



Construction of RCMP facility has officially begun



THE \$4.35 MILLION PROJECT IS ANTICIPATED TO BE COMPLETED IN 15 MONTHS

Mayor Susan Samson, RCMP Inspector John Cantafio, and members of the Sylvan Lake RCMP detachment pose at the official sod-turning ceremony for the new RCMP facility on Mon-

day, May 25, 2009.

Calgary-based company SKMG was awarded the contract in the amount of \$4,350,000, which is significantly below the original project budget. There were a

total of 12 bids submitted to the Town of Sylvan Lake.

The two-storey building will be approximately 1 654 square metres in size and will be constructed in the Beacon Hill subdivision,

directly south of the Full Gospel Church in Sylvan Lake. Construction for the building is formally underway and is slated to be finished in approximately 15 months.

Town of Sylvan Lake introduces intern

The Town of Sylvan Lake welcomes a new face on board, Michelle Neilson.

Neilson will be working with the Town for a period of one year as part of the Alberta Government's Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing's Municipal Internship Program.

"I am very excited and fortunate to be able to learn about the functions of a municipality in such a welcoming and beautiful community," Neilson said.

Neilson has recently finished her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Alberta. Although the bulk of her education was done in her home province, she did spend one year abroad.

"In my fourth year of university, I traveled to France where I studied at the Université Catholique de Lille for a year," Neilson explained. "My time spent in Europe spurred a love for travel and adventure, and I am thrilled to spend a year living and working in the Town of Sylvan Lake and exploring the regions that surround it."

The internship gives Neilson the opportunity to try on as many hats as the municipality offers by spending one-on-one time with an employee from each department.

"Sustainable development practices are my chief area of interest and I look forward to working with the town to understand how these practices are put into place."



MUNICIPAL INTERN
Michelle Neilson

How sweet it is ...

16 weekends of fun
in Central Alberta

May long weekend to
Labour Day weekend

albertasweet16.com
(800) 215-8946



Sylvan Lake

Our Lake. Our Future.

Sylvan Lake hosts first annual Enviro Expo

Environmental issues will be the topic of discussion on Friday, June 5 at the Town of Sylvan Lake's inaugural Enviro Expo.

The expo will be taking place at Railway Park Promenade and will feature a variety of environmental exhibits, entertainment and guest speakers.

"One of our guest speakers is Jay White," Myron Thompson, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Sylvan Lake said. "White is an Alberta scientist who covers topics such as water governance, education and sustainability. Residents will benefit from his expertise on subjects that directly affect our community."

Fourteen separate exhibitors will be on-site offering suggestions and lessons on how to live an environmentally aware lifestyle.

"The town wants to engage our community in simple action steps to promote environmental stewardship," Thompson explained.

"We believe this event will provide an opportunity to educate and encourage eco-action."

Exhibitors include the Sylvan Lake Watershed Stewardship Society, Red Deer River Watershed, Red Deer County, Alberta Recycling,

Alberta Environment, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Transport Canada, Living By Water, Alberta Stewardship Network, Cows and Fish, Kerry Wood Nature Center, Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Medicine River Wildlife Center.

"The Town of Sylvan Lake will also have a presence among these exhibitors with staff on hand to answer questions related to our community," Thompson said.

"Public works staff will be available to talk about issues such as our recycling program and low-flush toilet rebates, while Recreation and Parks staff will handle questions about parks, trails, etc."

Anyone who visits the Town of Sylvan Lake booths will have an opportunity to enter to win bikes provided by Castaway Source for Sports and Terry's Lease Maintenance Ltd.

"We have had incredible support from local businesses," Thompson said. "Joey's Restaurants are providing fish for the fish fry that evening. They've been a huge contributor to the event."

A fish and chips meal will be available at \$5 per plate beginning at 6 pm, and entertainment by local artists Ryan Langlois and the Boom



Chucka Trio will follow shortly after.

"We're hoping for an excellent turnout at this event," Thompson said.

"As the largest municipality bordering the lake, the Town needs to take a leader-

ship role in protecting it."

To find out more about the green initiatives Sylvan Lake participates in, visit the website at www.sylvanlake.ca, enter *live here*, and click on Green Initiatives.



Please recycle this newsletter!



Council approves Parks and Open Spaces Bylaw

Bylaw to protect green spaces in Sylvan Lake

The Sylvan Lake Town Council has recently passed a bylaw that protects parks and open spaces from excessive residential and maintenance traffic.

The bylaw is intended to regulate vehicle and off-road traffic as well as vandalism, camping and private storage of materials or waste in an effort to maintain parks and green

spaces within the town. “We need to protect our green spaces from unnecessary damage -- as well as to safeguard pedestrians from potential accidents with vehicles or heavy equipment,” Ron Lebsack, Director of Recreation, Parks and Culture said.

“We have seen an increase of pedestrian traffic over the last few years and it is essential that we pro-

vide safe, clean and beautiful areas for our residents to enjoy.”

A Permit to Access Park/Open Space will be issued for residents or contractors who need to utilize the restricted areas.

The sites will be inspected before and after the area is utilized and the permit holder will be responsible for returning the area to its original state.

“We’re confident that residents will be pleased with this move as it ensures the beauty of the town they call ‘home’ as well as keeping green areas safe for pedestrians,” Lebsack said.

A complete copy of Bylaw 1477/2008 is available online at <http://www.town.sylvan-lake.ab.ca/bylaws.htm>.

Another *sweet* summer of Central Alberta Events

The Central Alberta Tourism Committee has recently launched its 2009 Alberta Sweet 16 campaign, highlighting weekend events, family activities, festivals, and rodeos in Central Alberta.

“The website focuses on 16 major events from a collection of ten municipalities,” Erin Peden, communications officer for the Town of Sylvan Lake said. “But the site is certainly not limited to 16 events. Anyone within the Central Alberta region can post their events on the website through the user-friendly calendar. The more events we promote, the more tourists we will attract to our area!”

This year the committee has added a cell-phone texting campaign to their tourism marketing plan. By texting the word SWEET to 23432 the subscriber becomes eligible to win a Central Alberta weekend get-away valued at \$1 000. Every week updates will be sent to the subscriber outlining the weekend’s featured event.

“We’re highlighting two Sylvan Lake events this summer including Jazz at the Lake and Shake the Lake.” Peden said.

“These two festivals are family-friendly and attract a broad range of people to our community. We’re hoping the site and the promotion of these events will contribute to the number of people who visit our beautiful town.”

According to Dean Schweder, Chair of the Central Alberta Tourism Committee, it is important to remain focused on being competitive within the tourism industry.

“Tourism is

the fourth largest industry in Alberta and generates over \$5 billion in revenues each year,” Schweder said.

“Therefore, it is crucial that we continue to send the message that our area is a wonderful tourism destination.”

The screenshot shows the 'the ALBERTA SWEET 16' website. At the top, it says '16 weekends of fun in Central Alberta'. There is a navigation menu with links for Home, This Week's Events, About the Sweet 16, Photos, Community Blogs, Attractions, and Rodeos. A search bar is present with the text 'Search for your event...'. Below the navigation is a calendar for May 2009. To the right of the calendar is a photo of a jazz band performing on a stage with the text 'Jazz at the Lake & Shake the Lake' and 'August 13-16'. Below the photo is the text 'Western Wheels 100 ft. Shootout'. To the right of the photo is a list of events under the heading 'The Sweet 16', including Rawhide Rodeo, Red Deer Public Market & Dining on the Farm, Stettler Main Street ArtWalk, Children's Festival, Innisfail Pro Rodeo, Stettler Show, Shine & Cruise, Ponoka Stampede, Rimbey Shoot-Out and Show & Shine, Lacombe Days, CentreFest, Summertime Country Drive, Aoba Alex & Rocky Demo Derby, Jazz at the Lake & Shake the Lake, Rastons & Bones, Rimbey Demo Derby, and Harvest Festival. At the bottom, there is a section for 'Win the Grand Prize!' with a form to enter an email address and a referral code. Below that is a section for 'Ponoka Stampede's New Action Packed Website'.

Sylvan Lake Town Council sets 2009 mill rate

The Sylvan Lake Town Council passed a bylaw to establish the mill rate for 2009 at the regular meeting last night. Property values remain strong in Sylvan Lake with taxable assessment increasing over \$167 million from the previous year.

In 2009, the residential mill rate drops to 7.097 from 7.184 the previous year. The 2009 non-residential (commercial) mill rate sits at 12.177 – a decrease from the 2008 rate of 13.249.

“Sylvan Lake is a great place to own a home”, Director of Finance, Darren Moore said. “Assessment values in the Town of Sylvan Lake have remained strong in comparison to other communities across the province”

For 2009, the Town of Sylvan Lake requires \$630,000 more municipal tax dollars to operate; an increase of 6.8 per cent over the previous year. Most of this additional tax revenue, 4.5 per cent comes from new construction,

with the remainder, 2.3 per cent coming from existing businesses’ and home owners.

Depending on the area of Town, rate-payers will see increases ranging from 1 per cent to 6 per cent on average. Areas such as Fox Run, Lakeway Landing, and Marina Bay continue to see the strongest value increases compared to other areas of Town. Areas such as Lakeview, Pierview, and Central will actually see their property taxes decrease by 3 per cent on average.

New for 2009, taxpayers in the Town of Sylvan Lake will see a separate levy on their tax notices used to fund the operations of the Sylvan Lake Municipal Library. Council approved the total levy for 2009 at \$350,000.

Assessment notices will go out on May 29 with taxes being due on July 31, 2009 with the exception of those set up on the monthly installment plan.

Mill Rates for 2009

Mill Rates	2008	2009
Municipal Res	4.890	4.564
Municipal Non-Res	9.400	8.777
School Res	2.038	2.114
School Non-Res	3.593	2.981
Lodge	0.140	0.129
Recreation	0.116	0.106
Library	—	0.184
Total Residential	7.184	7.097
Total Non-Res	13.249	12.177

Property Taxes for 2009

	Assessed 2008	Taxes 2008	Assessed 2009	Taxes 2009	Assess Increase	%	Tax Increase	%
Lakeview	283,044	2,033.39	276,852	1,964.82	(6,192)	(0.02)	(68.57)	(0.03)
Points West Resort	103,602	744.28	118,195	838.83	14,593	0.14	94.55	0.13
Central	271,628	1,951.38	265,692	1,885.62	(5,936)	(0.02)	(65.76)	(0.03)
Pierview	339,729	2,440.61	332,817	2,362.00	(6,912)	(0.02)	(78.61)	(0.03)
Willow Springs/ Hewlett Park	315,392	2,265.78	311,305	2,209.33	(4,087)	(0.01)	(56.44)	(0.02)
Fox Run	342,712	2,462.04	366,813	2,603.27	24,101	0.07	141.23	0.06
Cottage Area (Non-Water)	342,618	2,461.37	346,729	2,460.74	4,111	0.01	(0.63)	(0.00)
Marina Bay	700,324	5,031.13	754,573	5,355.20	54,249	0.08	324.08	0.06
Downtown Commercial	599,519	7,943.03	659,470	8,030.37	59,951	0.10	87.34	0.01
Industrial Park	478,155	6,335.08	525,970	6,404.74	47,815	0.10	69.66	0.01

Yard Waste Collection

**Every Monday between
now and October 26th**

(including statutory holidays)

**Yard Waste includes small prunings, leaves
and grass clippings**

Please remember:

Place yard waste in an acceptable container or biodegradable bag.

Place yard waste where your garbage is collected.

Affix a free “yard waste program” decal to your approved yard waste container (not on the biodegradable bags).

Decals are available from the Town Office or
Public Works building at no charge.

Yard waste must be kept dry by using lids on containers.

Biodegradable bags are available at many local merchants.

Acceptable containers:

**Yard Waste in containers 100 litres or larger MUST be in
biodegradable bags.**

Yard Waste in containers under 100 litres may be loose.

**Biodegradable compostable bags must be no larger
than 65 cm. X 90 cm. (26” X 36”).**

The maximum weight per unit is 23 kg.

Drop off:

*Leaves and grass clippings may be dropped off at the Waste Transfer Facility from
Wednesday to Saturday 9 A.M. until 5 P.M. exclusive of statutory holidays. The
facility is located 1 kilometer east of the round-about on Highway #11A and 0.5
kilometers South on Range Road #12.*



Fri., June 12

**Heart & Stroke Foundation
Big Bike & BBQ**
Centennial Park 11 am - 4 pm

Legion BBQ
Legion Hall

RBC Street-Side Sock Hop
Railway Park Promenade
8 pm - 11 pm



Saturday, June 13

**Volunteer Firefighter Pancake
Breakfast**

7 am - 11 am at the Fire Hall

Parade Registration & Line-up

11 am - 12 pm at 47 Avenue

Sylvan Lake Quilt Show

11 am - 5 pm at the Curling Rink

Parade

1 pm - 2:30 pm

Legion BBQ

1 pm - 4 pm at the Legion Hall

Ice Cream Parlour

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm at the Seniors Lodge

KidZone (ages 2-12)

3 pm - 6 pm at C.P. Blakely Playground

Rockapalooza

3 pm - 6 pm at Fox Run Gym

The Soda Pop Grill

5:30 pm - 8:30 pm at the Railway Park Promenade

Rock n' Roll Family Swim

6 pm - 9 pm at Sylvan Lake Aquatic Center

Boat Parade

9 pm - 11 pm on Sylvan Lake

FireWorks

10:30 pm at the Pier

The Servus Night at the Movies

Presented in part by Falcon Homes, Sylvan Lake RV, Remax & Wal-Mart

11:15 pm at the Wal-Mart Parking Lot

Sun., June 14

**The Sylvan Lake Veterinary Clinic
Hot Diggity Dogs Agility Demonstration**

1 - 2 pm at Our Lady of the Rosary

Father - Son Showdown BBQ

1 pm - 4 pm Centennial Park



Sylvan Lake Veterinary Clinic
"The Clinic That Cares"



A Town for all Seasons

Sylvan Lake

The Sylvan Lake Visitor Information Centre welcomes you!



Located right next to the library at 4719-50th Avenue, the centre is just a block from our beautiful beach.

Whether you are looking for information about Sylvan Lake - or if you are trekking across Alberta, our friendly staff can help you find your way.



**Phone: 1.403.887.5050
Toll-Free: 1.866.887.5550
Email: tourism@sylvanlake.ca**

*Be sure to stop in and sign our guest book.
We look forward to meeting you!*

The Sylvan Lake Visitor Information Centre is open May long weekend until September long weekend.

Open Monday thru Sunday from 9 am - 8 pm