



WASTE MATTERS

January 2018

REDUCE CONTAMINATED RECYCLING

Over the last year some significant changes have taken place with the solid waste management system within the Town of Vermilion. The recycle centre was closed as curbside collection was implemented. The recycling cost dropped from \$7.87 to \$3.00. In October of 2017, all residential dumpsters were removed and roll out bins were delivered. These two changes have reduced the amount of garbage being landfilled.

Residents of Vermilion have embraced the changes and there has been an increase in the participation of the recycle program. This will both reduce our environmental impact as a community and also lower costs. A number of landfills within the province and across Canada have taken steps to restrict the materials that are accepted in an effort to increase the life expectancy of the landfills. With the improvements to solid waste management within Town, Vermilion is in a better position to handle any landfill restrictions that may be imposed.

With that uptake in the recycle program our contractor has warned the town that there is an increase in the amount of contamination in the blue bags. Our recyclables are collected and hauled to Lloydminster where they are manually sorted and shipped to recycling facilities for processing. Quik Pick last reported that during the December 13 and 14 collection days nearly 4 large dumpsters of garbage was sorted from the Town's recycling. This contamination within the recycling stream degrades the quality of the our recycling and increases the processing costs. These additional costs will be passed along to the Town and ultimately the users. A few small changes to your everyday routine can make a big difference when waste materials are processed. Ensure the proper materials are placed into each waste stream, information on what goes where can be found on our website www.vermilion.ca/wastematters or by calling the Town office 780-853-5358.

The last of the three waste streams to be implemented is organics collection which was originally planned to start in 2018. This will be pushed back to 2019 to allow for additional time to identify a sustainable and efficient composting location. We would ask residents who already have a green roll out bin to continue to store these until the organics program is implemented. The large yard waste dumpster will continue to be in place throughout town for residents to use.

The residents of Vermilion should be proud of the improvements to date and commended for embracing the changes. The Town of Taber has recently completed similar changes and have realized significant cost savings as well as impressive diversion rates. Look for some results in 2018 on how these changes have made a difference.

Derek Young
Director of Infrastructure and Planning Services



Public Skating– Stadium

Friday, January 12: 6:00 - 7:15 pm

Friday, January 19: 6:15 - 7:15 pm

Friday, February 2: 5:45 - 7:45pm

Saturday, February 3: 3:45 - 4:45pm

Friday, February 9: 6:15 - 7:15 pm

* Dates and times are subject to change without notice.

2018 Utility Rates

Water Flat Rate

Residential - Increase from \$29.74 to \$33.75/month
Commercial - Increase from \$36.20 to \$41.09/month

Water Consumption Rate

Res/Com - Decrease from \$3.52 to \$3.45/month

Sanitary Sewer Rate

Residential - Increase from \$11.65 to \$21.88/month
Commercial - Increase from \$34.91 to \$45.60/month

Garbage Rate

Residential - No change - Remains at \$4.51/pickup
Commercial - Increase from \$19.24 to \$19.62/pickup

Recycle Rate

Residential - No Change - Remains at \$3.00/month
Commercial - No Change - Remains at \$18.75/pickup

Update on the Sewer Rate

The current Wastewater Treatment facility has been in operation since 1976. The facility is meeting the treatment limits however it is passed its life expectancy and operating over its designed capacity. The Town of Vermilion is required to obtain a licence to operate a Wastewater Treatment Plant from Alberta Environment and Parks and the latest licence was issued with conditions. These conditions require the Town to improve the quality of the effluent leaving our treatment facility by Dec. 31, 2019.

A preliminary study recommended a new facility which would cost approximately \$16,000,000. An application for funding from the Provincial and Federal Governments for a new treatment plant was made. A grant of \$8,000,000 from the Federal Government was approved through the Clean Water Wastewater Fund along with an initial commitment from the province of \$2,000,000. The Town has earmarked \$2,000,000 through reserves, offsite levies and other grants which leaves a \$4,000,000 short fall.

The Town will continue to pursue further provincial funding, however we will be required to borrow to support the difference. A flat rate of \$10/month was added to the sewer rate to support the borrowing payments, on top of a 2% increase which was needed to address the operational costs.

This decision is not being taken lightly as the impact to the residents could be difficult. Efforts will continue to secure additional funding as well as opportunities to lower costs in all areas that impact the monthly utility invoice.

Derek Young
Director of Infrastructure & Planning Services

WORK • STRESS • LIFE

“Striking a Balance”

Empowerment/Health and Wellness/Mental Health/Addiction/Support/Workplace/Family

2nd Annual

Conference and Wellness Fair

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

8:15 am to 4:30 pm

Vermilion Regional Centre

Registration Deadline: January 17, 2018

Registration Fee: \$40

Vermilion & District Chamber of Commerce

Office Manager: Paige Jaremco

Office Hours: 10 am to 2 pm

Telephone: 780-853-6593

Email: vermilionchamber@gmail.com

Website: vermilionchamber.ca

4606—52 Street, Vermilion AB T9X 2B6

OUTDOOR RINK USERS

We have had reports of damage from pucks and balls to property and vehicles on the north side of the outdoor rink facility. Please respect the neighbourhood by keeping pucks and balls **INSIDE** the rink facility. Pucks that are shot onto area neighbours' property will be considered an intentional attempt to damage property, and will be handled accordingly. We encourage users to shoot on the south net if they are worried that a puck might bounce over the 12 foot high chain link. Failure to respect our neighbours' and their property may result in a change to the number of hours the rink is open, or other more drastic solutions. Please encourage respectful behavior at the outdoor rink at all times. If you see disrespectful behavior or intentional damage to the facility or neighbourhood, please call 780-853-5358 to report the issue. Let's work together - we are **all** responsible for this community owned facility.



January is intersection safety month in Alberta. Ensure that all traffic control devices are being obeyed, as law enforcement agencies will be targeting intersection related offenses. Also, be aware that sidewalks must be clear of snow and ice by 48 hours after a snowfall. Please either assist or report to enforcement, neighbors who you observe consistently not shovelling the sidewalks near their properties.

Christopher Fithen, Community Peace Officer