



County of VERMILION River

Fall Newsletter

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*****TAX DEADLINE REMINDER*****

The County of Vermilion River Tax *Deadline* is 4:30 p.m. **September 30, 2009**
 Payment must be received at the County Office on or before the deadline; mail
 must be postmarked on or before **September 30, 2009**

In order to avoid the penalty, we suggest that you send us a post-dated cheque.
 Deadline is **FIRM**, penalty applies after deadline.

Senior Citizens Take Note: You must pay your total taxes and apply to the Alberta
 Education Property Tax Assistance for Seniors Program for any rebate.

For more information, please call Shirley McRobert at 780-853-5358

THE NEW COUNTY MAP WILL BE COMING SOON..... by late fall, you will be able to purchase your copy



Royal Canadian Mounted Police
 Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Off-Highway Vehicle Do's and Don't's



Royal Canadian Mounted Police
 Gendarmerie royale du Canada

In Canada the use of Off-Highway vehicles such as snowmobiles and quads have become quite popular as a recreational activity. In fact, as of 2005 Canadians spent approximately 3.3 billion dollars on OHV related activities.

As the summer months are upon us, we, as the RCMP are always looking to improve safety on and off the road. The safe use of OHV's is being emphasized and we are not looking to deter people from operating OHV's, just to operate according to the law.

According to law, operators and passengers of OHV's are required to wear helmets. As well OHV's are to be registered and insured if they are operating anywhere other than on private land. Having said this, Operators of OHV's are not allowed to cut fences to access an area to travel across, or to be on main accesses in or out of town. There are certain by-laws in some of the villages within the County of Vermilion River that allow direct travel in and out of town to an acceptable OHV area.

Head injuries are very common in OHV collisions and it is often due to high speed and inexperience. Youth need to be instructed on the safe use of OHV's as there are unfortunate and avoidable OHV collision related deaths in Alberta every year.

There are on-line resources for Albertans to check out on the internet: The Alberta site for Snowmobile and Off Highway Vehicle Tourism has links to sites such as the Alberta snowmobile association, and the Alberta Off-Highway Vehicle Association at <http://www.aohv.com>.

These sites provide access to information on trails, laws, methods of operation of OHV's as well as safety tips. Alberta has an Off-Road map book that shows all the trails for OHV's as well as camping in Alberta.

For more information on Off-Highway Vehicle laws, people are encouraged to look at the Off-Highway Vehicle Act of Alberta.

Cst.Patrick O'NEILL
 Kitscoty Detachment
 Royal Canadian Mounted Police



AGRICULTURE SERVICE BOARD

TREE DISTRIBUTION

This year's tree distribution went smoothly with our County receiving roughly 17,390 shelterbelt trees from the Agriculture Canada Shelterbelt Program and distributing around 6,650 trees through the Alberta Nurseries Program.

In an attempt to better manage the hauling, storing and distribution of the shelterbelt trees, PFRA trees were placed in boxes rather than in bags. Due to the healthy condition of the trees, we will hopefully see a greener countryside in the future. Tree planter use was steady and the people who have used them were pleased with the job they did.



Trees can be ordered from either of the following suppliers, with the deadline of March 15th:

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Indian Head, Saskatchewan
Phone: 1-866-766-2284
www.agr.gc.ca/shelterbelt

Alberta Nurseries
Bowden, Alberta
Phone: (403) 224-3544
www.marketland.net

Avoid Dissapointment—Order Your Trees NOW!!!

STRYCHNINE SALES

The abundance of gophers within the county has always been a serious concern and a great hindrance on farmers, but in recent years concentrated strychnine has been available.

This year's sales has once again proved successful selling around 3,360 bottles each of which contain 250ml, this is approximately 140 cases which have been sold from April 1- July 24, 2009. This product was sold to around 85 different buyers.

The County of Vermilion River Agricultural Service Board has ordered and distributed the various approved formulations of strychnine toxicant for the control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels during recent years. The annual registrations for the use of this product have been for temporary restricted emergency use.

The County of Vermilion River Agricultural Service Board supported the following resolution which was passed at the 2009 Provincial Agricultural Service Board conference at Medicine Hat last January:

Resolution #10, Permanent Registration for Liquid Strychnine

Therefore be it resolved that Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards request that 2% liquid strychnine be made available to bonafide farmers and ranchers , only through Agricultural Service Boards, on a permanent basis for the control of Richardson Ground Squirrels.

To date we have not received a response to this resolution from Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency so we do not have any assurance whether liquid strychnine concentrate will be available for 2010 or not.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

September 1, 2009 4:00pm—8:00pm

There will be an information meeting at the Kitscoty Community Hall for the Land Use Bylaw Review.

September 10, 2009 5:00pm—8:00pm

There will be an information meeting at the Kitscoty Legion Hall for Offsite levies in the County of Vermilion River.

BLACKFOOT LOTS STILL ON SALE.....

OFFERING A LIMITED TIME SALE WITH \$10,000 DISCOUNT OFF OF THE ASKING PRICE!

PUBLIC WORKS

The County of Vermilion River is busy into it's construction season. Many questions are fielded by Public Works Staff with regards to it's practices. Two of the main questions received are as follows:

How do I get the County to get one of those tree clearing machines to come down my road?

The County is currently working on expanding its Tree Mulching program to accommodate the larger machinery that is utilizing County Roads to access agricultural lands. This is a service that the County Contracts out to local businesses in the area, therefore any requests received cannot be dealt with immediately, but will be addressed in due time once contractors have been lined up. If you have noticed a road that has become overgrown with brush we ask that you contact your division's councilor for further review with the Public Works Department.



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

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

The counters count on roads that were

1. Counted last year and/or
2. Councilor requested.

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 <http://www.vermilion-river.com/traffic-counts>

Just a reminder to all residents of the County of Vermilion River
Please Drive Carefully and Slow Down on County Roads.

The speed limit on all County Roads (Gravel and hard top) is 80Km/hr

Slow Down and Save Lives.



Highway 17 Improvement Project—City of Lloydminster North to Highway 45-

The Government of Canada, the Government of Alberta and the Government of Saskatchewan are partnering through the Economic Action Plan's Infrastructure Stimulus Fund for eligible projects that were submitted under the "Communities Component."

MP Leon Benoit was present for the announcement of this important project on August 4, 2009 in the City of Lloydminster.

The County of Vermilion River, the City of Lloydminster and the RM of Britannia and RM of Wilton have jointly lobbied the provinces for improvements to Highway 17 and we are pleased to have this injection of federal and provincial dollars to facilitate this project.

We will continue to jointly lobby for improvements for the portion of Highway 17 south of the City of Lloydminster.

GAS UTILITY

MONTHLY METER READING CAN SAVE YOU \$\$\$\$

The County of Vermilion River Natural Gas Utility is in the process of completing the installation of System Control And Data Analysis (SCADA) monitors on our high pressure pipelines.

Since the start of these installations, SCADA has detected and alarmed us of gas loss problems due to line cuts, lightning strikes and pipeline failures. Low volume and low pressure alarms have detected pipeline and station problems in the winter, enabling our utility to resolve problems before they become critical to our customers.

We rely on your meter reads to pinpoint areas of gas loss on low pressure plastic pipelines.

Causes of gas loss on low pressure lines can be the result of:

- Rodent chews
- Pipeline failure
- Failed meters
- Landscaping
- Fencing
- Construction by contractor or homeowner

With the cooperation of all customer, **reading your meters can save you money.**

Our gas utility pays for all gas entering our pipelines. When this gas doesn't reach an end customer, it is lost and the money must be recovered in the gas rate to meet set budgets.

20-25% of our 3000 customers do not read their meters monthly, making it virtually impossible for us to quickly identify the location of a leak.

The County of Vermilion River owns and operates one of the largest rural natural gas systems with approximately 4000 km of pipe underground to monitor. We also supply and transport more gas than any other Rural Utility in the province. By not sending in your meter reads, the time and manpower utilized to isolate and resolve problems costs you money.

Alternatives, such as installing Automated Meter Reading (AMR) will cost approximately \$1,000,000.00 and will have monthly maintenance fees attached. The present rebate given to our customers may be reduced or eliminated and the present low gas and service fees may need to increase.

In return for your cooperation, you will continue to receive excellent gas rates, service charge and rebates.

GOVERNMENT REBATES

The Government of Alberta is offering energy efficiency rebates to help Albertans reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Rebates are available to existing homeowners who improve their energy efficiency and to new home buyers who purchase energy efficient homes.

When you participate in the federal ecoENERGY Retrofit Program, you can receive complementary provincial rebates for upgrades to domestic hot water and insulation. As part of the federal program, a pre-retrofit evaluation is performed by a Natural Resources Canada-certified energy advisor. Once you have completed the recommended upgrades, the energy advisor returns for a post-retrofit evaluation to validate your improvements. The provincial government is also providing a rebate to help offset the cost of the home energy evaluation. Aligning the province's rebates to this federal program ensures third-party, certified verification. This keeps our administration costs down by using the federal approval process and helps Albertans access additional grants from the federal government.

No application is necessary! We automatically receive the information we require from Natural Resources Canada to issue a cheque for the insulation, domestic hot water and home energy evaluation rebates.

For information on the ecoENERGY Retrofit Program visit www.ecoenergy.gc.ca.

The province is partnering with Climate Change Central to design and deliver these rebate programs to Albertans. Climate Change Central is a non-profit organization empowering Albertans to take action on climate change.

NATURAL GAS REBATE PROGRAM

On March 31, 2009, the Natural Gas Rebate Program expired, and will not be renewed for the 2009-10 fiscal year. The Alberta Government initiated the rebate program in 2003-04 in an effort to protect consumers from high natural gas prices. In January, 2006, prices peaked at \$14.40 per gigajoule with a rebate of \$7.29 per gigajoule being paid.

Since then, producers have carried out extensive exploration and drilling programs, which has resulted in greater production activity and higher storage inventories. The current economic downturn has severely reduced consumer demand for natural gas throughout North America, particularly in the industrial and manufacturing sectors. Higher production and storage levels combined with a lack of consumer demand have created an over-supply in the market that may continue to depress gas prices next winter.

Other fundamentals that may impact natural gas price in the upcoming winter period are as follows:

- Hurricanes in the Gulf Coast this summer or fall
- Warmer than normal temperatures in highly populated areas in the United States
- Industrial activity could increase if consumer demand for industrial products exceeds inventory levels
- Many natural gas producers are considering production cut-backs if prices remain low. For example, EnCana has shut-in some of their production both in Canada and the United States.

The Vermilion River Regional Healthy Communities Coalition (VRRHCC) and the Wainwright and Area Social Action Committee (WASAC) recently launched their *Youth Resiliency Project* – thanks to the \$327,000 Health Canada Grant .



First item on the agenda was to hire two Community Youth Workers to serve the communities in the region.

Their primary functions are to

- assist youth, schools, parents, coaches and community organizations with the *Youth Resiliency Project's* and initiatives
- provide workshops on *Developmental Assets*
- supply resources to the communities to enhance *Developmental Assets*
- provide parents with drug and alcohol awareness presentations
- link communities with appropriate resources and supports
- support community events that have activities that build assets in youth
- develop two youth advisory committees

Youth Worker—**Deanne Moylan** at 780-872-6495 deanne.moylan@btps.ca will be serving the communities of Blackfoot, Clondonald, Dewberry, Innisfree, Islay, Kitscoty, Mannville, Marwayne, Paradise Valley, Tulliby Lake and Vermilion

Youth Worker—**Carol Stringer** at 780-806-6353 carol.stringer@btps.ca will be serving the communities of Chauvin, Edgerton, Irma and Wainwright

Deanne and Carol have taken training while implementing the objectives of the *Youth Resiliency Project*. Although many people may be on summer holidays, these Community Youth Workers are not! While maintaining regular office hours, they also plan community events.

Government Agencies Partnering in the Youth Resiliency Project:

The **VRRHCC** is an alliance of agencies and municipalities including the County of Vermilion River, Town of Vermilion , and the Villages of Kitscoty, Paradise Valley, Marwayne, and Dewberry.

The **WASAC** includes the municipalities of the MD of Wainwright, the Town of Wainwright, and the Villages of Chauvin, Edgerton and Irma.

Contact Information:

Vermilion River Regional Healthy Communities Coalition (VRRHCC)

Don Whittaker (780) 871-8188

Alberta Health Services – Central Zone (East)

Susan McCulley – Health Promotion Programmer (780) 842-4077 (toll free 310-0000-842-4077)

Alberta Health Services – Addictions & Mental Health

Keily Stetson (780) 842-7619

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)

Carol Coleman (780) 853-5358

Family School Liaison (FSL)

Pat Calyniuk (780) 853-4164

or contact your local school office for assistance

RCMP

Vermilion detachment (780) 853-4441

Kitscoty detachment (780) 846-2870

FAMILY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES (FCSS)



GRANT PROGRAM

The Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Grant 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 to promote and enhance well-being among individuals, families, and communities.

The program depends on community resources, often involving volunteers in management and delivery. The basic FCSS philosophy is a belief that self-help contributes to a sense of integrity, self-worth and independence. Programs are intended to help individuals within their communities to adopt healthy lifestyles, thereby improving the quality of life and building the capacity to prevent and /or deal with crisis situations should they arise.

In line with a key principle of the FCSS mandate the County is responsible for local priority setting and resource allocation to:

- promote and facilitate the development of stronger communities;
- promote public participation in planning, delivery and governing the program and services provided under the program;
- promote and facilitate the involvement of volunteers;
- promote efficient and effective use of resources; and
- promote and facilitate co-operation and co-ordination with allied service agencies operating within the municipality.

This grant funds projects and programs of a preventative nature that enhance the social well being of individuals and families through promotion or intervention strategies provided at the earliest opportunity. Programs should:

- help people to develop independence, strengthen coping skills, become more resistant to crisis;
- help people to develop an awareness of social needs;
- help people develop interpersonal and group skills which enhance constructive relationships among people;
- help people and communities to assume responsibility for decisions and actions which affect them; and
- provide supports that help sustain people as active participants in their community. The recognition of volunteers is

Grants may not be used for projects or programs that are primarily rehabilitative in nature, duplicate services that are ordinarily provided by a government or government agency, must not offer financial assistance to sustain an individual or family, and must not provide primarily for the recreational needs or leisure-time pursuits of individuals.

FCSS funds a wide variety of programs that serve County citizens ranging from preschoolers through to seniors, as well as many volunteer recognition and community service initiatives. Programs operate in the hamlets and villages throughout the County as well as the Town of Vermilion and the City of Lloydminster, providing convenient and accessible support to County residents.

The County is now accepting applications for 2010 Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) grants. Applications must be received at the County Office by SEPTEMBER 18, 2009 in order to be considered for 2010 funding. Please mark envelopes to the attention of the FCSS Coordinator and mail, fax or drop them off at the County Administration Office.

If your agency or organization provides services or programs that support County residents and fit the criteria listed above you can apply for funding assistance for your program or project.

The FCSS application forms and guidelines are available at the County office or can be downloaded from the County website at www.vermilion-river.com.

If you have questions regarding the grant or require forms to be mailed, please do not hesitate to contact Sharon Williams, FCSS Coordinator, by calling (780) 846-2244 or (780) 853-5492.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

ACCEPTABLE WASTE AT TRANSFER SITES

Please Note that large quantities of construction materials such as shingles, siding, etc. must be taken to the Vermilion site. We also request that **ALL** contractors take their waste to the Vermilion Transfer Site for disposal providing the quantities and types have been approved. It's always a good idea to phone 780-853-4572 before you take the waste to Vermilion in order to ensure that it will be accepted, and to receive any instructions.

1. Household Waste.
2. Cardboard.
3. Used Oil and Filters.
4. Lead-Acid Batteries only.
5. Metal.
6. Freon Appliances (such as fridges, freezers, water coolers). Contractors must pay \$25 per unit for these, but there is no charge for rate payers.
7. Propane Bottles. There is no charge to rate payers for these.
8. Clean Agricultural Pesticide Jugs (these are accepted at all our sites except for the Kitscoty Transfer Site).
9. Used Mattresses and Furniture.
10. Used Tires.
11. Clean Burnables and Yard Waste
12. Rolled Wire

The following products are accepted at the Vermilion, Kitscoty, Marwayne, Dewberry/Clandonald and P.V. sites only:

1. E-Waste (computer hardware, televisions).
2. Used Paint and Paint cans up to 23 litre size.
3. Aerosol paint cans
4. Hazardous Waste (Listed Below)

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE LIST OF ACCEPTABLE WASTE IN HAZARDOUS WASTE BINS

(small household quantities only - NOT FOR COMMERCIAL)

Abrasive cleaners	Contact cement	Mildew removers
Acetone	Degreasers (petroleum based)	Nail polish and remover
Aerosol paints/sprays	Disinfectants	Oven cleaners
Air fresheners (aerosol)	Drain Cleaners	Paint thinners & strippers
All-purpose cleaners (solvent based)	Fabric Softeners	Photographic chemicals
Ammonia	Fluorescent light bulbs	Rubbing alcohol
Ant/wasp spray	Fungicides (small quant)	Rug and upholstery clnrs
Antifreeze	Furniture polishes/waxes	Septic tank degreaser
Batteries (small alkaline)	Glass cleaners	Rust remover
Barbeque starters	Glues (solvent & water)	Silver and brass polish
Bleach	Hair colouring	Solvents, turpentine
Brake and transmission fluid	Perm solutions	Spot removers
Butane refills	Hairsprays (aerosol)	Toilet cleaners
Carbon tetrachloride	Insecticides (small quantities)	Tub and tile cleaners
Car waxes/polishes (solvent& water based)	Lye	Weed killers
		Windshield washer liquid

We will not accept large industrial quantities of paint and hazardous waste at any of our sites.

We will not accept biohazard material.

We will not accept concrete.

It is important to note that our transfer sites are for household waste disposal only, and they are not designed for large quantities of construction material. All waste when brought to our sites must be separated by the rate payer and put in the correct bin or holding compound.

**VERMILION RIVER REGIONAL
WASTE MANAGEMENT
SERVICES COMMISSION**

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

Transfer Station Hours

Kitscoty: (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.

Marwayne: (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)

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

Thur: 12:00 p.m.—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.

Preston: (SW 30-48-6 W4)

Sat: 10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

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

Wed (1st & 3rd) 3:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.
Sat (2nd & 4th) 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

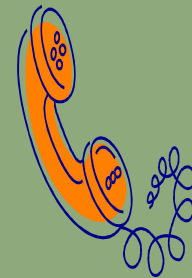
Vermilion: (SW 5-51-6 W4)

Monday through Saturday (except Stat Hol) 9:00 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.

Please note: The Wednesday hours for Tulliby lake are in effect until October 28, 2009, then they will revert back to 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Important Numbers to Remember

Ambulance, Fire, Police	911
Alberta Alcohol & Drug Abuse Commission	1-866-332-2322
Alberta Seniors Information Line	1-800-642-3853
Battle River Victims Assistance	780-853-2839 (Vermilion)
	780-846-2870 (Kitscoty)
Bullying Help Line	1-888-456-2323
Child Abuse Hotline	1-800-387-5437
Crisis Line	1-800-661-4606
Family Violence Information Line	310-1818
Gambling Help Line	1-866-332-2322
Kids Help Line	1-800-668-6868
Lloydminster Interval Home (call collect)	780-875-0966
Lloydminster Sexual Assault Centre (24 hour)	306-825-8255
Mental Health Line	1-877-303-2642
Safe Kids Help Line	1-877-385-5437
Senior's Distress Line	1-800-232-7288
Social Service Emergency Assistance Line	1-800-638-0715
STD / AIDS Information Line	1-800-772-2437



As of September 1, 2009, the County has hired Lorinda Smith as the new Dog Control Officer
She can be contacted at (780) 205-0604



COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Street Address: 4912-50 Ave
Kitscoty, AB

Mailing Address: Box 69
Kitscoty, AB
T0B 2P0

Phone: (780) 846-2244
Gas Utility: (780) 846-2222
Vermilion Line: (780) 853-5492
Fax: (780) 846-2716

E-mail: county24@telusplanet.net

Website: www.vermilion-river.com

PLEASE REMEMBER.....to use your proper account # when paying your bills. Occasionally we have had customers use the incorrect account # which has resulted in their payment being applied to the wrong department. In some instances, penalties have been applied to the outstanding accounts where the department is unaware that a payment has been made to another account.

If you are paying a receivables invoice online.....please use 111111 (all ones) as your account #)