Structural Outline
SSHRC MCRI Project
Community Characterization Project
Researcher: Merle Massie

Community: Taber, Alberta

I. Description

Taber's advantageous location also means it is only a short drive to many scenic amenities - the Rocky Mountains are located to the west, the Cypress Hills to the south-east, and Montana and Glacier International Park to the south. Taber is located only 60 miles (98 Km) north of the United States Border and is situated 32 miles (50 Km) east of Lethbridge, 169 miles (272 Km) south-east of Calgary and 244 miles (392 Km) south-east of Banff National Park. The Town lies approximately 2 miles south of the Oldman River which flows into the South Saskatchewan River and, eventually, north into the Hudson Bay.

The Town of Taber is a clean, friendly town of 7,671 people. First established in 1899 by homesteaders, the Taber area had its beginnings with coal mining. Coal was mined in Taber and shipped to Medicine Hat, first on the Oldman River steamers and, later by narrow gauge railway. Mining declined dramatically in the late 1920's, however, the extensive development of irrigation in Southern Alberta led to a major recovery in the early 1930's. The production of sugar beets re-established the town as an agricultural service centre. Roger's Sugar Ltd. (formerly, the Alberta Sugar Company) operates the only sugar factory in Alberta and it is the largest employer in Taber. The sugar factory is a landmark which can be seen clearly from Highways #3 and #36.

Known as the "Market Garden of Alberta", Taber is the centre of the most varied crop production in the province and perhaps anywhere else in Canada. In particular, the quality of its corn crop is world famous.

There are many stories of how the town received the name ‘Taber’, but the one usually accepted is that it was named for Mt. Tabor in Palestine. However, the story is told that in 1903, with the arrival of the first Mormon settlers from the U.S.A. They established a hamlet at what was known then as Tank No. 77 on the Medicine Hat-Lethbridge Railway.

Later, with the establishment of a post office, it was decided by the CPR to name the station Tabor. The station's stationary and various forms came through printed Taber. When the settlement was incorporated in 1907, the name was changed to Taber, making the name of the town and the post office uniform with the records of the C.P.R.

II. Demographics

a. Total population
b. Gender breakdown

c. Age breakdown

Characteristics	Taber		
	Total	Male	Female
Age Characteristics of the Population			
Total - All persons [(3)]	7,670	3,825	3,850
Age 0-4	620	315	305
Age 5-14	1,225	640	585
Age 15-19	610	305	305
Age 20-24	565	310	255
Age 25-44	2,140	1,090	1,050
Age 45-54	895	455	435
Age 55-64	555	265	290
Age 65-74	475	235	235
Age 75-84	425	145	280
Age 85 and over	155	45	110
Median age of the population	33.6	31.7	35.1
% of the population ages 15 and over	75.9	74.9	77.0

Source: Statistics Canada Community Profiles 2001

d. Rural/urban breakdown

Characteristics	Taber ⚠		
	Total	Male	Female
Age Characteristics of the Population			
Total – All persons [(3)]	6,015	3,155	2,855
Age 0-4	575	300	275
Age 5-14	1,295	665	625
Age 15-19	570	315	255
Age 20-24	345	175	165
Age 25-44	1,625	835	785
Age 45-54	720	390	330
Age 55-64	465	240	220
Age 65-74	260	155	100
Age 75-84	145	75	70
Age 85 and over	25	5	10
Median age of the population	28.3	28.4	28.3
% of the population ages 15 and over	69.0	69.5	68.4

III. Environment

A. Water

a. Water source/Hydrography

The source of water is the St. Mary's River Irrigation District/Taber Irrigation District. The reservoir capacity, measured in treated substance, is 9,946 cubic metres.

b. Water quality/water treatment

Taber water is sand filtered, pre-treated and coagulated, but not fluoridated. Water disinfection is with chlorine.

Historical issues: between 1992 and 1994, Taber suffered excessive water demand, and had to struggle to provide water to all users. Also in that time, Taber suffered water quality issues relating to high algae and organic matter in the system.

c. Water usage

i. instream/non-consumptive (recreation, wildlife, transport, waste disposal, fisheries, hydroelectric power)

Water recreation can be found at Taber Park on the Oldman River just north of town, or at the Chin Lakes straight south of Taber.

Hydroelectric Power

IRRICAN POWER GENERAL OVERVIEW

Irrigation development is woven inextricably into the history of southern Alberta and is a major influence in the social and economic fabric of the province. The St. Mary River Project is an extensive irrigation development that collects, stores, and conveys water for approximately 500,000 acres of irrigated agriculture.

In October 1988, the provincial government introduced the Small Power Research an Development Program. The program assured a guaranteed price and market for power thus made small power projects in Alberta viable.

In order to benefit from this program the Irrigation Canal Power Cooperative Ltd. (Irrican Power) was formed to develop hydropower projects on the existing water conveyance infrastructure in southern Alberta. Irrican is a cooperative subject to the laws of Alberta. Its members are: Raymond Irrigation District, St. Mary Irrigation District, and Taber Irrigation District. The common thread between these three irrigation districts is that they all draw water from the St. Mary Main Canal. It is on this canal that the greatest potential for hydropower development exists.

The Chin Chute Hydroelectric Project is an 11-MW facility that is being developed under the Small Power Research and Development Program by Irrigation Canal Power Cooperative Ltd. (IRRICAN) Power). IRRICAN Power is a partnership of the Raymond

Irrigation District, St. Mary River Irrigation District (SMRID) and Taber Irrigation District.

Water, which is currently conveyed in the SMRID main canal down Chin Chute and into the Chin Reservoir, is diverted through a penstock and powerhouse and then out to Chin Reservoir.

While the project has an allocated capacity of 11 MW, the turbine will produce up to 13 MW (17,000 hp). The energy produced would be enough to serve 6,400 homes.

Notice to proceed with the detailed design of the project was given by IRRICAN Power in February 1992. The full operation date of the project was May 17, 1994.

The main elements of the project are:

- An intake channel
- A cast-in-place concrete intake structure.
- A 3.5 m (11.5 ft) diameter buried steel penstock 13 mm (0.5 inch) wall thickness, bedded on and surrounded by washed pea gravel.
- A cast-in-place reinforced concrete powerhouse housing the turbine-generator and associated electrical and mechanical equipment.
- A cast-in-place reinforced concrete tailrace structure to control tailwater elevations during low water levels in Chin Reservoir.

Waste Disposal

Southern Alberta communities release their treated wastewater into the South Saskatchewan River Basin system.

ii. offstream/consumptive (municipal use, thermal power, industrial use, mining, agriculture)

Municipal

Taber uses 13638 cubic meters of water per year. Of that, 5455 cubic meters is domestic, 1364 is commercial and institutional use, 4091 cubic meters is industrial, and 2728 cubic meters is listed as “other.” (Source: Environment Canada Water website, data on communities over 1000 people). Of the communities in this preliminary survey, Taber uses by far the most industrial treated water. This is a direct reflection on the amount of commercial and industrial value-added food processing within the town of Taber.

Irrigation

The Taber Irrigation District, located east of Lethbridge between the Oldman River and the A.R. & I. Co. (a CPR subsidiary) main canal, was the first district established under the *Alberta Irrigation Districts Act* of 1915. More than 97 per cent of the landowners in the area voted to establish and operate a district to supply themselves with water.

The district entered into an agreement in 1919, with the A.R. & I. Co. for the annual delivery of 41,938 cubic decametres of water to irrigate 6,880 hectares. This water was to be delivered through works originally constructed by the A.R. & 1. Co. The new 37-kilometre canal from Chin Coulee to Taber cost $272,000 and was completed in 1920. In operation it was found there was a surplus of water available, and in 1929, a further 3,966 hectares were added to the project. The cost of the land and extended works was $33,000. Following the enlargement of the St. Mary River Development canal system, a further 4,047 hectares of irrigable land were added to the district in 1952.

Water is supplied to the district from turn-outs on the St. Mary main canal. The district has 112.6 kilometres of canals with capacities greater than 1.5 cubic metres per second, and has two internal storage reservoirs, with a combined capacity of 11,623 cubic decametres. By 1979, development of lands within the district had increased the irrigated area to 25,300 hectares.

Bow River Project

Early History

The present-day Bow River Irrigation District, formerly the Bow River Irrigation Project, is located on the south side of the Bow River between the towns of Taber and Brooks, Alberta. The Bow River Irrigation Project was started in 1909 by an English firm, the Southern Alberta Land Company. Several other companies operating in the area at the time acquired land and provided irrigation works. But financial difficulties and World War I prevented water being made available. In 1917, the companies merged to form the Canada Land and Irrigation Company.

Although no irrigation water had been delivered prior to amalgamation, much work had been done. Between 1910 and 1912, about 11 million cubic yards of material, representing some 260 miles of main and branch canals, had been excavated by horse-drawn scrapers. Dams, intakes, outlets, flumes, drop structures, headgates, canal bridges and other structures had also been built.

Water was first delivered in 1920. That year, 9,400 irrigable acres were serviced, followed by 9,800 acres in 1921 when the value of all crops produced averaged $24.77 per acre. Four years later, 13,830 acres were under the ditch, and revenue reached $42.29 per acre. By 1928, the irrigable acreage almost doubled, with 131 farmers operating. Early in this development the Village of Vauxhall sprung up.

"Mile-Long Flume", part of the Bow River Project

The drought of the 1930s made it impossible for dryland farmers to grow crops. Irrigation farmers, while able to produce crops, were affected by the depression. Grain prices fell

and irrigation farmers, burdened with irrigation costs, could not meet their commitments. As a result, the company lost money year after year.

Irrigation along the Bow river began in 1905, but owners of the project suffered continual financial difficulties, and by 1950, only about 20,000 hectares of land had been irrigated. The federal government saw a good opportunity for expanding irrigation in this area in order to resettle farmers there in the 1930s. In 1950, the Bow River project was acquired by Canada for $2.3 million, and PFRA was given responsibility to renovate and further develop it.

Bow River Irrigation Project

The Bow River Project is one of the major irrigation schemes in Western Canada, providing water for some 120,000 irrigable acres in an area where about 240,000 acres may eventually be brought under irrigation.

Typical irrigation pattern as seen from the air on the Bow River Project

The project, situated west of Medicine Hat, was originally privately owned, but since 1950 has been operated by the Government of Canada. It is one of several projects operated under the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, with much of the land used to resettle farmers from drier areas of the three prairie provinces. Many veterans have also been re-established on the project.

Western and Central Blocks

The Bow River Project is situated in the driest and warmest section of Alberta. The main canal stretches from Carseland, about 30 miles east of Calgary, to Ronalane. The project is divided into two blocks -- western and central -- that lie between the Bow and Oldman Rivers, which form its north and south boundaries.

Water is supplied by means of the Carseland Dam and diversion works on the Bow River, and about 95 miles of main canal, and hundreds of miles of branch canals and laterals, ending again at the Bow River just south of Ronalane.

Of the 120,000 acres being irrigated, 25,000 was in the west block which was operated by the Province of Alberta, and 90,000 acres in the central block was operated by PFRA for the Federal Government. The central block was divided into two sections, including 63,000 acres in the Vauxhall district, and 27,000 acres in the Hays region. The latter has been used to resettle farmers from poor crop areas of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

At the far northwest corner of the project, an area containing 5,000 irrigable acres on the Blackfoot Indian Reserve is supplied with water, and was operated by first nations people.


East Arrowwood syphon

Agreement

Following World War 2, plans went forward for Canada to purchase the holdings of the Canada Land and Irrigation Company, and thereby further PFRA's resettlement program that had already proved highly successful on the Rolling Hills Project in Alberta, and on several smaller projects in Saskatchewan.

In 1950, the federal government purchased the company's assets in the project for over $2,300,000. These assets included over 138,000 acres of land, structures, and equipment. Canada assumed responsibility for all main reservoirs, works and connecting canals servicing the three districts. This purchase included the western block which is operated by Alberta, with all engineering services supplied by PFRA.

Construction


The Travers Dam and reservoir one of the main water storage projects for the Bow River

Through PFRA, the Government of Canada embarked on a program to renovate canals and structures, including the diversion weir and headgates near Carseland. Dams at the north and south ends of Lake McGregor were each raised 14 feet, and the Little Bow Dam was repaired. A major structure, the Travers Dam, was added to create a large reservoir south of Lake McGregor. This dam is 140 feet high and 3,000 feet long. It holds 265,000 acre feet of water, 100,000 of which are available for irrigation. Scope reservoir, or Reservoir No. 1 south of Hays was also created by constructing a dam, thus providing four main storage reservoirs. Huge syphons were built to transport water through several depressions. These syphons improved facilities in the older established irrigation districts, and have resulted in new lands being opened for settlement.

Before Canada took over the project, the Lake McGregor and Little Bow reservoirs had a total storage capacity of 200,000 acre feet. Improvements and new construction increased the usable capacity to 346,000 acre feet. For irrigation, Lake McGregor provided 150,000 acre feet of water, Travers 100,000, Scope 14,000 and Little Bow 12,000 . These

reservoirs, combined with several smaller ones, provided sufficient water for full development of the project.

Resettlement

The federal resettlement policy was designed to make the shift from one area to another, and from one type of farming to another, as easy as possible for the farmer and his family. Although each application was judged on the basis of need. To be eligible, a farmer had to be active and own at least one quarter section of dry land which he could exchange with PFRA for an irrigated unit. A farmer's son, on reaching age 21, could also qualify by arranging to have a quarter section of dry land transferred to him from his father. To avoid speculation, land could not be purchased for the purpose of exchanging it for an irrigated unit.

Most of the essential features of resettlement carried out on the Rolling Hills Project were used again on this scheme. Allocation was based on need, with special preference being given to farmers adjacent to community pastures whose land could be incorporated and developed as extensions to existing operating pasture units.

Land for irrigation development was allocated to new settlers in exchange for land they left behind in the drought areas, plus a nominal charge of $2 per acre to cover the cost of initial breaking and land leveling. Water rights were sold to farmers for $8 per acre, making the basic price for irrigable land $10 per acre - a sufficiently low cash outlay to be within the means of new settlers moved to the project.

To help farmers in their transition from dryland to irrigation farming, various services were offered. These services included assistance in farm layouts design, advice on irrigation techniques and practices, planting tree shelterbelts, and developing suitable facilities for water supply. Seed to develop irrigated pastures or for grass-seed production, as well as for grain crops, was provided at cost and could be paid either in cash or on a crop-share basis in the fall.

Resettlement of the Bow River Project went smoothly with applications consistently exceeding the number of available land parcels. At present, all parcels are under irrigation and good production standards maintained. Originally, each farmer was allotted an irrigable acreage ranging from 110 to 140 acres. In recent years, many farmers have increased the size of their holdings. As settlers leave the district, their lands have been obtained by other farmers in the area. Settlers left on account of ill health, better business opportunities elsewhere, and other reasons.

There were 435 families on the project. Of these, 132 have come from the drier areas of southern Saskatchewan and Alberta, and a few from Manitoba. In moving these families to the Bow River Project, PFRA arranged for the

Carseland Weir is the main diversion structure delivering water to the Bow River Project

transportation of settlers' effects, the shipment of livestock, and provided them with temporary accommodation, upon arrival, until houses could be erected on the project. Seed grain was made available, land leveling and other allied services were provided at cost, and classes were conducted to help the farmer adjust from dryland to irrigation farming.

The movement of settlers to the project has produced other benefits. The land which they exchanged for irrigable acreages was taken over by PFRA, re-grassed and otherwise improved, and turned into pasture that has been made available to farmers remaining in the dry districts. The additional pasture has enabled many of them to enlarge their herds and place their farming operations on a better economic basis.

Work carried out by PFRA on the Bow River project has allowed the irrigated area to more than double since 1950, exceeding 70,000 ha in recent years. Specialty crop production has been encouraged by the presence of food-processing plants in such centers as Vauxhall and Taber. Like the St. Mary Irrigation project, the Bow River project was transferred to the province in 1973 under the Canada-Alberta Irrigation Rehabilitation Agreement and the farmers in the area were organized into an irrigation district.

Facts about the Bow River Project

- In 1954, the $3 million Travers Dam was built on the Little Bow River, greatly increasing water storage of the project. The total cost of these and other developments was just under $25 million.
- Four hundred and thirty-six families were relocated to the project by PFRA on 11,000 hectares of land near Hays, Alberta. These settlers were given advice on irrigation practices and techniques, farm layout, shelterbelt planting and the building of on-farm water supplies to ensure successful resettlement.
- The 1968 addition of land expanded the district from a system that irrigated 108,000 acres to one that now irrigates 210,000 acres.
- Bow River Irrigation District services approximately 670 water users (irrigators), 71 domestic users (dryland farmers), two water co-ops, six oil company groundwater projects, numerous intensive livestock operations, and all recreation parks and golf courses in the area.
- The region supports such endangered species as the Burrowing Owl, the Great Plains Toad, and the Piping Plover.

Industrial Water Use

Taber has a high concentration of industries that require treated water. Over half of the 13638 cubic meters of treated water used in Taber is drawn by non-domestic (either commercial or industrial) users.

B. Climate

Geologically Taber is located at the junction of two types of bedrock; to the west Bearpaw formations and, to the east, the Belly River formation. Taber lies in the brown, rich sandy loam soil zone, with short prairie grass. The Oldman River Valley offers a surprising and spectacular view from the flat plains with a Coulee System which is located only 2 miles north of the Town. Annual Precipitation is 38 cm (15.01 inches). Frost-free days: 131. Hours of Sunshine: 2,244.

IV. Economic Base

The major economic base of Taber is food processing, oil and gas well servicing and agricultural services. The Town also boasts a strong retail sector as it acts as a service centre for the surrounding rural areas.

Taber is the centre of the most varied crop production in the province due to rich soil, abundant heat and highly technical irrigation systems. It lies within the center of a rich irrigated diversified farmland belt, high in heat units and frost free days, with transportation links to major markets.

Evidence of economic growth can be found in Taber's value added processing industries. Taber and district is home to a number of companies such as:

Major Businesses Products/Services

Lucerne Foods Inc. - Processed Foods and Canning
Hostess Frito-Lay Products Ltd. - Potato Chips
New-Way Irrigation Ltd. - Sprinkler Irrigation Equipment -
Taber Feed Service Ltd. - Feeds, Poultry Feeds
Roger's Sugar Ltd. - Granulated Sugar, Icing Sugar, Molasses -
Sunland Foods - Produce
Alberta Pool Bean Business Unit - Bean Contracting & Production
Select Turkey Ltd. - Poultry Processing
Lamb Weston - Potato Processing
Gouw Quality Onions Ltd. - Vegetable Production
Chin Ridge Seed Producers - Seed Sales - Full Line Retail
Greenley Trading (Canadian Bean Division)- Contract Bean Broker

Type of Business -- Taber	Total
Accomodations	6
Accountants/Tax Services	6
Agricultural Supplies and Dealership	11
Appliances and Furniture and Upholstery	1
Arts and Crafts	2
Automotive sales, service, parts	12
Banks and Financial	6
Health services (chiropractor, massage, therapy, foot clinic, optometry	8
Service trades (janitorial, catering, furnace cleaning, lawn care	6
Building trades (carpentry, plumbing, electrician, handyman	5

Construction, Renovation, and Building Supplies	17
Gas and Convenience	5
Computers and Electronics	3
Groceries	2
Beauty Salons, Spas, and Cosmetics	3
Drugstores	2
Insurance and Travel Services	3
Real Estate and Auctioneers	5
Clothing (retail)	4
Clothing (service: laundromats, dry cleaners, sewing)	2
Media (newspapers, television, radio)	1
Photography and Design	2
Restaurants and Bars	21
Theatre and Movies	1
Trucking	8
Retail Services (Hardware, general)	5
Pawn Shops and Second Hand Stores	1
Lawyers	3
Funeral Homes	2

Labour and Industry Indicators, Statistics Canada Community Profiles, 2001

Characteristics	Taber		
	Total	Male	Female
Unpaid Work			
Persons reporting hours of unpaid work [(34)]	5,255	2,525	2,735
Persons reporting hours of unpaid housework [(35)]	5,155	2,475	2,680
Persons reporting hours looking after children, without pay [(36)]	2,535	1,125	1,410
Persons reporting hours of unpaid care or assistance to seniors [(37)]	1,130	460	675
Labour Force Indicators			
Participation rate [(38)]	66.9	78.9	55.0
Employment rate [(39)]	64.6	76.0	53.4
Unemployment rate [(40)]	3.4	3.6	2.9
Industry [(42)]			
Total - Experienced labour force [(41)]	3,775	2,215	1,560
Agriculture and other resource-based industries	640	545	95
Manufacturing and construction industries	725	560	175
Wholesale and retail trade	605	345	255
Finance and real estate	165	50	115
Health and education	495	70	420
Business services	535	385	150

Other services	610	255	355
Occupation [(43)]			
Total - Experienced labour force [(41)]	3,780	2,215	1,565
Management occupations	265	190	70
Business, finance and administration occupations	515	90	425
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	125	105	25
Health occupations	170	15	160
Social science, education, government service and religion	185	70	115
Art, culture, recreation and sport	40	10	25
Sales and service occupations	900	325	570
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	750	710	45
Occupations unique to primary industry	490	455	35
Occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	340	255	90

V. Civil Society

A. Religion

Canadian Reformed Church
Christian Reformed Church
Evangelical Free Church
Jehovah's Witnesses
Lutheran Church
Catholic Church
New Life Church
United Church of Taber
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Buddhist Federation of Alberta

B. Arts, culture and historical societies

Taber is host to: the Irrigation Impact Museum; the Arts and Crafts Centre; Taber Public Library; Drama Club/Performing Arts Club; Choral singers; Bell Ringers; various ethnic cultural organizations; bands, Toastmasters, and the annual Taber Cornfest.

C. Sports and Recreation

Recreation facilities in Taber include an 18-hole golf course,rifle range, indoor Aquafun Centre, soccer fields, archery range, curling rink, bowling alley, tennis courts, a large and small ice arena, horseshoe pitches, and baseball diamonds, 12 parks, 7 sports

fields and a skateboard park.

D. Service clubs

Chamber of Commerce - Ph: (403)223-2265 Web: www.taberchamber.com
Fish & Game Association
Historical/Museum Society
Exhibition Association
Senior Citizens Organization
Kiwanis/Lady Kiwanis
Rotary
Rodeo Association
Knights of Columbus
Royal Canadian Legion
Moose Lodge
Elks/Royal Purple
Lions/Lionesses
ToastMasters
Beta Sigma Phi
Masonic Lodge
Kinsmen/Kinettes

E. Educational facilities

Taber provides a number of excellent educational services, from early childhood services to adult educational programs. Public, Separate (Catholic) and Christian school systems all operate in Taber. The Public and Separate systems operate schools for all grade levels while Taber Christian School offers classes to the grade 9 level.

Public Schools
Horizon School Division No.67
-Central School (Elementary)
-Dr. Hamman School (Elementary)
-LT Westlake School (Elementary)
-DA Ferguson Junior High School (Junior High School)
-WR Myers School (High School)

Separate Schools
Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 4
-St. Patrick's School (Elementary)
-St. Mary's School (Junior and Senior High School)

Christian Schools
Taber Christian School
(Elementary and Junior High)

Other
Taber Child Care Centre, Community Adult Learning Council, Lethbridge Community College, Taber Campus, and Taber Public Library.

Post Secondary Education

Two post-secondary institutions are located in Lethbridge: the University of Lethbridge and Lethbridge Community College. The University of Lethbridge offers degree programs in Arts and Science, Management, Education, Fine Arts, Music and Nursing. A Master of Education and graduate programs leading to an MA or MSc are also available, as are 12 professional transfer programs in areas such as engineering, medicine and law. A Bachelor of Social Work is offered on campus by the University of Calgary. Lethbridge Community College offers credit and non-credit programs through four divisions: Business and Applied Arts; Community Education; Natural and Social Sciences; and Technology and Trades.

F. Health Services

Taber's health needs are looked after by local clinics and the Taber Municipal Hospital, a modern health-care facility built in the mid-1980's. Taber Municipal Hospital offers state of the art technology and both acute and long-term care facilities. The Health Care Complex has 115 beds (25 acute care beds).

Other Health Services
General Practioners - 8
Dentists - 3
Optometrists - 1
Physiotherapists - 2
Surgeons - 2
Dental/Medical Labs - 1
Chiropractors - 3
Pharmacies - 2
Ambulance Service - 1
Nursing Home - 1
Occupational Therapist - 1
Recreational Therapist - 1
Medical Clinics - 1
Health Units - 1
Senior Citizens Lodges - 3
Podiatrist - 1
Visiting Respiratory Therapist - 1
Family and Community Support Services

The Taber Hospital operates under the jurisdiction of the Chinook Health Region, whose

regional office is located in Lethbridge.

G. Communications (newspaper, television, radio)

The Taber Times is a community newspaper published every Wednesday by the Alberta Newspaper Group. Besides The Taber Times, this group includes four other community newspapers in Southern Alberta, the Coaldale Sunny South News, the Vauxhall Advance, the Bow Island County Commentator and the Lethbridge Sun Times; two daily newspapers, the Lethbridge Herald and the Medicine Hat News and a specialty farm publication, the Prairie Post. With a paid, weekly circulation of 3,322 copies per issue, The Times serves the town of Taber as well as the villages and hamlets within the Municipal District of Taber.

Radio and television are supplied from Lethbridge and Medicine Hat.

H. Government Services

Alberta Agriculture - Phone: (403)223-7907
Alberta Social Services and Community Health - Phone: (403)223-7921
Solicitor General
Attorney General
Alberta Agriculture Development Corporation - Phone: (403)223-7908
Alberta Transportation - Phone: (403)223-7930
Alberta Mental Health - Phone: (403)223-7932
Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance - (403)223-7900

Federal

Canada Post - Phone: (403)223-2721
Agriculture Canada
Royal Canadian Mounted Police - Phone: (403)223-4446

I. Municipal and Regional Contacts

Town of Taber
4900 'A' 50 St
Taber, Alberta
T1G 1T1
P: (403) 223-5500
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E: town@taber.ca

Mr. John E. Maddison
Interim Chief Administrative Officer
cao@taber.ca

Mayor: Ray Bryant
Council: Garth Bekkering, Larry Joblonkay, John Papp, Murray Rochelle, Terry Sargeant, Randy Sparks.

Municipal District Of Taber
4900B 50th Street
Taber, Alberta, Canada
T1G 1T2
Phone: (403) 223-3541
Fax: (403) 223-1799

Reeve: Hank Van Beers. Council: Don Johnson, Greg Sekura, T. Brian Brewin (Deputy Reeve), Ben Elfring, Cecil Wiest, Murray Brown.

Elvira Smid
Regional Manager
Alberta Economic Development
109 Provincial Building
346 - 3 Street S.E.
Medicine Hat, Alberta
T1A 0G7
Tel: 403-529-3630
Fax: 403-529-3140

Provincial MLA

Paul Hinman
Box 52
Welling, Alberta T0K 2N0
Phone: 752-6000
Fax:
Email: paul.hinman@albertaalliance.com
Website: http://www.albertaalliance.com

Cardston-Taber-Warner Constituency
#713 Annex, 9718 - 107 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 1E4

Federal

Monte Solberg
Member of Parliament (MP)
Medicine Hat Constituency
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Tel: 613-992-4516

Constituency Office:
P.O. Box 640
Brooks, Alberta
T1R 1B6
Tel: 403-362-7677

VI. Sources

Town of Taber, www.taber.ca.

In and around Taber: http://www.mysouthernalberta.com/ttimes/about_us/index.php.

MD of Taber: www.mdtaber.ab.ca.

Alberta First website, www.albertafirst.ca.

Government of Canada, Statistics Canada Community Profiles website, www.statscan.ca.

Government of Canada, Environment Canada Freshwater Website, Community water data, www.ec.gc.ca.

Soil Zone information is provided by:
http://www.environment.ualberta.ca/soa/map5.cfm.

Radio information: http://www.mediajobsearchcanada.com/Radio_Alberta.asp.

Television information:
http://www.rcc.ryerson.ca/ccf/CCF_Listings_and_Histories/Television/Alberta/.

Irrigation in Alberta history, Collections Canada: http://collections.ic.gc.ca/soilandwater.

Socio-Economic Database: SSRB Sobool and Kulshreshtha 2003

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