. This was understandable for the time, but our traffic demands have changed significantly since the original construction of these roads. Our trucks and equipment are bigger and heavier, and the daily traffic amounts are higher.

### **The Present**

As soon as our roads are dry enough, all graders in our fleet will try to reestablish crown and our gravel program will begin again. Before we add gravel, the roads should be left to dry out somewhat otherwise the gravel simply gets pounded into the road base and the fine materials rise to the surface.

Road projects approved for this year follow:

- Range Road 203, between Township Road 504 and Township Road 510. This will be converted from road oil to a road base of soil cement (Terracem) covered with chip seal top.
- Township Road 492 between Secondary Highway 834 and Range Road 184 – Terracem with chip seal top.
- Township Road 480 between Highway 36 and Range Road 130 – Terracem with chip seal top.
- Township Road 514 between Secondary Highway 630 and Range Road 193 – Chip Seal surfacing.
- Re-Oiling of 6 miles of oiled roads.
- Shoulder pull (minor road rehabilitation) of the following roads:
  - o Range Road 202, between Secondary Highway 630 and Township Road 514
  - o Range Road 183, between Township Road 530 and Township Road 524
  - o Range Road 192, between Township Road 530 and Township Road 524

- o Range Road 191, between Township Road 520 and Township Road 521
- o Township Road 500, between Range Road 200 and Range Road 194
- o Township Road 500, between Secondary Highway 834 and Range Road 184
- o Township Road 490, between Secondary Highway 834 and Range Road 184
- o Range Road 170, between Township Road 492 and Highway 14
- o Range Road 173, between Township Road 494 and Township Road 494.5
- o Range Road 170, between Township Road 480 and Township Road 482
- o Township Road 480, between Secondary Highway 857 and Range Road 150.5
- o Township Road 494, between Secondary Highway 855 and Range Road 160
- o Township Road 500, between Range Road 155 and Range Road 160
- o Range Road 161, between Township Road 493 and Township Road 494
- o Range Road 124 (Sedgwick Road) between Range Road 460 and Highway 26

### **The Future**

Fixing and upgrading our roads will take years and much resources, but it is the priority service delivered by the County. County Council has adopted criteria to help prioritize our road repairs and projects moving forward. Later this year, Council will be applying the criteria to our road network plan to develop a 5-year road and capital plan.

We will continue to rebuild and reshape road tops as conditions permit to improve road conditions. While the roads seem to be in their worst shape ever, with some dry weather we will be able to bring the roads back into good shape.

We understand the frustration our residents are experiencing as this also causes us stress. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Council and Staff of Beaver County