

# TALK OF THE TOWN



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Snow Removal will be in your area when you see the sandwich board signs posted in your neighborhood stating “**Snow Removal Within 24 Hours**”. Help the Transportation & Utilities 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 very near future. The Town would like to thank you for your cooperation during the snow removal process.

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### BYLAW TIPS

- *All **Dogs and Cats** must be registered for 2010. Animal licenses are now available at the Town Office. Your pet needs to be licensed/ renewed by January 15 each year.*
- ***Snowmobiles** must travel by the most direct path to and from the snowmobile route.*
- ***Snowmobiles** are not to be used for riding within Town parks or playgrounds.*
- ***Snowmobiles** must be registered, insured, and plated to operate within Town limits.*
- *If a **Salesman** comes to your door, ask to see a Town of Vermilion business license. A provincial permit is not sufficient. If you are unsure if the person has a permit, contact the Town Hall at 780-853-5358.*

### 2010 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.



The Outdoor Rink is up & running despite the challenges due to the extreme cold weather. Special thanks go to **Steve Theiss** for extra hours put in over the holidays to flood and clean the ice.

Both Indoor arenas continue to be very busy functioning at near capacity. Good luck to all groups in play-offs, provincials, and skating competitions. The Arena will close on February 28 and The Stadium to follow in March.

**Senior's News at a glance. . .**

A new prescription drug plan will become effective on July 1, 2010. This plan is called the Alberta Pharmaceutical Strategy – Seniors' Drug Plan, for people who are 65 years of age and older.

Some facts about the new seniors' drug plan:

The new seniors' drug plan, effective July 1, 2010, will be a premium-based program that offers optional registration, giving Alberta seniors the freedom to choose whether or not they wish to participate.

Premium and co-payment amounts will be based on the seniors' taxable income, determined using Line 260 of the senior's 2009 tax return.

Participating seniors will receive the following based on their level:

**Single senior** taxable income \$12,000.00 and under

no premium and no co-payment, no cost to the senior

**Single senior** taxable income \$12,001 - \$24,000

no premium, but 20% of each prescription cost up to \$15.00

**Single senior** taxable income \$24,001 - \$36,000

\$31.75 per month premium, plus 20% of each prescription cost up to \$15.00

**Single senior** taxable income \$36,001 – \$48,000

\$47.62 per month premium, plus 20% of each prescription cost up to \$15.00

**Single senior** taxable income of \$48,001 or more

\$63.75 per month premium, 20% of each prescription cost up to \$15.00

**Senior family** taxable income \$24,000 and under

no premium and no co-payment, no cost to the senior family

**Senior family** taxable income \$24,001 - \$48,000

no premium, but 20% of each prescription cost up to \$15.00

**Senior family** taxable income \$48,001 - \$72,000

\$59.00 per month premium, plus 20% of each prescription cost up to \$15.00

**Senior family** taxable income between \$72,001 - \$96,000

\$44.50 per month premium, plus 20% of each prescription cost up to \$15.00

**Senior family** taxable income \$96,001 or more

\$118.00 per month premium, plus 20% of each prescription cost up to \$15.00

- The existing seniors' prescription drug program will remain in effect until June 30, 2010.
- The new seniors' drug plan is optional; seniors will not be required to participate. A three month waiting period will apply if seniors choose to participate at a later date. However, if seniors do not register they will not have any prescription cost coverage.
- Alberta Health and Wellness will provide you with more information about the new seniors' drug plan including registration details.
- Fact Sheets will be available at your local senior centre.

A Fact Sheet about the Seniors' Drug Plan can be viewed at

<http://www.health.alberta.ca/initiatives/pharmaceutical-strategy.html>

The Friends of the Vermilion Regional Centre put on the first ever *Family New Year's Party* and although ticket sales were low, the families in attendance enjoyed the event. **Thank you to D'arcy and Carolyn White, Lori Wilhelm and Carol Coleman** for your organizing assistance. **Special thanks to Judy Woyewitka, Dot Hartwell, Margaret Baguley, and the Clandonald Travel Club** for their contribution to the event. We will be sending out a short survey to those who attended for your feedback.

The Vermilion Regional Centre was very busy in 2009. Below is a summary/ comparison of events between 2008 & 2009.

<i>Type of Event</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>
Weddings	16	17
Club Room Meeting	117	195
Community Events	12	40
Funerals	0	4
Regular Users	905 hours	1105 hours

## 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 2010 the FCSS Advisory Board and Vermilion Town Council have approved over \$76,000.00 for the following programs:

- Premura Counselling (family and individual)
- Family School Liaison (available in all Vermilion schools)
- Battle River Victims Assistance Society
- Lloydminster Interval Home (Public Education)
- Lloydminster Sexual Assault and Information Centre
- Vermilion & Area Brighter Beginnings
- Vermilion Kiddie Oasis (Toy Lending Library, Indoor Playground)
- Senior Support Program (serves Town and County)
- Summer Children's Program
- Vermilion Play Development Program (Before/After School Care - Kid's Korner)
- Root's of Empathy Program - Vermilion Elementary School and St. Jerome's School
- Walking Through Grief Society
- Vermilion & District Chamber of Commerce - Community Directory in Telephone Directory
- Volunteer Week Promotions (April)

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 780-581-2413. 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!  
- Carol Coleman, FCSS Coordinator

**Vermilion**  
*a caring community for  
everyone*

2009 was a busy year in the Community Services Department with new boards in the Arena, more trail construction, and planning for major projects including the Regional Centre Parking Lot construction. 2010 will be just as busy as a \$1million dollar upgrade is being planned for the Stadium including a lobby renovation, new boards and glass, lighting replacement and completion of the Curling Rink renovation upstairs. This project is made possible with a grant from the Federal government for just under \$400,000.

We Welcome Mary Lee Prior as our  
new Community Economic  
Development Coordinator.

## **Killing Time While the Snow Flies**

Geraldine Collins,

Vermilion Public Library

The winter months are a great time to get crafty and to learn, and we've got a few neat opportunities to do both in January and February.

Anyone interested in deepening the bond, improving communication, stimulating growth and development and relieving stress is welcome to join our instructor from Midwest Family Connections for 2 lessons on **Infant (babies 3 weeks to pre-crawling) Massage**. Please phone the library at 780.853.4288 to pre-register for this program on Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30 pm. There is no charge, but please note that child care for older siblings will not be provided.

Parents of children ages 0-6 years are also welcome to attend another session of **Kids Connection**, a program filled with stories, songs, games, crafts and more, beginning January 13<sup>th</sup>. Times are Wednesday mornings from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon. Again, there is no charge, but note that parents will be required to stay. Please phone or email us to register. We will do our best to accommodate any barriers.

We've been cleaning out our craft room and discovered a few boxes full of paint-able bookends and have decided to have a **Bookend Bash!** No matter your age, join us on Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm for a session of painting and creativity, and your work of art may end up immortalized on our library bookshelves! Cost \$2 per child or \$5 per family. B.Y.O.S. (Bring Your Own Smock/Apron!)

Become familiar with some of the hottest sites and uses of the Internet beginning Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. **Google Your World!** is an eight-week introduction to Google Maps, Google Earth, using RSS, eBay, blogging, Facebook, YouTube and publishing a web album. Cost \$25. Some previous computer experience is necessary.

A **Personal Directive** is a legal document you write in case you cannot make your own personal decisions in the future. Unlike a Will, it comes into effect and guides personal decisions while you are still living. Anyone 18 years or older is invited to listen to our representative from the Office of the Public Guardian for a presentation on this extremely important matter. Two presentations will occur: one on Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm and the other on Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00 noon. Please phone to pre-register; no charge.

Jay from Happy Harbor Comics in Edmonton will be here to enlighten us on the world of comics, from superheroes to Manga to Graphic Novels and more, on Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm! **The Art of Comics** will also look at how comics are made, and how to make your own. This promises to be a very entertaining presentation, appropriate for anyone 10 and over. Teachers are welcome to bring their students, just let us know so we can ensure there's enough room! No charge!

## **2009 Annual Development Permit Summary**

This report will provide a summary of the Development Permits issued within the Town of Vermilion between January 1 and December 31, 2009. Note that the following information is based upon development permit applications which may or may not result in completed development.

### **Development Permit Applications**

- A total of 87 development permit applications were received in the period.
- Of the 87 permits, 19 were applications for home occupations (home based businesses)
- 85 permits were approved by the Development Authority; 2 were refused.

### **Permits Categories**

The largest number of permits was for residential development, which had 31 permits approved, including 13 new residential dwellings. The average estimated value of a new house being developed in Vermilion in 2009 was \$284,231. There was also significant numbers of applications for home occupations (19 approvals), commercial developments (17 approvals), and Industrial (10 approvals).

### **Value of Development**

In determining the value of development, home occupations and refused permits are excluded as these typically have little expenditure associated with them. When refused permits and home occupations are excluded, there were 66 developments in the Town of Vermilion during the January to December period of 2009. The estimated value of the 66 developments is \$22,401,700 with an average value of \$339,420 per development however these numbers are skewed by the large developments at the Lakeland College Campus which are valued at almost 14 million dollars. If those institutional developments are excluded the average value per development is reduced to \$142,362.

Within the last 10 years the Town experienced the highest number of developments in 2009. The value of the developments has also increased over past years however the values for 2001, 2006 and 2009 were significantly skewed due to large multi-million dollar developments such as the new nursing home facilities in 2001, the new Vermilion Regional Centre in 2006 and major upgrades at the Lakeland College Campus in 2009. The number and value of developments over the past years has fluctuated a great deal but 2009 resulted in 66 developments for an excellent year with approximately \$22,401,700 in development which is the highest value in the past 10 years. In the past 10 years there has been an estimated total of approximately 98 million dollars in development within the Town of Vermilion!

Prepared by: Allan Wilson Planner & Development Officer