

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

NEW BUSINESS!

A warm welcome to Kolos Grocery Store! Kolos features twenty different European breads and an assortment of German style rolls, Russian Groceries, and European style deli meats. Proprietors, Natalja and Alexander Buchsmann, & Gennady and Elena Sharapov opened for business on November 21, 2008 and are excited about the interest and support received from both newcomers and long-time residents. Kolos is located at 886 Thornhill Street. Stop in to welcome this new business to Morden.

SHOP LOCAL!

If you are concerned about strengthening the quality of life in Morden and the economic vitality of this great community in which you live during uncertain economic times, you will want to consider the positive impact you have when you buy from local business.



Retail industry in Morden creates 580 jobs or 16% of the workforce (2006 Census). The quality of life in our community depends on keeping cash circulating locally, particularly in tough economic times. Local businesses support local charities and groups. As consumers, we have the opportunity to give back to them this holiday season!

Local merchants are friendly, accommodating, and knowledgeable about the products they sell. While nearby cities struggle with achieving a personal touch among mega shopping centres and big box retailers, Morden merchants continue to provide a high level of personal service and selection.

Each local purchase you make - and each local service you use - builds our economy, helps plan for Town services, and affects the overall quality of life in our beautiful Town of Morden. Spending money locally results in businesses having the resources to create jobs.

By keeping your shopping dollars and using your buying power within the Town of Morden, you put money back into the community that serves you!

Best wishes to everyone for a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!
Cheryl Digby - CDO

2009
BUSINESS LICENCES

Due January 30th, 2009



Do you operate a Home Based Business?

If you do then you need a Business Licence. The rates differ for full-time or part-time businesses, so please contact the administration office at 822-4434 for more information.

The benefits of having a Morden Business Licence are;

- Business listing on the Morden Website Business Directory.
- You are entitled to conduct business within Morden, Winkler and the RM of Stanley.

If you had a 2008 Business Licence and you are no longer in business, please contact us in writing and we will update our records and the website Business Directory.

NOTE: Visit the Morden Business Directory and see the new format. If your business is listed but the information needs correcting contact Carol Wilkinson at 822-4434 or email cwilkinson@mordenmb.com

HOLIDAY GARBAGE COLLECTION

Regular Pickup	Rescheduled Date
Thursday December 25th	No Pick Up
Friday December 26th	No Pick Up
Thursday January 1st	Friday January 2 nd

NOTE:
Garbage days that fall on December 25th & 26th, 2008 will be allowed 4 bags of solid waste the following week.

2009 Holiday Collection Schedule

will be updated shortly on the website at - <http://www.mordenmb.com/residents/solidwaste.shtml>

CONTACT US - WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU

- Ernie Epp - Chief Administrative Officer 822-4434 (eepp@mordenmb.com)
- Darlene Ehnes - Executive Assistant 822-4434 (dehnes@mordenmb.com)
- Garry Hiebert - Director of Finance & Admin 822-4434 (ghiebert@mordenmb.com)
- Les Wieler - Director of Public Works 822-5119 (lwieler@mordenmb.com)
- Clare Agnew - Director of Community Services 822-5431 (cagnew@mordenmb.com)
- Cheryl Digby - Community Development Officer 822-5088 (cdigby@mordenmb.com)
- Carol Wilkinson - Community Resources Officer 822-4434 (cwilkinson@mordenmb.com)
- Mary Anne Neufeld - Human Resources Officer 822-4434 (mneufeld@mordenmb.com)
- Brad Neduzak - Police Chief 822-6292 (bneduzak@mordenmb.com)
- Andy Thiessen - Fire Chief 822-3888 (athiessen@mordenmb.com)

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Dec 2008
Issue 19



SEASONS GREETINGS

from the Council and staff of the Town of Morden.

We wish you all the timeless treasures of Christmas, the warmth of home, the love of family and the company of good friends. From our family to yours,

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Civic Centre, Public Works & Recreation Centre Offices

- Wednesday - December 24th, - 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Thursday - December 25th, - CLOSED
- Friday - December 26th, - CLOSED
- Wednesday - December 31st, - 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Thursday - January 1st, - CLOSED

NOTE:

For water/sewer emergency services contact the Public Works 24-Hour access line at 822-5119.

REMEMBER:

Water Bills due date for December is **December 30th, by 4:30 pm.**

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Christmas Trees may be dropped off at the compost site located at Wilcocks Road or placed on the curbside for pickup on

January 5th, 2009

Please be patient as the team will be chipping the trees as they pick them up so the process of collection may take a while.



Points of Interest

We Did It!



Page 2

Guards Needed



Page 3

Skateboard Park



Page 4

New Museum Proposal



Page 6

Business Licences



Page 8



In your mind, in your heart, in Morden—the Chautauqua Spirit.

WE DID IT!

As organizers of Morden's Cultural Capital of Canada, we have now completed the final public event in our "Chautauqua Spirit" program. About 20 people from Winnipeg, Morris, and Southern Manitoba attended a "Museum Marketing" workshop at Morden Friendship Centre on Saturday, November 22nd. It was the last of some 46 projects we have undertaken since January 2008.

From the start, we aimed to celebrate arts and culture in Morden with an ambitious slate of activities that would be delivered on-time and on-budget. With the generous help of sponsors and volunteers, we have achieved both goals and also sparked new activities that will continue for months to come.

In addition the November marketing workshop, many Morden residents participated this fall in three Heritage workshops—"Get a Life!," "High-Tech History," and It's Okay to Talk to Yourself." These were led by presenters who live in the area or who have originated from our Town.

During Remembrance Day week, "The Long Journey Home" play traveled to Atlantic Canada as Morden's special link to another Culture Capital of Canada – Sackville, New Brunswick. Like Morden, Sackville had a W.W.II Corvette named after the Town, so it seemed fitting to share our story with them. Maritime viewers responded as enthusiastically to the production as did Morden theatregoers, according actor Nick Pharaoh a standing ovation after each performance.

And thinking of standing ovations, who can forget those given to the many contributors in our Chautauqua Celebration Festival in late September? We extend special thanks to Cameron Friesen and Wes Hamm for their excellent work in organizing a diverse and interesting program, to the many participants for their memorable performances under the Big Tent, and to the dozens of volunteers who shared so generously of their time and talents.

Our Executive Committee is still meeting once or twice a week, to evaluate the success of the many Chautauqua Spirit projects and to compile the quality reports necessary to insure full reimbursement from Heritage Canada.

We invite you to join us at Morden Friendship Centre on January 27th, 2009 when we offer a "Wrap Up" presentation—**The Legacy of Chautauqua**—at the Morden Area Foundation AGM. Advance tickets may be purchased from Morden Area Foundation.

We again express our appreciation to the funders and sponsors who provided financial support for our many Chautauqua projects, including the Government of Canada through Cultural Capitals of Canada, the Town of Morden, the Province of Manitoba, the Thomas Sill Foundation, Agassiz Credit Union (*Platinum Sponsor*), Decor Cabinets and Ledcor Pipeline Limited (*Gold Sponsors*), and BDO Dunwoody LLP and Image Promotions (*Silver Sponsors*).

This Chautauqua Spirit year has been in the tradition of earlier Morden Chautauquas—e.g. 1919, 1927, 1989. I was excited to visit Mrs. Jean Robson at Tabor Home in September and to hear her memories of attending the very first Chautauqua in 1919. If you know anyone who has pictures, souvenirs, or memories of earlier Chautauquas in our town, please contact Carol Wilkinson at the Morden Town Office (822-4434, cwilkinson@mordenmb.com). We would like to make copies for our Town's historical records.

Let me close with words that we've spoken often during these last eleven months— *In your mind, in your heart, in Morden—the Chautauqua Spirit.*

Larry Danielson - Executive Chair

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

PROGRESS REPORT

Paving work has been completed for the year. The last quarterly report indicated the majority of the paving program. One addition to that is Jade and Emerald Bays. These are the new streets north of the corner of Parkhill and PR 432. This area was constructed in the last 2 months, when curb, gutter and a-base were placed. The paving will take place next year.

HYDRANT FLUSHING

Hydrant flushing and sewer main flushing are mostly completed. Residents may notice an odour at these times. We try our best not to have intrusive odours, however at times it can't be helped. We request that residents bear with us during these incidents.

SNOW REMOVAL

We had our first major snowfall early this year. Unfortunately the conditions were such that **wet snow** accumulated to considerable amounts, causing difficult conditions for removal. Hopefully we will have "normal" conditions for the remainder of the year.



NO PARKING REMINDER

The NO PARKING BAN is now in effect, so we encourage residents to not park on the streets. This will allow us to properly clear the streets. We are now ready for winter so having said that – **"Let it snow....."**

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

If you have concerns please call 822-5119, when you have bouquets, which we appreciate, do the same!!

Les Wieler - Director of Public Works



Morden Branch of the South Central Regional Library
514 Stephen Street
(822-4092) scribm@mts.net or scrilm@mts.net
www.scriblibrary.mb.ca

Regular hours:

Tuesdays and Thursdays - 10 am until 8:30 pm
Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays - 10 am until 5:30 pm
Closed Mondays

MORDEN LIBRARY NEWS:

Thank you to the Morden Area Foundation for funding the South Central Regional Library's new book totes. They come in a variety of colors and are available for \$2.00 each. They will make great stocking stuffers for the reader in your household as well as cut down on the use of plastic bags. (We will not be providing plastic bags soon so please bring your book tote with you.)

Video/DVD Gift Certificates will be sold at the Library for the month of December. Cost will be \$2.00 each and can be put in your child's Christmas stocking or given as a small thank-you gift to that helpful person in your life. These certificates will be redeemable until June 2009 at any of our three libraries for a 1-week video or DVD rental. Get yours soon!

Events at the Morden Library:

- **Multicultural Christmas Program** – Tuesday, December 23 – 7 to 9 p.m.
- **Pre-School Story Time Registration** – January 6 - 17, 2009
- **Pre-School Story Time (Winter Session)** – January 21 – February 25, 2009
- **Family Literacy Day** – Tuesday, January 27, 2009 (watch for event info!)
- **CNIB Support Group** – the 2nd Thursday of each month (1:00-3:00 p.m.) beginning September 11th in the meeting room of the Morden Library (parking in the back)
- **Morden Horticultural Society** – the first Thursday of each month (7:00-9:00 p.m.) beginning October 2nd in the meeting room of the Morden Library

LIBRARY ADDITIONS:

Adult Fiction - Recent Additions

- Divine Justice by David Baldacci
- Just After Sunset by Stephen King
- Heart and Soul by Maeve Binchy
- Foundation by Mercedes Lackey
- Leaving Whiskey Bend by Dorothy Garlock
- Lord-Protector's Daughter by L.E. Modesitt, Jr.
- Brass Verdict by Michael Connelly
- Against Medical Advice by James Patterson
- The Bodies Left Behind by Jeffery Deaver
- A Good Woman by Danielle Steel
- Archbishop in Andalusia by Andrew M. Greeley

Christian Fiction - Recent Additions

- Until We Reach Home by Lynn Austin
- Engaging Father Christmas by Robin Jones Gun
- Sinner by Ted Dekker
- Every Now and Then by Karen Kingsbury
- Wagered Heart by Robin Lee Hatcher
- One Perfect Day by Lauraine Snelling
- The Longing by Beverly Lewis
- Where the Heart Leads by Kim Vogel Sawyer

The staff of the Morden Library would like to extend a welcome to all newcomers to Morden. Please stop by to browse through our library and register for your library card. Please contact the Library for more information and any of our helpful staff will assist you!

UTILITY BILLING UPDATE

Something New For 2009! Currently the water meters are read in February for March's billing and again in August for September's billing. June and December's billings are estimated readings. Starting in 2009 there will be a change regarding when Utility billings will be estimated and when the Meter Readers will be reading water meters.
ESTIMATED READINGS - March & September METER READINGS - May & November

To implement this change, the March billing will be estimated, resulting in two estimated quarterly billings in a row, i.e. the December billing you may have just received as well as the March billing in 2009. If you would rather not have two estimated quarterly billings in a row, please provide us with a meter reading by February 20th, 2009 and this reading will be used on your March billing. You can provide a meter reading through the following options;

- By phone 822-4434 (Answering service available after hours.)
- E-Form on the Town website at www.mordenmb.com or Email tmorden@mordenmb.com
- Civic Centre Admin Office at 100 - 195 Stephen Street. (Office drop off box at the front door for after hours.)

Please provide your name, street address and phone number along with your meter reading.

Rhonda Derksen - Water Billing Department



Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre
 111B Gilmour Street,
 Morden, Manitoba R6M 1N9
 Telephone: (204) 822-3406 Fax: (204) 272-3303
 Website: www.discoverfossils.com
 Hours: 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Daily



NEW MUSEUM PROPOSAL

A feasibility study was done and the results are stunning. A public presentation will be made in Morden soon. The study made by consultants, examined what we have at CFDC and how we may dramatically improve things in the future.

There are **conceptual** designs of both the new site and the new buildings. Morden has provided financial and other support to the museum for 37 years. We therefore feel it is right to build a new museum and research centre here in the Town.

We are becoming a centre of scientific research with interest from Universities of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Brandon, Carleton & McGill, plus joint ventures with Assiniboine Community College, Prairie Rose and Prairie Spirit school divisions.

Both our curator and our Japanese post graduate intern have been invited to the Alberta Palaeontology Symposium in Calgary in March 2009 to provide a presentation and a keynote speech on the CFDC fossil collection. Fame at last!

The study shows that the new museum would attract 75,000 visitors per year. The economic impact on the region will be substantial, so the business sectors in Morden and district will need to help accommodate this increase in visitors. The proposal to design and build to **'Net Zero Energy'** makes it the first museum in North America of this type, therefore, a cool place to visit, plus we have the largest collection of marine reptile fossils in Canada.

The Winnipeg office of the National Film Board suggested that the new museum would be a good venue to install a digital movie theatre with 3D. A preview of the digital 3D process in Winnipeg was impressive. The 3D capability would enable us to show natural history 3D movies produced by National Geographic, the BBC and others.

By the end of December 2008 the museum will have achieved around 8,000 visitors this year, which is an increase in visitation of 90% over 2004. The museum is aiming for 10,000 visitors in 2009. Success with great fossil finds helps us greatly.

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN FOR NEW CFDC

A big press and media announcement in January 2009 will highlight a major donation pledged to our campaign. Watch for the news. We are asking people to help lead the fundraising campaign so please get in touch. We need support with hearts, minds and dollars to achieve our aim.

GIFT SHOP CHRISTMAS SPECIALS

Just a reminder that we have a great range of gifts from fun stuff to educational things, just one dollar upwards, which helps with Xmas gifts for all ages. Stop by at anytime. No need to buy museum admission, just come and browse the gift shop.

CALL FOR NEW MEMBERS & SUPPORT

We need museum members, not just to bring in more funds to help things tick over, but to have champions for our cause and to help spread the word about our great fossil collection and our new museum aspirations. (Annual fee is \$25.00, Life Membership is \$250.00) We also have Corporate Membership, check our website or call Yvonne Peters our administrator.

The success the museum achieves comes with a cost; the PR, media releases, promotion, marketing and advertising have to be paid for. Money here at CFDC is very tight in these difficult times; so if you can help even with a small donation it would be well received. Thank you all!

As ever, please check out our website www.discoverfossils.com it is full of useful information and the blogs are especially entertaining. Thanks to our board and the great volunteers who continue to make this place so very special.

Dave Wilkinson - Executive Director; Anita Janzic - Curator; Yvonne Peters - Administrator

PEMBINA HILLS ARTS CENTRE

Have you been to the **Gift Shop** at the Pembina Hills Arts Centre lately?



We've got lots of great gift ideas for the holiday season! Handmade arts and crafts by people from your own community, books by regional authors, a great selection of art supplies, and a plethora of handmade cards are all available for that unique Christmas gift you've been searching for. If you're not sure what to give someone, we've got gift certificates that can be used in our gift shop, or can go towards registration in any of our classes.

Check out our newly redesigned website for up-to-date information on everything you need to know about the Pembina Hills Arts Centre.

Happy Holidays from the Pembina Hills Arts Centre!

352 Stephen St, Morden, MB, R6M 1T5
 Telephone: 822-6026 Email: pembhill@mts.net
 Website: www.pembinahillsarts.com

WHAT IS COUNCIL UP TO?

Council is always dealing with numerous issues when it meets. Many of these are resolved as they arise, while some are longer term issues. Here are two recent developments that will take some time to work through.

REGIONAL COMMITTEES

Once or twice each year Winkler, Stanley, and Morden Councils get together to discuss topics that one or more



consider regional topics. This year, all three Councils recognized there was a desire to move forward on a number of them. What was needed was a workable process. Potential regional topics were compiled by each Council. From these the ones considered most important or time sensitive were agreed upon by the entire group. Four smaller working committees, with representatives from each Council, have recently been formed to work on the first four topics.

One of those committees will be looking at the corridor, the highway between Morden and Winkler. This highway already has over 12,000 vehicles travelling on it each day. Politicians are regularly challenged to look beyond their term of office. Based on growth in the area, one day, many years from now, the corridor will end up being the "Main Street" for the region. The time to outline what it will look like is now, when most of it is still undeveloped.

AMM CONVENTION

Council members attended the recent Association of Manitoba Municipalities Convention in Winnipeg. This Association represents all municipalities in Manitoba, and lobbies the Province on behalf of the members. During the convention numerous resolutions are considered and voted on. This sets the lobbying direction of the Association for the next year and beyond.



The biggest topic this year was a resolution regarding a municipal sales tax. The current infrastructure deficit in Manitoba is 7 billion dollars and growing. Sewer and water lines, lagoons, streets, etc. are all aging. The cost to replace these continues to grow. Municipalities realize they can't put these costs on property taxes. A resolution was presented to have a one percent municipal tax in Manitoba. It would be collected by the Province and distributed to municipalities based on population. For Morden, this would provide about 1.2 million dollars a year. It may sound like a lot, until you consider we've spent more than this on relining sewers over the past few years and have many years worth still to do. A modified version of the resolution finally passed. It will be interesting to see how the Province responds to the request.

Ernie Epp - Chief Administrative Officer

MORDEN POLICE SERVICE

OVERNIGHT PARKING BAN

A reminder that the Town of Morden PARKING BAN, By-Law #12-2002, is in effect to allow for snow clearing. Please do not park on the streets. This will assist in the snow clearing operation. Each year the "Overnight Parking Ban" takes effect on the first snowfall and everyone is asked not to park on the streets between the hours of 12:00 Midnight and 8:00 AM. Any vehicles parked on the roadway when snow clearing is necessary are subject to a fine of \$20.00 and/or being towed.



CHECKSTOPS

The Morden Police Service will be conducting checkstops once again throughout the Holiday Season, specifically targeting impaired drivers. We remind people to drink responsibly and plan ahead with the Christmas and holiday celebrations. If you are consuming alcohol, arrange for a designated driver or call a cab. Have a plan to get home safely!



GUARDS NEEDED

The Morden Police Service is looking for guards to work mainly evenings and weekend shifts on a casual/part-time basis. Successful applicants will be placed on a list and called upon when required for guard duty. If anyone is interested, they are asked to call the Morden Police Service at 822-4900.



CALL US!

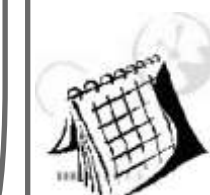
Citizens are encouraged to call the police immediately when a suspicious incident is taking place. Often people are hesitant to call, unsure if it is important or of any significance at the time. These minor incidents can often lead to more serious crimes, which at the time, could have possibly been avoided if police were notified. The officers on duty will assess the call at the time and attend if time permits. It is beneficial for us to be contacted and determine if it is nothing at the time, rather than called after the fact. Police are available 24 hours a day by calling 822-4900.

If anyone has questions, please call the Morden Police Service at 822-6292.

B.J. (Brad) Neduzak, - Chief of Police

2009 EVENTS IN MORDEN

Having an event? Then let people know by listing it on the Morden website "**Calendar of Events**". All you need to do is complete the online E- form;



www.mordenmb.com

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

STAY ACTIVE OVER THE WINTER BREAK!

Free Public Skating is being considered over the winter break at the Morden Recreation Centre. In order to make this available, we require 2 adult skate patrols per session, to meet safety requirements. Please contact Cindy or Clare at the Community Services office, 822-5431 to **volunteer**. Visit the Town website for updated information to ensure public skating is available, based on volunteer response. The proposed schedule is:

- Monday Dec 22: 1:00 – 3:00 pm
- Tuesday Dec 23: 2:30 – 4:00 pm
- Wednesday Dec 24: 1:00 – 2:30 pm
- Monday Dec 29: 1:00 – 3:00 pm
- Tuesday Dec 30: 2:30 – 4:00 pm
- Wednesday Dec 31: 1:00 – 2:30 pm

STAYING ACTIVE!

Ever wonder what the youth are doing this winter? Here are the numbers we've gathered of some of the activities that keep our youth active in the cold winter months:

Activity	# of Participants
Figure Skating	191
Synchronized Skating	43
Morden Minor Hockey	233
Rec. Hockey – Grades 1-8	55
Rec. Hockey – Grades 9 & Up	17
Gymnastics	214
Tai Kwon Do	40
Cadets	42
4-H	52
Beavers	10
Sparks, Brownies, Girl Guides	30
Dance Works	275
Jr. Curling	75
Morden Minor Soccer (Fall Program)	288



Reminder: Parents please watch your children in the Rec Centre. The vending and coffee machines seem to be a target for destruction.

MORDEN PRIDE

Please take pride in our Recreation Centre facility. Don't litter. Clean up the arena stands and change room when your team is finished. We are making improvements to our facility and need your help in keeping it clean.

SKATE PARK INTEREST

A group of local volunteers are working with the Community Services Department to make a skate park a reality for Morden. Preliminary planning, organizing and structural design is underway. For more information on the project or to volunteer please contact Wes Reimer at 822-6070.



DID YOU KNOW . . .

- There are 248 doors at the Rec Centre
- There are 68 garbage cans in the Rec Centre

RENOVATIONS COMPLETE . . . FOR NOW CHECK IT OUT!

Phase 1 & 2 of the Morden Recreation Centre renovation project is nearing completion. Yahoo!! You are invited to an,

**OPEN HOUSE
Monday, February 2, 2009
3:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

Enjoy a coffee and a tour of the updated facility.

The drawings are complete for Phase 3 of the renovation project and include: expansion of the Community Hall and stage area, reconstruction to the main entrance of the building and foyer including an in-door play structure, renovations and additions to the West Arena dressing room area, improvements to the office and additional meeting space.

DEPARTMENT IMPROVEMENTS - GRADUALLY CHECKING OFF THE WISH LIST:

2008 has seen many improvements to the Community Services facilities! Some of them have been on the wish list for awhile; others are the result of recent decisions and a few because of ongoing requirements. Highlights of some of this work are:

Colert Beach & Lake Minnewasta:

- 118 fully serviced sites added to Morden campground,
- Light installed at the boat dock,
- New maintenance shed for equipment and supplies for the beach and campground,
- Sand added to the beach,
- Air conditioner installed in the campground office,
- Additional picnic tables for the sites,
- New cash register.

Morden Parks:

- 4 lights installed on the west side of Morden Park, completing the Morden Park Lighting project,
- Accessible play structure added in Morden park,
- Paved entrance to the accessible washrooms,
- Tree replacement project,
- Purchased wood chipper.

Recreation Centre & Grounds:

- Replaced back stop on diamond #5,
- Purchased Zamboni and board scrubber,
- Purchased 15 round tables for the Community Hall,
- Directional sign installed on Thornhill St.

Other projects:

- Re-pointed the brick on the Art Gallery, phase 1 of 3,
- Picnic tables and garbage can holders for the parks, beach, Rec Centre grounds, and pathways,
- Outdoor skating rinks to be installed at Elks Park and Lions Park.

COMMUNITY SERVICES - Cont'd.

STAFF NEWS - Farewell & Congratulations

After 28 years of employment with the Town of Morden, Linda Kirk will be retiring. The Community Services Department would like to invite the public to a come and go reception in Linda's honour on February 6, 2009. The reception will be held at the Morden Recreation Centre from 3:00 – 5:30 pm.

Facility Maintenance staff member, Richard Kinsmen has successfully completed the training and test requirements for his refrigeration ticket. Congratulations!

START PREPARING FOR NEXT SUMMER'S JOBS

Portage la Prairie will be offering:

- Life Saving Instructor (LSI) course December 28, 2008 – January 3, 2009.
- National Lifeguard Service (NLS) course March 30 – April 4, 2009



For more information contact the Southport Community Aquaplex at 239- 8321. Altona will also be offering a NLS course at spring break.

Lifeguard Training - Additional information is available regarding Lifeguard training, call Lifesaving Society at 204-956-2124 for dates/times/costs.



Swimming Instructor Training - Additional information is available regarding teaching swimming lessons, call the Canadian Red Cross Society at 1-888-307-7997 or 204-773-3526 for their info.

The Town of Morden offers swimming lessons in the summer at Colert Beach; we follow the Red Cross Swim program and regulations.

Season Greetings from the Community Services Department Staff

Clare Agnew - Director of Community Services

MORDEN FIRE DEPARTMENT

Merry Christmas to one and all from the Morden Fire & Rescue Dept. Christmas is a time of laughter, meeting with good friends and family and of course, presents.

NEW MINI PUMPER TRUCK

The Fire Dept. received a great present this year with the replacement of our "Mini" Pumper truck. A new slightly larger unit replaced the 20 year-old truck, which will allow us better responses with more advanced tools for various types of fire calls. This is part of the replacement program of trucks and this new unit should last us 20-25 years. If you have time drop in and have a look. We would be happy to show you the new truck and answer any questions you may have.



SPECIAL AWARDS

This past fall we were honoured to present some awards to some fellow Fire Fighters of the Morden Fire Dept. Lorne Enns received the 20 years of Exemplary Service Award while Darren Baker, Wayne Tyler, Harv Peters, Bruce Friesen and Vern Zacharias received the 10 years of service awards. Thanks guys for all your contributions to the dept and your community.

COATS FOR KIDS

With the Christmas spirit in mind, I would like to thank the generous people that donated to the 'Coats For Kids' program through the United Way. All we did as a Dept. was to supply a spot for drop off and pick up, however seeing the hard work of the United Way volunteers and the smiles from families receiving coats reinforces my admiration for this community.

"The giving heart will be rewarded. Remember, someone a little less fortunate receiving a gift this Christmas, what ever it may be, will never forget it."

From the members of the Morden Fire & Rescue, thanks for your support this past year and best wishes for a memorable Merry Christmas. Stay fire safe and have a wonderful New Year.

Andy Thiessen - Fire Chief - Morden Fire & Rescue

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE ADMINISTRATION FEE ON YOUR UTILITY BILL?

The Water Bill Administration Fee is comprised of the following components;

1. A percentage of Council Indemnities (approximately 15%) is allocated for this in dealing with water and sewer issues.
2. Wages and benefit costs for the Utility Clerk in calculating and preparing the water bills (100%) and 20% of the wages and benefit costs for the CAO and Director of Finance in dealing with water and sewer issues.
3. Training costs for Utility personnel.
4. Postage for mailing the bills, portion of rental cost for admin office and office supplies such as paper to prepare the bills.
5. Audit fees for annual Utility audit.
6. Public Liability Insurance costs.
7. Any engineering costs relating to water and sewer issues.

All these costs are added to come to a total cost of administration. This total is then divided by the number of customers to come to an amount per customer to charge on the quarterly water bills. *Garry Niebert* - Director of Finance & Admin