



Assiniboia

Heart of the Golden South



"All Matters Town"

Issue One
February 2012

Mayors Message - Paul Topola

Welcome to the inaugural issue of "All Matters Town", a quarterly newsletter designed to keep you up to date and answer your many questions regarding the programs and issues that affect you ... the residents of our town.
I hope you will look forward to every issue, as I know I will.

Government Services - Steve Gibson, CAO

The Town of Assiniboia is working on its 2012 budget and operations plan; as well, considerations are being given to undertake the completion of an Official Community Plan (OCP) through our regional alliance partnership. One often easily confuses an operations plan and an OCP because they are interconnected. While both are part of the planning process, they have separate functions.

An Official Community Plan is essential for a municipality to manage its future growth and development, guiding the physical, environmental, economic, social and cultural development of the Town. The plan must be prepared in consultation with a professional community planner that is licensed under *The Community Planning Profession Act*. The Town is able to set development goals, objectives

and policies that Council can use to manage land use, subdivision, municipal services, and public utilities. However, without an OCP, a municipality has little control over development and cannot effectively manage land use.

A Municipal Operations Plan will take both the Strategic Plan completed by Linnen and Associates and the Corporate Review completed by Advoco Consulting Ltd in 2011 and 2010 respectively and puts them into action. The Operation Plan currently being worked on by staff through the assistance of HMC Consulting Ltd identifies what major projects or milestones must be completed over the next 12 to 24 months. The plan provides a framework to prioritize the Town's projects and actions. These projects are typically broken down into detailed 90 day plans, defined by who is undertaking the project, estimated completion date, and at what the cost will be to the town.

Corporate Services - Ellen McKay, Manager

As of January 20, 2012, the prepayment tax notices were mailed. These notices are based entirely on the 2011 tax levy. These notices are designed to give taxpayers a discount for paying early. If you paid in January you received a 3% discount. February discount is 2.5%. March is 2%. April is 1.5%. May is 1%. The discount is applied to the date the town office receives the payment. This means if you paid \$1,000.00 in January, you now have a credit of \$1,030 towards your 2012 property taxes.

In 2011, there were some changes to the tax notices. The most noticeable is the \$300 base

tax. This is up from \$100 in 2010. The base tax is levied against all taxable land and improvements. Another change was the minimum tax on taxable land was increased. The minimum tax on Residential and Multi-Residential taxable land went from \$150 to \$250, and the minimum tax on Commercial and Industrial taxable land went from \$225.00 to \$325.00. (As per Bylaw 11/11)

If you have any questions regarding your tax notice, my door is always open or you can reach me by phone or email (acct.pay@sasktel.net) at the office.

FAQ:

* What are the hours of the Landfill?

The landfill is open Tuesday – Saturday, 1 pm – 5 pm on Weekdays and 8 am – 5 pm on Saturdays.

* What is the cost of a Pet License?

Cat & Dog licenses can be picked up at the Town Office for 2012 and they cost \$5 if your pet is spayed or neutered and \$25 if they are not.

Reminder that all Town Business Licenses need to be renewed for 2012 and any new businesses need to purchase a license for any services being done in Assiniboia.

Centennial 2012 Register Early!



Check out the Website:
www.assiniboiacentennial.com



"Our vision is to see Assiniboia grow as a healthy, vibrant community, a dynamic economic leader, and a supportive regional partner."

Adopted by Council May 2011



Public Works & Utilities - *Owen Green, Manager*

This winter has been a dramatic change from past year, there has been far less snow and milder temperatures. The fair weather has allowed us to continue to maintain, repair and service town infrastructure. It has also allowed Public Works to prepare for another busy year with the Centennial happening in 2012. Planning of service work and scheduling of projects in order to minimize disruptions for the community are a priority for myself and the great crew that I work with.

The town continues to see an increased interest in construction and development of residential, commercial, and industrial projects. Public Works is actively attempting to address these interests.

Efficiency in new equipment, the Department in 2011 purchased a new multi-use hook truck to handle recycling containers and utilize as a dump truck, landscaping and sanding unit. The truck is able to change its rear body for each of the various jobs in less than a minute. This has helped to reduce recycling costs by reducing required man power and equipment for the

collection of the blue bins. Two pick up trucks were also purchased, replacing two that were no longer safe for operation.

The Water Treatment Plant and distribution system have been very active in operations and maintenance work to provide you the customer with great drinking water, minimal disruptions to service, and a constant supply of water in the event of a fire emergency. We are currently working on a program to replace the water meters to a radio read unit, allowing for a more efficient and accurate means of collecting water meter data and forwarding to the billing department.

The Public Works Crew led by Rocky have provided me with a wealth of knowledge and information regarding the background and history of the different operations and systems that provide the town its services.

Thanks guys.

Assiniboia Town Council

- Mayor Paul Topola
- Councillor Brian Embury
- Councillor Marni Berggren
- Councillor Kim Ford
- Councillor Chuck Rust
- Councillor Sharon Schauenberg
- Councillor Bev Monea
- CAO Steve Gibson

Council Meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. In the event that the Monday is a holiday the meeting will be moved to the Tuesday at the same scheduled time. Other meeting dates will be posted to the town website and notices are posted at the Town Office.

All public are welcome to attend.

WE ARE ON THE WEB!
www.assiniboia.net



Community Services - Boyd Clark, Manager



The old “Parks and Recreation” has gone through significant changes, not only in name to “Community Services” but also personnel and responsibilities.

The Community Services Department comprises of two supervisors - a Manager (Boyd Clark) and Park and Recreation Facilities Foreman (Tim Crosbie). The department employs 4 full-time facility personnel; one employed at the museum year-round, three move between the Civic Centre in the winter and the Aquatic Centre and Parks in the summer. Contracted staff include a Tot Spot Coordinator, a Safe Communities Coordinator, and Concession personnel at the Civic Centre. Each season the number of seasonal personnel varies, in the summer staff increases include those involved with the cemetery, communities in bloom, community garden, parks and open spaces, lifeguards, aquatic centre coordinator, golf course, and a playground leadership coordinator to name a few.

Many ask what is happening with the Regional Park Authority (golf course) and the Prince of Wales Centre. The Regional Park Authority continues to exist and hopefully will for years to come. The Town of Assiniboia and the supporting Rural Municipalities will be seeking volunteers to serve on the Board of Directors of the Park Authority and accreditation is to be applied for with the provincial association. Also, a management board is going to be formed for the Assiniboia and District Golf Club and Community Services will be contracted to provide personnel for the operations of the golf course grounds and oversee the campground.

The Prince of Wales Centre continues to be owned by the Civic Improvement Association with a management board providing guidance to the operations of the facility. At some point in the future, the ownership of the facility will transfer from the Civic Improvement Association to a newly formed society – Red Coat Agricultural Society. A memorandum of understanding will be signed with the Town of Assiniboia concerning operations.

Are you looking to become involved?

Opportunities exist to provide input through the Community Services Advisory Committee. The committee meets a minimum of six times a year to assist administration with facility and program planning for community services, managing of lottery funds locally, and aiding in policy

development for the department.

As the winter season comes quickly to an end in the next month, there is still plenty of opportunity to get out and enjoy sporting and cultural activities in the community.

At the Civic Centre, the Jr Rebels are just beginning their Prairie Junior Hockey League playoffs with an opening round against Traveland RV Storm (Pilot Butte) while the Sr Rebels are continuing with their Notekeu Hockey League playoffs against Kincaid with the hope of reaching the league final. The Novice age group is hosting a tournament early March and the annual Figure Skating Carnival is mid-March.

Olympia Theatre is re-opening late February with the new digital projector, so take the time to take in a movie, two or three. I know for myself, I am amazed every time I go into the Olympia Theatre and see what we have in this community – its rare and we should be all excited about the prospects for the theatre.

Finally, I could rattle off lots of other activities but space limits – so make sure you take in the Assiniboia & District Arts Council events - March 9 (7:30) – Arrogant Worms, March 22 (7:30) The Good Lovelies and April 22 (7:30) Suzie Vinnick. Also take time to visit the Shurniak Art Gallery if you haven’t lately, coming recently from Saskatoon I don’t think the city folks have anything over us here in Assiniboia. The Shurniak Gallery is a world class facility and is equal to that of the Mendel Art Gallery in Saskatoon...

Couple of other great nights of entertainment include – Comedy Nite and Supper (fundraiser for Minor Hockey) with Doug Arden, Sat March 31. Ticket prices are \$30 and the Harlem Ambassadors vs Hometown Heroes (fundraiser for ACHS Rockets Athletics), Tue March 27. Ticket prices are \$20 for Family of 4 or individual adult, student, and youth tickets are available at the town office and other locations in Assiniboia, Gravelbourg, and Rockglen.

All the events and more can be found on the town website (www.assiniboia.net) or fan Facebook (Town of Assiniboia, Recreation).

Did You Know:

Based on the Property Tax Fairness in South West Saskatchewan Assiniboia has one of the fairest municipal tax system with a total municipal property tax gap of 1.83

South West: Municipal property tax gap ratios and municipal taxes per \$200,000 of assessed value

Municipality	Total municipal commercial taxes per \$200,000	Total municipal residential taxes per \$200,000	2010 Municipal Tax Gap	2009 Municipal Tax Gap	2009 to 2010
Shaunavon	\$5,780	\$1,890	3.06	2.52	*
Maple Creek	\$6,090	\$2,152	2.83	2.74	*
Gull Lake	\$6,073	\$2,474	2.46	2.67	✓
Assiniboia	\$5,042	\$2,762	1.83	1.83	=
Gravelbourg	\$4,130	\$3,146	1.31	1.33	✓
Average	\$5,423	\$2,485	2.30	2.22	*

* gap worsened ✓ gap improved = gap same
Source: CHB calculations based on 2010 property tax data from Government of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Municipal Affairs.



The Assiniboia Minor Hockey Association is collecting and recycling used tractor, car, motorcycle and ATV batteries as a fundraising activity and would appreciate your participation in this program.

It is a great opportunity to clean up those old batteries by disposing of them properly and safely while helping your community.

If you have any used batteries that you would like recycled please drop them off at E. Bourassa and Sons Ltd. on Highway 13 west.

WE ARE ON THE WEB!
www.assiniboia.net

Contact Us

Town of Assiniboia
Box 670
Assiniboia, Saskatchewan
S0H 0B0

Phone: 306-642-3382
Fax: 306-642-5622
E-mail: toa98@sasktel.net

Economic Development - Rochelle Neff, Manager

What an exciting time for Assiniboia, I am grateful to call such a wonderful place my home!

It's awesome to see all the new development occurring and approaching. I have had a steady stream of interested new entrepreneurs looking at Assiniboia to call their home. As your Economic Development and Tourism Manager, I am here to assist you in anyway, whether you have questions regarding a new business, possibilities for funding, incentives that the town offers, succession planning and any other inquires, my door is always open.

The Town of Assiniboia recognizes that a balanced and sustainable growth will be our pillar to success.

The Assiniboia Regional Opportunities Alliance is being designed to geographically benefit our area as a whole, all of the partners involved envision economic development regionally, it is the key to all our success. The Alliance partners boast a diversified economy with a rich land base, a global focus, and a excellent

place to establish new business.

With the Centennial fast approaching my hope is to really showcase Assiniboia as the "it" place. I know the Steering Committee is hard at work planning for this successful event. I am sure that in the very near future there will be a call our for volunteers, remember this is your opportunity to be apart of something great for the community.

I know the residents of Assiniboia have amazing and exceptional volunteers, all of us should give them a pat on the back. Their hard work does not go unnoticed, let us all recognize them.

On another note, our new website continues to be updated regularly, we ask for your continued patience as we do so. Please take a look at the new "Assiniboia" logo while browsing the site.

Again, please feel free to contact me anytime.

Tourism - Rochelle Neff, Manager

What does Assiniboia have that people can not get anywhere else? Visitors will travel for that one thing, we just need to tell them why!

The Assiniboia Tourism Advisory Committee held a SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats) on January 31st. Collectively the group recognized a number of key identifiers in each area of the SWOT evaluation. The presentation of this report will be made at the next meeting in March.

Tourism accounts for almost \$2 billion dollars for the Saskatchewan economy a year & almost 8.9 million people travelled here

according to Tourism Saskatchewan.

We need to find our "niche" and hang our hat on it! The Assiniboia Tourism Advisory Committee needs your ideas and your opinion matters. So come out and join the committee!

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically please send an email to edo.assiniboia@sasktel.net



"The only way of finding the limits of the possible is by going beyond them into the impossible" Arthur C. Clark



Phone 1-888-BUY-FARM

**Early Bird Draw - April 7th, 2012
Grand Prize Draw - May 12th, 2012**