

THE TORRID TALE OF FANNY FLIP-FLOP/ FANNY FARMER'S TAX HIKE

Fanny Flip-flop's family purchased lakefront property in 2004 in the RM of McKillop on Last Mountain Lake. Until now the worst events have been the big floods of 2011 & 2014 (she initially thought she was experiencing the Bay of Fundy tides; her lawn furniture went floating off but never came back). She enjoyed going to the lake so much her family purchased a lakeview lot as another investment shortly afterward with the intentions of putting a trailer on the lot for her children (*foreboding music in background*).

Fanny's family befriended a local farmer and began volunteering at the farm on weekends. She discovered she couldn't run very fast in flip-flops when herding, or being chased by, cattle so she swapped her flip-flops for insulated rubber boots. Fanny Farmer and her family loved the agricultural experience so much they decided to invest in more property in the RM of McKillop and purchased a quarter section of crop land in 2015.

Fanny Flip-flop/Fanny Farmer's places of 'Zen & Peace' turned into a torrid tale upon receiving her 2018 tax notices from the RM of McKillop. Below shows her tax example and page 2 are reflections on this experience.



FANNY FLIP-FLOP/FANNY FARMER'S RM 220 TAX EXAMPLE 2017-2018

Property Type	Tax Type	2017 Taxes	2018 Taxes	% Increase
Residential Seasonal	Municipal & Base	\$1,284.25	\$3,973.65	209.4%
	School	\$1,233.36	\$1,301.26	5.5%
	Garbage Fee	\$100.00	\$250.00	150%
	Subtotal	\$2,617.61	\$5,524.91	111.1%
Vacant Lot	Municipal	\$420.00	\$204.13	-51.4%
	School	\$82.07	\$85.04	3.6%
	Subtotal	\$502.07	\$289.17	-42.4%
Agricultural	Municipal	\$571.94	\$601.94	5.2%
	School	\$95.31	\$95.32	0.0%
	Subtotal	\$667.26	\$697.26	4.5%
Total Tax Bill		\$3,786.94	\$6,511.34	71.9%

REFLECTIONS ON 2018 TAXES FROM RM OF MCKILLOP:

1. Fanny is frickin' thankful she doesn't have a trailer on her vacant lot—they are prohibited now and were rumoured to be subject to a \$2,500 fine per day if not removed by September 3rd. Take heart, trailer-friends, the maximum fine is only \$12,000.
2. Fanny is confused. Last year she was reassessed on ALL properties by those nice SAMA people in orange vests and clipboards in tow. This year she was only assessed on the cottage and vacant lot. Why did the orange vests miss her AG land? Did the financial gurus from the RM office send the orange vests?
3. Fanny's tax bill in the RM 220 for the cottage is now \$1,032 more than her house in Regina. How can a house twice the size with all the amenities and services have less tax than her smaller cottage, which has virtually no services and a grid road that's turned into a goat path?
4. Fanny did a quick household budget and at this late date will have to come up with \$2,725 before December 31st to pay her taxes (\$680/month). It's going to be a skinny Christmas.
5. Fanny also did another calculation and she'd save more money holding onto her taxes in her savings until December 31st than entrusting them to the financial gurus floating around the RM office whose story about the budget deficit and tax increase keeps changing—but they won't open the vault to let people see for themselves.
6. Fanny called the RM of 219, Longlaketon and discovered that it will cost \$66.82 per resident for waste disposal and recycling this year. Why is our garbage in 220 more difficult and expensive (fee increased from \$100 to \$250) to deal with? Something stinks and it's not garbage.
7. Fanny's going to make sure she goes out to vote in the boundary change referendum, even if it's held on Christmas eve in a snowstorm arranged by the financial gurus. If the boundaries are changed there may be hope for a change in those financial gurus in the RM office and real financial competence in the RM of 220 instead of this closed door, hide and seek financial accounting. Fanny will have to hitchhike to the polling station, though, because she'll have no money for gas.
8. Over a (very large) goblet of dry, red wine, Fanny considers whether it will be more financially prudent to hold onto her \$6,511 tax bill, pay the 1%/month compounded arrears starting in January, wait for the financial gurus to go bankrupt and start fresh with potentially a new Council and Administrator.
9. Fanny feels like a fool. She actually tried to believe financial guru Arndt's campaign sign which read, 'Honesty, integrity and transparency'. If this were the case she wouldn't be looking for coal for her kids' Christmas stockings. She would have been told there was a tax increase coming, long before now instead of being gobsmacked on August 15th with a ridiculously huge tax bill and 'Notes from Council' that appeared prepared by a drunken Keebler elf.
10. Fanny has decided to boycott the 'Come Celebrate' BBQ being hosted by the RM financial gurus on September 1st. The financial gurus don't seem to be going into 'austerity' mode after this financial fiasco. In fact, they don't seem to understand what austerity means, they're having a party. So she has decided to stock-pile the 6 piddly potatoes from her cottage garden for the upcoming financially-tight ride, all thanks to the financial gurus in the RM office who'll be smiling and posing for photo-opts as they give away half of the RM asset (17 acres of lakefront property—what, maybe a million bucks?) Fox Point.



For those just tuning in '*Welcome to the Party Pal!*'
Stay tuned for more**AS THE RM OF MCKILLOP TURNS!**

The Rural Municipality of McKillop No. 220 lies along the east shore of Last Mountain Lake, north of Lumsden. There are 732 permanent residents and approximately 2,000 ratepayers in the RM. The RM 220 RPA is a citizen's group dedicated to ensuring fair taxes, minimizing waste, reducing spending, and holding RM Council accountable.

If you have any questions or can help please contact us at rm220rpa@gmail.com, www.rpa220.ca or visit us on Facebook