



# HUBhappenings

June 2010

## Annual General Meeting...

AlbertaHUB held their Annual General Meeting on May 20, 2010 in St. Paul. It was an evening event that was attended by many members, and representatives from Chambers of Commerce, Northern Alberta Development Council, Rural Alberta's Development Fund, Community Futures, Lakeland College, Portage College, Iron Horse Trail, Alberta's Lakeland DMO, and Alberta Employment and Immigration.

Mr. Bob Bezpalko, Master of Ceremonies did a great job emceeding the event.

The agenda of the evening included:

- Welcome from Chair Mr. Don Whittaker
- Welcome from the Town of St. Paul by Councilor John Trefanenko
- Business items such as adoption of minutes and the annual report
- 2010-2011 Operational Plan presented by Rick Bastow of Alberta Finance and Enterprise
- Financial Report presented by Barb McCarthy of Joly, McCarthy & Dion
- Aboriginal Communities Enterprises Project update presented by Curtis Whyte of Whyte Reynolds International Inc.

The keynote speaker was Mrs. Brenda Robinson from The Robcan Group who spoke on "Working Together - Works" and had a few humorous stories to share.

After Brenda's motivational speech, it was time to hold the elections for the Board of Directors for 2010-2011. Bob Bezpalko oversaw the elections and the results were:

- Martha Wessel - Village of Mannville (representing Villages)
- Dick Millar - Town of Elk Point (representing Towns under 3000)
- Richard Coleman - Town of Vegreville and Bruce Marriott - Town of Vermilion (representing Towns over 3000)
- Soren Odegard - County of Two Hills, Frank Sloan - County of St. Paul, Don Whittaker - County of Vermilion River (representing Counties/MD's)
- Horace Patenaude - Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement (presenting Metis Settlements)
- Sandy Jackson - Whitefish Lake First Nation (representing First Nations)

After the elections, it was time to recognize Don Whittaker for his dedication and time he spent as the Chair of the organization for the past two years. Bruce Marriott presented Don with a lovely plaque on behalf of the membership.

Other presentations and acknowledgements went to the 2009-2010 Board of Directors as well as the community members and their economic development staff.❖

## Executive for 2010-2011

The Board of Directors held their Organizational Meeting on June 3, 2010 and elected the following people to the Executive. Congratulations to:

- Soren Odegard - County of Two Hills (Chair)
- Richard Coleman - Town of Vegreville (Vice-Chair)
- Bruce Marriott - Town of Vermilion (Secretary/Treasurer)❖

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## Message from the Chair

I am honored to have been elected Chair of Alberta HUB and am looking forward to a successful and impactful 2010-2011 operating year. My thanks to Don Whittaker, former Chair as well as the previous Alberta HUB Chairs and member communities for their involvement. My transition into the role of Chair has been made that much easier thanks to their drive and commitment.

Alberta HUB is all about collaboration and the necessity of working together to achieve tangible benefits for our communities and residents. Our region is unique and the opportunities found here competitively distinguish us from other regions.

2010-2011 is shaping up to be a busy and fruitful year and Alberta HUB is exploring a number of exciting partnership opportunities. I recently met with the Chairs of the Palliser Economic Partnership and the Battle River Alliance for Economic Development to discuss how the three organizations can work collaboratively to benefit eastern Alberta.

The sky is the limit for our organization. Our joint regional economic development alliance (REDA) initiatives, partnerships formed with the region's Chambers of Commerce, Community Futures, Provincial and Federal Ministries, and other interested stakeholders, position us to pursue and achieve lasting regional impacts.

I look forward to working with all of the Alberta HUB member communities and their representatives.❖

Sincerely,

Soren Odegard, Chair  
Northeast Alberta Information HUB Ltd.

## Small Communities Symposium was a Success!

by Candace Dueck, Village of Mannville

Over 40 Alberta Small Communities gathered in Mannville, Alberta May 28-30<sup>th</sup> for a full weekend of networking designed to maintain their unique individualism while working together to share and seek solutions for success and long term sustainability.

Mannville started things off Friday night with a meet and greet held in conjunction with the Village's annual Invitational Golf Get-Together. An event in appreciation of local business owners, advisors, partners, municipal contractors and associates. Even though the weather was rainy and chilly, it didn't put a damper on the spirits of true golfers! A good time was had by all who attended, especially during the humorous presentation of Brenda Robinson.

Mannville Chamber of Commerce served a pancake breakfast followed by opening remarks and welcomes. Mr. David Beurle (keynote speaker) from Innovative Leadership Australia spoke from dignitaries on community revitalization and how crucial it is for development and growth. Various breakout sessions were held at Mannville School on a wide variety of topics. Sessions included: Alberta Emergency Management Program Guide, building a successful emergency services department, challenges with providing quality education in small rural communities, water conservation and metering, community involvement with local health services, welcoming and attracting newcomers to smaller centers and more.

The conference was community driven as local groups catered, volunteered, welcomed and area dancers performed. Facilities were both the Recreation Centre and Mannville School. Also used during the weekend was the Doc Holiday Charter bus. Thank you to everyone who sponsored and volunteered their time towards our conference.

The conference wrapped up Sunday with a final Keynote presentation and a question and answer discussion panel facilitated by Heather Nickel of Culture and Community Spirit. Delegates enjoyed meeting new contacts and addressing similar concerns and issues at hand. For further information on the conference please visit [www.albertasmallcommunities.com](http://www.albertasmallcommunities.com) or phone 780.763.3500.❖

## Netherlands Trade Mission



Alberta HUB in partnership with the Consulate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Alberta Innovates played proud host to Netherland Delegates who toured the Northeast Alberta region Tuesday June 15, 2010. Delegates were able to tour our region and its alternative energy facilities, along with meeting with Alberta Innovates to identify current and potential economic and investment opportunities.

Three industry-leading companies from the Netherlands and the Consulate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands sent delegates to identify partnership and investment opportunities within our region.

"Alberta is a province of tremendous opportunity and potential and the Alberta HUB region and its communities are a testament to the success that can be enjoyed in this province" expressed Henk Ten Wolde, Economic Consultant and Trade Commissioner representing the Consulate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Alberta HUB region has been identified as an opportune area for alternative energy industry development.

"Fostering relationships with the international business community is a great benefit for our region; I look forward to a long and prosperous relationship between the Alberta HUB region and the Netherlands consulate" says Soren Odegard, Alberta HUB Chair, when asked about what this visit means to Alberta HUB communities.

Alberta HUB looks to develop and maintain these relationships to provide connections to the global marketplace for its 34 members and their business communities. Watch for updates online at [www.albertahub.com](http://www.albertahub.com). ❖

## Vermilion "Streetscape" a Success!

By Mary Lee Prior, Community Economic Development Coordinator

In 2006 the Town of Vermilion began a journey, a Streetscapes project, to revitalize its main street and the downtown business core. A Streetscape committee was formed consisting of business owners, community members and council representatives. In 2007, project management was awarded to EDA Collaborative Inc. with the Streetscape project being implemented in three phases - concept, detailed design and construction.

Developing a project of this scale was a major undertaking and extremely important to the economic vitality of the downtown core. The town was fortunate to receive cost share funding from the Building Canada Fund as well as Alberta Municipal Infrastructure Program (AMIP) and Streets Improvement Program (SIP).

The initial project began as a beautification project which included upgrades such as sidewalk replacement, installation of benches, trees, an arbor and garbage/recycling receptacles. As the project evolved both committee and community meetings/open houses were held to discuss local improvement costs for pavement, plans, expected timelines, phases, contingency and business continuity. It was extremely important to the success of the project for both business and property owners to attend open house forums so that their questions could be answered, and everyone worked together to keep the project moving forward. With time, issues regarding drainage within the downtown core became more apparent and the scope of the "Streetscape" project changed to become a more complete project; from the perspective of both underground and surface construction.

Today the Streetscape project is currently in its final stages; Main Street is complete; with construction and paving taking place in the back alleys on either side of Main Street. The project has been a very exciting time for residents of Vermilion, as the "Streetscape" project has brought much needed infrastructure and beautification improvements to Vermilion's Downtown.

Strolling downtown Vermilion today is very different from a couple of year's ago. Decorative light posts with "V's" for Vermilion, paving stones and trees all compliment newly constructed and older restored buildings in the business core making it a truly unique historic experience - One that the community is very proud of.

To celebrate the success of the Vermilion "Streetscapes" Project the Town of Vermilion hosted a Grand Opening "Streetscape" Celebration on June 30, 2010 with a formal ceremony at 11am followed by toonie beef on a bun, shopping and activities and fireworks. A schedule of events for June 30, 2010 can be found on the Town of Vermilion's website homepage at [www.vermilion.ca](http://www.vermilion.ca). ❖



## Congratulations to...

### Marwayne...

Marwayne Agricultural Society approved a \$2.5 Million Agri-Plex. Marwayne and Area residents can look forward to a groundbreaking in September. At its meeting on April 15, the Society approved a \$2.5 million project, based on recommendations provided by the Community Task Force in place to oversee the project.

The unanimous decision by the Board of Directors follows a rigorous process with respect to preparing the business plan and final preliminary design for the new community centre, upgrades to the existing curling rink, indoor arena and site. Directors of the Society extended its thanks to the Building Committee, chaired by Al Randall, for its work to prepare recommendations, with options, to the Society.

Watch for news on the ground breaking and opportunities to support the community campaign. There will be a public ceremony to celebrate the official project launch, with recognition of early supporters.❖

## Artisan Showcase Kirk and Trudy Harrold



Kirk and Trudy, a husband and wife team, operate FocalPoint Photography from their home on a family farm near Lamont AB. Both have been making photographic images for over 25 years. Primarily self-taught, their photographic skills have been honed by coursework and experience. Their combined interests include nature photography, theatre, resume photography, art photography and custom/corporate images. They specialize in location photography and as such, bring their equipment, skill and experience to their client's choice of location.

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### Regional Cultural and Artistic Life ~ Making Connections

Alberta HUB is working to showcase the region's vitality by promoting its Cultural and Artistic life. Help us build connections with our region's quality of life resources; ask your community's Artisans and Culture and Arts organizations to submit their information to the Artisan Database.

Get your Art submission form online at [www.albertahub.com](http://www.albertahub.com) and click on "Downloads".❖

## Upcoming Meetings

No meetings in July or August

September 17, 2010  
Fall General Meeting  
County of St. Paul  
Venue TBA

October 22, 2010  
Board Meeting  
Vermilion  
Venue - TBA

November 26, 2010  
Board Meeting  
County of Two Hills  
Venue - TBA

January 28, 2011  
Board Meeting  
Bonnyville  
Venue - TBA

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