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Senior Support Coordinator

Senior News

Federal Income Tax and Benefit Return



Benefits of Filing Your Tax Return

To ensure that you get all of your benefits, you must file an income tax return every year, even if you have little or no income. Here are some possible benefits that depend on your tax return:

- Tax-free quarterly Goods and Services Tax
- Old Age Security – Guaranteed Income Supplement, Allowance, or Allowance for the survivor.
- Provincial benefits – Alberta Senior Benefits (ABS) – a program based on income and provides a monthly cash benefit to eligible seniors. To be considered for the benefit, you must apply to the program.
- The Alberta Pharmaceutical Strategy the new prescription drug plan for seniors will become effective on July 1, 2010. The plan payment schedule is based on line 260 of the seniors 2009 tax return.
- Voter registration – you can update your federal voter registration on your tax return.

Library Bits 'n Bytes

Geraldine Collins,
Vermilion Public Library

Our new **Community Club Display program** is off and running! Each month our shelf-tops will feature pictures, brochures, books, and more from our 'group of the month'. We currently have some beautiful pictures from Communities in Bloom, look forward to displays from the Vermilion Nutrition Committee in March, and the Vermilion Area Horticultural Society in April. Any group wanting to showcase their work in 2011 is welcome to contact us, as the calendar for 2010 is full.

Vermilion Public Library now has a **'Virtual Branch'**! It's called "Overdrive" and is essentially a digital library where patrons can download eBooks (digital books, magazines or graphic novels), or audiobooks (recorded readings of a book) onto their Mac or PC. From there they can be transferred onto portable devices such as the Apple® iPod or the Sony® Reader. There are also features to aid those with visual impairments. Become introduced to this exciting new resource in this bring-your-own-lunch session ("Get Into Overdrive") on Thursday, March 18th at 12:00 pm. No charge!

Our **Genealogy Interest Group** continues to meet on the Second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm from September to April. New members are always welcome.

Parents of preschoolers are always welcome to **Rhyme Time** on Thursday mornings at 10:30 pm.

Anyone who enjoys IMAX **movies** will be pleased to know that we have recently added many of them, along with classics such as Pride and Prejudice and My Fair Lady, to our DVD collection.

Finally, dig out your loonies and browse our bargains during our annual **Spring Book Sale** from April 13th to 17th. You'll find discarded and donated magazines, movies, books and more.

See you at the library!



Community Services Department

The ice season is slowly winding down and for the most part it has been going well. As many of you are aware, the Stadium will go through a major renovation this spring with new boards, lighting, inside ceiling replacement, main lobby overhaul, and some parking lot paving being done in the front and back of the building. Overall the project has a price tag of \$1.2 million. Most of this money is generated through provincial and federal grants and through assistance from the Vermilion Agricultural Society. The renovations will begin as soon as the ice is removed with the boards being replaced first as this needs to be complete for the lacrosse tournament in early May. Our goal is to have the majority of the project completed prior to the Fair in late July.

We will be hosting our summer program once again. Last summer we saw a huge increase in our enrolment showing a huge demand for the program. This summer will be no different with a new coordinator being hired in the next month or so followed by assistants in early June.

From a parks perspective, we have planned some new equipment purchases for operations and general upgrades in the cemetery and playgrounds. The ball diamond at the Stadium grounds will be upgraded to shale and the infield will be enlarged to make it more conducive to baseball. We look forward to that project starting in April.

50% of Alberta's volunteers began to volunteer because they were asked!

Reasons for Volunteering:

- personal belief in the cause
- desire to share skills and experiences
- personally affected by the specific cause
- desire to develop personal strengths
- opportunity to work with and make new friends
 - improve job opportunities
- required to volunteer by school or workplace

Our Volunteers are Gems!!

Our Volunteers are Gems!

By Carol Coleman, FCSS Coordinator



Can you imagine what our community would be like without volunteers? There are volunteers in many different community roles that you may overlook. For example, there are often volunteers in the schools helping with the day to day work with elementary age students, serving lunch, or assisting with special events. The multitude of leisure organizations and sports groups are dependent on volunteers. Yes, sometimes it is the same group of people doing the work however it is those volunteer leaders that usually recruit the rest of the volunteers and the work gets done. Our volunteers are gems! Consider recognizing a volunteer during the month of April and especially during **National Volunteer Week April 19 to 25th, 2009. Remember Friday, March 26th is the deadline for submitting your volunteer names for the "gems" to be displayed on Vermilion business windows.** Forms were mailed to non-profit groups and sports groups as well as being available at the Town Hall during business hours or email ccoleman@vermilion.ca your list of volunteer names.

Appropriate and valuable volunteer recognition goes a long way to keeping a club vibrant and active. We often get so busy with the "have-to-do" tasks that we neglect to celebrate even the little things. Volunteer recognition doesn't have to be grand or expensive. Ask your volunteers what they would like to do to celebrate and work from there.

Great Kids Award

Once again the Great Kids Awards for youth ages 5-18 years in our area will be reviewed by members of the Vermilion River Region Healthy Communities Coalition. A special event will be organized in June for our "Great Kids". Even if you missed the March 15th nomination deadline, you can still compliment a youth on their contributions as a "Great Kid" and build up their developmental assets. If you want to learn more about Building Developmental Assets in Youth, please contact Candice McLean, Community Youth Worker for the Youth Resiliency Project at 780-846-2244 or 780-872-6495.

UTILITIES

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 2010 bill that will be mailed to you on March 15, 2010. New rates listed below.

Water Rates (no increase)

Consumption rate will be \$6.13 per 1,000 gallons.
Residential flat rate will be \$46.64 per billing period.
Commercial flat rate will be \$56.80 per billing period.

Garbage Rates (no increase)

Residential rate will be \$4.13 per pickup.
Commercial rate will be \$13.65 per pickup.

For further information or questions on the 2010 Utility Rates, refer to our website www.vermilion.ca or you can contact the Tax/Utilities Clerk at 780-581-2409.

Vermilion & District Chamber of Commerce Welcomes you to attend the 2nd Annual Women's Conference

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

8:30 am to 4 pm

Vermilion Regional Centre

5702 College Drive

Topics covered: Building trust and understanding with the people you interact with. The workshop is also designed to help create a respectful culture – at home, at school, at work, and in the community.

For information visit

www.vermilionchamber.ca

or contact Anna

780 853 6593

Vermilion Environment Committee Presents

Enviro-Movie Night

Wednesday, March 31, 7pm

Alumni Hall Theatre, Lakeland College,

Featuring:

"The Age of Stupid" -possibly the most important movie you'll see this year! It's a movie about a man (played by Oscar-nominated Peter Postlethwaite) living alone in the devastated future world of 2055, looking at old footage from 2008 and asking: Why didn't we stop climate change when we had a chance?

Following the show a local **organic fruit winery, En Santé** will talk about their efforts at sustainable production and offer wine tasting samples for a nominal fee.

Cost of admission—Silver Collection with proceeds going to Lakeland College Enviro Club.