



Town of Altona

Mayor's Desk – Melvin Klassen

July 2007

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**Upcoming event:
The Town of Altona Fall
Fundraising Gala will be
held on Saturday,
September 8th, 2007.**

During these past few weeks I have been reminded several times that we have a beautiful town. Visitors to Altona because of business, our Aquatic Centre, tournaments or just to visit, invariably remark at how orderly and well kept our town appears to them. After hosting a "Mosquito AA tournament" our Minor Baseball Association received this compliment from a visiting team; *"On behalf of the Southdale Lakers baseball team players, coaches and parents I would like to commend and thank you and your support team for hosting a well-organized and competitive baseball tournament last Saturday. We were overwhelmed with the facility, the care you took to ensure that the kids had time to enjoy the water park, the food, and announcing of players as they came to bat, etc. We will all look forward to the opportunity of coming back next year. This in our eyes was a truly shining moment for the Town of Altona."* Thanks to Altona Minor Baseball, as you and your group of volunteers are representative of the people that help make Altona what it is today.

If you've gone through the Centennial Park recently you will have noticed that the construction of the tennis courts is well underway. Upon completion there will be two double courts and one single court available for our tennis enthusiasts.

The Town's Works & Operations Staff are doing their annual preparation for the asphaltting of streets and concrete of sidewalks. This work will probably be completed in the latter part of August and September.

The Altona & District Chamber of Commerce Canada Day festivities were a huge success and we were fortunate to view an excellent fireworks show. With a backdrop of threatening thunder clouds and some streaks of lightning the fireworks were deemed the best ever. Thank you to Friesens for matching our contribution so that this event could take place.

Events to keep in mind: Sunflower Festival – Starts with Senior Slow Pitch Tournament on Thursday, July 26th & 27th, the two day pancake breakfast (Friday & Saturday) sponsored by the Altona Credit Union, the Saturday parade and the giant Moto Cross races and Legends annual Car Show on Sunday. This year the Honourable Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, Mr. John Harvard will be joining us on Saturday, July 29th, 2007 to enjoy our festival.

Report from the Chief Administrative Officer Russ Phillips

One of the more important responsibilities of a municipality is to communicate and share information with its residents and customers. That's one of the primary objectives of this newsletter, to keep area residents informed of municipal services and programs. Another medium that we use to inform is the Internet and the Town of Altona has been well served for the past number of years by its existing web-site. I am pleased to report however that work is well underway in designing a new site, one that will be easier to maintain and designed to be more user friendly and more informative.

The Town's web site is a primary information source for residents, visitors and businesses. When designing this new site, the customer was never far from our thoughts and we feel that this new web site will be much simpler and easier for all to use. You'll be able to find all the information you need – from snow removal to swimming lessons with just the click of a mouse.

Stay tuned for new on-line access to a wide range of municipal services. The Town will continue to ensure that innovative programs and services are developed and implemented to meet the ever changing needs of our community. The launch of this new site is expected over the next couple of months, in the meantime the existing site will be maintained at www.townofaltona.com.

Recycle and you could Win!



This is a reminder to recycle your used oil, filters and oil containers to become eligible to win prizes. The Altona / Rhineland landfill facility is one of 76 licensed used oil collection facilities in Manitoba. Through September 15, 2007 those bringing in used oil products are eligible for prizes. See posters around town or call 1-888-410-1440 for more information.

Attention All Residents

The construction of any device on a town street is prohibited. Alterations of private approaches across municipal properties can only be completed with the appropriate permission. There are a number of locations throughout Altona where residents have placed or constructed a device on the roadway in front of their driveway. Please be advised, these devices are not permitted and must be removed as they create a traffic and safety concern. Those devices not removed by the homeowner prior to the end of July 2007 will be removed by the Town.

West Nile How to reduce your risk!

As July approaches, the risk of becoming ill from West Nile virus is expected to increase. In previous years, human cases have been exposed in early July. To date, a total of three positive cases of WNV in humans have been identified in Manitoba in 2007.

Manitobans can reduce the risk of mosquito bites by:

- reducing the amount of time spent outdoors during peak mosquito hours between dusk and dawn,
- using appropriate mosquito repellent, and
- wearing light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing.

Manitobans can reduce the number of Culex tarsalis mosquitoes around their home by reducing standing water. This includes:

- regularly cleaning and emptying eave-troughs, bird baths and other items that might collect water;
- ensuring rain barrels are covered with mosquito screening or are tightly sealed around the downspout;
- making sure yards are clear of old tires or other debris that collect water; and
- making sure doors and window screens fit tightly and are free of holes.

For more information about West Nile virus, contact Health Links-1-888-315-9257 or visit the Manitoba Health website at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/wnv>.



New entrance to the Altona Library & New Book Return

The Altona Library main entrance has been relocated to the front entrance of the Golden West Plaza. A new book drop bin has been placed outside at the northwest end of the Library. Please take time and stop in at the Library to welcome our new Librarian Liz Forrester.

Attention Vacant Lot Property Owners

The Town of Altona is requesting that all property owners (both vacant and developed lots) control the growth of weeds and grass on their properties on a regular basis. We wish to advise all property owners that they need to keep their properties in good order or the Town will hire a contractor to maintain the property at the owner's expense.

2007 Sidewalk Construction Plans

The Town of Altona 2007 sidewalk construction plan is as follows:

- 3rd Avenue N/W sidewalk will be relocated to the north side of the road.
- Repairs to 2nd Street N/W
- Repairs to sidewalk on Centre Avenue along by the MCC
- Repairs to the sidewalk on Centre Avenue East from 4th Street to 6th Street.

For more information regarding sidewalk repairs please contact Bill Loewen at 204-324-6439.

Turning up the heat on grill safety!



Fire in the grill, under hot dogs and burgers, is a welcome sight at the family cookout. But fire anywhere else can make your summer kick-off barbecue memorable for all the wrong reasons.

Facts & figures (courtesy www.nfpa.org)

- In 2002, gas and charcoal grills caused 900 structure fires and 3,500 outdoor fires in or on home properties, resulting in a combined direct property loss of \$30 million.
- The popularity of gas-fueled grills nearly tripled between 1982 and 1993 (up 193% from 9.4 million to 27.5 million).
- Gas grills have a higher fire risk than charcoal grills; leaks and breaks are the leading cause, accounting for nearly half of gas grill fires.
- Gas-fueled grills caused an estimated 600 home structure fires and 3,200 homes outdoor fires in 2002.
- Charcoal grills have a higher risk than gas grills of death due to fire or unvented carbon monoxide; most of these deaths do not involve fire.

- Charcoal-fueled or other solid-fueled grills caused an estimated 300 home structure fires and 300 home outdoor fires in 2002.
- Placing combustibles too close to heat, and leaving cooking unattended, are the two leading causes for charcoal grill home structure fires.
- Half of all gas grills and charcoal grill home structure fires begin on an exterior balcony or unenclosed porch.
- Gas fuel is the leading item first ignited for home outdoor gas grill fires.
- Structural member or framing, wall coverings, exterior trim, and plants are the leading items first ignited in home structure or outdoor charcoal grill fires.

Altona Police Service



OFF ROAD Vehicles (ATV, Mini Bikes, Dirt Bikes, Trail Bikes) -It is ***illegal*** to operate one of the above mentioned off road vehicles in Altona. Outside of town limits - you cannot operate an off road vehicle on a road way or the shoulder of a roadway. You can ride an off road vehicle in the ditch but you must drive in the same direction as traffic. Helmets are mandatory when operating an off road vehicle. Children under 14 must not operate and Off Road Vehicle unless supervised, accompanied by and always in clear view of a:

parent or someone at least 18, who is authorized by the child's parent. Although most Off Road Vehicle owners ride responsibly, more than 100 Manitobans are injured or killed on Off Road Vehicle accidents each year. Two key pieces of advice for safe operation are common sense: **slow down and never drink and drive.** Have a safe summer!

Severe Weather- Tornadoes are a form of severe thunderstorm. They are noticeable because of the funnel-shaped clouds and the rotating winds. **Danger** signs for tornadoes include sever thunderstorms in the area with strong, gusty winds, and a funnel or dark column spinning from the sky to the ground. You will often hear a loud, roaring noise similar to the noise of a train or an airplane. Any time there are severe thunderstorms in the area, you should stay alert for tornado "Watches" or "Warnings" to be issued by Environment Canada. Tornadoes can travel in excess of speeds of 100 kilometres per hour but average 50 kilometres per hour. The average width of a tornado is about 300 to 400 feet at the ground. The average length is less than a mile but has exceeded 40 miles. Tornadoes generally occur between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., and about 85 percent will come from a Southwest direction.

If you are home:

If you have a basement, go there and protect your head and face. If you do not have a basement, go to the centre part of your house on the lowest level. A closet or bathroom is usually a good place to seek shelter. Always protect your head and chest from flying objects.

If you are in a high-rise building:

Do not use an elevator. Go to the centre of the building, stairwells, or to a rest room. Follow the directions of building security or officials.

If you are in a vehicle:

STOP! Get out of the vehicle and move away from the tornado's path at right angle and lie in a hollow or ditch and remember to cover your head and chest.

If a tornado strikes: Do not stay in mobile homes - get out and seek shelter elsewhere. View a mobile home as a vehicle.



- Do not **try to outrun the tornado in your vehicle or on foot - you could lose the race and your life.**
- Do not **open windows.**
- Do not **stay in large open rooms.**
- Do not **stay in areas that have a lot of windows.**

Manitoba Sunflower Festival July 27, 28 & 29th, 2007 Schedule of Events

Thursday, July 26th

8:00am 55+ Men's Slow-Pitch Softball.(West Park School)

12 – 8pm

Friday, July 27th, 2007

7:30-9:30am Free Pancake Breakfast with entertainment by Tom & Lori Neufeld (Located at Altona Credit Union Parking)

8:00am 55+ Men's Slo-Pitch Softball. (West Park School)

9am – 9pm Scavenger Hunt (Forms can be picked up at Source by Circuit City or Friesens Bookstore in the Altona Mall)

12 -6pm Quilt Show, presented by the Heirloom Quilters/ Tea & Sales Room. Located at South Park MB. Church -335 6th St. SE)

1:00pm Registration for Fishing Derby. Fishing Derby at the Buffalo Creek Nature Pond.

2:00pm Afternoon Stage Show (Park Stage) Entertainment by Mike Blair, the Singin' Cowboy
Queen Contestant Speeches
4- H Fun Horse Club day by Prairie Pony Rider Club.

4 – 8pm Mennonite Foods at the Rhineland Pioneer Centre.

4:00pm Needle in a Haystack (Altona Park Stage)

5:00pm Bounc'en Good Times Inflatables

6 – 8:30pm Paintball Snap Cage (Altona Park) Tim Heppner 324-1295

6:30pm Men's Fastball Tournament (West Park School)

7-8pm Celebrity Pig Racing (East of the Millennium Exhibition Parking lot)

8:30pm Opening Ceremonies (LOCATED AT THE STAGE) at the Altona Park
Big Concert in the Park with entertainment by Harlequin

1 – 4pm
1:00pm

2:00- 6:00pm

2:00pm
3:00pm

7:30pm

6:00pm

8:00pm

10:00pm

8pm-1am

Sunday, July 29th, 2007

9:00am – 6pm

10:00am

12 noon

12 – 8pm

12:30

1:30pm

3:00pm

3:30pm

4:00pm

6:00- 10pm

7pm

Heirloom Quilters Quilt Shows (at the South Park MB Church.) Ends at 6pm

Helicopter Rides/Provincial Helicopter Rides – Parkside School Field

MYJC Dunk Tank (Altona Park)

Gymkhana Horse Show (North of MEC)

Queen Contestant Fashion Show (Park Stage)

Strongman Competition (located in the arena area of the MEC) - Dog Show Registration in the Curling Club Ice Area

Faspa in the Village" (Tours of the Village of Neuberghal/freshly baked bread from Russian heater/bake oven) . Located 2 miles south and 3 miles east on Hwy 421 \$10.00

Dog Show at Curling Club Arena

Stage Entertainment by Robin Chestnut

DEMOLITION DERBY at old Lagoon location.

Celebrity Pig Racing

\$400.00 Scavenger Hunt Prize winner announced at Park Stage.

Celebrity Pig Racing – (East of Millennium Exhibition Parking lot)

Free Stage show with entertainment by Legacy and crowning of Miss Congeniality and Miss People's Choice. (Altona Park)

Crowning of the Manitoba Sunflower Festival Queen 2007

Elk's Dance (Rhineland Pioneer Centre)

Saturday, July 28th, 2007

7:30am Free Pancake Breakfast with entertainment (Located at the Altona Credit Union)

9am – 4pm Scavenger Hunt (Forms can be picked up at Source by Circuit City or Friesens Bookstore in the Altona Mall)

10:00am Gigantic Commercial Parade (downtown)

11am - 8:00pm Mennonite Foods (Located at the Rhineland Pioneer Centre)

11:00am Farmer's Market (located on 10th Ave)

12:00 noon Celebrity Pig Racing
Airplane Rides (Altona Airport)
Bounc'en Good Times Inflatables
Maplewood Farms Petting Zoo
Slo-Pitch Softball Tournament
Paintball Snap Cage (Altona Park)

Motocross races located at the Moto Park X. Look for signage.

Community Worship Service

"Legend's Car Club Show in the Park"

Airplane Rides (Altona Airport)

Bounc'en Good Times Inflatables & Climbing Wall (Altona Park)

Maple Woods Farm Petting Zoo (Altona Park)

Back Yard Garden Tours (Tickets available at info booth in the Park)

Heirloom Quilters Quilt Show. (South Park MB Church) Ends at 5pm

Slo -Pitch Softball Tournament (Altona Park)

Helicopter Rides/Provincial Helicopter Rides – Parkside School Field

Celebrity Pig Racing – (East of Millennium Exhibition Parking lot)

Free Swimming (Altona Aquatic Centre)

PJ Pajamas Kid's entertainer(Park Stage)

Glory Bound (Park Stage)

On the Edge (Park Stage)

Borderline Drive (Park Stage)

Free Faspa (Altona Park) Watermelon and Rollkuchen served to you. Sponsored by Town of Altona & RM of Rhineland.

Celebrity Pig Racing – (East of Millennium Exhibition Parking lot)

Legends Car Show Awards Ceremony in the Park

Old Time Dance (Pioneer Centre)

Gospel Concert at the Park stage