

Best Practice

Inter and Intra Municipal Economic Development

CONTACT

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THE PRACTICE

The RM of Britannia faces a challenge of coordinating the growth of the oil and gas industry and private citizens to build and maintain sustainable infrastructure while being attentive to the quality of life and environmental issues of the residents of the municipality and the area at a reasonable cost. This growth has forced the RM of Britannia council to pass a zoning bylaw and basic planning statement to regulate growth and development in the municipality. These regulations have been key to the orderly development of the agricultural resource, country residential, resort residential, industrial, commercial and hamlet zoning districts.

THE PROCESS

With the recent growth and development in the RM, landowners want to supply the demand for residential property by subdividing their land. These subdivisions place a heightened demand on water and sewage systems, emergency services, and recreational facilities.

To support the demand for new infrastructure, the RM has invested in the development of subsurface road strengthening using cement materials. This process prolongs the life expectancy of the RM roads. The RM also partners with the heavy oil industry to construct and maintain roads throughout the municipality, offsetting some of the costs associated from heavy machinery.

Council has also upgraded the water and sewer systems in the hamlets of Hillmond and Greenstreet to meet the current needs of increased populations. Further improvements to surrounding water systems in the municipalities are set to take place as the demand increases.

THE RESULTS

In the past two years, all the residential properties in Greenstreet were sold and the number of households has doubled. A new partnership with the RM of Wilton has been formed with the agreement to share fire protection services that address the growing need in both municipalities.

LESSONS LEARNED

The RM of Britannia has learned that participating in area development with neighbouring municipalities is critical to the long term growth and development of communities, municipalities and the province. Our RM would not likely have pursued all of our infrastructure projects without the cooperation of surrounding municipalities and the commitment from the oil and gas sector. We have improved our infrastructure without increasing costs to ratepayers by seeking effective solutions to many challenges faced by the municipality today.