

## MD OF PEACE FULL DITCH MOWING AND BRUSHING PROGRAM 2015-2018

Date: Feb. 8, 2016

Brushing within the road allowance of the M.D. is being done in order to implement the full ditch mowing program and to allow the roads to be properly maintained. The M.D. should be respectful of the wishes of the adjacent landowners and local residents. Following these brushing **Guidelines** will be helpful in achieving these goals.

1. Unless authorized by the landowner, the M.D. **MUST NOT** do any brushing on private property.
2. If the landowner authorizes brushing to be done on private property, the M.D. should not be removing more than 1 blade width (12 feet) of brush. The brushing on private property should only be done if it is the M.D.'s intention to landscape or reshape the backslope of the ditch in those cases where it is currently a straight cut backslope. Large trees may also be removed if it is determined that they are significantly affecting how quickly the road dries. A signed brushing agreement must be obtained before brushing on private property commences.
3. If possible, all fruit bearing trees such as Saskatoons and Chokecherries, growing on the backslope of the ditch or near fence lines, should be left. This is particularly important if the bushes are not in the road ditch.
4. In order to adequately advise landowners of the brushing program, landowners who are adjacent to the road allowance being brushed should be contacted /notified even when brushing is only done within the road allowance.
5. ***In 2016 an area will be specified early in the year where brushing is going to be done and all resources will be directed towards that area.***
6. ***Seeding should be done in the year of brushing or next year early in the season where there is excessive movement of the soil during back sloping. ASB and Public Works staff will work together in ditch preparation for seeding.***
7. ***Subsequent to the year of brushing the areas that were brushed will be sprayed for brush control.***

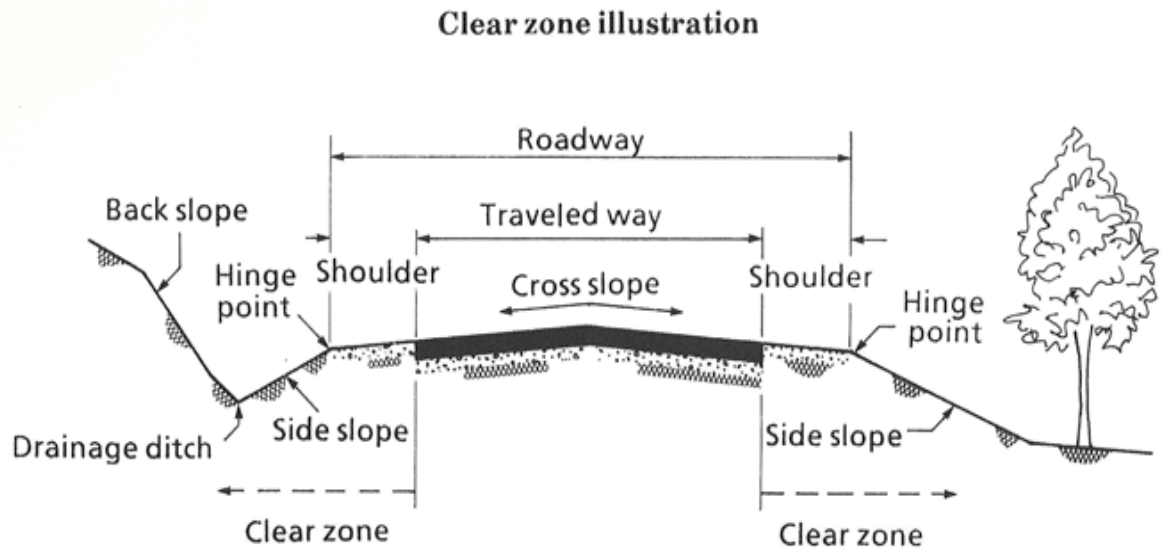
### REASONS OF ROADSIDE BRUSHING PROGRAM

The M.D. would like to inform all residents that the Roadside Brushing Program is being undertaken for the following reasons;

1. To enable the full ditch mowing program to be implemented and ***to Control noxious weeds in accordance with Weed Control Act.***

2. To ensure that snow can be properly winged back from the shoulder of the roads during winter.
3. To prevent excessive drifting of snow.
4. To allow for better drainage /water flow during spring runoff.
5. To allow the road surface to dry more quickly as the snow melts during the spring or following a rainfall.
6. To allow wide farm machinery to safely travel on the municipal roads.
7. **To provide a clear zone to drivers on M.D roads to minimize the number and severity of crashes involving vehicles running off the road (Fig.1)**

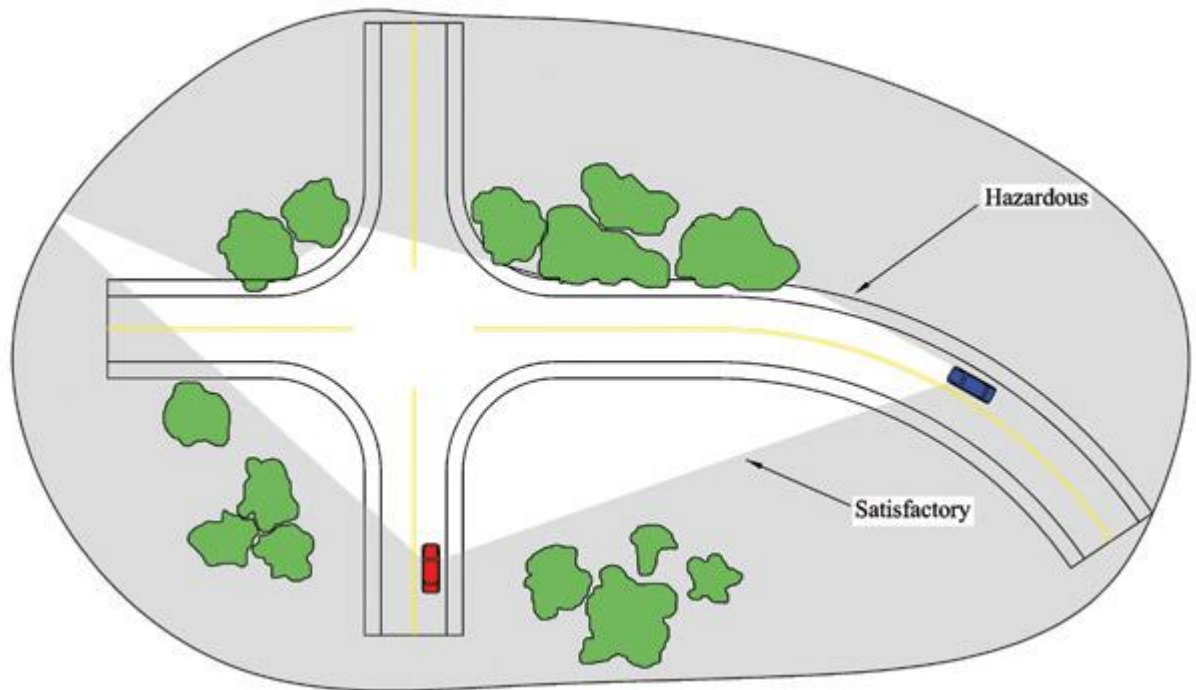
**Fig.1**



**Hinge Point**      Point where the slope rate changes.

**Clear Zone**      A traversable area that starts at the edge of the traffic lane, includes the shoulder, and extends laterally a sufficient distance to allow a driver to stop or return to the road before encountering a hazard or overturning

8. To provide drivers approaching an intersection a clear line of sight to the intersection and along the cross roads early enough to see any conflicting vehicle or pedestrian (Fig.2)



**Fig.2 Satisfactory and hazardous sight lines at an intersection**

### **ROCK PICKING FROM DITCHES IN 2016:**

*This area needs to be given priority. A few actions those can improve our performance include;*

- 1) *Hire both Mower Operators in mid May and use them for rock picking till the mowing season starts.*
- 2) *Hire a one permanent rock picker and also use weed pickers when they are spare. Dump truck and equipment with bucket should be made available for rock picking. Public Works department will spare one person to help as much as possible. Every morning the previous day's progress should be reviewed.*
- 3) *At the end of the mowing season both mower operators along with one permanent rock picker will be working on picking rocks as long as the weather permits into the fall. When mowing starts rock picking operations will be following mowed roads because rocks are more visible immediately after mowing.*

- 4) *Record of all the roads that have been cleared of rocks should be maintained. ASB recommended in Nov. 2, 2015 meeting that removal of stones from road shoulders should be done immediately after they are cleared out of ditches.*

**MOWING:**

- 1) *Training of mower operators will be organized before the start of mowing season in 2016.*
- 2) *Ag Fieldman will be supervising mower operators during rock picking done prior to start of mowing season and after the mowing season ends.*
- 3) *Public Works Foreman will be supervising mower operators during the mowing season and if Ag Fieldman has something to share he will contact the Public Work Foreman.*
- 4) *Both mower operators will always work together to have a clean cut of 25 ft.*
- 5) *Mowing operations will continue mowing operations to have 1<sup>st</sup> clean cut of 25 ft on all MD roads where possible and few busy roads will be given 2<sup>nd</sup> cut before stopping the mowing operations*
- 6) *Mowing operations will be coordinated with the roadside spraying program.*