

Special points of interest:

Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

There will only be one meeting in August which will be on Tuesday, August 16th

Works & Operations Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month
Chair
Councillor Ted Klassen

Finance & Administration the third Monday of each month
Chair
Councillor Don Braun

Community & Social Development Committee on the third Tuesday of each month
Chair
Councillor Ann Kroeker



Town of Altona

August 2011 Newsletter

A Message from Mayor Melvin Klassen

On July 19th, I was honoured to be part of the sod turning activities, as Bunge officially started the upgrading of their canola crushing plant at their present site in Altona.

I believe that this is great news for Altona and surrounding community as it shows Bunge North America's and Bunge Canada's commitment to be a major presence in southern Manitoba.

Bunge completed several feasibility studies before they committed to these upgrades which according to Bunge Ltd. Chairman and C.E.O. Alberto Weisser will be their most efficient and over time become one of their biggest plants in Canada.

Presently the plant processes approximately 1.100 metric tonnes a day and that is to increase to 2,500 tonnes a day.

As a community we have been fortunate to have a dedicated staff working at Bunge.

A staff that under the direction of plant managers John Enns, Norman Buhr, Stuart Braun and now Fred Dueck have quietly and yet aggressively worked at keeping this plant viable, profitable and being one of the most efficient plants that Bunge operates.

The town has very consciously worked at building a strong relationship with Bunge and Bunge has reciprocated and made every effort to work with our community in announcing this expansion.

We are a predominant agricultural community and this sod turning event provides impetus for us to continue being a stable, vibrant and progressive community.

Fred, thanks for your dedication to your company and your realization that in working together with the town and surrounding community that we can make this a great success story for generations to come.

Mosquito Control for Home Owners

Home Owners can play an important role in the Mosquito Control Program of any town or municipality. One of the most effective tactics in the fight against the flying pests is the elimination of wet habitats (also known as "source reduction"). Source reduction is the preferable and most environmental friendly means of mosquito control. Shallow wet areas that are sunlit, less than 60 cm deep, with plants growing at the edge are of most concern. If these areas produce mosquitoes, problems can be further reduced by the application of larvicide. Currently there is only one product on the market licensed by Health Canada for domestic or homeowner

larviciding. This product is made from bacteria that only kill mosquitoes, black flies and some midges. It is very safe to use where people and animals may be exposed. This product can be purchased under trade name Aquabac from most home and garden vendors in Manitoba. Larviciding requires a degree of judgment and experience to make it work effectively. Please follow the link below to a document prepared by the Government of Manitoba that outlines the measures homeowners can take to begin a source reduction and larvicide program at home.

http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/wnv/docs/mosquito_homeowners.pdf

Chief Administrative Report – by Russ Phillips

It's that time of season, when weeds begin to sprout up and readily go to seed, if not controlled.

Municipalities in Manitoba traditionally appoint a Weed Supervisor to monitor and control noxious weeds that appear in their community. For the Town of Altona that role is assigned to our Public Works Supervisor, Steve Wiebe. Under the Noxious Weeds Act of Manitoba, a law that dates back to the very beginning of Manitoba, all land owners, including home owners here in town, have a responsibility to control the spread of weeds. The applicable text from Noxious Weeds Act of Manitoba is shown in the following excerpt:

General duty to destroy weeds:

3(1) Each occupant of land, or, if the land is unoccupied, the owner thereof, or the agent of the owner, and each person, firm, or corporation who or which is control of, or in possession of, or in charge of, land, shall destroy all noxious weeds and noxious weed seeds growing or located on the land as often as may be necessary to prevent the growth, ripening and scattering of weeds or weed seeds.

Of course the Act goes on in detail to deal with various circumstances which can arise

concerning the regulations of weed control.

The Noxious Weeds Act of Manitoba can be found in entirety at the following link:

<http://web2.gov3mb.ca/laws/statues/ccsm/n110e.php>

The following list of weeds represents species considered to be particularly problematic due to their invasiveness and ability to spread easily and rapidly. A complete list of weeds declared to be noxious in Manitoba can be found at the Manitoba Government website, mentioned above.

- Canada thistle
- Cleavers
- Diffuse knapweed
- Downey/Japanese brome
- Kochia
- Leafy spurge
- Milkweed
- Nodding thistle
- Purple loosestrife
- Red bartsia
- Scentless chamomile
- Tansy

Please do your part to control weeds on your property. Failure to control weeds in the community can result in fines or in having the Town control them and have the costs billed to the land-owner.

Solid Waste Collection and Compost Pick up

We are well into the season of yard waste collection and, as usual, are building a great stockpile at our compost site. We would ask residents to remember to leave bags of yard waste untied at the curb to allow for efficient collection by our solid waste contractor. Acceptable compost material includes grass clippings, weeds and leaves, general garden and flower bed waste, as well as kitchen organic waste. Compost waste including branches of any sort will not be picked up. Acceptable compost containers include: a receptacle fitted with handles to facilitate handling, complete with lid, or not more than 100 litres (3.5 cubic feet) capacity the contents of which shall not weigh more than 50 pounds. Alternately the Waste Container may be a non-returnable plastic bag, tied at the top, maximum size 66 centimeters (26 inches) by 91 centimeters (36 inches), capable of being lifted with a maximum of 16 kilograms (35 pounds) of contents.

The container guidelines above apply to household waste collection as well. Please ensure containers and bags do not exceed the weight limits.

Sidewalks and Trails Update:

The trail from 10th Avenue NW to 14th Avenue NW is being well used by pedestrians and cyclists. Tree planting along the rail will continue in August and a planned concrete walkway linking the new trail to Lynwood Bay will be constructed by fall. Sidewalk repairs have begun in a few areas and will continue throughout the summer.

Let's Recycle More Aluminum Cans!

Help us out by recycling **ALL** your aluminum cans! Currently Manitobans are recycling approximately 43% of the aluminum cans that we use in our homes.

LET'S HELP MANITOBA INCREASE THAT NUMBER!

Altona /Rhineland/Gretna
Landfill Hours
April 1st – September 30

Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday,
8:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Saturdays
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Closed Sunday & Monday & All
Civic Holidays

Reminder – All loads must be properly secured.

Altona/Rhineland/Gretna
Landfill Site Hours
Effective

October 1st – April 1st

Tuesdays – Fridays

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday

8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Closed Sundays & Mondays and
all Civic Holidays



Did you know that there is a oil recycling depot at the Altona/Rhineland/ Gretna landfill? Please bring you used oil to be recycled.

Compost Pickup

Compost pickup will continue on every Wednesday until October 29th. The Compost Depot is located at the Town of Altona lagoon site 1 mile east and ¼ mile south of the intersection of Gretnavally Equipment and Hwy 30.



Search the catalogue & place reserves from your home computer.

Drop in to the library and staff will assist you in setting this up.

Altona Library hours of Operations

Tuesday
10:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday
10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Thursday
10:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Friday
10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Saturday
10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

The Library is closed Sunday & Monday

The Library is closed at 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays between the May long weekend and the September long weekend.

Altona Police Service

Altona Police Service would like to remind adult riders to obey the rules of the road. A cyclist has the same rights and duties as a person driving a motor vehicle and shall obey all signs and traffic control devices, and all directions of a peace officer.

Please be an example for our youngsters and help to keep them safe in our community.

Manitoba Highway Traffic Act States: 145(1) Except as otherwise in subsections (5) and (6). A person operating a bicycle or power-assisted **Bicycle** on a highway or **Bicycle** facility has the same rights and duties as a person driving a motor vehicle on a highway and shall obey all signs and traffic control devices, and all directions of a peace officer.

“bicycle” means a device having any number of wheels upon which a person sits astride and which is propelled solely by human muscular power through the use of pedals.

“drive” means drive or have actual physical control of a vehicle, bicycle or

Altona’s Outdoor Emergency Warning Siren System

The Altona Outdoor Emergency Warning Siren may be activated when Altona is threatened by **any hazard**. The siren is to alert those individuals outdoors of a possible emergency and to seek shelter immediately.

When the Emergency Warning Siren sounds **longer than 30 seconds**, tune into radio CFAM 950 AM to find out what the threat is, and how to protect yourself.

The siren will be activated for four (4) minutes in the high/low wail signal to alert the community of emergency.

Outdoor Sirens are effective method of outdoor notification; however the sirens should not be relied upon for early warning for individuals indoors. Air conditioning, thunder, rain, wind and other conditions can cause the sirens not to be heard indoors.

It is highly recommended for each home and business to have other means to receive warnings and notifications such

as Emergency All Hazard Radios, cell phone notifications and commercial radio and television broadcasts.

What to do during a tornado if you are near a building?

- Listen to your local radio station CFAM 950 – AM during a serve thunderstorm.
- If a Tornado Warning has been issued take cover immediately
- Go to the basement or take shelter in a small interior ground floor room, closet or hallway
- Protect yourself by sitting under a heavy table or desk
- Stay away from windows, outside walls & doors
- Do not use elevators
- Stay close to the ground, protect your head and hide from flying debris
- If you are in a mobile home take cover at the Millennium Exhibition Centre at #227 – 10th Avenue NW.
- If no shelter is available, lie face down in a ditch or culvert away from the mobile home.

The following Emergency Shelter is open to the public during an emergency: the Millennium Exhibition Centre (MEC) at #227 – 10th Avenue NW in Altona. For those new or visiting in the area the MEC is on the north side of 10th Avenue NW across from the Altona Aquatic Centre and Centennial Park. Listen to your weather radio or CFAM 950, for when the **Warning** has been reduced to a **Watch** you should be safe to resume regular activities.

Altona & District Fire Department

With summer upon us and many families enjoying their backyards, we want to remind the residents of Altona of the regulations governing the use of fire pits.

- Open, uncontained fires are not allowed.
- All fires must be in a pit constructed of steel or concrete
- Fire pits must be located a minimum of 25 feet from any buildings and a minimum of 10 feet from the property lines
- Only seasoned wood is allowed to be burned.
- No fire shall be left unattended.

Altona & Area Recreation

GALLERY IN THE PARK: The Gallery in the Park is now into the second season for 2011. The featured artists are Shirley Elias and Bette Woodland, as well as other local artist's work on display. The Gallery is open from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. The Sculpture Gardens are open 7 days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Come out and enjoy the gallery this summer, we will be open until September 25.

ALTONA AQUATIC CENTRE: There is still room to sign up for swimming lessons with 2 more sessions left this Summer. Session 4 runs from August 1 – 12th, and session 5 runs from August 15 - 26.

Beat the heat and enjoy public swimming 7 days/week from 1:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The Aquatic Centre is opened until the Labour Day weekend with Sunday, September 4 being the last day of operations.

MILLENNIUM EXHIBITION CENTRE: Before your know it, the new hockey season will be here! The arena ice starts up on the first weekend of October watch the Town website for more details at www.townofaltona.com.

Call us to book your meetings, social, wedding reception or other event at 324-9005.

“Back Yard Garden Tour”

THANK YOU to the following participants of the “Back Yard Garden Tour” during the Manitoba Sunflower Festival. They were enjoyed by all and raised \$560.00 for future Altona in Bloom Projects!

Harvey & Eleanor Bergen
Jake & Anne Enns
John & Marilyn Martens
Don & Barb Wiebe

Rod & Linda Buhr
Bernie & Dorothy Friesen
Ken & Isabelle Tomchuk
Richard & Eleanor Wiebe

Watch your mailbox

The fall recreation programs will be starting up again in mid August. Please watch for our flyer in your mail box



FALL & WINTER RECREATION PROGRAMS

The 2011/2012 Fall & Winter recreation programs registration is slated for August 30th. Some of the programs to look forward to are:
Kid's Craft Class
Fitness Classes,
Digital Photography,
Gymnastics,
Ballet,
Floor Curling and much,
much more....



You must pre-register
for all recreation
programs unless
otherwise stated.
Payment upon registration
is required.

For more information
contact the Recreation
Office at 324-9005 or
register at the Altona &
Area Recreation Office in
the Millennium Exhibition
Centre or online at
www.townofaltona.com