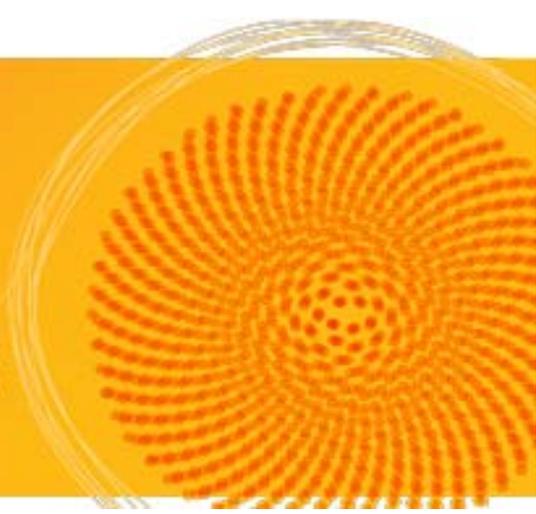


# Altona

## NEWS & UPDATES

• Residents • Business • Tourism • Government



December 2011

### Special points of interest:

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

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

Finance & Administration the third Tuesday 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  
Administration & Public Works  
Holiday Office Hours

Closed December 26 & 27

Closed January 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Message from the Mayor

The year 2011 has come and is almost gone. My parents were right when they told me that the older you get, the faster the years seem to come and go. I still recollect my first teaching assignment which was in a one room school in Rudnerweide. As a young 19 year old, I stood before 22 students ranging from grades 1 – 8, wondering how I was going to teach all those grades. It didn't take me long to understand that I didn't have to do everything by myself. The parents were in full support of the teacher as long as the teacher was making decisions that were reasonable and fair and the older students were quite willing to help as long as they were rewarded with longer recesses. That type of incentive was not that difficult for me to provide. With that kind of support it was not difficult to work through the year and in fact have a wonderful teaching experience. Those 3 years in Rudnerweide taught me a lot about how to approach challenges in life. Even though challenges come your way – you do not need to face them alone. There are always people around to help you work through these challenges.

I've found that being involved in the governance of a town is very similar. None of us are elected to be autocratic leaders. We are elected to work cooperatively and jointly make decisions that are for the betterment of the town as a whole. When we all work together without personal agendas a lot of progress can be made. We have been fortunate, as a Council and community, to have a solid staff complement that understands their role and has pride in the work that they do. We are told many times that we have a beautiful

community, not just because of our pride in our homes, streets and parks, but in our welcoming nature. This pride of community comes about because the residents show pride in their community. We received a letter from a citizen from the Steinbach area this past week. This visitor lauded one of our residents for going the second mile and making her feel extremely welcome on her visit to our town. She had contacted Al Friesen from CFAM and asked him whether he would meet her for coffee and give her some tips on what to see and do in Altona. Al agreed and met her for coffee and then asked her to join him in his car and he gave her a tour. She writes that they visited CFAM, Barb Wiebe at her Northwind Clayworks, visited the Gallery In the Park, the Millennium Exhibition Centre, Buffalo Creek Nature Park, the MCC Centre, Bunge and Friesens. In his tour he related several facts about our town. They ended their tour by having lunch at Jasmine's. This lady and her friend sent an e-mail to our Civic Centre saying how impressed they were with how they had been received by our community. Thanks Al.

That's why I enjoy being the Mayor of this tremendous community. As I found out in my first year of teaching – you don't have to do everything yourself. You have tremendous talent around you – use that talent.

On behalf of Margaret and myself we wish you a blessed Christmas season.

Mel Klassen

*Happy holidays from our families to yours!*

Mayor, Council & Staff

Altogether  
**Altona**

## Chief Administrative Report – by Russ Phillips

At the time of writing this newsletter piece, Altona Town Council is considering an amendment to the municipality's By-law No. 1670/2009, known as the Town of Altona Building By-law. Specifically Council is considering changes relative to the exterior discharge of sump pump drainage.

The limited ability of our community to deal with significant quantities of subsurface (weeping-tile) drainage continues to be a challenge. Recent "wet" years and the increased amount of constructed properties built in low lying areas have all contributed to this growing issue. The reality that Altona is relatively flat and cannot shed drainage easily is at the root of this aggravating situation. This problem is compounded by the lack of a dedicated land drainage system, which to install now would cost millions of dollars.

The existing By-Law provides a clause whereby in the opinion of the Public Works Supervisor and/or the Development Officer, the landscaped area around the building was inadequate to dispose of subsurface drainage without causing a nuisance to adjoining properties, the discharge from the sump pump could be directed to the outside of the building and discharged on a splash pad as specified by the Town's designated officer. Some homeowners have received such approval from the Town to direct their discharge toward the street and in some instances that approval

may have suggested it was permissible to discharge the water directly onto the street curb and into the gutter. Many in the community never received such permission and have simply made their own decision to pump it to the street based on what they have seen others do.

It has always been the position of the Town to have homeowners attempt to deal with their sump drainage on their own property. The amendments proposed to the By-law will require the discharge from the sump pump to be directed to the exterior of the building and away from the foundation of the building and that the discharge point of the sump water must remain on the originating property. Specifically the discharge point cannot be located closer than one (1) metre of the originating property's property lines; this includes Town of Altona boulevards and streets.

The Town encourages all homeowners to give consideration to this drainage matter. Individual efforts to deal with drainage on the originating property will go a long way to reducing the problem of water ponding, and improving the safety and usability of our streets.

*Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy 2012!*

### Snow Removal

Snow clearing season is upon us and the Town of Altona Public Works Department requests that homeowners remember to move vehicles off the street until the street has been cleared to the curb. When driving near snow clearing operations, residents are also asked to stay 10 metres back from snow clearing, sanding, and hauling equipment at all times. Keeping a minimum distance away from equipment will assist town staff in performing their jobs efficiently and safely.



### Notice to all Residents

**Town of Altona  
Christmas  
Tree Pickup on  
Wednesday,  
January 11<sup>th</sup>,  
2012**

**Holiday Garbage Pickup Schedule  
Garbage pickup that was scheduled for  
Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> – (Southwest)  
Will be picked up on **Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>****

**Reminder – All loads must be properly secured.**

#### **Altona/Rhineland/Gretna Landfill Site Hours**

**Effective**

**October 1<sup>st</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup>**

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 an oil recycling depot at the Altona/Rhineland/ Gretna landfill? Please bring your used oil to be recycled.

#### **REMINDER TO RESIDENTS**

Please be advised that the Town of Altona has a Business Licence Bylaw. Under this by-law you must hold a current Town of Altona Business Licence in order to conduct business within the corporate limits of the Town of Altona. You may obtain such a business Licence by purchasing it at the Town of Altona Administration Office.

#### **Attention Pet Owners**

Please make sure to register your cat(s) and/or dog(s) at the Altona Town Administration Office. All cats and dogs must have a new licence every year. Please keep your pets on a leash and respect other people's property by cleaning up after your pets.

Chief Perry Batchelor & the Altona Police Service wish you a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

The Altona Police Service asks that you please make sure you have a designated driver when sharing some holiday "cheer."

As the year draws to a close the Altona/Rhineland Emergency Services would like to extend sincere appreciation to the following businesses. By allowing their staff to respond to emergency situations during hours of work they continue to support and contribute to the ongoing safety of our community:

**Manitoba Hydro**  
**Borderland School Division**  
**Canadian Lumber**  
**Goosen Electric**  
**D3 Excavating**  
**Green Valley Equipment**  
**Friesens Corporation**  
**Blue Sky Opportunities**  
**Elmer's Manufacturing**  
**GJ Chemical**

**THANK YOU for your continued support**  
Fire Chief, Irv Braun

The Altona Library will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Visit the SCRL Facebook page for up-to-date announcements, events, etc. Access is available through the SCRL webpage at <http://www.scrlibrary.mb.ca>

Thank you to Brian Jack for his many years on the South Central Regional Library Board and wish him well in his new endeavours.

*The Board & Staff of the Altona Library wishes everyone a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!*

## Altona Police Service

When taking off on a well-deserved winter vacation let the Altona Police Service know you will be away. Call 324-5373.

Remember to:

- Let your neighbours/friends know you will be away
  - Stop home deliveries i.e. newspaper
  - Arrange to have your driveway and sidewalk cleared
  - Have someone leave a vehicle on your driveway now and again
  - Put automatic timers on lights and a radio to have them turn on and off at random times
  - Ask your neighbours to contact police if they notice suspicious activity around your home
  - Have someone check in on your home regularly
- Leaving your home with a lived in look will reduce the changes of unexpected company while you are away.

Call 1-800-627-6237 for road conditions or visit the online website at: <http://tgs.gov.mb.ca>

## Holiday Shopping

Stow your purchases in the trunk out of sight so they are not an invitation for theft. Keep all receipts on your person. If shopping at night make sure to park in a well-lit area and have your keys ready when returning to your car. After the Christmas packages are open, break down the cardboard boxes of the expensive items and put them in plastic bags to hide the fact that you have new valuable items in your home.

*Merry Christmas from the members of the Altona Fire Department*  
*Have a Safe & Happy Holiday Season!*

### **CHRISTMAS DECORATING SAFETY TIPS**

**Lights** – Use Canadian Standards Association (CSA) certified light strings/sets. Use the proper lights for the environment; indoor light strings/sets should not be used outdoors because they lack weatherproof connections. Some outdoor light strings/sets burn too hot indoors.

Inspect light strings/sets before using. Check for cracked bulbs and for frayed, broken or exposed wires and discard if faulty. Turn off all tree and display lights before retiring for the night or before leaving.

**Electrical Outlets:** There is often a tendency to overload wall outlets during the holiday season. This is an unsafe practice and should be avoided even for short durations. Inspect all cords before using. Make sure they are CSA certified. Look for loose connections, frayed or exposed wire. Discard any defective cords. Read the labels and manufacturer's instructions to ensure proper use. Insert plugs fully into outlets. Poor contact may cause overheating or shock.

To avoid possible overheating, do not coil or bunch an extension cord which is in use and do not run it under carpet or rugs.

**Christmas Trees** – Get a freshly cut tree. It will stay green longer and be less of a fire hazard. Try to pick a tree with a strong green colour and noticeable fragrance. Always test for freshness before buying. A tree with high moisture content is safer. Very few needles should fall when the butt of the tree is tapped on the ground; needles should bend, not break; and the stump should be sticky with resin. Place the tree in a stand that will hold 2 to 3 litres of water and top it up daily. Make sure it is always immersed in water. If water drops below the trunk, the stem may reseal itself, requiring a fresh cut. Use a tree stand that has widespread legs for better balance. Do not set your tree up near a heat source such as a radiator, television, fireplace, heating duct or sunny window. It should not block doors. Never use lit candles on the tree. Remove the tree within 10 to 14 days. After that amount of time in a heated building, even the freshest tree can start to dry out.

### **Policy Changes at the Altona Library effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012:**

In keeping with standard library practice everywhere, the SCRL Board has adopted the following policy changes:

- Video handling charges will be removed
- The library will no longer place courtesy calls for over-dues
- Overdue fines will be \$.10/day for children, \$.20 for adult
- Anyone who requests an inter-library loan and then does not pick it up will be charged \$2.00/item.

## NEW ALTONA & AREA RECREATION PROGRAMS

### Interior Decorating – Home Decorating Workshop

Date: March 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>  
 Time: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
 Location: MEC Craft Meeting Room  
 Cost: \$55.00 per person  
 Instructor: Ang Loepky/Jen Slaney

### BOOT CAMP

Date: January 17 – February 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 Tuesdays & Thursdays  
 Location: West Park School Gym  
 Time: 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.  
 Cost: \$135.00 per person  
 Instructor: Jen Slaney

To register, contact the Altona & Area Recreation Office at 324-9005 or register online at [www.altona.ca](http://www.altona.ca).



**Don't let cabin fever take hold of you, join us for a day of fun at Altona Winter Festival February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**Indoor & Outdoor activities for all!**

## PUBLIC SKATING HOURS

Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> –  
 1 p.m.- 2 p.m. &  
 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
 Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>  
 1 p.m.- 2 p.m. &  
 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup>  
 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
 Thursday, December 29<sup>th</sup>  
 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
 Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup>  
 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
 Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
 Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 1 p.m.- 2 p.m. &  
 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday, January 4  
 1:00 p.m.- 2 p.m.  
 Thursday, January 5  
 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
 Friday, January 6  
 1 p.m.- 2 p.m. &  
 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.



## MILLENNIUM EXHIBITION CENTRE/ARENA HOURS

Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 7:00 a.m. – Midnight  
 Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
 7:00 a.m. -12:00 noon  
**CLOSED**  
**Sunday & Monday**  
**December 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>**  
 Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>  
 7:00 a.m. – Midnight  
 Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup>  
 7:00 a.m. – Midnight  
 Thursday, December 29<sup>th</sup>  
 7:00 a.m. – Midnight  
 Friday, December 30  
 7:00 a.m. – Midnight  
 Saturday, December 31  
 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon  
**Closed- Sunday January 1<sup>st</sup>**  
 Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 7:00 a.m. – midnight

For more information contact the Recreation Office at 324-9005. Check the arena schedule online at anytime at [www.altona.ca](http://www.altona.ca)

## Bands and Bonfire Youth Night

Join us on February 4<sup>th</sup> at the Altona Winter Festival Celebrations as we plan to rock the night away and have a roaring fire outside with wiener roast! Indoors, a variety of bands will perform along with some drama and emphasis on the benefits of diversity. This evening is geared towards youth of **ALL** ages!!

## Recreation Office Holiday Hours

Friday – December 23<sup>rd</sup> –  
 8:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

**CLOSED MONDAY & TUESDAY – DECEMBER 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>**

Wednesday – Friday  
 December 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>  
 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**CLOSED – MONDAY, JANUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>**

## Free Public Skating thanks to following sponsors:

Altona Elks – B.P.O.E.  
 #447

B.S.I. Insurance  
 Brokers Ltd.- Altona  
 Branch

Derksen Trucking Ltd.

Winner Circle  
 Automotive