



Policy Title: Forage Salvage

<u>Policy Area:</u> Transportation Services	<u>Effective Date:</u> March 17, 2021
<u>Policy Section:</u> Forage Salvage	<u>Updated:</u> July 2, 2026
<u>Supersedes Policy:</u> 150/21 March 17, 2021, #99/20 approved Feb 26, 2020	<u>Approved on:</u> July 2, 2026 <u>Resolution:</u> 485/26 <u>Next Review Date:</u> This Policy will be reviewed every three (3) years or earlier, in the event of major changes to legislation or related policies and procedures, or if deemed necessary by the Chief Administrative Officer and/or Operations Director

Policy Statement:

The Rural Municipality of Britannia No. 502 recognizes the value of hay and grass growing within municipal ditches and on undeveloped road allowances, and where possible, will co-operate with local farmers and ranchers to allow them to salvage hay and grass for their own use.

Purpose:

To provide for proper stewardship of forage materials found within municipal ditches and undeveloped right of ways. Forage materials able to be salvaged, provides farmers and ranchers with a source of material for feeding their livestock. The RM also benefits with less maintenance work required in the form of ditch mowing, within areas where forage salvaging has taken place.

Definitions:

Bale: Means the tightly compressed cuttings of forage secured by cords or the like, and sometimes having a wrapping or covering.

CAO: Means the Chief Administrative Officer of the Rural Municipality of Britannia No. 502.

Council: Means council for the Rural Municipality of Britannia No. 502.

Cut: Means the act of removing forage material using mowing or haying equipment.

Forage: Means hay or grass to be used as food for animals.



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Livestock: Means domesticated animals raised to produce labor and commodities such as meat, eggs, milk, fur and leather.

Municipal Ditch: Means the area of municipal right of way owned or managed by the R.M. of Britannia No. 502, starting from the edge of the travelled road surface to the edge of the adjacent property line (which may or may not have a fence line). The primary purpose of this land is for drainage, snow storage, information signage and for roadside infrastructure (telecommunications and gas utility corridor).

Operations Director: Means the Operations Director or designate of the Rural Municipality of Britannia No. 502.

RM: Means the Rural Municipality of Britannia No. 502

Road Allowance: Means a road allowance as defined within *The Municipalities Act*.

Salvage: Means the act of saving material from damage or destruction

Stewardship: Means the supervising or managing of something

Responsibilities:

The Chief Administrative Officer, in consultation with the Operations Director, is responsible for maintaining and updating this policy

Policy:

1) General

(1) Conditions for the salvage of forage from a ditch or undeveloped road allowance within the RM:

- (a) The adjacent landowner or lessee in the case of rented land, has the first option to salvage forage. Other landowners must contact the adjacent landowner or lessee and make application to the RM (see Policy TS-001 Ditch Mowing) to salvage forage on or before July 15 in each year.
- (b) After July 15 in any year, any person who has made an application to the RM and received municipal permission may salvage forage without the permission of the adjacent landowner or lessee, provided the adjacent landowner has not begun salvage operations.
- (c) All bales must be removed from municipal ditches by August 8. Failure to remove by this date, may necessitate the RM to remove and dispose of bales at their
- (d)



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discretion with no compensation or reimbursement to the person who salvaged the forage. Bales removed shall become the property of the RM.

- (e) If salvage operations are underway after August 8, bales produced must immediately be removed, or be subject to removal by the RM, with no compensation or reimbursement to the person who salvaged the forage.
- (f) Forage must be cut at a uniform height leaving a neat appearance, with the cut being from the shoulder of the road to the edge of the adjacent property line (fence line), unless this is not reasonably possible due to brush or wet soft ground.
- (g) Bales must be placed at least 5 meters from the edge of the shoulder of a developed road. For safety reasons, bales closer to the roadway than 5 meters, may be removed by the RM without notice or compensation to the person salvaging.
- (h) No person shall salvage forage (including cutting, baling and the removal of bales) during the period from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.
- (i) No person shall salvage forage in a manner so as to obstruct the travelled portion of the road allowance.
- (j) All machinery used in salvage operations must be clean and free of weed contamination.
- (k) As per Policy TS-001 Ditch Mowing, the RM may elect, at any time during the year, to mow municipal ditches. Mowing may be for any reason, including for the control of noxious weeds, safety, or for aesthetic purposes, and cuts made may be a single shoulder cut or additional cuts.
- (l) It is the responsibility of the person salvaging to follow safe operating procedures, and they are liable for any damages cause to municipal infrastructure such as culverts, signage, utilities, etc.
- (m) In order to minimize hazards to motorists, the RM may elect to move, remove or destroy bales without notice or compensation to the person who salvaged the forage.
- (n) The RM assumes no liability for labourers, machinery or bales related to the salvaging operation. The RM also assumes no liability in relation to spraying activity done to control noxious weeds by either the RM or the adjacent landowner, which may ultimately end up being salvaged.
- (o) The RM reserves the right and privilege for its employees, contractors and/or agents to enter the municipal ditch or undeveloped road allowance for maintenance and/or reconstruction purposes, or for other purposes as may be deemed necessary, with no compensation to the adjacent landowner or others, due to their expectation for forage salvage.