



County News

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2013 Fold up maps are now available. County maps are reviewed annually.

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than once? While every effort is made to avoid duplicating addresses, we accept that we may miss a few. Only need one copy? E-mail news@vulcancounty.ab.ca with the name and address you would like to receive the publication or call 403-485-3130 and we will ensure you only get one copy in the future!



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L to R. David Schneider, Marian Fisher and Rod Ruark at the Nine in a Line unveiling.

Election Results.

The number of candidates running in the municipal election for Vulcan County Council was encouraging this year with voting taking place in 3 out of the 7 divisions.

Municipal governance matters far more in our daily lives than most people imagine. While it is federal and provincial politics that receives the most ink in our printed media and the most air time in our radio and television communications, we are impacted by decisions made at the municipal level almost everywhere we turn.

As legislation has changed, the councillors elected will serve a 4 year term rather than the previous 3 year.

Division 1	Glen Gateman
Division 2	Rod Ruark
Division 3	Jason Schneider
Division 4	Derrick Annable
Division 5	Michael Monner
Division 6	Murray McLean
Division 7	Royden Lucas

Administration would like to take this opportunity to welcome every candidate to municipal office, and look forward to the next 4 years with great enthusiasm.



Nine-In-A-Line Celebration

Having independently fund-raised for approximately 3 years Marian Fisher's dream finally came true with a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 16th, 2013; for the Nine in a Line tribute that is situated on the side of the Nine-in-a-Line building where the VBDS are located. Marian would like to thank Vulcan County Council and Administration for all of their help making this dream come true, a donor plaque will arrive shortly to thank all of the financial sponsors.

The list of support is long but Marian would like to mention a few names. The many donors great and small, Vulcan County Council, Town of Vulcan Council, Liza Dawber, Leo Ludwig, David Schneider, Rod Ruark (for their initial encouragement and ideas), MLA Ian Donovan, Ray Bagozzi, Aspen Crossing, Marge Weber, the artist Jason Trotter, Vulcan County shop staff for their

hard work, CPR for the donation of the rails, Ron and Sherry Fernley for the planting, Communities In Bloom, Dorren Electric for the deal on the electrical work, Howard Dirks for the flowers, CHRB Radio for the free advertising, the Vulcan Lions and the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation for their grant programs.

There are countless friends and family members that have contributed to this project, for those who we have not mentioned in name, our apologies. Most importantly, without the dedication and inspired thinking of Marian Fisher this project would not have happened. Marian spent countless hours going door to door, canvassing in the local grocery store, and inspiring those that pass her to give up a few dollars here and there, it all added up to her dream come true.

When starting a project—whether it be building a new home, putting up a shed or renovating a kitchen—many DIY'ers can get overwhelmed by the permitting requirements. One of the most commonly asked questions of the Planning and Development team is “what is the difference between a building permit and a development permit?” Well, here's what you need to know!

A Development Permit deals strictly with the legality of a proposed development and potential impacts on surrounding lands and stakeholders (e.g., neighbours, other municipalities etc.). The legality of a given development is determined by the Land Use Zoning of your property (which is different than the classification used for tax assessments). A Development Permit is required by Vulcan County's Land Use Bylaw (the over-arching legislation for Development in the County) and is issued directly by the County.

The County requires a Development Permit for the following activities

(except under very specific circumstances):

- 1) An **excavation or stockpile** and the creation of either of them (e.g., a quarry).
- 2) A **building or an addition to or replacement or repair of a building** and the construction or placing of any of them on, in, over, or under land (e.g., the construction of a home, placing a Ready-to-Move or mobile home on a site, home additions).
- 3) A **change of use of land** or a building or an act done in relation to land or a building that results in or is likely to result in a change in the use of the land or building (e.g., change from pasture land to an airstrip or shooting range).
- 4) A **change in the intensity of use of land or a building**, or an act done in relation to land or a building that results in or is likely to result in a change in the intensity of use of the land or building (e.g., turning your home into a bed and breakfast).

A Building Permit addresses the structural stability of a building and its suitability for occupation. Building

Permits, along with all other Safety Codes Permits (e.g., electrical, plumbing and gas etc.), are issued by Superior Safety Codes on the County's behalf and are legislated by the Provincial Safety Codes Act. Keep in mind that it is the property owners' responsibility to understand what permits, if any, are required for their project, and that a valid Development Permit must be issued prior to the commencement of any Development, and before applying for a Building Permit. Depending on the scope of your project, you may also be required to take out other Municipal, Provincial and Federal permits.

To learn more about permitting requirements and Planning and Development in Vulcan County, contact the Development Officer at development@vulcancounty.ab.ca or 403-485-2241. Superior Safety Codes can be reached at 403-320-0734.



Emergency Contact Information

We would like to thank the residents of the county for their participation and cooperation in filling out these forms. We've had a significantly high response rate, and with continued participation, we will be in a position to help create a series of products for our emergency crews. Here are 2 of those products we are currently looking into creating:

The Emergency Services Map Book

The initial product being worked on is a map book of the county specifically for emergency services. This would give them access to the emergency contact information and the residence the information is assigned to in the



map book. That way, should there be a localized or county-wide event, emergency services personnel are able to both contact those within close proximity of the event, and also estimate the number of people within the area. It would also serve as a backup for when they are called by dispatch should anything unforeseen happen with their internet/GPS connections.

Emergency Services Autodial Warning System

Another product we are considering is the ability for us to simultaneously send warnings by phone to multiple numbers during such events where



numerous people are affected, thereby getting the information out faster.

Products like these will be greatly beneficial to our emergency crews, but none of it can be done without help from the county public. We need people to fill out their contact forms, and be willing to help us update our contact records during the year, so our crews can have the best chance at contacting the people they need to during those important times. Again we'd like to thank the public for their participation. With your help, we can establish and maintain products like these that go a long way to ensuring the safety of our county as a whole.

Taylor Cemetery - Permanent Marker

In early 2013 Vulcan County was awarded a Provincial grant through the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation for 50% of the costs of erecting and placing a permanent marker at Taylor Cemetery.

In early 1999 the Province of Alberta started the process of transferring tax recovery lands to the Municipalities in which they are situated. One such piece of land is the South West quarter of 14-17-18- West of the 4th Meridian. Located on this land is a prairie cemetery that dates back to the early 1900's. The land is now grazing land. The marker is situated adjacent to Secondary Highway (SH) 539.

A number of residents of the area remember visiting this lonely graveyard over the decades, but the identifying

features have now almost been erased by time. With this land now being transferred to Vulcan County by the Province in 2012, Vulcan County Council felt it was important to have the cemetery marked.

On October 1st many people gathered at the site with Reverend Gordon Cranch and a blessing ceremony was performed. Vulcan County would like to thank all those involved in the process, from initial enquiry, through research and finally the marker being placed; without the input and assistance from a dedicated group this process would have been very difficult.

Next time you are on Highway 539, take a moment to stop, read the marker and remember those who gave everything during the early days of settlement.



Winter Season Home Fire Safety Tips

Annual safety check for chimneys

Most chimney fires happen in wood-burning fireplaces. Ensure chimneys are cleaned to remove creosote build-up and professionally inspected regularly. Burn only small quantities of wood at a time. It is a requirement by code to have your chimney and wood burning appliance inspected and cleaned annually. Many insurance companies also require this to be done.

Lights

Use approved light sets that bear an approval marking authorized by the certification organization such as CSA, ULC, UL, etc., which are recognized by the Province of Alberta.

Check for cracked bulbs and for frayed, broken or exposed wires and discard if faulty.

Link a maximum of three light strands together.

Periodically check the light string wires; they should not be warm to the touch.

Before replacing a bulb on your light strings, check the original package to verify proper wattage and voltage.

Make sure outdoor circuits are equipped with an approved, weather-proof ground fault circuit interrupter.

Ensure the circuit breakers and fuses on your holiday lights circuit are no larger than 15 amperes.

Don't overload circuits. Have no more than 1400 watts on a circuit. If other lights in the house dim when the holiday lighting is turned on or the plug is very hot when unplugged, your circuit is overloaded.

To figure out a circuit's load, multiply the number of bulbs by the watts per bulb, and add any lamps, appliances or other equipment on the same circuit.

LED (light-emitting diode) these energy-efficient light strings produce very little heat and reduce the risk of fire. However there is the potential for shock or fire hazard as with any other electrical device. Turn off all tree and display lights before retiring for the night or before leaving the house.

Natural Christmas trees - The Number 1 instigator of Christmas fires is the indoor live Christmas tree.

Choose a tree that fits the following criteria:

a sticky trunk, needles that hold onto the branches when gently tugged on and absence of dry needles.

Another tip from the National Fire Protection Association is tree placement.

The rule of thumb is to place the tree 3 feet from any heat source (fireplace, heating vent, or radiator) and clear of exits.

Add water to base daily and remove the tree after two weeks, or before the needles become dry.

Do not place a live tree in the fireplace or wood heater after Christmas – the flame is too intense and burns too hot, too quickly for indoors.

**Have a safe
Holiday Season!**



Agricultural Services

Vulcan County Agricultural Services had a busy season with new seasonal staff to train and introduce to our current programming. Roadside Spraying ran well this year, we were able to cover our entire road grid this spring and summer; special attention was paid to weed infestations throughout our right-of-ways. Our main focus was to control perennial weeds as well as high visibility annuals to reduce road visibility issues. Canada Thistle infestations seem to be an ongoing concern and will continue to be our priority next year.

If you have any concerns with a particular weed infestation in your area or have any questions regarding this program please feel free to give us a call.

We will be conducting a herbicide efficiency trial on the weed Baby's Breath in the Carmangay area next spring and will keep you all updated on our progress. Baby's Breath has increased significantly in this area of the County in non-cultivated areas and we are going to try a

couple herbicides that hopefully will assist us in reducing its population.

2013 saw Vulcan County take ownership of several more quarter sections of land from the province through the Tax Recovery Lands program; in 2014 we will be receiving more lands which we will administer.

Our department is responsible for establishing grazing leases with local producers through the Tax Recovery Lands program as well as ensuring that these lands are being grazed in a sustainable manner. As well; Vulcan County receives annual Surface Lease revenue from these lands.

Our rental program ran well this year with many requests from our ratepayers for the use of our grass seeders. To view our rental list please visit our website at www.vulcancounty.ab.ca.

2013 was the final year that ratepayers could receive shelterbelt trees from the PFRA Shelterbelt program, although this is unfortunate a few private companies

within Alberta will be able to provide landowners with shelterbelt trees at a nominal price please contact the Vulcan County Office to obtain this information.

The Twin Valley Campground had a great camping season with much more interest since the opening season with over 700 campers this year. The campground opened on the May long weekend and closed at the end of September. Our contract operator Grant Wolfe did an excellent job keeping the campground in great shape. This year, we planted established trees to five of our sites and will be adding more in the 2014 season. Prices for camping next year will be \$20 for the powered sites and \$15 for the non-powered sites. We currently have 15 powered sites and 15 non-powered sites. At this time we do not take reservations and occupancy is based on a first come first serve basis. We are planning to open for the May long weekend in 2014, hope to see you there!

Bridging the Gap

Traveling throughout Vulcan County it is easy to overlook our numerous water crossings. Many crossing structures can go unnoticed as the culverts under the roadway allow for water to pass through with little indication of this at the roads surface. Bridge structures are more often noticed with their large concrete girders and guardrails sitting at the road surface. As of October 21st, 2013 Vulcan County has 114 bridge culvert structures and 70 bridge structures. A bridge culvert is defined as a culvert which is 1400mm (4'7") in diameter. Regular maintenance and inspection is performed on all of these structures throughout the County. Up until April 30th 2013 replacement and major repairs were cost shared with the Province. In the 2013 Provincial Budget funding to Municipalities for bridge replacements was cut, with no indication of funding resuming in the future. Of

Vulcan County's approximate 184 structures the majority were constructed between 1949 and 1960. This poses a dilemma as these structures reach the end of their useful life and are in need of replacement. In the past as part of the Bridge Program the Provincial Government assisted in the replacement of these structures by covering approximately 85% of the costs. In 2013 Vulcan County has undertaken the replacement of two bridge structures. Both structures will be bridge to culvert conversions. The conversion allows for the increased width in farm equipment to freely pass through the area without restriction and guardrails and bridge indicators signs are not needed for culverts. Construction funding for Bridge File #71191 has been obtained through the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI), in the amount of \$189,635. For

Bridge File #71947 construction funding in the amount of \$183,200 has been obtained through general tax revenue. Engineering for both structures was partially covered under the old Provincial Bridge Program, as engineering was underway before grant funding was cut. Moving forward Vulcan County will continue to keep its bridges in the forefront. At the November 2013 AAMDC Conference in Edmonton your Council along with the CAO and Director of Operations will meet with Alberta Transportation to discuss the future of bridge funding. Our hope is to get an indication of future bridge funding from the Province as to whether they will or will not bring it forward. In the meantime current bridge structures will be provided with regular maintenance in the hope of increasing useful life and bridging the gap.