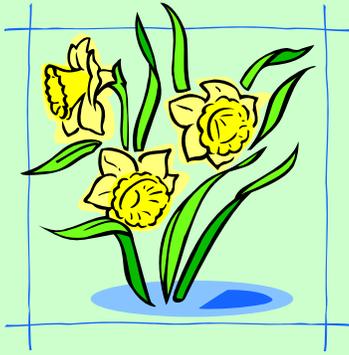




Town of Altona

Newsletter

A Message from Mayor Melvin Klassen



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 meets the third Tuesday of each month
Chair Councillor
Don Braun

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

The crows are causing a ruckus every morning there are unsuspecting patches of ice along the walkways, and seemingly new flood forecasts every other day, so you know that spring is slowly making its appearance in our Red River valley.

It's comforting to know that preparations are well underway to meet the challenge of the high water levels that are predicted to flow through the Red River Valley. In Altona we are also aware that our region has high ground water levels, and further to that, there is an over abundance of snow on the Pembina escarpment. This tells us we need to be prepared for overland flooding that could come our way from the west. We are keeping a close watch on all water routes within the region.

Presently, we feel that our main involvement in the flood will result in us acting as a "host community" for families needing to evacuate flooded areas.

In this present newsletter you will find an article on "Emergency Warning Siren". Take a close look at this article as there are some changes to the initial information that came out in a brochure about 2 years ago. Please read it carefully.

Some of you may have heard Mayor Martin Harder of Winkler, when he informed us that the Winkler Council was going to ask the Pembina Valley Water Co-op to cease adding fluoride to the treated water that is being supplied to 18 municipalities that make up the Pembina Valley Water Coop. The Board that makes up the Pembina Valley Water Coop will undoubtedly request input from the various communities, as to what their feelings are regarding this request. We have representation on the board, and Tim Fast who is our representative will want to know our feelings on this matter. If you have a view point on this topic give Tim or Council members a shout.

A lot of effort goes into preparing and presenting the annual budget for the town. The budget that the Council adopts on a yearly

basis sets the tone for what the town expects the staff to spend their time on for the year. In early December we had a planning session (Council members and the Management team) where we all presented a lengthy wish list as to what we felt needed to be included in the following year's budget. In February of this year, the staff took these lists and established a draft budget. In March we, the Council and Staff reviewed the initial draft of the budget and made adjustments so that the costs fell into an acceptable level. The staff has fine tuned this document and will be presenting a final draft in the early part of April. The final budget document will be presented to all that are interested and council at the Town's Budget Hearing on April 26th, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

Melvin Klassen,
Mayor



Special Olympics
Manitoba

2011 Police Officer's Community Ball

Saturday, April 16th, 2011
6:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m. at the
Rhineland Pioneer Centre at
227 10th Avenue NW

\$50/ person or
\$360/ table of 8

ALL proceeds to Special Olympics

For tickets contact
Altona Police – 324-5373
Morden Police – 822-6292

Guest Speaker – Bruce Day
Music By Fender Bender

MLCC Approval #114/11

Chief Administrative Report – by Russ Phillips



Emergency Warning Siren

The Altona 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 or wail signal to alert the community of an emergency.

There will be **no “All Clear”** siren activation, as the information regarding the emergency will be broadcast on CFAM 950 AM.

Outdoor Sirens are an 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 & television broadcasts.

The Emergency Warning Siren will be tested daily at 12:00 Noon for 10 seconds.

The Emergency Warning Siren will also be tested annually for a four (4) minute cycle. The annual test will take place in early May and will be announced in the local media prior to the event.

For more information on how to prepare for an emergency visit the Town of Altona website at www.townofaltona.com



2011 is a Census year.

Later this year, another census will be undertaken across Canada. To our community, here in Altona, it is a very important exercise; one that can benefit you and your neighbours in a number of ways.

Some people feel the census is a time consuming exercise and they have concerns about privacy and the questions asked. What's important to note is that many of these answers assist local, provincial and federal governments to develop suitable and appropriate programs and services. Many grants and funding formulae are based on population numbers. For example, the grant the Town of Altona receives to help support the Altona Police Service is calculated on a per capita basis. Presently, that general assistance grant is nearly \$157 per every person living in Altona, or more than \$580,000 towards our municipal operations. Thus, the more accurate the count of persons living in the community, the more support money the municipality receives from senior levels of government. This is true for many programs including, infrastructure programs, such as the gas-tax fund and many others.

Accurate census data also assists our Town by providing information about the growth of the community. It helps in reviewing immigration and employment policies and programs; as well as to plan education, health and other services.

Answers to questions about income assist the senior levels of government to develop income support programs such as Old Age Security Pension, provincial income supplements, and social assistance payments.

Although personal information is never shared, businesses will at times use income statistics to locate retail and wholesale sites near appropriate groups of consumers and to determine potential markets for products and services.

A number of questions ask about the people living in each household. From these questions municipalities can learn about the living arrangements, family size, the number of children living with one parent or two parents, and the number of people who live alone. This information is used for planning social programs, such as Old Age Security and child tax benefits. It is also used by our municipal government to plan a variety of services such as day-care centres, schools and senior citizens' homes.

Personal or identifiable information is never sold or given to mailing lists. NO ONE, including other government departments such as Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), have access to income or other personal information collected in the census. All your answers are kept confidential. This is the law.

When the census forms come out, later this spring, be mindful that your participation and an accurate count of our population can benefit you and the community we live in.

For more information on 2011 Census please visit their website at www.census2011.gc.ca.

Mark Your Calendars! Spring Cleanup

This year the annual Town of Altona Spring Clean Up will be held on May 2nd – 5th.

Monday, May 2 – North West

Tuesday, May 3 – North East

Wednesday, May 4 – South West

Thursday, May 5 – 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 “Give Away Day”

The Town of Altona will host a “Give Away Day”

People are asked to put out items on the curb for others to pick up on Saturday, April 30th, 2011. **This is meant for exchanging items that can be used and not for exchanging items that cannot be used, or for disposing of trash.** Anyone from Altona and/or area is welcome to take part.

Altona/Rhineland/Gretna Landfill Site Hours

Effective
April 2 – September 30
Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Wednesdays
8:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Saturday
8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Manitoba Hazards Waste Day will be held at the Morden Firehall on June 11th, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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.



Altona Library

Canadian Children's Book Week
April 30—May 7

See the display at your local branch.

Don't **forget** your library card.

Announcing:
Summer Reading 2011 at the Altona Library –
Splash! Celebrate Summer!
Watch for further details

NOTICE TO ALL RESIDENTS

The Compost Depot is located at the Town of Altona lagoon site 1 mile East and ¼ mile South of the intersection of Green Valley Equipment and Highway 30. Residents are encouraged to continue using this depot for disposal of all yard and household wastes, such as vegetable wastes, lawn clippings, leaves and kitchen wastes (excluding branches, meats, dairy products and fats). For pickup at the curb, all of the above mentioned products should be placed out in garbage cans or **UNTIED** garbage bags to facilitate convenient emptying into the truck. If compost is not set out in this manner, it will be left at the curb. Compost materials will be picked up every **WEDNESDAY** throughout the summer growing season, approximately April - October.

TOWN OF ALTONA 2011 PESTICIDE CONTROL PROGRAM

Public notice is hereby given that the Town of Altona intends to conduct the following Pesticide Control Program to control noxious weeds on Public Property in the Town of Altona at various times during the summer of 2011 and to control mosquitoes in the Town of Altona (as required) during the summer of 2011.

The Pesticides to be used:
Maverick, Dyvel DSP, Liberty, B.T. (Bacillus Thuringiensis), Malathion, ULV-95, Prox 120, Jaguar 50, Ratoxin.

The project dates of application will be from May 1st – October 31st, 2011. Submission pertaining to any of the above mentioned should be made in writing within 15 days to:

**Manitoba Conservation
Pesticide/Fertilizer Section
123 Main Street, Suite 160
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1A5**

Altona Branch BOOK DRIVE ON NOW

Donations for the annual book sale are being accepted at all library branches. Donations are added to the library collection, or sent to the book sale. **Books can be dropped off at the Altona Branch.**

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.

Altona Police Service

If your bike has been lost or stolen May 19th is your opportunity to check if your bike has been recovered by police. In order to claim your bike you must provide proof that the bike is yours i.e. serial number.

PUBLIC WORKS DAY

Mark your calendars! Public Works Day will be held on Thursday, May 19th, 2011 at the Public Works yard.

ALTONA POLICE SERVICE

Along with Public Works Day the Altona Police Service will be auctioning recovered bicycles in conjunction with Public Works Day on Thursday, May 19th at the Public Works yard. The auction is held by silent bid. Bikes will be on display starting at 1:00 p.m. Watch for further details!

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.



Are you interested in becoming a lifeguard? A National Lifeguard Service course is being offered on 2 weekends in Altona at an indoor pool. April 29 – May 1 and May 6 – 8. Cost is \$295.00. For more information and pre-requisites required please contact the recreation office at 324-9005.

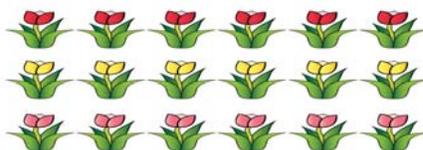


**MANITOBA
SUNFLOWER
FESTIVAL**

Join us for the 47th annual Sunflower Festival on July 22, 23 and 24th.

50 Plus Program

New this year is a Spring Fling on May 11th where we feature a musical jamboree and watermelon and Rollkuchen for faspas. You can pay at the door – only \$6.00 per person. The Spring Fling starts at 3 p.m. and will be held at the Rhineland Pioneer Centre. Please bring your musical talents and have some fun.



Altona in Bloom Kick off week:

May 28th – Annual Plant sale ... please bring your plants to the MEC the day before in containers.

The sale will take place at the Altona Mall this year from 9a.m. – 12noon.

All plants sell for \$3.00 a plant with all proceeds going towards the Memory Garden.

May 30th – Memory Garden Service, 6:30 p.m. on 10th Ave & 2nd St. at Memory Garden location.

If you would like to purchase a plant in memory of someone you have lost please contact Grace at 324-9005 for all the information.

May 31 – June 2nd (as needed) – planting the rest of the Town.

This is an invitation to each and everyone of you to come out and help beautify your town on May 31st. Meet at the MEC parking lot at 6:30 p.m.

Swimming lessons registration will begin on Tuesday, May 17th and Wednesday, May 18th. Hours for the first two days will be from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Thereafter, registration hours will be regular hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) – Monday through Friday). Watch the Echo for further details.

Senior program

The last waffle breakfast for the season will be on Wednesday, April 27th at 9:00 a.m.



Senior Easter Lunch

A Seniors Easter Lunch will be held on Tuesday, April 19th at the Rhineland Pioneer Centre at 12:00 noon with Elmwood Elementary School Grade 2 choir joining us. Traditional cold plate with ham, potato salad, mousse, and paska will be served for only \$10.00 per person.



YOU MUST PURCHASE TICKETS IN ADVANCE AT THE REC OFFICE 324-9005.



GALLERY IN THE PARK

The Gallery in the Park will open to the public for the 2011 season on Friday, May 20th at 12 noon. Come out and see all the new art works for the upcoming season. If you are interested in becoming a “Friend of the Gallery” as a financial supporter, please contact Ron Epp at the recreation office or any Gallery committee member.