



# Assiniboia

Heart of the Golden South



## “All Matters Town”

Issue Two

May 2012

### Mayors Message - Paul Topola

I have been to a number of health care meetings recently and it made me start to think about the variety of health care services that we may not even realize that we have in our community.

Most of us are aware that we have the Union Hospital, the Ross Payant nursing home (that offers level 3 and 4 care) and the Prairie Villa (that offers level 1 and 2 care). But most of us probably forget or take for granted all the other medical professionals we have and therefore I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank them for being a part of our community. We have three doctors, two dentists, an optometrist, a chiropractor, and all their support staff. We are very fortunate to have nurse practitioners, dieticians, pharmacists and massage therapists.

We have laboratory and X-ray technicians, physical and occupational therapists, Mental Health professionals (including a visiting

Psychiatrist, Social Workers and Addiction Counselors), and we have Public Health and Kids First Program specialists.

There is also home care professionals in our community that offer a wide range of services including home support nursing, personal care, in home respite, meal preparation, Meals on Wheels, medication assist and medication reminders, palliative care, and podiatry services to name a few.

Let us not forget about the first rate auxiliary medical services we have in the community, including a first class ambulance service and now the ability to be serviced by air with the new STARS helicopter ambulance service from Regina. I'm sure there are many I have overlooked and I do apologize to them. These people and services are one more great reason to call Assiniboia home!

### Government Services - Steve Gibson, CAO

Management through the assistance of a consultant has initiated the development of a new “Official Community Plan”. We would like to get the taxpayers input into what you would like to see for our community in the areas of physical, environmental, economic, social, recreational and cultural development for our community. This feedback will guide Council and Administration in the creating new Zoning Bylaws and a new Community Plan. These decisions will affect your community for the next 10 to 20 years.

2012 via mail to Box 670, Assiniboia SK, S0H0B0, or feel free to drop it off at Town Office.

The Town also invites you to participate and identify areas where you see challenges and opportunities. There will be an opportunity to hear and discuss your ideas at an Open House at the Town Office on June 11th from 5:00-7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend and provide us with feedback.

Finally, we would like to invite everyone on a series of community clean up events scheduled May 28, June 25 and July 30 from 1:00 to 2:00. Town employees will be participating and we encourage the community to join us and pick up any litter you may see around your home or business, on the side streets, and back alleys. Free garbage bags will be available for pick up at the Town Office.

### FAQ:

**\* Summer Landfill Hours:**  
The landfill is open Tuesday – Saturday, 1 pm – 6 pm on Weekdays and 8 am – 5 pm on Saturdays.

**\* Garbage Pick-Up**  
Back Lane pick up begins May 28th

**Reminder that all businesses providing services in Assiniboia must have a License.**

Enclosed with the newsletter is a survey that asks what improvements you want in the community. Topics include attracting people to town, infrastructure improvements, housing needs, recreation needs, commercial development and culture, heritage and landmarks. Please return this survey by June 11,

### Corporate Services - Ellen McKay, Manager

Spring is here!! Which means it is time for property taxes. Before we can levy taxes, Council will be approving and adopting a Budget for 2012. The 2012 Budget will identify and communicate to staff and the public the priorities of the Town determined by Council. Once the budget is approved, Council will set the mill rate for the year. We will have Property Tax Notices out before the end of June.

### Communities in Bloom

The **Annual Clean Sweep Day** is coming up! The event will be held on Saturday, **June 2nd** from 9am - Noon.

Everyone is welcome, if possible bring along your garden gloves and garden tools if you have some. Our working bees are going on all summer every Thursday night starting at 6:30pm. We meet in Central Park, spend about 1 hour around various places in town, cleaning up and picking weeds etc.

Thank you to everyone who volunteers their time to make Assiniboia beautiful!

### Centennial 2012 Register Early!



Check out the Website:  
[www.assiniboiacentennial.com](http://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

Welcome Spring!

I think everyone would agree, we had a pretty nice winter with reasonable temperatures and lots of sunshine. Now we are in spring cleaning mode, ramping up for construction season, and making preparations for the Assiniboia Centennial Celebrations.

Public Works and Utilities has been busy this spring cleaning out the storm sewer systems, jetting out the domestic sewer systems, and doing routine maintenance and inspections of the water distribution systems. This involves testing, exercising and flushing the water mains, valves and hydrants, in order to ensure un-delayed operations and clean water servicing to your homes. The process of street sweeping has been initiated to remove the winter sand and debris from the streets and to help keep our town looking its best.

The town is currently involved in a research project funded by the National Research Council and supported by the University of Regina to assess the utilization of wind energy in the benefits of aeration and digestion of sludge at the town lagoons.

As for roads in Assiniboia -- Yes, Center street

and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave West will be paved. Management is in the process of setting up the work with contractors.

In the area of waste reduction and waste collection - individuals are reminded that weekly waste collection is for your household waste, not renovation, demolition and construction waste. Individuals are reminded to discard this material at the town landfill site. Back lane pick up for garbage will resume, May 28, 2012. Compost pick up (involving your compostable yard waste collection) is slated to start June 11th with Monroe Compost. Landfill is open Tuesday to Saturdays 9am-6pm for all your additional waste needs. Recycling Blue bins for your paper, cardboard are located at the town plaza, behind post office, and at the trailer court entrance. The Recycling Depot is located at 208 Assiniboia Ave and the depot has a bins located outside for afterhours cardboard drop off. Our local Sarcan provides recycling services for all your beverage containers, electronics, paint, and other items. Finally, the Salvation Army Thrift store, recycles your useable clothing, furniture, and other misc. re-useable items. So as you can see Assiniboia has everything to help save our environment, we just need to make use of all the services!

Finally my office is always open and I welcome questions and solutions.



## Community Services - Boyd Clark, Manager

### Community Playgrounds

There are a number of rumors floating around regarding the playgrounds in Assiniboia. One such rumor involves removing them without replacing. I want reassure this is not happening. The following report intends to provide correct information on the developments and hopefully calm the rumor mills.

In 2011, Community Services prepared a new policy (approved by Council) concerning playgrounds in Assiniboia. The policy simply defines the management of playgrounds involving inspection, maintenance, replacement cycle, and the creation of new playgrounds within the community. In 2012, a playground audit was completed by Community Services. The audit determined the compliancy rate of Town and Regional Park owned playgrounds to that of the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standards. The audit unfortunately uncovered that the majority of the structures in the two playgrounds did not meet CSA standards and therefore are not insurable and subsequently need to be removed. So what is happening with the various playgrounds structures going forward?

First, the Asaskan Downtown Park playground - unfortunately five structures were vandalized on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Due to this vandalism, each of the structures had to be removed from the park. Fortunately, the majority of them had already been scheduled to be removed. Therefore it was decided by Community Services to just expedite the process and have the structures removed now rather than trying to fix them. Luckily, we had already scheduled to install \$60,000 of new equipment in this park. In the fall of 2011, Assiniboia successfully applied for and received funding through the provincial Community Initiative Fund grant program. A request for proposals was developed by Community Services and released in March of this year. PlayWorks of Edmonton has been chosen and the installation of the structures will occur hopefully within 60 days.

Second, the Kinsmen (Regional Park) playground north of the Aquatic Centre will see the majority of its equipment removed in the next months. This is unfortunate but again most if not all the structures are in non-compliance with CSA standard and impose a safety concerns and are not insurable to the users of the structures. To relieve the concerns of all, these structures are scheduled to be replaced but it will have to be phased in over the next couple of years.

**WE ARE ON THE WEB!**  
[www.assiniboia.net](http://www.assiniboia.net)



**Did You Know:**

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically please send an email to [edo.assiniboia@sasktel.net](mailto:edo.assiniboia@sasktel.net)

The staging is primarily due to costs. The Assiniboia Regional Park Authority has received donations in recent years from various groups and individuals and hopefully this will continue. In 2012, the park authority has applied for a grant with the Saskatchewan Regional Park Association. Community Services for the Town of Assiniboia has developed a capital plan that involves matching funds generated by the Assiniboia Regional Park Authority. It is expected that it will take approximately three (3) years to complete the project.

So you maybe asking why does it take so long to replace the structures? Unfortunately the cost of insurable compliant CSA standard play structures is expensive. The average playground with a new play structures, including a toddler & children swings, climbing structure and several other unique play structures along with surfacing and edging materials cost a minimum of \$90,000 and up to \$150,000 or more to install.

Why do they cost so much? Playground equipment is factory-manufactured with quality, vandal resistant components that reduce long-term maintenance costs. The equipment must also be installed with large protective surfacing areas and treated wood edging. All of these requirements ensure that your child has the best possible play opportunities, while meeting CSA standards.

Finally, what about school playgrounds? School playgrounds are managed by Prairie South School Division and are therefore not included in the Town of Assiniboia’s Playground Upgrade program.

How can I get involved? Your involvement is important to us. You can get involved by providing your input through the Community Services Advisory Committee. Individuals are being encouraged to join the committee presently or by volunteering with the installation of the new equipment as it incurs. This helps to reduce the overall construction costs. For more information contact Community Services at 642-3382.

**Swimming Pool**

2012 will be a great year to continue to use the Aquatic Centre in Assiniboia or be reacquainted with it, if you haven’t used it in some time.

The Aquatic Centre is going through rejuvenation ... a new boiler/heater is being installed as you read this that will help to keep a better heated pool that reduces the need for sunlight to heat the water through the solar panels. The

boiler/heater will also be significantly more energy efficient and help to reduce the utility costs associated with the centre. Two other major projects occurring at the pool are the painting of the pool tank/basin and the scheduled painting of the building. Sandblasting has already occurred of the pool tank and the painting will occur shortly. The painting of the building is scheduled to occur late May and into June. All three of these projects are the result of capital planning by Community Services and the successful application and receipt of funding through the provincial Community Initiatives Fund grant program.

This is not the last of improvements scheduled for the Aquatic Centre. Two more major improvements are hoped to be done in 2012 or prior to the opening of the facility in 2013. The first is the sealing and painting of the deck. The painting of deck with special sand stone epoxy paint will help to give the facility the appearance of being new and it will length the lifecycle of the deck of the pool. The second a possibly the most exciting is the scheduled change from chlorine to salt water generation at the facility. This will be a significant advancement for the facility!

So why is the Town of Assiniboia planning to go from chlorine operated pool to a salt-water operated facility? There are several reasons, but most importantly, one – by going to salt water eliminates the dangerous handling and storage of gas chlorine and two – the cost of salt water generation pools are significantly less than chlorine pools to operate annually. The salt water generator units are expensive initially but the Town will be saving money in the annual purchase of chemicals and three - swimming in a mild saline solution is much like taking a shower in soft water. Generally, when people swim in a non-chlorine generator pool (a pool with no salt water in it) they feel like their skin dries quicker upon exiting the pool. They may feel and/or see a whitish residual, chlorine flaking, on the skin and most people complain about chlorine burning of the eyes. In a salt-water pool, the water feels smooth, your skin feels smooth and many people feel more refreshed. There is no chlorine smell (rather a light scent of ocean smell) and definitely no burning of the eyes.

**Youth Play Program**

Community Services is going to be offering an after school youth play program for the month of June and then continuing with a day program through the months of July and August (weekdays). Play leaders have been hired. So watch for posters, town website ([www.assiniboia.net](http://www.assiniboia.net)) or fan Facebook (Town of Assiniboia, Recreation) for more information about this and other programs.



## PRENTICE African Safari Exhibit

306.640.6043

110-4th Avenue West

The Collection is available to view from May to August and off-season by contacting the Town of Assiniboia

**WE ARE ON THE WEB!**  
[www.assiniboia.net](http://www.assiniboia.net)

### Contact Us

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Box 670  
Assiniboia, Saskatchewan  
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Phone: 306-642-3382  
Fax: 306-642-5622  
E-mail: [toa98@sasktel.net](mailto:toa98@sasktel.net)

## Economic Development - Rochelle Neff, Manager

A few weeks ago I was asked when the infrastructure increase to our taxes will be removed. Tammy Franks, RMAA Director for Division 2 has a very interesting read in the Rural Councillor, April edition. Its title is "Planning for Municipal Management" and one particular section caught my attention and answers the question, "What we must remember is that infrastructure provides a service and in order to maintain the level of service that our ratepayers are accustomed to we need to proactively sustain the infrastructure, therefore we must plan."

The Council and management staff are doing just that, planning for success - and making those plans reality. I say this not only as an employee but also as a tax payer. I love living in Assiniboia and I want to do all that I can to ensure sure my children continue to call it home as well as raise their families here.

## Tourism - Rochelle Neff, Manager

**With spring settling in it puts in motion the feeling of anew and the possibilities are seemingly abundant. The same holds true for the Tourism department here in Assiniboia!**

This month we will see the Prentice Safari Exhibit in its new home and open to the public. We welcome Mrs. Julie Newton as the Tourism Coordinator for the summer season. Her background and expertise in marketing and communications will be an asset to our community and our tourism sector. Please drop by the old library located next to the post office and introduce yourself! Everyone is hard at work steadily preparing for the Centennial. We are busy with our town cleanup days, Communities in Bloom will be in full force in the very near future and the Centennial Committee is finalizing plans.

## Town Office – Xeriscaping Park

Each day, especially as the weather gets warmer staff at the Town office are questioned about the Xeriscaping Park at the Asaskan Complex. The following will hopefully shed some light as to why the Town of Assiniboia completed the project.

In 2009, the Town of Assiniboia applied and received a Community Initiatives Water Conservation Grant from the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority. The \$30,000 grant was for the years 2010, 2011, and 2012. The grant includes funds to create demonstration park for xeriscaping (\$10,000), the creation of educational materials that promote the methods and importance of xeriscaping (\$4,500), the partnering with flower shops and greenhouses to hold workshops lead by qualified speakers on xeriscaping (\$3,000), and finally to encourage the purchase and use of rain barrels (\$12,500). Each of the last three projects is ongoing. The construction of the demonstration park cost \$11,600.

One way we are trying to accomplish this is through the Assiniboia Regional Economic Alliance (AREA). After the provincial governments budget was announced and their decision to cease funding to Enterprise Regions ultimately downloaded it to municipalities, who became the sole providers to fund Economic Development at the local level. With that decision the efforts of working together and planning for the future has positioned our regional Alliance as leaders of economic growth in the province. The AREA Vision: **"The Assiniboia Alliance will be investment ready which will lead to a balanced, diversified growth in business."**

On another note the Town offers impressive commercial & residential tax incentives including a job creation incentive. Information is available at the Town Office as well can be viewed on our website: [www.assiniboia.net](http://www.assiniboia.net)

As spring turns into summer please remember that town beautification will contribute to economic growth by encouraging investment and increasing property value. Cleaner surroundings improve the quality of life for everyone!

One reason people litter is because they have seen other people do it. Littering is a learned behaviour. When we litter, we pass our responsibility to someone else, believing that a park maintenance person, high-way worker, or volunteer will pick up our garbage later, or that nature will simply "take care of it". Remember that small actions add up to make big changes. If you resolve to improve your waste handling, then costly and time consuming litter clean-ups can be avoided.

For those not familiar, xeriscaping is a term coined back in 1970s in Denver, Colorado, to mean water wise or water efficient landscaping. The term xeriscaping is derived from the Greek word xeros, which means dry. Xeriscaping is a method of gardening that involves choosing plants that are appropriate to their site and creating a landscape that can be maintained with little supplemental watering.

So why is Xeriscaping important? The obvious answer is that we only have a finite amount of water and some years even less than others. By grouping plants by their water needs, using mulch and drought tolerant plants, the Town of Assiniboia conserves on water usage. Also by Xeriscaping demonstrates the municipality's commitment to having healthier parks, gardens and landscapes that are less dependent on the use fertilizers and pesticides. This is important because fertilizers and pesticides do eventually pollute our waters. Hopefully this helps to answer the questions about the Xeriscaping Park.