

Mundare News

HAPPY NEW YEAR
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Council Meetings:
January 6 & 20

Volume 2 Issue 1 January 2015

Mayor's Corner Charlie Gargus

Special Winter/Snow Message: Read the Town Snow Removal Plan on the web site

On Nov. 29th and 30th we received close to 40 cm of snow in 48 hours. Such a large amount of snowfall has not happened in the past 38 years that I have lived in Mundare!

But "SNOW HAPPENS"! Even though we all feel our street must be cleaned first, this is simply **unrealistic**. What each of us must understand is that there is a list of priorities that determine which areas are cleaned first. This is the most efficient way for the snow removal crew to work – with a plan!

To clarify for everyone: the school bus routes in town, the business accesses, and the roads to the Health Care Center, the Lodge, the school, the water treatment station and the sewage lift stations **must** be cleared first. (A school bus should not be stuck with a load of children because of an impassible road.)

Town Stuff

- **Town Recycle Yard will be open Saturday, January 10** from 10 a.m. to noon
- Town staff remind residents that **Blue Bag/recycling** collection is **ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS** on **Tuesday**. If you ever have questions, call 780-417-2282
- If you shut your water off completely, please be careful when you turn it back on: turn the valve **SLOWLY** to

We should not expect these areas to be "bladed to bare pavement" so instead a quick pass is made and a "return clean" is made later.

Fortunately, some roads are wide enough to allow windrows in the middle of the street. Other avenues are too narrow to have a quick windrow, so these areas are cleaned before windrows on wider avenues are removed. If you must step over an inconvenient windrow, know that the work being done elsewhere is more of a priority, and remember: we live in a community so others also have similar needs. The windrows are removed as soon as possible.

Our crew of 4 work overtime during storms, starting at 6 a.m. and were coming in on week-ends. To improve service to you,

avoid a sudden rush of water that damages the water meter!

- If you're turning around in someone's driveway, please mind that you're actually on the driveway and not damaging their lawns as you turn!
- **TAX TIP:** there is a **5% discount** on the municipal portion of your taxes if you pay by **January 31, 2015**. You can also arrange for a

we have purchased a new grader, but equipment does break down, and this can mean it takes longer to complete the snow removal tasks. (In the November storm, a windrow was left overnight on 55Ave., because equipment repairs arose, but the snow was removed early the next morning with the repair in place.)

Many phone calls also came into the Town office demanding "instant" snow removal. Please do not call the office unless there is a real emergency – all this does is keep the staff from attending to their work duties and costs us more in the long run.

Thank you to those of you that take the time to make positive comments about the way that streets and sidewalks are cleaned. You obviously have travelled in other communities where

residential streets are not touched and the sidewalks must be cleaned by the resident or the business (often with bylaw fines in place for failure to remove the snow in 24 hours). This sidewalk cleaning service alone requires an entire day by one member of the work crew. However, the service is most appreciated by everyone with sidewalks – especially the elderly.

Also, thank you to those of you that are respectful of your neighbors and do not put "your" snow on their property! (We have boulevards and space along our fences for anything that falls on our own property.)

Thanks - and a Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year to all from Council and staff, Charlie

monthly tax installment payment program by January 31. To qualify for either, your account must be in good standing (all prior years' taxes paid in full by December 31, 2014). For more details, contact the Town Office.

- **Cat and Dog License Reminder:** Time to renew your cat (\$5) and dog (\$15) licenses.
- The Canadian Diabetes Association **red donation**

bin on Main Street is for **clothing only**. Please do not leave other household items there.

DON'T FORGET:

Mundare Minor Hockey bottle drive - January 10

Get your tickets for Mundare Curling Club Improv night - January 24: see p. 2 for details

What's Happening in Town ...

Communities in Bloom Update: Thanks again to everyone for supporting the Christmas Extravaganza: raffle proceeds (\$400) were sent to the Lamont County Food Bank for the Christmas Hampers; money raised from the bake sale and craft market table rental (approximately \$2000) will be put towards beautification projects in town. Thank you also to Lamont County FCSS, whose donation covered expenses for both the CiB and the Library Board. We will be taking down decorations at the MRC early in January and would welcome your help: contact Debby Gargus at 780-764-3929 for date and time. Next CiB meeting is **January 19** at 1:30 p.m. in the Town Office: you are always welcome to join us as we plan for 2015! Happy New Year all from CiB!

Mundare 341 Air Cadets meet every Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. at the National Hall. New members always welcome.

Bowling Registration: If you'd like to join a bowling league in Mundare, there's still time to register at the Town Office.

Mary Immaculate Hospital Auxiliary Thumbs its Nose at Old Man Winter! With heavy snow, strong winds and COLD temperatures, Old Man Winter tried his best to put a damper on the annual MIH Auxiliary Bake Sale. Thanks to the dedication and quick thinking of our loyal customers, Old Man Winter didn't stand a chance!!! Thanks to YOU, the bake sale went on as planned.

The funds raised were above average - quite an accomplishment for such nasty weather! A number of hardy souls braved the weather to bring in donations, do their annual shopping and to choose baking for friends stuck at home.

The Auxiliary is blessed to have such wonderful supporters, including the road crews who cleared the parking lot and worked so hard on the roads that miserable day. Thanks to all! The funds raised at annual bake sales have been used for such items as: resident birthday & Christmas presents; a BOSE radio system; an ingenious sleeper chair (to accommodate overnight family stays) and a raised planter (for residents to enjoy gardening).

WELL DONE! We couldn't have done it without you! Here's hoping for a more pleasant winter's day next Bake Sale. We look forward to working with you once again. Mary Immaculate Hospital Auxiliary.

Mundare Minor Hockey

Association: Our teams are doing great this season: win-loss-tie for the Atom's so far is 7-1-1; Novice's have 3-2-1. Our initiation team recently played their first games, and they played like superstars. Way to go, Viper teams! Vipers will be busy on and off the ice, with two important

fundraisers coming up: our **bottle drive on January 10** and our **2015 Hockey Tournament February 5-8**. The fundraisers are important to sustain our Mundare hockey association, so we hope you can support us. We have amazing raffle prizes, great food—and great games to watch! For dates and times of upcoming games, go to [Town website](http://www.mundare.ca) - [Events](http://www.mundare.ca) calendar—www.mundare.ca.

Mundare Curling Club has something to help beat those winter blues: on **January 24**, come enjoy a **night of improv with Edmonton's Grindstone Theatre** - cocktails at 5:30, dinner at 6:30. Tickets \$40 at the Town Office.

The Curling Club is looking for home-based businesses that would like to sell their wares at a Mini-Market - February 28 from 10 am - 4 pm at the MRC - during the Ladies Bonspiel. If interested, contact Cheryl Zacharkiw at 780-764-3965.

Movers and Shakers - a 6-week Movers and Shakers program for parents and children 0-6 yrs. - Thursdays, starting January 8, from 10 -11 a.m. at the Town Office Building. Contact Vegreville CALS 780-632-3225 for information.

Mundare School News: Hard to believe it is already Happy New Year! December was very busy - with Christmas concerts, Food Castle Food Bank Drive and Christmas Spirit days - and we hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas break. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm and energy on our first day back!

The new school is starting to look really great inside and out; we're still not sure on a moving date, but it is getting ever closer. Tracey sees the construction progress every day and says he can't wait to show it off to everyone.

With the cold weather, parents are reminded to be sure children have warm clothing - and a pair of indoor and outdoor shoes - before they leave for school. Also, if they arrive at school before 9:15, there is a Before School Program that opens at 8 a.m. and charges \$5 per student per day.

Business Buzz:

Mundare Bakery - Happy 2015 to all! The Bakery will be closed January 1-11 and open again **Monday, January 12**. Soup and Sandwich will be up and running again in January.

Pop into **U-Do-It Crafts** for super 'Boxing Month' **Tupperware sale** (10% off reduced prices).

M&M's Kozy Kitchen

During the month of January, we will be open modified hours: Tuesday through Saturday - from 10am to 4pm; Sunday from 10am to 2pm.

Want to learn more about your electricity costs? **ATCO** is promoting its new video "Everything you need to know about your

electricity bill in five minutes" - available on their web site - www.atcoelectric.com

Servus Credit Union wishes everyone a Happy New Year! Welcome to 2015 and retirement planning time; at Servus, we care about our members' financial well-being. If we were able to show you some options that could possibly increase the amount of money you could have in retirement and get you on track to retire when you want, would you be interested in meeting with Melissa, Shelly or Dennis? Call Chris, Elaine or Irene at 780-764-8801 to make an appointment today.

Fire Department Tips

The members of the Mundare Fire & Rescue wish you a safe and Happy New Year. Now that the excitement of the holidays has slowed down, it is time to think about home safety not related to Holiday Safety. Let's take a look at our Carbon Monoxide detectors. First question is: do you have one in your home? If not, why not?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas found in fumes from car exhaust, furnaces, water heaters, fireplaces and appliances or equipment that burn solid fuels (wood, charcoal), liquid (gasoline, oil) or gaseous (propane, natural gas) fuels. No fuel burns 100%: it is the incomplete burning of fuels that produces carbon monoxide. Fumes from properly installed and maintained appliances are usually safely vented outside. However, if venting is disrupted or fumes enter a home, carbon monoxide can collect inside a home and quickly reach dangerous levels.

Carbon monoxide has a greater affinity than oxygen for hemoglobin in the red blood cells that carries oxygen to various parts of the body. When the CO level exceeds a certain limit, it can replace oxygen in the blood and become poisonous. Initial symptoms of CO poisoning include flu-like symptoms such as headache, running nose and sore eyes, etc. without the fever. At higher levels, one may experience drowsiness, dizziness, vomiting and a sense of disorientation and confusion. These symptoms make it difficult to make rational decisions such as leaving the home or calling for help. At extreme exposure levels, a person can be rendered unconscious. The gas can cause brain damage. If your alarms sound - if you or other occupants suffer from any of the above symptoms, get everyone out of the house immediately and call 911.

If your alarm sounds - if no one is suffering from any of the above mentioned symptoms, check to see if the battery needs replacing, or the alarm has reached its 'end of life' before calling 911.

Testing & Replacing CO alarms

- Test CO alarms every month by pressing the 'test' button
- Replace batteries every year according to manufacturer's instructions

Know the sound:

- Your CO alarm sounds different than your smoke alarm. Test both alarms monthly and make sure everyone knows the difference between the two alarm sounds.
- Know the difference between the CO alarm's low battery warning, end of life warning and an emergency warning. Consult your manufacturer's instruction manual.

Stay Warm - and Stay Safe!

Community Feature: "Giving Forward" Thoughts from the Mayor

2014 is behind us - and, for some, thankfully so. It was a year of unexpected challenges, with sudden rainstorms, record snowfalls and numerous infrastructure fixes. Through all of that, we still looked after neighbours and friends by helping out where we could.

To elaborate on this: I was approached by a gentleman with a gift for a community member. He was 'paying forward' what he had received while travelling beyond Mundare.

He chooses to be anonymous but is an example of what pops up more often than you might think.

This man's gift started an idea that others joined in on and brought Christmas Joy to a young family. They were most appreciative and will forever remember that 2014 in Mundare was special. Thank you to all who contributed to the gift!

And if we put our minds to it, I'm sure we can all remember people who've been busy giving:

- our friend from the Lodge who pulled weeds in Town flower beds
- everyone who contributed to our little community garden that so brightened up our Main Street space

- All the volunteers in all our community organizations, quietly going about giving hours and hours to our curling club, ag society, firefighter services, library board, seniors centre, minor hockey, cadets, rec centre, hospital auxiliary, Communities in Bloom ...

These folks don't do it for the praise and the glory: they do it because they want Mundare, their community, to thrive. I'm sure there are many more of you out there who've done your own form of volunteering/giving - helping a neighbour or a stranger - in some way that means so much to them in their times of need.

Lamont County Food Bank extends a huge 'Thank You' to everyone who donated food, money and time for our successful December 21 Christmas Hamper day: you represent 'giving forward' at its best.

Thank You
To everyone for their **Mundare News** submissions in 2014: please keep sending them in - and if you have suggestions for **Mundare News**, please contact Susan at the Town Office. Happy New Year, all!

Congratulations ...
to locally born and bred **Alberta Bandura**, Professor Emeritus of Psychology at Stanford University, whose foundational contributions to social psychology earned him an appointment as Officer of the Order of Canada on December 26, 2014.

What's New in the Library



DVD RELEASES

No Good Deed Jan 6
Gone Girl Jan 13
Boxtrolls Jan 20
The Judge Jan 27
Before I Go to Sleep Jan 27
Fury Jan 27

LIBRARY CALENDARS AND SANTA
PHOTOS ARE AVAILABLE FOR
PICK UP AT THE TOWN OFFICE
PLEASE PICK THEM UP

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME AND
CRAFT THURSDAY JANUARY 15TH
@ 10:30AM FREE OF CHARGE
MUST PREREGISTER BY JAN 14TH

IF I DO NOT HAVE ANYONE
PRE-REGISTERED THE PROGRAM
WILL BE CANCELED

NEW BOOKS THIS MONTH

AMNESIA: A novel Peter Carey
CANE & ABE James Grippando
COLD COLD HEART Tami Hoag
INSATIABLE APPETITES: A stone
Barrington Novel Stuart Woods
PARENTING THROUGH THE STORM:
how to handle the highs, the lows and
everything in between Ann Douglas
PRIVATE VEGAS James Patterson
SAINT ODD: An odd Thomas Novel
Dean Koontz
THE DEVIL YOU KNOW
Elisabeth De Mariaffi

Book Club Starting up

Wednesday January 28th @ 6:30 pm

This book club will be led by the group. You will
decide how you would like it to run. Great chance to meet new
people in the community Please email or call to confirm
attendance.

If there is no one confirmed, we will cancel this event.

Refreshments served

librarian@mundarelibrary.ab.ca 780-764-3929