



County of VERMILION River

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Spring Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

Division 1 and 2 Meeting	March 12, 2008 @ 7:00pm	Paradise Valley Hall
Division 5 Meeting	March 26, 2008 @ 7:00pm	Blackfoot Hall
Hamlet of Islay	April 2, 2008 @ 7:00pm	Islay Hall
Hamlet of Clandonald	April 14, 2008 @ 7:00pm	Clandonald Hall
Division 4,5,6 (NE Portion)	April 16, 2008 @ 7:00pm	Marwayne Alliance Church
Hamlet of McLaughlin/Rivercourse	April 17, 2008 @ 7:00pm	McLaughlin Hall
Annual Budget Meeting	April 15, 2008 @ 7:00pm	County Office
Agricultural Diversification	March 25, 2008 from 1:00–4:00pm	Vermilion Ag Society (Fairgrounds) (1-888-452-5962 to Register)
Hazardous Waste Roundup		May 3, 2008 from 10:00am to 2:00pm at the Lloyd. Exhibition Grounds

Responsible Pet Owners:

As a responsible pet owner, you know that your dog requires care and attention in order to lead a happy and healthy life. And, as a responsible pet owner, you want to ensure that your dog is safe from harm, that he doesn't run loose in the municipality or create problems for your neighbors. The County of Vermilion River has a new **Dog Control Bylaw** which outlines certain rules for pets and their owners. These rules were developed in order to ensure safety and comfort for your residential / rural community, including your dog.

Basic Rules:

In order to comply with the bylaw we ask pet owners to ensure that:

They own no more than

2 dogs if they reside in a Hamlet

4 dogs if they reside in rural areas

(*existing dogs will be considered "grandfathered" if these numbers are exceeded)

A development permit for a Kennel operation is applied for if you do own more than 4 dogs (puppies under the age of 6 months are exempt)

Dogs do not run "at large" outside of their owner's property--this includes rural areas.

A License Tag is obtained from the Administration Office - only \$25 for the lifetime of your dog

Breaking the Rules

Penalties are imposed on the owner for not carrying out their responsibilities, and are not considered a separate offence if they are a result of different dogs belonging to the same owner. If you fail to obey the rules outlined in the dog control bylaw, you could be subject to fines up to **\$250.00 for each offence.**

Protection of Livestock and Domestic Fowl

The *Stray Animals Act* provides for the protection of livestock and domestic fowl from dogs. Under this act owners of livestock have the right to "**kill a dog in the act of pursuing, worrying or destroying that livestock or domestic fowl on land owned or occupied by the owner of that livestock or domestic fowl**".

Barking Dogs

Although the County does not regulate "barking dogs" please remember that "**quiet hours**" (11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.) are in effect in Hamlets and Multi-Lot subdivisions. Please be a courteous neighbour.

A copy of the Dog Control Bylaw is available at the County Office for viewing or on our website at www.vermilion-river.ab.ca.



Public Works

Myth-Busters

Q: Why does the County of Vermilion River gravel roads in the winter? All you're doing is wasting the gravel by pushing it into the ditch when you snowplow the roads.

A: The County of Vermilion River started the winter gravelling program as a pilot project in 2000. Our original target was 50 miles. The purpose of the project was to:

1. See if the gravel would be pushed off the road,
2. What savings would the County incur, and
3. How would the road react over the summer months being graveled so early.

Our Findings: The gravel froze to the ground over night – given the gravel was warm coming off the pile. By feathering the gravel out of the centre of the road, we could clear the center of roadway and leave a small amount of snow along the sides. The snow also helps protect the gravel—a definite cost savings!

In the Spring the gravel was on the road protecting it from the rain. Over the years we have expanded the program to up 300 miles or more.

Benefits:

1. Road prepared for the summer
2. Graders have time to work the material in the winter
3. Saves damage to the roads during unfavorable weather conditions
4. Availability of trucks to haul in the off season
5. Rate payers have gravel on their roads for wet conditions during the summer



A large portion of the Counties in Alberta now have a Winter Program with great success. Overall the program has had great success and the only downfall we can find is that we cannot do the whole county in the 2 month time period.

Construction Projects for 2008

Twp 514 & Rge 73 W - ½ mile
Rge 15 & Hwy 641 S - 2 miles
Twp 510 East of Hwy 897 - 4 miles
Twp 494 Rebuild Rge 12-Rge 14
Rge 61 South of Hwy 640 - 2 miles*
Rge 55 South of Clandonald-Base Work
Blackfoot Subdivision - Phase II

Applied for Resource Road

Twp 520 from Hwy 897 to Rge 42A

* = Cost Shared with Industry



Oiling Projects for 2008

Streamstown Road E of 897 - 4 miles
Twp 502 Rge 20 to Rge 14
Twp 494 Rge 20-to Rge 14
Twp 544 East of Rge 53 - 1 mile *
Rge 55 North of Highway 45 - 4 miles*

Please remember that all Road Ban Permits must be present in permitted vehicles at all times—no exceptions

Dust Control

The existing residential dust control policy is currently being revised for the 2008 season. With these revisions, the proposed cost will be \$10 per meter for the first 100 meters. For each additional meter of dust control, the cost will be \$20 per meter to a maximum of 200 meters per rate payer.

The deadline for dust control applications to be in is June 15, 2008

Disaster Preparedness

Are You Ready for a Disaster? It Could Happen to You!

We have all heard of disasters in the news – tsunamis, tornados, floods, ice storms, toxic leaks, train derailments – some distant from home and some close to home. Quite often we also hear someone say “I never thought it would happen here (or to me).” Emergencies and disasters can occur anytime, anywhere. Some are seasonal and allow for some preparation; others occur swiftly and without warning. Communications, transportation, utility service and other essential services could be disrupted by disasters, forcing you, your family or your business to rely initially on your own resources for food, water, first aid, transportation and shelter.

The basic tenet of Emergency Preparedness is to protect the health, safety and welfare of people and / or property. Individuals and governments both have a role to play in an emergency. In any emergency the individual’s response comes first. Individuals and families need to be prepared to cope with interruptions in essential services from any cause at any time. A municipality’s response to emergencies is based on three types:

Level 1 Emergency is an incident in which the municipality has the capability to manage and control the incident utilizing its own resources and expertise. Generally, this is an emergency of short duration (approximately under 8 hours) and low impact to the municipality;

Level 2 Emergency is an incident that requires, in addition to normal emergency services response, municipal support for coordination of on-site operations. It may require assistance of mutual aid partners. Generally, this is an incident of short duration (approximately under 8 hours) and high impact to the municipality;

Level 3 Emergency is an incident that requires level 2 response with additional government support to coordinate emergency activities. Generally, this is an incident of long duration (approximately over 8 hours) and high impact to the municipality;

What Can You Do in a Disaster?

Everyone should be ready to face an emergency and support themselves with food, water and a radio (battery operated) for at least 72 hours. Simply follow these three (3) steps to be prepared for anything.

Know the Risks

Prepare a list of natural risks that could exist in your area such as: wind, snow, rain, lightning, hail or ice storms; tornado, forest or wild fires; floods. Other risks could include fires, power outages, industrial or major transportation accidents. And don’t forget health risks such as wide spread influenza and influenza pandemic.

Make a Plan

Make sure every one in your household or business knows the following:

Escape Route

Fire Instructions

Contact Information

Safe Meeting

Emergency

Child Care Plans

Out of Town Contact Person

Plans for Seniors or People with Special Needs

Safe Home Instructions

In an emergency you will need some basic supplies. You may need to get by without power or water. Be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least three days (72 hours). You probably already have many items in your home but can you find them quickly? The key is to make sure they are organized and easy to find. Make your kit portable – keep it in a backpack, duffel bag, or suitcase with wheels.

A **Basic Emergency Kit** should have:

- Non-perishable food and manual can or bottle opener
- Battery powered radio and flashlight and extra batteries
- Candles and matches or lighter
- First Aid Kit
- Prescription medication, infant formula and equipment required for family members with disabilities
- Water - at least 4 litre per person per day (2 litres for drinking, plus water for cooking and cleaning.) Have some small bottles that can be easily carried in case of evacuation

Extra Supplies could include:

- Change of clothing and footwear for each household member
- Warm blanket for each household member
- Whistle (in case you need to attract attention)
- Personal care supplies-toiletries, garbage bags for sanitation
- Basic tools (hammer, wrench, pliers, screwdrivers, fasteners, gloves)
- Small fuel-driven stove and fuel
- Extra keys for vehicle and house
- Some cash in smaller denominations and change for payphones
- Pet food, if applicable
- Copies of important documents – birth & marriage certificates, passports, licenses, wills, etc.

It would be wise to keep copies of these and other important documents in a safe location outside of the home as well.



Disaster Preparedness

In Case of Emergencies:

Follow your emergency plan, get your emergency kit out of storage and listen to authorities for instructions. Make sure you are safe before assisting others

Monitor radio or television broadcasts for information from authorities. If local officials advise you to stay where you are or “shelter-in-place”, you must remain inside your home or office. Follow their instructions. Stay put until all is safe or until authorities issue an evacuation order.

Local officials may evacuate areas that are at risk. Authorities will not ask you to leave your home unless they have a good reason to believe you are in danger.

In Case of Evacuation Orders:

If you are ordered by authorities to evacuate, take the following with you:

Your portable emergency kit, Essential medications and copies of prescriptions, Cellular telephone, if you have one

If you have time – make contact with your out-of-town contacts by telephone or e-mail. Tell them where you are going and when you expect to arrive and once you are safe let them know! Tell them how to contact you and whether family members have become separated. Leave a note telling others when you left and where you went.

If instructed to do so, shut off water and electricity. Leave natural gas service ‘on’ unless officials advise otherwise.

Take pets with you.

Lock your home.

Prepare Now!

Don’t wait for an emergency to happen. There are simple things you can do now to prepare yourself and your loved ones. Make your plan and prepare your kit. On a yearly basis update and practice your emergency plan, review and update your contact information and restock the contents of your emergency kit.

Most of these tips have been obtained from the following publications, which you can view in their entirety at:

Your Emergency Preparedness Guide – Public Safety Canada at www.GetPrepared.ca

Personal and Family Checklist – Alberta Municipal Affairs, Emergency Management Alberta at www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/ema/

What Role Does the County Play in the Event of a Disaster?

The County of Vermilion River has adopted Bylaw No. 2413, which appoints a Disaster Services Committee and establishes the County’s Municipal Disaster Services Agency. County Council has also entered into Mutual Aid agreements with several neighboring municipalities to provide assistance or request assistance in the event of an emergency or disaster. The County works on a regional basis with other municipalities and essential service organizations in developing, coordinating, practicing and implementing emergency plans. Emergency Management Alberta is an integral part of the planning and training process and provides assistance when needed at the time of a disaster.

Upon notification of an event or incident the County will decide the action to be taken, based on whether the emergency is determined to be a Level One, Level Two or Level Three. The primary resources utilized during an emergency will be the manpower, equipment and supplies of the municipal services that are normally available on a daily basis. But higher level incidents, especially those that are of a longer duration or require a large amount of manpower, equipment or resources, may require the assistance of the Provincial or Federal Government. More importantly the County may require the assistance of local volunteers and resources.

How Can You Be A Part of the County Emergency Preparedness Plan?

The County hopes that we will never have to implement a full scale response, mitigation or recovery plan in response to a disaster – natural or man-made. But we do want to be prepared in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of our residents and their property. We know that if a large scale incident occurs we cannot do this alone! We may need to rely on the human resources, experience, skill sets, equipment and other services in our County to affect an immediate and sustained response to an emergency.

The County Disaster Services committee is responsible for having a preparedness plan in place. Members include municipal personnel trained in Site Management, Administration, Communications / Technical, Public Information, Public Works & Transportation, Emergency Services, Social Services as well as government agencies and public services such as Public Health, Schools, Utilities and Environment.

Disaster Social Services is responsible for providing human resources support during an incident and coordinating the following:

- Reception Centre Services (in the event of an evacuation)
- Registration and Inquiry
- Emergency Feeding
- Emergency Lodging
- Emergency Clothing
- Volunteer Recruitment
- Personal Services (counseling, stress debriefing, spiritual, pet care)

A.S.B

Agricultural Service Board

Agricultural Service Boards (ASB's) are unique to Alberta and were first established in 1945 by Alberta Agriculture.

The Agricultural Service Board Act allowed rural jurisdictions to set up local boards to deal with weed, pest control and soil erosion with Agricultural Fieldmen hired to carry out the board's programs.

In general ASB programs include management and enforcement of the Weed Control Act, Soil conservation Act and Agricultural Pests Act along with implementation of the Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture (AESAs) program.

In addition, the ASB oversees pesticide container recycling programs, sustainable livestock management, education and awareness, facilitation of shelterbelt tree distribution and support for seed cleaning plants.

Clubroot Now an Agricultural Pest



Clubroot, *Plasmodiophora brassicae* is classified as a protist—an organism having plant, animal and fungal characteristics. The resting spores of clubroot can remain viable in the soil for up to 20 years and are spread by soil on farm equipment and by wind and water. Prevention is critical to stop the spread of this disease. Preventative measures that you can take include:

- Use long rotations between canola crops—four years or more
- Practice good sanitation to restrict the movement of potentially contaminated soil
- Use direct seeding and other conservation measures to reduce erosion
- Scout canola fields regularly and carefully for symptoms of clubroot
- Avoid the use of straw, hay, silage and manure from infested or suspicious areas. Spores may survive through the digestive tracts of livestock
- Avoid common untreated seed, including canola, cereals and pulses. (especially dirt tag)

For more information on this disease, visit the "Ropin the Web" site at www.agric.gov.ab.ca

Beaver Dam Removal—The County sometimes removes beaver dams in order to reduce water movement problems related to beavers in agricultural areas and to protect the integrity of the road surface (i.e. hay meadow flooding, plugged culverts, washouts). A minimum fee of \$100 will be charged when only one party benefits from the removal of the dam.

Roadside Weed & Brush Control

The weed and brush control program will commence June 1 this year and will continue until the first killing frost in September.

As in previous years, we will be controlling brush for the purposes of enhancing visibility and ensuring public safety as well as for protection of the integrity of the road surface.

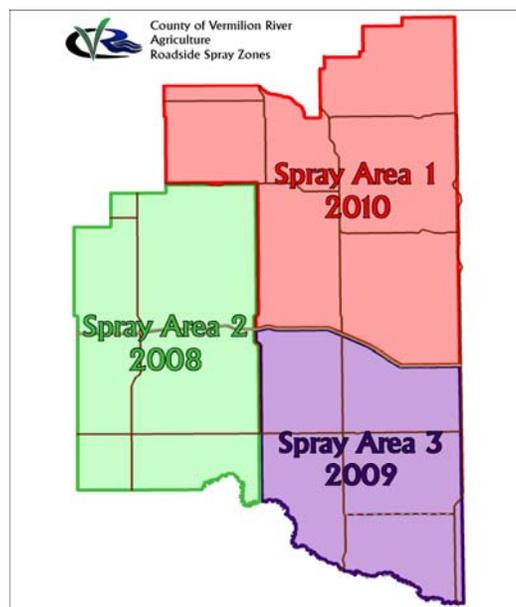
Weeds will be controlled along county roads in accordance with the Weed Act and to ensure that weeds are not allowed to establish a presence on the road allowance and then spread onto private land.

Herbicide is applied on an as-needed basis within the road allowance and is used only where weed and brush issues are found. Blanket spraying is not done.

Selective application of herbicides will be performed in Spray Area 2 this year. Locations recently brush axed in other spray areas will be treated as well.

Roadside Mowing

Target date for startup is shortly after July 10, 2008 to allow some time for adjacent landowners to harvest hay. Mowing height will vary to minimize cutting implement damage from rocks or other objects.



No Spray Zones

Renewal of a no spray zone agreement is dependent on satisfactory maintenance of the zone by the landowner. ... more in our next issue.

A.S.B

Stop Scentless Chamomile

Scentless Chamomile is a noxious weed in Alberta and is being found increasingly within the County.

Flowers are conspicuous and appear from May to October. The outer white florets and the central yellow disk florets give the flower a daisy-like appearance.

Leaves are finely dissected and smooth. The plant is erect with ascending branches and does not have a distinct odour. Mature plants range in height from 15 cm to 1 meter. The roots are dense and fibrous.

One plant can produce as many as one million seeds. Seeds move with wind, water and drifting snow and can survive through the digestive tracts of cattle.

Scentless chamomile can cause severe economic losses and loss of natural habitat.

If you see scentless chamomile please report it to the County office at 780-846-2244



Chamomile



Tansy



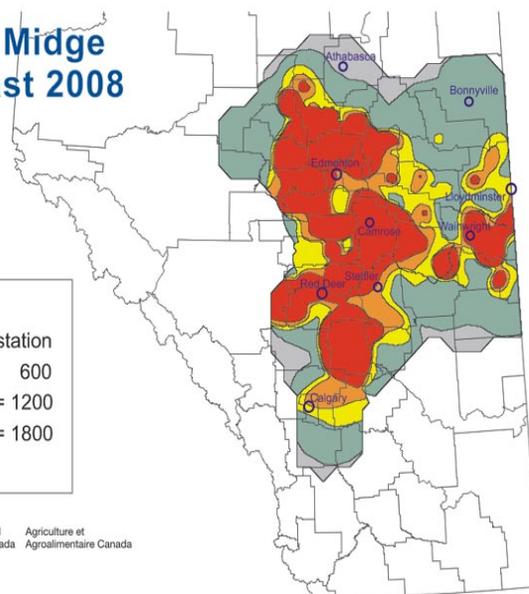
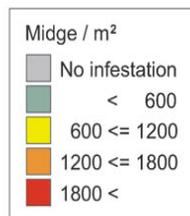
Toadflax

The deadline for applications for PFRA & Alberta Nurseries trees is March 15. Please contact County Office for details.

Wheat Midge levels in the Lloydminster area are forecast to range from moderate to high in 2008.



Wheat Midge Forecast 2008



Careful, regular monitoring of wheat fields between heading and flowering is necessary both to identify a wheat midge infestation and to take the appropriate action. Field inspection should be carried out after 8:30pm, when the female midge are most active, which is when the temp is above 15°C and wind speed is less than 10km/hr.

Wheat midge tends to flutter from plant to plant and assumes a vertical position with its head pointed skyward when resting on the plants. An insecticide application is recommended when there is at least one adult midge for every four to five wheat heads.

Protective Services

Little Rest for County Crews

Emergency crews in the County have been kept busy dealing with fires, motor vehicle accidents and medical incidents. In 2007, crews responded to more than 230 incidents - a significant increase over five years ago.

County Fire Chief Orest Popil is kept busy investigating fires which occur at the rate of one every 3.68 days on average.

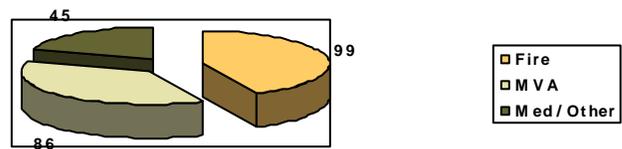
The county's fire crews are comprised entirely of volunteers and number more than 130 men and women.

Upgrading of facilities and equipment has been ongoing for the last several years and has seen much needed replacements for aging fire halls in Islay, Blackfoot, Dewberry and Clandonald. The Paradise Valley Fire Hall received a new addition.

New pumper trucks have been delivered to Blackfoot and Clandonald. A new pumper truck for Islay will be arriving soon.



Clandonald crew responds to stubble fire



230 total incidents in 2007

County to Distribute Strychnine

The County will distribute 2% Liquid Strychnine concentrate in bottles this spring. We will not be handling premixed wet bait this year.

Distribution will take place from the Agriculture shop in the County yard weekday mornings from 8:30 a.m. until noon

Payment must be made in advance at the office in Kitscoty. Users will need to sign an agreement to comply with the terms of this temporary registration.

There may be a delay between the time the County places an order and when the shipment is received, so users are encouraged to place their orders early.

Pest Management Regulatory Agency guidelines state that only land that has a minimum of four ground squirrel burrows per square metre over a an area of a hectare qualifies for strychnine use.

The Province will be conducting random inspections to ensure this criteria is met.

Distribution Guidelines

A limit of two cases of 24 bottles per case per farm per purchase is in place—users must be bonafide farmers in the County of Vermilion River

Empty bottles must be returned to the County shop before additional purchases can be made.

Unused strychnine is hazardous waste and must be returned to the County by July 31st along with all empty bottles

Place your order early by contacting Steve Lamden at 846-2244

Emergency crews respond to an incident in the county on average every 1.6 days.



The County of Vermilion River is seeking men and women to serve as volunteer firefighters.

Applicants need to be capable of extreme physical exertion under challenging working conditions and must be solid team players.

Applicants need a valid driver's licence and must pass a security clearance check.

Training and personal protective equipment are provided.

Interested persons are asked to contact Orest Popil, Chief of Protective Services at 780-846-2244.

Water and Sewer

PROTECTING YOUR PROPERTY FROM FLOODING INSTALL SEWER BACKFLOW VALVES

In some flood prone areas, flooding can cause sewage from sanitary lines to back up into houses through drain pipes. These backups not only cause damage that is difficult to repair, but also create health hazards. The County is not responsible for backups within your home, but we do recommend the following prevention measures....

A good way to protect your house from sewage backups is to install back flow valves, which are designed to block drain pipes temporarily and prevent flow into the house. Back flow valves are available in a variety of designs that range from simple to complex. The figure shows a gate valve, one of the more complex designs. It provides a strong seal, but must be operated by hand. So effectiveness of a gate valve will depend on the amount of warning you have of impending flooding. Among the simpler valves is a flap or check valves, which open to allow flow out of the house but close when the flow reverses. These valves operate automatically but do not provide as strong a seal as a gate valve

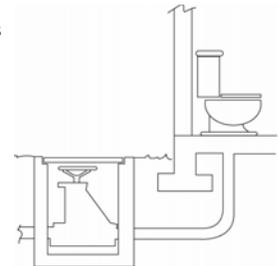
TIPS

Changes to the plumbing in your house must be done by a licensed plumber or contractor, who will ensure that work is done correctly and according to all applicable codes. This is important for your safety.

Some valves incorporate the advantages of both flapper and gate valves into a single design.

Your plumber or contractor can advise you on the relative advantages of the various types of back flow valves.

Having a plumber or contractor install a backflow valve can cost you from \$500 to \$1000 including the cost of valve. Please understand that the cost of materials, installation and maintenance of backflow valves is the responsibility of the homeowner.



Transfer Station Hours

VERMILION RIVER REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES COMMISSION

Manager: Shirley Schwartz
Phone: (780) 853-5561
Fax: (780) 853-4532
E-mail: vrrwmsc@telus.net

Kitscoty: (SE 35-50-3 W4)

Wed: 2:00—5:00 p.m.

Sat: 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. (Nov 1-Apr 30)

Wed: 2:00—7:00 p.m.

Sat: 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. (May 1-Oct 31)

Marwayne: (SE 34-52-3 W4)

Wed: 2:00—5:00 p.m.

Sat: 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. (Nov 1-Apr 30)

Wed: 2:00—7:00 p.m.

Sat: 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. (May 1-Oct 31)

Clandonald/Dewberry:
(NE 11-53-5 W4)

Thurs: 12:00— 5:00 p.m.

Sat: 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Paradise Valley: (NW 7-47-2 W4)

Wed: 10:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m. Sat: 9:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

Tulliby Lake: (NW 6-55-1 W4)

Sat: 10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

Preston: (SW 30-48-6 W4)

Sat: 10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

Vermilion: (SW 5-51-6 W4)

Monday through Saturday (except Stat Hol)

9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Street Address: 4912-50 Ave
Kitscoty, AB

Mailing Address: Box 69
Kitscoty, AB
T0B 2P0

Phone: (780) 846-2244
Vermilion Line: (780) 853-5492
Fax: (780) 846-2716

E-mail: county24@telusplanet.net
Website: www.vermilion-river.ab.ca

Planning and Development

- Spring is coming and the building season is fast approaching. Development Permit Applications and Safety Code
- Permit application forms can be picked up at the County Office in Kitscoty

HELPFUL WEBSITES:

Superior Safety Codes
superiorsafetycodes.com

Vermilion River Region Alliance
www.vermilionriverregion.ca

Municipal Planning Services
www.munplan.ca