

Town of Altona

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR- MELVIN KLASSEN

Presently our Council is entering its 4th year of operation and will shortly be presenting its 4th budget to the public.

A lot of effort goes into preparing and presenting a budget. Generally the Management Team meets, prepares and establishes what they consider their priority list. They pass this list on to Council. The Council will peruse the priorities as determined by the Management Team and then make their own recommendations as to what they feel are priority items to be considered for the upcoming budget. The Council then requests the CAO and his team to go back and review the budget and set up a preliminary budget within certain percentage guidelines. After some more meetings where certain items are trimmed and others added the "final budget" is presented as the Budget for the coming year.

During this year's budget deliberations there was a strong determination, not to take in any more dollars through taxes than we had collected last year. We have been able to achieve that, however, the province in their wisdom changed the assessment ratios.

In general terms, residences because of higher assessment values will be paying a higher proportion of taxes in comparison to commercial/industrial buildings, which in general were assessed at a lower proportion. Elsewhere in this newsletter our CAO – Russ Phillips will explain how the new ratios affect the various categories in our municipality.

NOTICE TO ALL RESIDENTS

2010 – Election Town of Altona Enumerators

The Town of Altona will be asking residents to take notice that the Town will be asking Enumerators to go door to door to collect information for the 2010 election. For information on elections visit the Town of Altona website at www.townofaltona.com.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR CONT.....

I recently attended the closing ceremonies of the Altona Skating Carnival and it brought to mind the number of volunteers that we have supporting our various recreational activities. We have excellent facilities for our winter activities such as skating, gymnastics, hockey, curling to name a few, however, if we did not have volunteers willing to step to the plate to co-ordinate, coach, manage, run the canteens and do the little things needed to make these activities successful, then they would soon cease to be available to the participants.

Thanks to all who volunteered their time and expertise so that these winter activities were available to our young people and residents. As you think about the upcoming summer season I encourage you to see how you can fit into a volunteer role and possibly apply your talents and expertise as a coordinator or volunteer for baseball, soccer, festival or other community activities. Enjoy a safe and happy summer!

E-Waste Program

Blue Sky Opportunities will be operating as a collection site for the Town of Altona and RM of Rhineland providing an e-waste program. The following materials will be accepted from residential sources:

- TV's
- Computer monitors (CRT and flat panel display types)
- Desktop computers (CPU's, hard drives, mice, Keyboards and cables)
- Laptops
- Desktop printers
- DVD players/VCR's/Stereos
- Phones/cell phones
- Scanners/Copiers/fax machines
- Rechargeable batteries
- Microwaves

Blue Sky Opportunities are required to document items being dropped off to Green Manitoba. Starting April 1st items may be dropped off:

Monday through Friday
9 a.m. – 12 noon
12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE – ALL ITEMS MUST BE DROPPED OFF DURING OPERATING HOURS STATED ABOVE.

Chief Administrative Office's Report – Russ Phillips

General Impact of the 2010 Reassessment

The recent reassessment of properties as undertaken by the Province's Assessment Services will have an impact on municipal and education taxes throughout the province of Manitoba. For 2010, the assessed value of all properties across the province has been updated to reflect market values as at April 1, 2008. The Province regularly reassesses all properties to ensure assessments keep pace with changing market conditions. Even though property assessments were last updated in 2006, the previous assessment benchmark was reflective of 2003 market values.

Assessment increases resulting from reassessment do not necessarily mean tax increases. Property assessments simply provide the basis for distributing taxes among property owners. Tax rates (mill rates) are set by municipal councils who set the municipal levy and any special municipal levies, school divisions set the education levy and the province sets the education support levy. Shifting of these three tax levies occurs between and within property classes when property assessments increase or decrease relative to the average (on a municipal, school division and province-wide basis).

The reassessment for 2010 has seen a large shift between classes and results in one of the largest overall assessment increases in the province's history. The province's taxable assessment has increased by \$16.7 Billion to a total amount of \$46.2 Billion, an increase of 56%. In Altona, the average increase is 26.4%, whereas in Winnipeg, the average residential assessment is up 76%.

Impacts here in Altona

For Altona the reassessment will result in a shift in, what we refer to as, *the burden of taxation*. The 2010 taxable assessment in Altona has risen by an average of 26.4% over the previous year's values. Within that average however, the rate of change for specific classes of properties is varied. For example, the average increase for "Single Family Residential", which has the most number of assessable properties and represents the largest pool of assessable property in Altona, has gone up 32.8%. At the same time the average assessment for "Commercial / Industrial" property class went up by 15.9%, which is less than half the increase experienced for "Single Family Residential". The fact assessments for single family homes have risen more than twice that of commercial properties will result in a shift in overall taxation, generally away from commercial and place more tax burden on residential properties.

What does this mean to the majority of property owners in Altona?

As earlier stated, assessment increases do not necessarily mean tax increases. What is important to note is the amount of the increase or decrease in assessment value relative to the average change within the community.

In Altona approximately 27% of properties will realize an effective tax decrease as a result of the reassessment. If the amount of tax revenue the municipality needed to operate its 2010 programs and services were to stay at the same levels as required in 2009, these properties would effectively see a decrease in their municipal taxes. It is important to note, that for the purposes of these analyses, we have focused only on municipal levies and mill rates, as the impacts on taxes for school divisions and provincial levies are beyond the Town's control.

About 73% of all properties in Altona will experience an increase in municipal taxes as a direct result of the 2010 reassessment. Of these properties, about 9% of them will realize an increase of greater than 10% in municipal taxes as a result of the 2010 reassessment, whereas most or 64% will experience an increase of less than 10% or less than \$100.

Town Council and Administration are very aware of this shift and are conscientiously designing the Town's 2010 budget estimates with this in mind. The basic needs of the community will continue to be met but savings and efficiencies in programs have to be found in an effort to keep the levels of tax revenues at levels similar to previous budgets. We are fortunate the Town continues to grow and with that the assessment base also grows. But with growth comes the additional efforts needed to maintain the expanding infrastructure and the additional work needed to keep pace with expanded program needs and other municipal services.

In upcoming weeks the draft 2010 budget estimates will be announced by Town Council. Those draft estimates will be available for review on the Town's website or by requesting a review by attending the Civic Centre.

When reviewing your assessment the first step is to compare your assessment to other similar properties. Should anyone wish more information about their 2010 reassessment we suggest you contact the Local Government Assessment Offices by calling Toll Free: 1-866-801-2888.



Used Oil Recycling Depot

The used oil recycling depot is located at the Town of Altona/Rhineland/ Gretna Land Fill Site. Please bring any used oil, oil filters or containers to this depot for recycling.

Mark Your Calendars! Spring Cleanup

This year the annual Town of Altona Spring Clean Up will be held on April 26th – 29th, 2010

Monday, April 26^h – North West
 Tuesday, April 27th – North East
 Wednesday, April 28th – South West
 Thursday, April 29th – South East

Please place your items at the curb, *sorted into separate bundles* or containers, i.e. wood, steel, branches or garbage. Small scraps should be placed in boxes or bags.

We will not pick the following items:

1. Items that can be recycled
2. Hazardous waste (paint cans, etc)
3. Large renovation projects
4. Any items which cannot be handled by one person
5. Mixed piles will not be picked up

For more information please contact the Public Works Department at 324-6439.

TOWN OF ALTONA COMPOST PICKUP

Compost materials will be picked up every **WEDNESDAY** throughout the summer growing season, approximately April 14th - November 4th.

Building Permits

If you are planning to build or renovate in the Town of Altona involving any structural change or value over \$5,000.00 or add to an existing structure, a Town of Altona Building Permit is required. Prior to issuing a building permit any or all of the following information may be required;

- Property pins or a building location certificate
- Site plan detailing the proposed project.
- Estimated value of the project.
- Plan of the proposed project.
- Foundation plan.
- Plumbing plan.

For detailed information on the requirements for your specific project, please call the Building Inspector, Irv Braun at 324-8500.



Rhineland Area Justice Committee

The Rhineland Area Justice Committee is searching for several community minded individuals who would be interested in serving on the committee. The committee meets with young offenders and provides options for the youth to make amends to the community for their wrong doing. The members work with the youth as they fulfill their contract which usually requires meeting with the youth once or twice, as well as attending a monthly meeting. The committee recognizes the importance of having youth take responsibility for their community and that they become contributing members of society. If you are interested in the committee or have further questions you are asked to contact Liz Hiebert at 324-6984.

Altona Police Service



Check out the Altona Police Service Web Site. Crime tips that you can enter anonymously. Crime Statistics and Most Wanted. Local Events as well as links to other Manitoba Police Services. Please visit our website at

[www.http://police.townofaltona.com](http://www.police.townofaltona.com).

ALTONA LIBRARY BOOK DRIVE ON NOW

Donations for the annual regional book sale are being accepted at the Altona Library branch. Donations are added to the library collection, or sent to the book sale. Money raised goes toward the purchase of new books for all branches.

The following DO NOT SELL and therefore we ask that you find another way to recycle them:

- Discarded school books
- Current affairs magazines
- University texts more than 5 years old
- Harlequin romances older than 2007.
- Reader's Digest—monthly magazines & condensed books.
- Poor condition, i.e. falling apart, missing portions or covers.
- Damaged: odour, or in dirty condition. E.g. books that have been stored in a basement or outdoors do not sell well.

PUBLIC WORKS DAY!

Mark your calendars! Public Works Day will be held on **Thursday, May 20th, 2010** at the Public Works yard.

Altona in Bloom

May 29th – Saturday – 9am – 12:00pm – Annual Plant Sale.

Please donate your divided perennial plants to our sale. All proceeds go towards our Memory Garden.

May 31st – Monday – 6:30pm. Memory Garden Service
(Location of Memory Garden is 10th Ave & 2nd. St NE in Altona)
If you would like to purchase a plant in Memory of someone you have lost please call please call Grace Braun at 324-9005 to order or for more information.

June 1st – 3rd – Planting throughout Town. We need volunteers so please come and help us make “our” town look beautiful. Meet at the MEC parking lot at 6:30pm on June 1st.

Planting Sunflowers to bring back the Sunflowers in our festival. We are once again asking all of Altona to participate in the Sunflower Planting Project. This is a Manitoba Sunflower Festival Initiative sponsored by BBF Enterprises Ltd. Join us for our 46th Annual Manitoba Sunflower Festival on July 23, 24th & 25th.

South Central Regional Library REGIONAL BOOK SALE: May 6, 7, 8 Morden Rec. Centre

Gardening & Landscaping

Calhoun, Scott / Designer plant combinations: 105 stunning gardens using six plants.
Cox, Martyn / Wildlife gardening
Harris, Marjorie / Ecological gardening: your safe path to a healthy beautiful garden
Lock, Deborah / Grow it, cook it
Readers Digest Assoc. / The complete illustrated book of herbs
Roth, Sally / Backyard bird secrets for every season: attract a variety of birds
Sagui, Pat / Landscaping with stone
Step-by-step Landscaping
Green your home all-in-one for dummies

**Announcing: Summer Reading 2010
Jungle** Please watch for details.



The Gallery in the Park will open to the public for 2010 on Friday, May 14.

Gallery hours are: Tuesday through Sunday from 12:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Sculpture Garden hours are: Monday – Sunday from 8 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

2010 Featured Artists

Margaret Doell

Tom Lovett & Bette Woodlands

ALTONA AQUATIC CENTRE

Swimming lessons registration night will be held on Thursday, May 20th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. At the Millennium Exhibition Centre. Watch the Town of Altona website in May for detailed information on swim lessons.

Planned opening date for the Aquatic Centre this season is Saturday, June 12.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Dog Training Course – June 1st – July 6th outdoors at the dog park North of the MEC. 7pm – 8pm. \$95.00 per dog. Please pre-register with us prior to course by calling 324-9005

Umpire Clinic – May 1st – Level 1, 2 & 3 at the MEC meeting rooms. Please call 324-9005 to pre-register.