



# County of VERMILION River

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The County Office Will be closed for the Holidays on December 25<sup>th</sup> and will reopen January 4<sup>th</sup>.  
As well, the office will be closed on February 16<sup>th</sup> for Family Day.



*The County Council thanks all the Volunteers for their many hours of hard work and dedication to the Historical School Marker Project*

The School site project had its beginning when the Local Branch of the Alberta Teacher's Association was looking for a centennial project.

- \* The School Site Markers idea was accepted by the group;
- \* A committee was formed;
- \* \$4,000.00 was dedicated to begin the project;
- \* CERTA (Central East Retired Teachers Association) was approached for assistance
- \* Margaret Wolters accepted the challenge and recruited other volunteers to tackle this project in the County.
- \* The book "Earnest Minded Men", where all the one-room schools from the former Vermilion School Division and their stories have been written, was used to locate the sites.
- \* The County granted the right of placement and to sponsor this project, assisting in grant application and reporting processes

A Grant was received from: **Alberta Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture—Lottery Funding Programs**  
*"Community Initiatives Program" \$30,850.00*

As you drive around the County, notice the metal site signs that were manufactured by Hughenden Manufacturing, at the Hughenden School. The first signs were installed in the fall of 2006 and with the help of volunteers in the communities, there will be 96 Historical School Sites marked upon completion in the fall of 2009



*Once again, County Council wishes to thank the Project Committee and Community Volunteers for their efforts and dedication to the success of this historically significant project.*

### COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Street Address:	4912-50 Ave Kitscoty, AB	Mailing Address:	Box 69 Kitscoty, AB T0B 2P0
Phone:	(780)846-2244	E-mail:	county24@telusplanet.net
Gas Utilities:	(780)846-2222		gasut@county24.com
Vermilion Line:	(780)853-5492	Website:	www.vermilion-river.com
Fax:	(780)846-2716		

## PUBLIC WORKS

### *Snowplow Flags...*

Just a reminder to all the County Residents to get your snowplow flags before the first snow fall!!

- The snowplow flags are available at the County office for \$30/flag.
- Landowners must sign a damage waiver and pick up a flag prior to service being complete.
- Each snow plow flag (except for Seniors Flags) are good for only one plow into the yard, and back out to the County Road

For more information please visit the County website [www.vermilion-river.com](http://www.vermilion-river.com)

### *Frequently Asked Questions: ? ? ?*

#### *When will my road get plowed out, it hasn't been done in weeks!*

As per the County of Vermilion River Policy number PW 007, the level of service is given priority in accordance with the following:

- 1- School Bus Routes
- 2- Other Grid Roads
- 3- Yards as a last priority.

The timing of this service may vary according to bus route conditions on County Roads. Remember, it takes the County snowplow equipment an average of three days (of clear weather) to clear all the County road ways.

#### *How does the County choose projects for the up-coming years?*

The procedure includes an in-depth analysis by Administration, Council, Future Planning and Traffic Counts. The County currently has four traffic counters that run from early May through to early October, collecting data for further analysis.

The counters count on roads that were either counted last year or Councilor requested for the current year. In order to keep the public well informed, the Public Works team has set up a page on the County website so that landowners can access the real time counts (as received by administration) day or night.

The Traffic Counts can be found at [www.vermilion-river.com/traffic-counts](http://www.vermilion-river.com/traffic-counts)



## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

### COMING SOON...WATCH NEWS PAPERS FOR PUBLIC INPUT, CONSULTATION DATES AND LOCATIONS!!

#### CONSERVATION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND

The County of Vermilion River has a population of 7900 and has a City, a Town and 4 Villages as neighbors within our boundaries. We have an Inter-municipal Development Plan with the City of Lloydminster and the Town of Vermilion which sets the stage for future growth to make our region sustainable. With such growth pressures brings the need to utilize land and the County wishes to balance this with our goal to conserve agricultural land and preserve wetlands.

The County of Vermilion River Municipal Development Plan identifies conservation of agricultural land as a priority therefore we wish to develop a definite set of strategies to accomplish this while allowing for sustainable growth in the municipality. We wish to be prepared for the implementation of the Land Stewardship Act and the Regional Advisory Board that will be established for our North Saskatchewan Region with its emphasis on agriculture and wetland conservation.

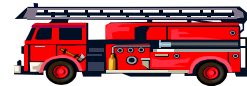
This project is largely a "Planning Exercise". As with all long term planning, visions, and statutory plans, significant time must be allocated to work through policy and strategy development with council and then a meaningful consultation with the public.

## PROTECTIVE SERVICES

### **FIRE PERMITS ARE FREE AND MANDATORY**

Fire permits are regulated under the Forest and Prairie Protection Act and Regulations. Permits must be obtained throughout all four seasons of the year for many reasons, such as:

- Regulating fires during special weather conditions;
- Specifying certain conditions to ensure control of the fire;
- Contacting the fire department before burning so they know the whereabouts and type of fire they are dealing with.



Permits can be obtained by calling the County office. You will need to give your contact information, the land location of the fire, and the type of material you will be burning.

Permits are given an expiry date and must be signed to be valid and the conditions on the permit must be followed. Prior to burning, you must contact the toll-free number on the permit to inform 911 where and when you will be burning so they can inform the appropriate fire departments.

An information sheet about burning is also included with your permit.

### **FIRE BANS**

If a County wide Fire Ban has been declared, all previously issued permits automatically become **VOID**. It is the landowner's responsibility to ensure there is not a current Fire Ban on prior to burning. If the Fire Ban is lifted prior to the expiration date on your fire permit, your permit becomes valid again.

## RECREATION STUDY

### COUNTY TO UNDERTAKE RECREATION SUSTAINABILITY STUDY IN CONJUNCTION WITH VILLAGES AND RECREATION BOARDS

#### **A Recreation Study?**

Yes, County Council has decided a Needs Assessment and Sustainability Review is necessary to help them make informed decisions in conjunction with the Villages and in consultation with the public regarding the needs and future sustainability of facilities that exist in the County and the Villages. The focus will be on the larger community facilities and development of a total Sustainability Plan.

#### **Why?**

We will need an engineering analysis of the many facilities to determine their condition, timing of any improvements and/ or if replacement is the best choice. A better picture of the financial situations, operational and capital costs is needed to answer some of the questions being raised on sustainability. This information will be shared with the public and they will be asked for input to determine which facilities they use, how often and how much they would be willing to support through taxation if your needs were better met.

#### **What does this mean to the ratepayers?**

We need your cooperation and time to respond to the survey that is going to be conducted early 2010 by a consultant that will be hired to work with the County, the Villages and Recreation Boards in your area - give some thought to the future and costs for certain facilities that you are using.

#### **What has changed?**

The County of Vermilion River has historically supported, been a member and contributed base funding of \$35,000 per year to the five Recreation Boards; Dewberry, Kitscoty, Marwayne, Paradise Valley and Vermilion. The Vermilion Area has done their analysis of facilities and a special prorated funding is collected from the properties in that area to support these facilities in the Town. The Village Recreation Boards agree additional facility analysis need to be done and advise that they are experiencing much higher operating costs yet wish to continue providing services to their community and the surrounding areas. It seems more funding is needed to keep these facilities running - decisions on how much more, for what, and for how long, are needed regarding aging facilities if they need major investments or possibly replacement in the future. This process is being used to answer these questions.

**So don't be surprised when you get that survey, phone call or see an invitation to see the Draft Sustainability Plan!!**

## GAS UTILITIES



### *The County Gas Utility Needs Your Help*

As harvest is complete, we are requesting farmers notify us of any circular patches of dead vegetation in their fields, that they feel were not caused by standing water. This information could help us to identify gas leaks caused by gopher chews, lightning strikes, damaged lines, etc.

If you smell mercaptan (or skunk as it is sometimes called) while walking or driving down County roads, please advise us as this could mean a gas leak where our pipeline crosses a road, or a regulator station that is venting.

Please contact us at (780)846-2222, as soon as possible, if you have any information that might help us to identify any gas leaks.

### *Rate Stabilization Rebates*

Once again, you may have noticed that in your August billing for gas used in the month of July, Council had decided that all residential and commercial customer were entitled to a \$0.40 / GJ rebate for all of their own natural gas consumption throughout the 2008 year

The rebate money distributed to our customers was obtained through construction and transportation projects completed by the Natural Gas Utility throughout the 2008 year.

Many of these projects not only show monetary gains to the utility, but also accomplish significant environmental benefits within our boundaries.

With integrated planning and efforts between the County's Natural Gas Utility and Industrial Companies such as Husky Energy, Devon Canada Corporation, Nexen Canada Ltd, Bonavista Petroleum Ltd., and CNRL, the County is aiding industry in assuming their roles and responsibilities towards the environment.

This was the fourth consecutive year customers have been provided with County rebates. Council has targeted the year 2010 to be the year that customers will have received over one million dollars back in rebates over the past 5 years.

### *Thank You For Reading Your Gas Meter*

The Gas Utility would like to thank all customers who have taken the time to phone or send in meter readings at month end.

***Your cooperation is definitely helping with our gas balancing. Keep up the good work!!***



## A.S.B

## CROP AND LIVESTOCK FORUM

Marwayne Community Hall



Monday, February 8, 2010

1:00 pm–4:00 pm

The County of Vermilion River invites Agricultural Producers, Industry Employees and other Interested Persons to attend.

Discussions will include :

- \* Presentation of Producer of the Year Award
- \* Presentation of Agribusiness of the Year Award
- \* 2010 Crop and Livestock Market Update
- \* AESA Program
- \* Clubroot Survey / Strychnine Results
- \* Alternative Land Use Services Pilot Project
- \* County of Vermilion River 2010 Weed Control Program
- \* Coffee and Door Prizes

### FARM FAMILY AWARD RECIPIENT

The County of Vermilion River ASB extends *CONGRATULATIONS* to Darcy and Laurie Eddleston of Mclaughlin for being recipients of the 41st AMA Farm Family Awards at Edmonton Northlands Farm Fair.

Each year, farm families from North/Central Alberta communities are selected as the recipients of the AMA Farm Family Award. This award recognizes families who best represent the values of the family farm based on rural community involvement, innovative farming practices, increasing awareness of agriculture and acting as a role model within the agriculture community. Families are hosted at a gala dinner at Northlands and are recognized for their contributions to the farming community and the agricultural industry.

Darcy and Laurie operate a grain and beef cow-calf farm in cooperation with Joe and Marion Eddleston.

### RAT CONTROL PROGRAM

Our agreement with the Province of Alberta this past year had some changes in the location of rat inspections.

*“Every site in Range 1 will be inspected twice per year. All sites in Range 2 and 3 will be inspected once per year unless an infestation is located.*

*If an infestation is located, all sites within a five-mile radius will be inspected at least twice per year.”*

We have seen an increase this last year in the number of reported rat sightings and we continue to encourage the vigilant efforts of our ratepayers to report suspicious rat sightings.

### COYOTE/PREDATION

The Province of Alberta at this time is NOT offering a bounty on coyotes. If you raise livestock, and coyotes are harassing or preying on your livestock, Section 8 of the Agricultural Pest Act states:

*“An owner or occupant of land may control a nuisance on that land by means that are generally considered to be sound husbandry practices and that comply with all applicable laws.*

Section 5(1) states:

*“An owner or occupant of land may prevent the establishment of, control or destroy a nuisance on land the owner owns or occupier occupies.”*

**SHELTERBELT TREE ORDER APPLICATIONS** will be accepted until March 15th for delivery in early May.

Order early to avoid disappointment.

\*\*\*New Applicants must submit a copy of current tax notice or documentation indicating land ownership \*\*\*

### NO SPRAY ZONE RENEWAL REMINDER

No Spray Zone agreements expire at the end on September each year.

Landowners are reminded that they need to fill out a new agreement before next season if they wish to retain their no spray zones.

The County will make every effort to avoid applying herbicides in no spray zones.

*Agreements are available at the County Office.*



## VRRHCC

### THERE ARE 40....

.....40 *Developmental Assets* that is. Developmental Assets are building blocks that youth need to become healthy, caring and productive members of our communities.



The more assets a youth has, the more likely he/she is to choose positive behaviors such as doing well in school, maintaining good health, and refraining from negative behaviors like using drugs and violence.

*Developmental Assets* are about focusing on young people's strengths and building relationships with youth. The more adults make an effort to have a positive connection with our youth, the more youth will get what they need to.

### IT TAKES A COMMUNITY....

.....to raise a child! If you would like more information on *Developmental Assets*, you can easily access reading and training resources. The Vermilion River Regional Healthy Communities Coalition (VRRHCC) and the Safe and Caring Committee have supplied Clandonald, Dewberry, Innisfree, Kitscoty, Mannville, Marwayne, Paradise Valley, Tulliby Lake and Vermilion with *Developmental Asset* resources. For questions or resources, you can contact your Community Youth Worker

### KEEP IT GOING!

Have you noticed the cards being passed around our community with fun, positive, easy to do messages on them? Get involved! Complete the task! Then contact your Community Youth Worker to have your name entered into a draw for some great prizes!

Pass the card on so that others can have the same great feeling of making someone's day! If you would like some of these cards for your group, please contact your Community Youth Worker.

### You Can Do It!

#### Follow Youth When They Lead.

This message was adapted from Search Institute's *150 Ways to Show Kids You Care*, 1998, and brought to you by the VRRHCC.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact

#### VRRHCC Community Youth Worker

Deanne Moylan

780-872-6495

deanne.moylan@btps.ca

## PARTNERING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES CONTACT INFORMATION

#### Alberta Health Services – Central Zone (East)

Susan McCulley – Health Promotion Facilitator

(780) 842-4077

(toll free 310-0000-842-4077)

#### Family and Community Support Services

(FCSS)

Carol Coleman

(780) 853-5358

#### RCMP

Vermilion detachment (780) 853-4441

Kitscoty detachment (780) 846-2870

#### Alberta Health Services – Addictions & Mental Health

Wainwright Area Office

780) 842-7619

#### Family School Liaison (FSL)

Pat Calyniuk

780) 853-4164

or contact your local school office for assistance



## F.C.S.S

### FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES NEWS

The Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Program is a unique 80/20 partnership between the Province of Alberta and municipalities that supports the delivery of social programs that are preventive in nature and promote and enhance well-being among communities, families and individuals - be they children, youth, adults or seniors. The County of Vermilion River is pleased to announce that our partnership with the Province of Alberta Children and Youth Services will continue in 2010 with the ministry contributing \$193,596 towards the 2010 FCSS program budget.

In response to the initial 2010 funding call Council has allocated a total of \$191,398 to the following agencies:

Battle River Victims Assistance Society	Blackfoot & District Golden Slippers
Catholic Social Service/Premura Counselling	Dewberry Senior Citizens Society
Family School Liaison Program	Islay Health Care Auxiliary
Kitscoty Community Cabin 4 Kids	Kitscoty & District Seniors Centre
Kitscoty Rug Rats Playschool Assoc.	Lloydminster & Area Brain Injury Society
Lloydminster Community Youth Centre	Lloydminster Interval Home
Lloydminster Sexual Assault & Information	Marwayne Lil' Critters Playschool
Marwayne Moms 'n Tots	Marwayne Seniors Centre
Paradise Valley & District Senior Citizens	Pioneer Lodge
Seniors Support Program Coordinator	Vermilion & Area Brighter Beginnings
Vermilion & District Chamber of Commerce	Vermilion Elementary School
Vermilion Play Development	Walking Through Grief Society

We are grateful that the needs of our citizens are being met by these agencies and organizations, many of whom depend on community resources, often involving volunteers in the management and delivery of their programs. This successful partnership between the Province, the County and each of these agencies benefits our citizens by ensuring the programs and supports needed by our residents are available in our municipality.

We have received inquiries from time to time regarding FCSS services to seniors. Although it appears that other municipalities are offering services such as transportation and home supports through FCSS often times these programs are available only through a partnership with another organization. The FCSS programs provide facilitation or coordination of the program while it is actually funded by another community agency or organization. The County does partner with the Town of Vermilion in funding a **Seniors Support Program Coordinator** to liaise with and advocate on behalf of our senior citizens.

**Shirley McRobert** (780-581-2414 or 780-853-5358) can answer most questions regarding programs available to support senior citizens.

## PARK TRUST

The County of Vermilion River Park Trust Fund is a reserve that is funded by dollars received from developers during the subdivision process as cash-in-lieu of municipal reserves. The Park Trust Fund is intended to support worthy community projects that benefit County residents or the majority of the residents in a community within the boundaries of the County of Vermilion River.

The guidelines for the use of Park Trust Funds are established in County Land Management Policy PD 004. The policy states that Council will consider projects based on applications that demonstrate a public recreation or public park usage of a facility and/or grounds.

Large projects are eligible for one-time payments up to \$50,000 funding towards projects up to \$10M in construction value or up to \$75,000 funding towards projects exceeding \$10M in construction value. Several of the large projects funded in the past include the **Vic Juba Theatre** and **Commonwealth Centre in Lloydminster, Kitscoty Community Hall, Vermilion Regional Centre** and **Lea Park Rodeo Building**.

Small projects are eligible for a one-time payment of 50% of the project value up to a maximum of \$10,000.00. Communities are eligible for one similar project every five years and community groups are responsible for the maintenance of equipment and grounds. The County has funded **playground** projects in **Blackfoot, Clandonald, Dewberry, Islay, Paradise Valley, Kitscoty** and **Vermilion**. Park Trust funds have also been allocated towards community facility rehabilitation projects such as the **Dewberry Agricultural Society, Islay Community Hall, Kitscoty Regional Park, Lea Park Recreation Grounds** and **Marwayne Sports Grounds**.

Contact the County Administrator if you would like additional information on the Park Trust Fund.

The County of Vermilion River held their annual organizational meeting on October 27, 2009

For the upcoming year, *Richard Van Ee* has been re-elected as Reeve & *Daryl Watt* has been re-elected as Deputy Reeve



CONGRATULATIONS!!



Murray King	Division 1	780-846-2691
Daryl Watt	Division 2	780-846-2471
Richard Van Ee	Division 3	780-853-2730
Dave Gamracy	Division 4	780-853-4219
Miles Latimer	Division 5	780-875-8597
Don Whittaker	Division 6	780-847-3845
Brent Romanchuk	Division 7	780-847-2156



## LONG SERVICE AWARDS



The County of Vermilion River acknowledges the commitment of officials and employees to serving the citizens of our municipality. The County will be honoring the following employees at the 2009 Long Service Awards ceremony in December.

Congratulations to:

- 5 years: Howie Bjorge (Agriculture), Shanon Garnier (Administration), Rob McCulley (GIS), Sharon Williams (Administration)
- 10 years: Ron Gould (Public Works), Regan Mallet (Gas Utility), Nancy Miciak (Gas Utility), Glenn Miller (Gas Utility)
- 15 years: Greg O'Hare (Gas Utility)
- 20 years: Darrin Orbeck (Gas Utility), Glenda Thomas (Administration)
- 30 years: Orest Popil (Fire)

*We extend our appreciation to these individuals for their contributions towards the success of the County of Vermilion River*

### WASTE MANAGEMENT

**VERMILION RIVER REGIONAL  
WASTE MANAGEMENT  
SERVICES COMMISSION**  
  
**Manager: Shirley Schwartz**  
**Phone: (780) 853-5561**  
**Fax: (780) 853-4532**  
**E-mail: [vrwmisc@telus.net](mailto:vrwmisc@telus.net)**

#### Transfer Station Hours

<b>Kitscoty:</b> (SE 35-50-3 W4)	Wed: 2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m. Wed: 2:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.	Sat: 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. (Nov 1-Apr 30) Sat: 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. (May 1-Oct 31) Thur: 1:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.
<b>Marwayne:</b> (SE 34-52-3 W4)	Wed: 2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m. Wed: 2:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.	Sat: 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. (Nov 1-Apr 30) Sat: 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. (May 1-Oct 31)
<b>Clandonald/Dewberry:</b> (NE 11-53-5 W4)	Thur: 12:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.	Sat: 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
<b>Paradise Valley:</b> (NW 7-47-2 W4)	Wed: 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.	Sat: 9:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.
<b>Preston:</b> (SW 30-48-6 W4)	Sat: 10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.	
<b>Tulliby Lake:</b> (NW 6-55-1 W4)	Wed (1st & 3rd) 10:00 a.m. —2:00 p.m. Sat (2nd & 4th) 10:00 a.m. —2:00 p.m.	
<b>Vermilion:</b> (SW 5-51-6 W4)	Monday through Saturday (except Stat Hol)	9:00 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL TRANSFER SITES WILL BE CLOSED ON BOXING DAY, DECEMBER 26, 2009**

**DID YOU KNOW.....**We now have several maps available on our website [Check it Out!](http://www.vermilion-river.com/maps) at [www.vermilion-river.com/maps](http://www.vermilion-river.com/maps)