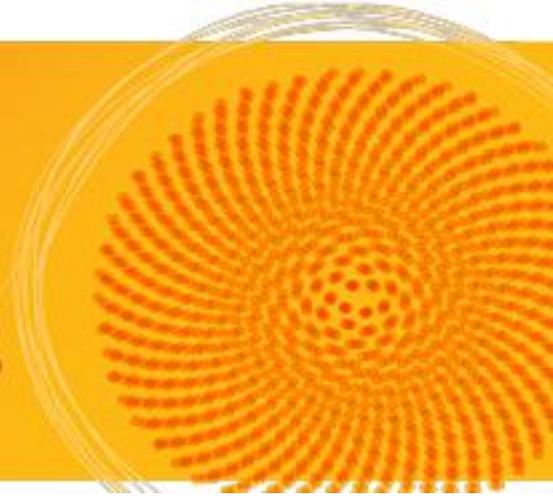


Altona

NEWS & UPDATES

• Residents • Business • Tourism • Government



SPRING 2012

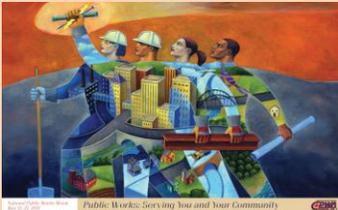
Special points of interest:

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

NEW

Committee of the Whole
The *Third* Tuesday of each month at 12:00 noon

Upcoming events



PUBLIC WORKS DAY

Mark your calendars! Public Works Day will be held on **Thursday, May 24th, 2012** at the Public Works yard.

Altona Police Bike Auction

Along with Public Works Day the Altona Police Service will be auctioning recovered bicycles in conjunction with Public Works Day on **Thursday, May 24th, 2012** 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!

Message from the Mayor

Because of the unusual warm summerlike temperatures during the latter days of the February and early March, you can sense the optimism of an early spring. People are tentatively checking their flower beds, knowing full well that it is still early, but checking the beds just the same.

Altona Maroons win! Altona Maroons win! – those were the words that echoed around the coffee shops on the morning after the Maroons captured the South Eastern Manitoba Hockey Championship on March 27. I did suggest to Archie Heinrichs, the mayor of Plum Coulee that should Plum Coulee win that I would be willing to wear an Express sweater during their Plum Fest parade, however should Altona win then I would expect him to wear a Maroon sweater during the Sunflower parade. He didn't refute the idea but we did not shake on it so I will contact him and ask him how binding my suggestion was.

Congratulations Maroons, you played an excellent series.

We've just been informed that our Secretary-Treasurer of the town for 23 years, Larry Driedger, has accepted the position of Chief Administrative Officer, for the R.M. of Morris. It is bittersweet news. It's bittersweet in the sense that as a senior member of the management group, he had the historical perspectives on most of our agenda items and gave us valuable input. Larry has served us well and we wish him well in his new and challenging position.

The 2012 budget was presented at a public hearing on Tuesday, April 10. Council will be reviewing the recommendations and approving the budget estimates in the next few weeks.

There has been considerable discussion among the municipalities around our province about the need to put more money into infrastructure. Municipalities throughout the province seem to need funds to upgrade roads, streets, sewers, lagoons or landfill sites. The provincial government is aware of the needs, doesn't disagree that the needs are there, but says that they cannot see themselves putting more funds into the infrastructure program. They are requiring much more stringent standards for lagoons and landfills but are not providing money to offset these requirements. The municipalities are seeking potential options for alternative revenues as the provincial government does not feel that it can share 1% of the existing PST with the municipalities. The municipalities are arguing that the infrastructure needs are crumbling right across the province and if they are not dealt with now, the costs will escalate within the next 10 years. The suggestion was made during the last election that a 1% PST should be levied and dedicated to infrastructure. Estimates are that such a levy would raise over 200 million dollars and if dedicated for infrastructure upgrades or improvements could go a long way in rebuilding the infrastructure crisis. This discussion will continue at the annual municipal meetings in November.

Have a great summer.
Mel Klassen

Decoration Day
Sunday, June 10th, 2012 at
2:00 p.m. at the
Altona Cenotaph

Altogether
Altona

Chief Administrative Report – by Russ Phillips

Altona Town Council is about to embark on a new manner by which it conducts governance and decision making processes. The recent adoption of new Organizational and Procedures By-laws will result in the community taking on a committee of the whole concept. “Committee of the Whole” is a committee that consists of all Council members. Effective this April the regular meetings of the Works and Operations Committee, Finance and Administration Committee and Community and Social Development Committee will be rolled into one meeting and now be heard by the entire complement of council members, including the Mayor. Instead of three separate meetings monthly, where only a portion of Council was represented, now one regular monthly meeting, referred to as the “Committee of the Whole” (COTW) will be held.

The COTW format permits Council members to deal with complex issues in greater detail than might be possible at a regular committee or Council meeting. Issues discussed at the COTW meeting cannot be formally adopted but recommendations stemming from these meetings will be presented to a subsequent meeting of Regular Council for adoption. Regular Council meetings will continue to be held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM.

Some of the perceived advantages of adopting this new format are:

- All members of Council are involved in the discussions and recommendations on all civic issues.

- It is a more inclusive environment; no one member of Council should feel marginalized. Information is heard by all at the same time.
- It is expected to reduce the notion that Council simply “rubber stamps” committee decisions.
- It reduces the number of monthly committee meetings, thus reducing the amount of agendas and minutes and the effort and resources involved in generating these.

The first such meeting of COTW will be held at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, April 17th in the Altona Council Chambers, 111 Centre Avenue. All COTW meetings are open to the public.

In other news, I am reluctant to announce the resignation of Larry Driedger, the Town’s present Secretary-Treasurer. We are excited by the news of Larry’s recent appointment as Chief Administrative Officer with the Rural Municipality of Morris, but sad to see him leave.

Larry has served the Altona community for 23 years with dedication and skillful knowledge, especially in the areas of finance, taxation, systems and planning. He brought about a number of improvements in the manner by which the municipality conducts its business and his departure leaves a large void to fill.

On behalf of the Town’s administration and his co-workers, we gratefully acknowledge Larry’s contributions to the community and wish him well in his new role.

Mark Your Calendars! Spring Cleanup

This year the annual Town of Altona Spring Clean Up will be held on April 30 – May 3rd, 2012.

Monday, April 30 – North West

Tuesday, May 1 – North East

Wednesday, May 2 – South West

Thursday, May 3 – 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. **Mixed loads will not be picked up.**

We will **NOT** pick the following items:

1. E-Waste including Microwave ovens, TV’s, Computers etc. this waste can be taken to Blue Sky Opportunities
2. Paper, plastics, cans, glass containers, etc. that are normally recycled
3. Fluorescent light tubes
4. Appliances that use refrigerant such as freezers, refrigerators and air conditioners
5. Household hazardous waste including Antifreeze, Oil Solvents, Pesticides, batteries and paint of **any** kind
6. Any construction material generated by contractors and/or renovations
7. Grass clippings, leaves and compost material

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

Reminder – All loads must be properly secured.

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. – 12:00 noon



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

NOTICE TO ALL RESIDENTS

Compost pick-up begins on April 18th. Compost put out before that week will not be picked up. Grass clippings, leaves, and vegetable waste will be accepted – branches and twigs will not be picked up. Compost material must be placed in containers or bags that are manageable for collection staff - bulky containers and containers weighing more than approx. 50 lbs. will not be picked up. Bags containing compost must be left untied

Attention Pet Owners

Reminders to all pet owners please pickup your pet(s) waste and dispose of it properly, preferably in a **tyed** plastic bag and in a waste receptacle.



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 a few seconds.

The Emergency Warning Siren will also be tested **ANNUALLY** for a four (4) minute cycle. The annual test will take place on

Monday, May 7th, 2012 at 1:30 p.m.

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

Altona Police Service

Spring has sprung and it's time to think safety when riding your bike.

BIKE SAFETY - OBEY THE RULES OF THE ROAD

Bicycles and tricycles are vehicles – not toys. Riders must obey road signs and traffic rules just like people driving cars, trucks, and buses. Highway traffic act fine for STOP SIGN violations **costs \$199 and two (2) demerits whether you are riding a bike or driving your car.**

Learn about using hand signals to let drivers know when you are stopping or turning.

Understand how traffic flows and remember that all vehicles, including bikes, must always drive on the right side of the road. Make sure everyone in the family knows what the road signs mean.

Take steps to be visible. Wear bright clothing in the daylight (consider fluorescent colours) and retro-reflective clothing at night. Use a white headlight on the front and a red or orange light on the back. A retro-reflective strip around your ankle will make you unmistakable as a cyclist.

Wear your helmet. Protect your brain. It is law in Manitoba that children riding in bike carriers must wear a properly fitted and fastened protective helmet. While this law does not address bike trailers, wearing an approved helmet would certainly make these trailers safer in the event of a crash or collision.

- Make sure your bike is the right size for you.
- Make sure your bike has been checked and is safe for you to ride.
- Drivers watch for bikes out on the road.

Be alert.

*****Watch the news-bike helmets may become mandatory in Manitoba in the near future*****

Fire Department

With spring upon us and many families enjoying their backyards, we want to remind the residents of Altona 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 your house and a minimum of 10 feet from the property lines
- Only seasoned wood is allowed to be burned.
- No fire shall be left unattended.



Hand held cell phones have changed how we communicate. We can connect with family members, friends or co-workers at virtually anytime from anywhere. Unfortunately, "anywhere" often includes vehicles and that's created a big problem.

Studies show that 80% of all crashes are related to driver inattention and the number one source of driver inattention today results from drivers talking or texting on cell phones.

That's why when you're on the road, stay off the phone. There is a \$200 fine for using the cell phone while driving.

Check out this website for a driver distraction game:

<http://www.nytimes.com//interactive/2009/07/19/technology/20090719-driving-game.html>

Altona Library – 2012 Book Sale

At the Access Event Centre (formerly known as the Morden Recreation Centre)

Thursday, May 10th

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Friday, May 11th

Noon – 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 12th

10:00 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Donations of good, used books are accepted year round. Call the library to see what types of books are the most popular items at the sale.

The annual book sale is the only fundraising activity that the library carries out. The funds raised are used to purchase new books for all branches.

Download free audio books or ebooks from elibraires Manitoba. For more information visit their website at <http://www.scribriary.mb.ca> or call the Altona Library at 324-1503.

DECORATION DAY SERVICE



Sunday, June 10th, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. at the Altona Cenotaph

Senior Programs

If you have any suggestion for Senior Programs please feel free to contact Grace Braun at 324-9005.

NEW ALTONA & AREA RECREATION PROGRAMS



If you have lost a loved one and want to purchase a plant in memory of that special someone please contact Grace Braun at the Recreation Office at 324-9005 for more details. Plants can be purchased anytime of the year. The Memory Garden service will take place on Monday, May 28th, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at the Memory Garden located on 10th Avenue NE. A price and purchase list is available, call 324-9005 or online at www.altona.ca under tourism events

The Sunflower Gardens in “ice-season” has come to a close for another season. Thanks to everyone for your volunteerism and involvement in ice activities.

A BIG thank you to the four organizations that make free admission for public skating possible:

- Altona Elks B.P.O.E. 447
- B.S.I. Insurance – Altona Branch
- Derksen Trucking Ltd.
- Winner Circle Automotive



SWIM LESSONS REGISTRATION

For the Altona Aquatic Centre will begin on Wednesday, May 2nd.

Registration will be taken **IN PERSON ONLY** on the first day from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Beginning Thursday, May 3rd registration may be taken in person or by phone with Visa or Master Card.

Payment in full must accompany **ALL** registrations. Watch the Red River Valley Echo and our website www.altona.ca for more detailed information on the swim lessons times and dates.

GALLERY IN THE PARK

The Gallery in the Park committee is hard at work getting things ready for the new season. This year the Gallery will open on June 2nd with new art works and some new sculptures.

Gallery hours Open Tuesday - Sunday from 12:00pm - 8:00pm during the Spring to Fall Season in 2012. Open on July 1- Canada Day, August 6- Civic Holiday and September 3- Labour Day. The Sculpture Garden hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. every day of the week.

For more information about the Gallery, please visit their website at www.galleryinthepark.com or contact the Altona Recreation Office at 204-324-9005.

