



**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

## Information Notice:

Winter in Alberta provides constant cycles of snow and blowing snow. With the amount of snow that we have experienced already, combined with the extremely windy conditions, icy streets and sidewalks is a huge concern for the Municipal Enforcement Department. For the safety of all pedestrians, please ensure that you are consistently maintaining the sidewalks around your property. Use an environmentally friendly de-icing compound, available at most hardware stores, sand, and/or cat litter if necessary.

It is important that everyone shovels their sidewalks to ensure the safety of all who use that sidewalk. They are required to be shoveled within 48 hours of when the snow stops falling; property owners and/or tenants are required to shovel any sidewalks adjacent to their property. Please ensure the ice is removed as well. Lets work together to have a safe winter season.

The requirements of this are stated in the Traffic, Highways, and Public Places Bylaw 14-2003, Sections 9.29, 9.31, and 9.32 require snow and ice to be removed from the sidewalks.

**9.29** states: All Owners, Occupants, or Tenants of property shall remove or cause to be removed and cleared away snow or ice from any sidewalk adjoining their property Owned or Occupied by them, within forty-eight (48) hours following cessation of the time when the snow or ice was formed or deposited thereon.

**9.31** states: No person shall remove dirt, debris, or any other obstruction from any sidewalk by causing such material to be placed upon any other portion of the highway, or other public place adjacent to such property.

**9.32** states: Every owner, occupant, or tenant of property with a land use designation other than R1, R2, R3, and RMH1 in the Town use Bylaw shall not place, or permit to be placed, any snow, ice, dirt, debris, or other material removed from private property onto the highways, or other public places of the Town except as authorized in writing by the Municipal Manager, or his or her designate.

## WHAT IS THE ALBERTA PHARMACEUTICAL STRATEGY FOR SENIORS? EFFECTIVE 2010

This is a plan to make drug coverage affordable, accessible, efficient and effective. Low-income seniors will receive FREE drug coverage. Seniors will pay a deductible based on their income. Single seniors with income less than \$21,325.00 will receive free drug coverage. For each \$5,000.00 of income above this base amount of \$21,325.00, seniors will pay 0.7 percent of your income to a maximum of five percent. Senior families with income less than \$42,650.00 will receive free drug coverage. For each \$5,000.00 of income above this base amount of \$42,650.00, seniors will pay 0.7 percent of your income to a maximum of five percent. This change will become effective on January 1, 2010. You can go online to check the Charts showing the deductible rates for single Seniors and for deductible rates for Senior Families. If you need any clarification you can contact Shirley McRobert, Senior Support Coordinator at the Town Hall.

## 2009 Utility Rates

When yearly operational budgets are drafted, utility rates for water, sewer, garbage and recycling are reviewed to ensure that each department generates sufficient revenue to cover annual expenditures. These rates will be in effect for your January/February 2009 bill that will go out in the mail to you on March 16, 2009. As a result, the following are the 2009 utility rates.

### Water Rates

- ▶ Consumption rate will be \$6.13 per 1,000 gallons.
- ▶ Residential flat rate will be \$46.64 per billing period (every two months)
- ▶ Commercial flat rate will be \$56.80 per billing period

### Sewer Rates

- ▶ Residential will be \$16.67 per billing period.
- ▶ All commercial category rates will also see a 21% increase.

### Garbage Rates

- ▶ Residential rate will be \$4.13 per pickup
- ▶ Commercial rate will be \$13.65 per pickup

### Recycling Rates

- ▶ \$10.30 per billing period for Residential and Commercial
- ▶ \$31.26 per billing period for Multi Dwelling

For further information or questions on the 2009 Utility Rates, refer to our website [www.vermilion.ca](http://www.vermilion.ca) or you can contact the Public Works Department at 780-581-2415 or 780-853-5358.

### TAGS HELP YOUR PET!

Lost or wandering pets may be injured, or find a new home! A dog tag identifies your pet so Town staff can contact the registered owner. All owners of cats/dogs over six months of age must purchase a 2009 Animal License from the Town Hall. 2009 Animal Tags are \$20.00 for altered animals and \$50.00 for unaltered animals. "Free" Junior Licenses for pets under six months are also available. Also a friendly reminder that your pets need special attention during the winter months. Please ensure they have adequate shelter from the wind/cold and a good supply of food and thawed water.

### 2009 Business Licenses NOW DUE

All businesses/services operating within the municipality are required to be licensed and comply with Bylaw 12-01. Residents operating a business out of their home; including direct sales, babysitting, consulting services, desktop publishing, catering, contractors, trades people, etc. require a Home Occupation Permit. All business owners are reminded to report any new businesses, changes in ownership/operator, location, telephone, or the conclusion of a business. Call the Town Hall at 780-853-5358 for more information.

### What's up at Vermilion Public Library

Patrons can be prepared for a new look and enhanced features of TRACpac, the online catalogue where you search, place holds and monitor your account: 1) increase the security of your account by choosing your own password; 2) enhance your search by using the built-in dictionary and thesaurus; 3) access a reading history list; and 4) if you wish, expect more service through email, including notification for pick-ups, overdues, and latest releases from favorite authors available on TRAC.

Cozy up at the library this winter! People of all ages are welcome to work on our 1000 piece **puzzle** any time until the end of February. Join the **Genealogy Interest Group** on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm as they meet to provide encouragement, direction, and advice to each other. **Knit Wit** begins Wednesday, January 14th and continues on Wednesday afternoons for six weeks. Anyone is welcome to bring their handiwork and enjoy the camaraderie of other like-minded souls. Our next **Computers for Novices** class begins Tuesday, February 3rd at 2:00 pm and continues for eight weeks. This class is full, but anyone else who is interested can leave their name with us and, if there are enough people, we will consider holding another class. **Ready to Lose It** is back in a new, one-day workshop format on January 17th for anyone wishing to learn how to become their own self-coach to lose weight. Please phone to pre-register. Not to leave your young ones "in the cold", we have **Kids Connection**, an hour of stories, free play time, songs, crafts and rhymes for six weeks beginning at 10:30 am on Wednesday, January 21st. Please phone to pre-register for this as well. Finally, mark Friday, February 13th on your calendars for our **Children's Valentine's Party** hosted by a puppeteer from Kitscoty. See you at the library!

# Community Services Report

In December of 2008, the Town of Vermilion launched their new website. The site has many new features including:

- Calendar of Events
- Business Directory (Done in conjunction with the business license system)
- Town of Vermilion forms for all department/functions
- Tips for Newcomers
- Public Notices (Snow removal, Garbage changes, etc)

And much much more!

We urge you to check out the new site at [www.vermilion.ca](http://www.vermilion.ca)

We have hired Jasmine Zebic as the Community Economic Development Coordinator. Jasmine has a wealth of experience in Economic Development and Marketing and we look forward to her start date of January 26.

In the Parks, Recreation and Culture field, both arenas continue to be very busy. The cold weather has created some issues with our aging building but overall, things are operating as expected. We have added some new staff at the rink with Scott DeNeve starting in late December. Finally we are up to full capacity with Rex Smith, Patrick Forsyth, Shawn Hames, Scott DeNeve, and Peter Sack. As well the Outdoor rink is up and running. The extreme cold weather has provided some challenges in making the ice for our operator Steve Theiss but overall things are going good. Thanks to Steve for the hours put in over the holidays to flood and clean the ice.

The Town of Vermilion Parks, Recreation and Culture Board is currently reviewing the use of pesticides for weed control in our parks, facilities, roadways, and playgrounds. We are seeking input from the community on this issue and would appreciate a response whether in support or against the use of pesticides by the Town of Vermilion. **Please note this is not a vote, simply a request for feedback.** Below is a list of pros and cons in documentation we have researched that looks at both sides of the issue.

## Supporting Use

- Controls the spread of dandelions into resident properties both residential and commercial
- Aesthetically appealing versus having yellow fields with nothing controlling the spread
- Would be an increase cost to turf management if weed control was necessary by other means to ensure we maintain a standard acceptable to community

## Supporting the Ban

- Minimize the risk to human health and the environment
- Shows a positive approach to supporting "Green" Initiatives for the entire community and may reflect in household yard use as well
- Increase our mark in the Communities in Bloom program as they support pesticide free municipalities



Comments:

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For further information you can review the article at this website: <http://www.environment.alberta.ca/1027.html>

Please mark your preference:

I support the use of pesticides by the Town of Vermilion: \_\_\_\_\_

I do not support the use of pesticides by the Town of Vermilion \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your response to the Town of Vermilion by January 31, 2009 to Town of Vermilion Community Services Dept. 5021-49<sup>th</sup> Ave T9X 1X1, or by fax to 780-853-4910

## The Vermilion Regional Centre

was busy over the holidays with a Christmas wedding and the annual Vermilion Rock New Years Bash. Due to the activity of the new facility, we have added two days per week to our FCSS Coordinator Carol Coleman and she will be in charge of promoting the facility, dealing with renters, and overall facility operations. To date, we have done very little marketing and promotions and the building is busy. With some extra effort we hope to increase the usage even further. 2009 is filling up fast with weddings, graduations, community fundraising events and tradeshow. In 2008, we had the following events at our new facility:

<i>Type of Event</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009 to Date</i>
Weddings	17	14
Club Room Meeting	117	80 (usually book month in advance)
Community Events	16	17
Private 1/3 Hall	9	3 (usually book month in advance)
Conferences	2	
Tradeshows	3	3

<i>Regular Users</i>	<i>905 total hours used</i>
Vermilion Dance Association	Vermilion Ukrainian Dance Association
Vermilion Rotary Club	Vermilion Art Club
Vermilion Pottery Club	Lakeland College
Kiddie Oasis	Town of Vermilion

### Public Notice

Good News! Snow removal will be in your area when you see the sandwich board signs posted in your neighbourhood stating "Snow Removal Within 24 Hours". Help the Public Works Department do the best job of snow removal in a timely and efficient manner by removing all vehicles that are located on the avenue or street. If circumstances beyond our control happen, the area may not be completed as posted but we will return in the near future. The Town would like to thank you for your cooperation during the snow removal process.

### STORE IT, DON'T POUR IT!

Pouring fats, oils, and grease down your drain clogs your pipes and costs time and money. Did you know that hot water and soap do not wash away the fats, oils, and grease you pour down your drain? In fact, the fats, oils, and grease will still solidify in your pipes, clog your sewer lines, and can cause sewage backups in your home and in the neighbourhood. The result is time, trouble, and expense for you, your neighbours, and the Town.

Be sure to hand wipe greasy cooking pans with paper towel before washing. Store your used fats and grease in an empty container. When it is full, put it in the garbage.

Remember, **STORE IT, DON'T POUR IT!**

## MORE THAN JUST A FUNDING SOURCE

The Family & Community Support Services (FCSS) Advisory Board and staff participate in local committees and regional meetings to discuss and facilitate the development of programs and services that meet the needs of families. FCSS also coordinates and hosts meetings that bring together a variety of potential partners. If you have some human service program ideas for our community, we'd like to hear from you.

Vermilion residents are able to access family and individual counseling through Premura Counselling. Initially you must call Catholic Social Services 1-780-875-9084 to book appointments in Vermilion. Do not be misled by the name as all denominations are served by this agency. The Counselor is Christine Wilson and she will see clients in Vermilion at an office located within the FOCUS Main Building (4921 – 51 Ave.). Residents are eligible for five free sessions; thereafter the visits will be on a sliding fee schedule based on family income.

The partnership between the provincial government and Vermilion Town Council enables our community to access preventative social programming funds based on our population size. We usually receive more funding requests than we can respond to with our limited funds, however we try to spread the funding around as much as possible. For 2009 the FCSS Advisory Board and Vermilion Town Council have approved over \$77,000.00. For details on the programs please contact Carol Coleman at the Town Hall.

If you have a short term project or a one day event you think would qualify for FCSS preventative social program funding, please call me at the Town Hall (5021-49 Ave.) direct phone line 581-2413. The FCSS Advisory Board requires a written funding application.

On behalf of the board members, I want to thank all the people of Vermilion who work (paid and unpaid) to improve family life in the Vermilion area. May we continue to work together in this new year to create a thriving and caring community!