

Living in CVR



[www.vermilion-river.com](http://www.vermilion-river.com)



@vermilionriver



**Contents**

Contents ..... 1

RURAL LIFESTYLE ..... 2

COMMUNICATION..... 3

DEPARTMENTS ..... 4

PURCHASING LAND ..... 5

DEVELOPING PROPERTY ..... 5

SUBDIVIDING LAND ..... 5

TAXES..... 6

BUSINESSES ..... 6

EMERGENCY SERVICES ..... 6

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ..... 6

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ..... 7

HEALTH & FAMILY SERVICES ..... 7

RECREATION ..... 8

ROADS..... 8

WASTE & GARBAGE ..... 9

WATER & SEWER ..... 10

UTILITIES..... 10

NATURAL GAS UTILITY..... 10

POSTAL SERVICES ..... 11

WORKING WITH YOUR AGRICULTURAL NEIGHBOURS. 11

PREPARING FOR MOTHER NATURE..... 12

FIRE PERMITS & BANS ..... 12

DOG OWNERSHIP ..... 13

COMMUNITY PEACE OFFICERS..... 13

## RURAL LIFESTYLE

Living in the country can be a wonderful experience. The unique landscape and diverse natural elements of the County of Vermilion River (CVR) is what makes it such an attractive place to live. There are real benefits to living in the country, but it is important to understand the realities of a rural lifestyle.

The geographical size of the County prevents our municipality from offering the same level of service as those residing in an urban environment have come to expect. Municipal services can differ vastly between urban and rural municipalities - services such as water, sewer and garbage collection may not be available in all areas.

This document provides some of the basic information on the services we offer our citizens. Our staff will be happy to answer any questions you may have about our services. Please feel free to contact us:



### ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

4912 50 Ave Box 69 Kitscoty, Alberta T0B 2P0 [www.vermilion-river.com](http://www.vermilion-river.com)  
Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

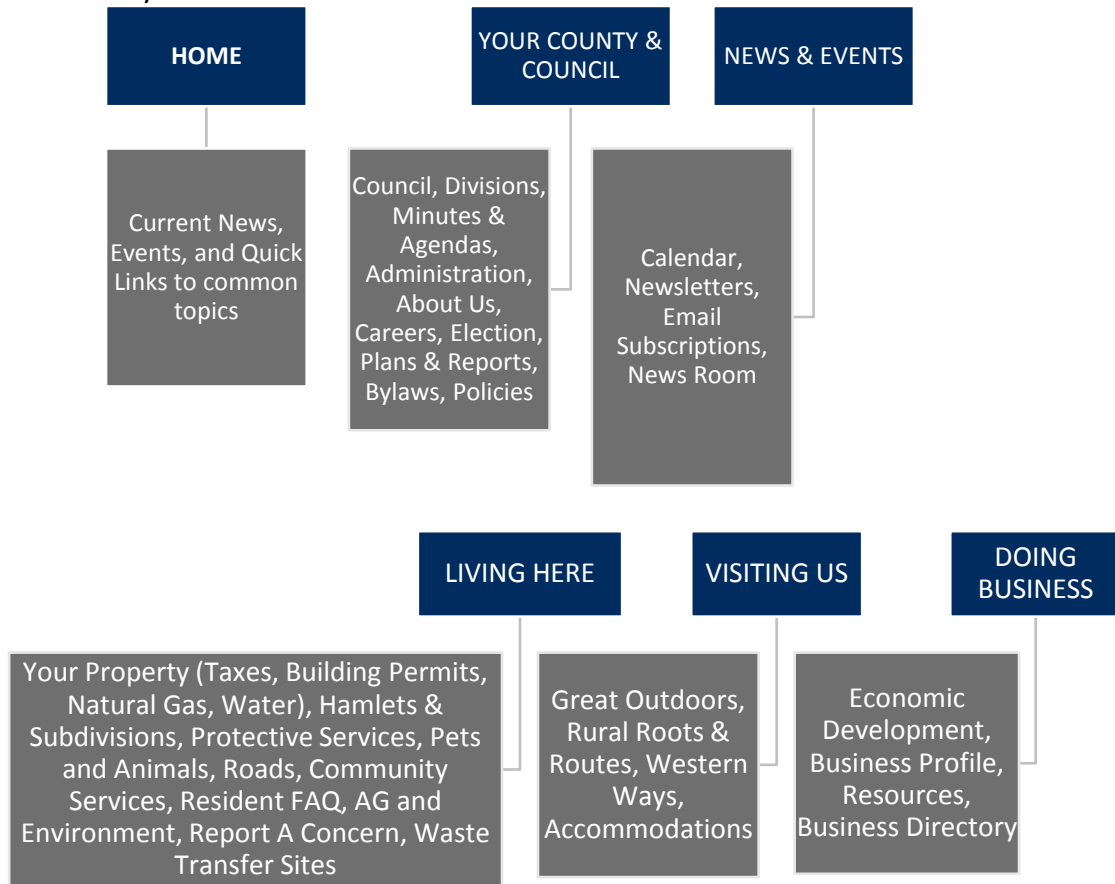
DEPARTMENT	PHONE	FAX	EMAIL
<b>Administration</b>	780.846.2244 780.853.5492	780.846.2716	office@county24.com
<b>Public Works</b>	780.846.3309	780.846.2985	publicworks@county24.com
<b>Natural Gas Utility Box 55 Kitscoty, AB T0B 2P0</b>	780.846.2222	780.846.2716	gasut@county24.com
<b>AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY</b>	780.846.2929		

## COMMUNICATION

The CVR posts notices, employment opportunities, public hearing notices and public information on our website and in the local newspapers: The Meridian Source, Vermilion Standard and Vermilion Voice.

Visit the CVR website at [www.vermilion-river.com](http://www.vermilion-river.com) for current information. Our social media feeds (Facebook & Twitter) will also provide the most up-to-date information on unforeseen issues or interruptions related to services, upcoming events, and general program updates.

On our website you will find:



We also produce and distribute a quarterly newsletter – *County Currents* – that provides useful information on new programs, projects and services. The newsletter is sent out via Canada Post in March, June, Sept, and Dec. Past copies of the newsletter can be found on the website via Quick Links on the home page or the News & Events page.

## DEPARTMENTS

CVR's operations are delivered through 6 departments:



### ADMINISTRATION

- Assessment & Taxation
- Billings & Payments
- Finance
- Technology
- GIS
- Communications
- Intermunicipal Liaison



### AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

- Ag Service Board
- Weed & Pest Control
- Roadside Mowing
- Natural Areas & Wetlands Management
- Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture (AESA)
- Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS)



### NATURAL GAS UTILITY

- Construction and maintenance of transmission system
- Delivery of natural gas to residential & industrial customers
- Service Installations



### PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

- Regulates & Controls Development activities
- Building & Construction
- Drainage
- Intermunicipal Development Plans, Land Use
- Annexation
- Economic Development & Tourism



### PROTECTIVE SERVICES

- Coordinates Fire & Rescue services
- Health & Safety
- Enforcing Provincial Legislations & Regulations
- Investigating and enforcing County Bylaws for Land Use, Heavy Vehicle, Noise, Nuisance & Unsightly, Traffic
- Dog Control



### PUBLIC WORKS

- Construction & maintenance of roads year round
- Manage fleet and equipment maintenance
- Operate water supply and wastewater collection systems

**PLANNING &  
DEVELOPMENT  
Department**

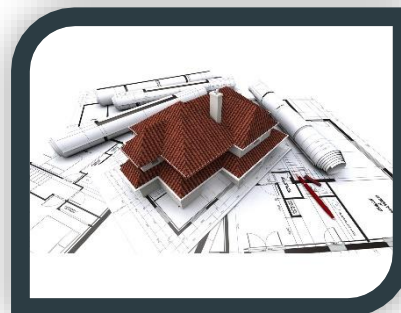
## PURCHASING LAND

It is important to research all the issues before purchasing or developing land. You should check with us for confirmation of uses and the regulated setbacks on a specific piece of land. Easements may require you to allow construction and maintenance of roads, utility lines, etc. across your land. Fences that separate properties are often misaligned with the property lines and can be confirmed through a land survey. By pulling the certificate of title from Alberta Land Titles, you can be sure that you are aware of easements and caveats on your property. Some subdivisions have covenants that limit the use of property. Please make sure you can live within those rules.

**PLANNING &  
DEVELOPMENT  
Department**

## DEVELOPING PROPERTY

When you live in a rural area, be assured that the surrounding lands will not always remain the same. The view from your property may change. The development of property can range anywhere from building a new home to the construction of a major multi-million dollar industry. The zoning of your property and the surrounding areas, may restrict what you might be able to build. Be aware of the zoning of your property and how it may affect future development, as well as what future developments are being planned in your area. If you are considering developing or building on your land please check with us for zoning **PRIOR** to commencing any development (refer to the Land Use Bylaw). As well, you will require a development permit (which can take up to 40 days for approval) for improvements, construction etc. from the Planning & Development department



Development permits issued for permitted uses are posted in the County office and those issued for discretionary uses are advertised in a local newspaper.

**PLANNING &  
DEVELOPMENT  
Department**

## SUBDIVIDING LAND

If you are interested in subdividing your land, please call us for information relative to what you can and cannot do. Applications for subdivisions are to be submitted directly to Municipal Planning Services (Alberta) Ltd, along with the required fee. You can contact their office at 780.486.1991 or visit their website at [www.munplan.ab.ca](http://www.munplan.ab.ca). Please remember that an access is required to each parcel of land at the owner's expense. Contact the **County Public Works department** for placement recommendation and information on County standards.

**TAX**  
*Department*

**TAXES**

Taxes are levied on all properties annually. Notices are mailed to every property owner (usually in June) and are due by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

The mailing address entered into our tax system is taken from the land title copy the County receives from the Land Titles Office. Remember, it is **YOUR responsibility** to advise the County Office of any address changes.

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**  
*Department*

**BUSINESSES**

Businesses (including home-based businesses) are encouraged to register their business (free of charge) with the Community Development Coordinator in our Business Registration program.

Having a complete list of products, services, and businesses available in CVR will strengthen our opportunities for future growth and business attraction.

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES**  
*Department*

**EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Call **911** for any emergency where assistance is required from the RCMP, Fire or Ambulance. The CVR covers a very large area. Emergency response times cannot be guaranteed.

Ambulance services are stationed in the City of Lloydminster and the Town of Vermilion.

The CVR engages the services of eight Fire Departments – Blackfoot, Clandonald, Dewberry, Islay, Kitscoty, Marwayne, Paradise Valley and Vermilion. All of these departments are manned by very dedicated volunteer members (we are always recruiting new volunteers!). These eight Fire Departments are responsible for all fire suppression activities.



RCMP coverage is provided from detachments in Vermilion and Kitscoty.

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES**  
*Department*

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

Emergency occurrences that can happen in this area of Alberta are severe snowstorms, thunderstorms, tornados or power blackouts. Is your family prepared?

1. **Know the Risks:** Identify the hazards in your region,
2. **Make a Plan:** Know what you and your family should do in case of an emergency,
3. **Prepare an Emergency Kit:** Emergency Management Alberta recommends you maintain a three day (72 Hour) supply of what you need should you be stranded at home with no power or ability to travel: food, medications, a three day supply of drinking water for each member of the family, wood and/or propane, first aid kit, battery-run radio, toilet accommodations. For more detailed information, pick up a handy “72 Hours” Emergency Prep Pocket Guide from our office or visit: [www.getprepared.ca/](http://www.getprepared.ca/)

## EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Education is provided throughout the CVR by Buffalo Trail Public Schools (BTPS) ([www.btps.ca](http://www.btps.ca)), East Central Alberta Catholic Separate Schools (ECACS) ([www.ecacs16.ab.ca](http://www.ecacs16.ab.ca)), Lloydminster Public School Division ([www.lpsd.ca](http://www.lpsd.ca)) and the Lloydminster Catholic School Division ([www.lcsd.ca](http://www.lcsd.ca)) dependent on location within the County. All bussing is provided by Buffalo Trail.

There are schools located in Clandonald, Dewberry, Kitscoty, Marwayne, Paradise Valley, Tulliby Lake and Vermilion. There is also one Hutterian colony school, plus on-line and outreach learning programs. ECACS offers one K-12 school as well as virtual home school programs based in Vermilion.

Lakeland College offers courses in many disciplines from the Lloydminster and Vermilion campuses. Contact: 1.800.661.6490 or [www.lakelandcollege.ca](http://www.lakelandcollege.ca)

Community adult learning programs are also offered in Lloydminster and Vermilion.

## HEALTH & FAMILY SERVICES

Alberta Health Services – Central Zone ([www.albertahealthservices.ca](http://www.albertahealthservices.ca)) provides medical services to our citizens via the Lloydminster and Vermilion hospitals, two public health offices and several extended care facilities. The Thorpe Recovery Centre provides client-centered and community-based addiction services from their facility located just outside of the Hamlet of Blackfoot.



There is a strong Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) network in the County with many organizations providing human services supports to our residents.



## RECREATION

The region also offers numerous recreation facilities including ice arenas, curling rinks, golf courses, campgrounds, community halls, seniors' facilities, playgrounds, ball diamonds, rodeo grounds, Mount Joy Snow Resort, museums, libraries, the Lindsay A. Evans Park, McNabb Natural Area, Jubilee Regional Park (Marwayne/Lea Park) and Vermilion Provincial Park.



### **PUBLIC WORKS Department**

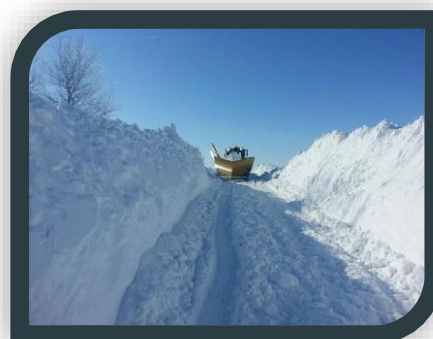
## ROADS

The majority of the roads in the CVR are gravel surfaces and the sheer size of the municipality presents its own set of challenges. Maintenance and repairs to gravel roads are done in as timely a manner as possible, but please be prepared for times when travel on gravel roads becomes difficult.

Mother Nature can be both our best friend and our greatest adversary. Snow falls combined with wind can sometimes reduce visibility and make travel difficult. Rains can cause gravel roads to become slippery and they can develop washboards. Be prepared for these conditions and leave ample time for travel. Most importantly, please remember that driving on a gravel surface is different from driving on a paved surface.

The CVR maintains approximately **5,250 kilometres** of local roads. That is almost the same distance if you were to travel from our eastern boundary to New York City! Here are a few more things you should know about CVR roadways:

- The County maintains all public roadways with the exception of primary (two-numbered) highways and secondary (three-numbered) highways. These highways are the responsibility of the Province and the maintenance of these is contracted out to private contractors. In our region, the primary contractor is Carillion Canada Inc. Private driveways or roadways are the responsibility of the landowner, including their maintenance and clearing.
- CVR has a Heavy Traffic Bylaw that requires any vehicles 22,500 kgs and higher to have a PERMIT when travelling within the County. The permit will outline specific roads that vehicle can drive on. This applies to truck/trailer/semi used for farming, as well as any other industrial or commercial vehicles 22,500kgs or more. Contact our Public Works team for permit information.



- Spring and summer months bring dust. Only some of the high traffic roads are treated by the CVR with a dust suppressant. Landowners, too, can apply to have dust control applied in front of their residence. Contact us or review the website for costs and additional information.
- To report a problem such as signs down, dead wildlife or refuse along CVR roadsides, fallen trees, or any other road or infrastructure related concerns, please contact us as soon as possible.
- Winter months can bring heavy snowfall. During these times, major roadways and school bus routes are first priority for snow removal. County crews work diligently to open all public roadways in a timely matter. It normally takes 3 to 4 days for all local gravel roads to be cleared of snow and after a severe snow storm it may take even longer. Be sure you are prepared for what Mother Nature sends your way.
- Snow removal for private driveways is offered as an optional service. Snow Plow flags are purchased through the office and are good for the season. A Waiver form will need to be signed before getting a flag. Additional hourly rates will apply to lanes in excess of 500 metres. Please note that flagged driveways will be plowed after all Main Roads, Bus Routes, and Grid Roads have been opened. Contact our office for current fees.



## WASTE & GARBAGE

Whether you live on an **acreage, multi-lot residential development or on a farm**, you are responsible for properly disposing of your refuse. **It is illegal to create your own trash dump, even on your own land.** Garbage attracts problem wildlife and insects, and poses a threat to neighboring livestock. The Vermilion River Regional Waste Management Services Commission (VRRWMSC) is responsible for waste management services for County residents. Transfer stations are located at:

- Kitscoty (SE-35-50-3 W4M)
- Marwayne (SE-34-52-3 W4M)
- Clandonald/Dewberry (NE-11-53-5 W4M)
- Paradise Valley (NW-7-47-2 W4M)
- Preston (SW-30-48-6 W4M)
- Tulliby Lake (NW-6-55-1 W4M)
- Vermilion (SW-5-51-6 W4M)



Garbage pick-up in the hamlets of Blackfoot, Clandonald, and Islay is contracted to Quik-Pick Waste Disposal. Pick-up is on designated days, garbage cans must be at the roadside by 7:00 am to ensure pick-up. To purchase a garbage can, please contact the Water & Sewer department at the CVR office.

Inquiries may be directed to the VRRWMSC at 780.853.5561.

**PUBLIC  
WORKS  
Department**

## WATER & SEWER

Most rural homesteads do not have access to treated potable **water**. Ground water wells or water cistern systems are typically used to provide rural residents with water. Contact your local PFRA office, Alberta Environment or a water well drilling company for additional information.



- Community water well tank loader facilities can be found at:

Paradise Valley (SW 36-47-3 W4M)

Preston (NW 35-47-6 W4M)

Alcurve (NE 3-52-1 W4M)

Riverton (SW 20-54-3 W4M)

Highway 640 (NE 12-55-5 W4M)

- For information on purchasing non-potable water from any of our Community Water Wells, please visit our website [https://vermilion-river.com/living\\_here/your\\_property/water\\_and\\_sewer\\_utility.html](https://vermilion-river.com/living_here/your_property/water_and_sewer_utility.html) or contact the PW department
- If you purchase property that has an existing dwelling or farmstead, have the water and sewage systems inspected by a professional.

**Sewage** disposal is also something rural landowners must provide for themselves. Check the Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standards of Practice for sewage system guidelines (Safety Codes Council) or contact our safety codes provider, Superior Safety Codes, at 780.870.9020.

## UTILITIES

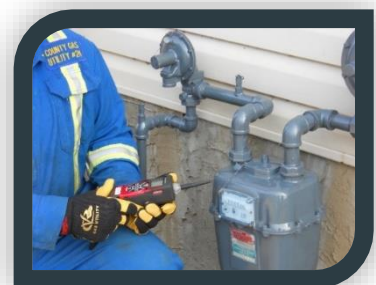
**Utilities** like electricity, propane, cable/satellite and telephone services are all provided by private companies and service calls may take longer than in urban areas.

**NATURAL  
GAS UTILITY  
Department**

## NATURAL GAS UTILITY

The CVR operates its own **Natural Gas Utility** that serves the majority of our rural residents plus Dewberry, Marwayne, Paradise Valley, McLaughlin, Rivercourse, Tulliby Lake, Clandonald, and Streamstown.

The Gas Utility operates free of tax dollars and services over 3,100 customers. With more than 2.1 million Gigajoules per year transported along 4,300 km of pipelines, we are the largest rural distributor of natural gas in Alberta (moving more than 4 times as much as the next



largest rural gas cooperative). Our system also includes a new Automated Meter Reading system that has improved reading accuracies and efficiencies across the system. With our great rates and service, our customers see savings of approximately \$150/year compared to investor-owned utilities.

The department received the Emerald Award in the Climate Change category for our work on innovative gas pipelines and re-processing vented gases that are then put back into the system – saving money plus the environment.

Contact our Natural Gas Utility Office to see if your land is eligible for servicing by calling 780.846.2222.



## POSTAL SERVICES

Although there is rural route mail delivery in some locations, it may not be available to all rural residents. Ask Canada Post to explain the mail system in your area. A post office box from your nearest Canada Post office may be required.

### AGRICULTURE Department

## WORKING WITH YOUR AGRICULTURAL NEIGHBOURS

Agriculture is a viable part of the economy in the CVR. Our farmers and ranchers can be some of the best neighbours you will ever have if you take the time to understand their way of life and appreciate the hard work they do.



Owning land in the County means knowing how to care for it and how your neighbours use their land. If you choose to live among the farms and ranches of our countryside, there are some aspects of farming activities that may affect you. Here are some things to keep in mind about your new farming neighbours.

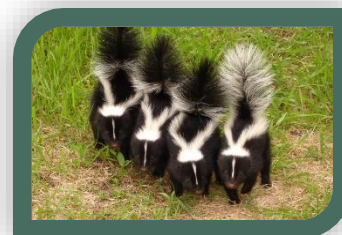
- CVR will not intervene in normal day-to-day operations of farming.
- It is possible that adjoining agricultural uses could disturb your peace and quiet. Noise and dust can affect you, especially during peak agricultural seasons such as seeding or harvest. During these times farmers may work around the clock. Expect large machinery to be running all night long and watch for this machinery traveling down the roads.
- Weed control is important as weeds can spread quickly from your land and damage crops, forages, and even poison livestock on your neighbour's land. The Alberta Weed Control Act requires all Alberta residents to keep their lands clean of noxious and restricted weeds.

- Be aware that farming operations may include the spraying of chemicals on their fields. Most spraying takes place during early morning hours and may even be applied with crop dusters (low-flying airplanes).
- Livestock and their waste can cause unpleasant odours which cannot be controlled. A farmer may spread manure on his land; during the spreading process the odours may be very strong but will dissipate once the spreading is complete.
- Lack of fencing around neighbouring lands does not mean you may access it for recreational purposes (snowmobiling, ATVs, horseback riding). Seek permission from your neighbours before you enter their lands.

## PREPARING FOR MOTHER NATURE

Living in a rural setting allows residents to experience the wonders of Mother Nature the way urban dwellers cannot. Country living can be peaceful and all that you've dreamed of, but there are some unique challenges that rural residents face on a daily basis. Preparing for the good and the bad that Mother Nature offers is an important part of rural living. Some things to be aware of include:

- Wildlife is wonderful but they can also cause accidents, property damage, and livestock deaths. Be aware of wildlife in your area such as deer, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, badgers, porcupines, skunks, gophers, beavers, and magpies, just to name a few.
- Water from the spring melt and summer storms can sometimes pool or cause flooding before finding natural drainage courses. Keep natural and artificial drainage systems clear and....be patient.
- Severe snowstorms or heavy snowfall can cause roads to become temporarily impassable. CVR crews will be out in full force, but that does not mean your front door to the nearest highway will be snow-free in a matter of hours. During the winter months, make sure you are well stocked with supplies such as food, water, alternate heating fuel and inform your friends, family and employer that you live in a rural area.
- Insects, like most wildlife, thrive in natural settings. Insect populations for the most part are beyond control. Being diligent with trash removal, waste removal, and taking proper care of your lands helps to reduce insects around your property.



## FIRE PERMITS & BANS

Wildfires are a major concern in rural areas, especially during dry periods. The vast expanses of hay fields, crops, and brush can easily ignite and spread quickly. Rural residents need to keep their lands clear of dead brush and be very careful with any outdoor fires.

- Fire permits are **required year-round** in the County. These **free** permits can be obtained by visiting or calling the Administration Office or you can also contact your local Councilor to obtain a fire permit. During extreme dry conditions fire bans may be implemented which then cancel out all fire bans. Monitor our website and social media feeds for any updates on fire bans.

**ENFORCEMENT  
SERVICES  
Department**

## DOG OWNERSHIP

Living in the country does not mean your dogs can roam free. Ensure that your pets stay on your property for your, as well as your neighbours', sake. Even the gentlest pet can take a liking to chasing cars, cattle and wildlife. Keeping your pets at home can prevent them from falling prey to not-so-friendly wildlife including porcupines, skunks and coyotes. Dog owners are also responsible for ensuring that their dogs' barking does not bother neighbours. The County Dog Control Bylaw requires ALL dogs to be licensed. Dogs are limited to 4 per residence in rural areas and 2 per residence in Hamlets or multi-lot residential subdivisions. Kennel operations require a development permit.



Our website (under: Living Here – Pets & Animals) has a full range of information on Owning a Dog, Dog Licensing, Lost Dogs, Nuisance Dogs and Stray Cats as well as contact information for the Dog Control Officer and the SPCA.

**ENFORCEMENT  
SERVICES  
Department**

## COMMUNITY PEACE OFFICERS

CVR has two full time Community Peace Officers that enforce Bylaws related to Land Use, Heavy Vehicle Traffic, Noise, Nuisance & Unsightly Premises, and Traffic.