



BRAED KNOTICE

Newsletter for the Battle River Alliance for Economic Development

Issue 1, 2007

BRAED MEMBERS

Beaver County
Camrose County
City of Camrose
County of Paintearth
Flagstaff County
M.D. of Provost
M.D. of Wainwright
Town of Bashaw
Town of Castor
Town of Coronation
Town of Daysland
Town of Hardisty
Town of Killam
Town of Millet
Town of Provost
Town of Sedgewick
Town of Tofield
Town of Viking
Town of Wainwright
Village of Alix
Village of Alliance
Village of Bawlf
Village of Chauvin
Village of Edberg
Village of Edgerton
Village of Forestburg
Village of Galahad
Village of Halkirk
Village of Heisler
Village of Holden
Village of Irma
Village of Loughheed
Village of New Norway
Village of Rosalind
Village of Ryley
Village of Strome

CASTOR HOSTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

The BRAED Board of Directors' meeting was held at the Castor Legion Hall on Wednesday, February 21, 2007.

Chair, Michelle Hauser, called the meeting to order. Jim Klasson, Paintearth Economic Partnership Society (PEPS), welcomed everyone.

Following the round table, Executive Committee reports were given. Highlights were:

- Executive Committee meetings will now rotate throughout the region. Contact the BRAED office if your municipality is interested in hosting.
- Board of Directors' meetings will incorporate training workshops.
- The Flagstaff Training Foundation application to Rural Alberta's Development fund was declined.
- BRAED will support the Small Communities Conference to be held in Forestburg, March 29-31, 2007.
- Winner of the "Know Your Neighbour" campaign for a \$1,000 shopping spree was Barbara Pals of Castor.

Paul Edginton of Acton Consulting presented the overview of the Three Year Business Plan. He also highlighted the 2007-2008 Work Plan. Copies of the Business Plan will be available from the BRAED office.

BRAED COMPLETES THREE YEAR BUSINESS PLAN 2007-2009

BRAED's draft Three Year Business Plan was presented at the Board of Directors' meeting in Castor. The plan is now in its final phase of edit before beginning the process of implementing the work to be done.

Over the next three years BRAED will (1) ensure its members have the tools and training to support regional economic development, (2) provide BRAED's services to its members, (3) ensure a strong web presence and communication system to keep members informed, (4) create awareness of BRAED issues and initiatives within provincial and federal government, and (5) continue to excel in services and operations.

The work done allows BRAED to move forward through our mission of continued collaboration and cooperation in regional economic development.

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New Foreign Worker Hotline Announced!

Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry has recently announced a new toll-free Foreign Worker Information line to assist employers with questions on the immigration process. Experienced staff are available Monday to Friday to answer questions on the immigration process. Call 1-877-427-6419 within Alberta or (780) 427-6419 outside of Alberta.

“DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH”

The Small Communities Conference, designed for communities of 2,500 and under, will be held in Forestburg from March 29 – 31, 2007. This is a perfect opportunity to meet with people from places your size and view and discuss issues from a common perspective.

“Diamonds in the Rough” – Mining the Large Potential of Small Communities - will offer a variety of session topics. Whether a municipal councillor, staff member, community leader, volunteer, or board member, this is a conference that you will want to attend! For more information visit the website at www.forestburg.ca

REGIONAL NEWS!!!

- ✚ BASHAW AND BAWLF have received monies from the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF). Bashaw received \$1,233,332 to go towards their Community Centre. Bawlf will use their \$126,500 to renew three blocks of roadways.
- ✚ RYLEY LANDFILL AGREEMENT – The City of Edmonton has finally reached an agreement with Beaver Regional Waste Management Services Commission to start shipping waste out to the Ryley landfill starting this winter.
- ✚ THE TOWNS OF BASHAW AND HARDISTY are still in the running for the Vancouver-based documentary series ***A Week Without Women.***

- ✚ Sheritt International Corporation, a Canadian metals and oil producer, is currently studying a 312 square kilometer area from just south of Tofield and Ryley and north of Round Hill. The area contains enough coal resources to fuel two gasification units for about 40 years.

BATTLE RIVER ALLIANCE INCUBATOR NETWORK (BRAIN)

Mayor Greg Lemay, Forestburg, is chairing the BRAIN Committee – a regional incubator network that will support BRAED members and their new businesses. The purpose of BRAIN is to provide training for members on how to use incubators as economic development tools; identify experts and support to help new businesses; develop ways of linking businesses to electronic information; and encourage the use of video conferencing facilities in the region.

Greg is pleased to have the region's Community Futures organizations, the Business Link, community members, and Alberta Employment, Immigration, and Industry as supports to this initiative. The BRAIN group is looking for funding to use for the project.

DEFENSE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT (DID) PROJECT

Councillor Ivan Des Jardine, Ryley, is now working on this initiative. The defense industry opportunities are very significant for this region. This comes from the expansion of military bases in Cold Lake, Wainwright, and Suffield.

There are two activities currently underway. The first is to find out who are the successful bidders on defense contracts. A request has been made to the Federal Government and they are gathering information for BRAED. The second is to develop a defense industry sector profile.

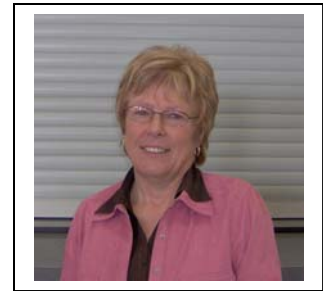
Ivan is looking forward to working with the HUB Alliance (St. Paul) and the PEP Alliance (Medicine Hat) on this initiative.

TRAINING IN REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Charlotte Curtis, Flagstaff County, and Heisler BRAED representative, has championed many of BRAED's projects including "Rock the Farm". Now Charlotte is helping with a most important piece of BRAED's next 3 years; training in regional economic development.

With her support and guidance, BRAED will be pursuing courses that will provide our member communities with the tools to carry out economic development.

So, keep an eye out for upcoming course announcements and training opportunities.



Charlotte Curtis

CENTRAL ALBERTA JOB FAIR, TRADES EXPO AND COMMUNITY SHOWCASE

Mark your calendars! It's a big two-day event – Job Fair, Trades Expo and Community Showcase will make a big splash in Central Alberta!

Friday, March 23rd, over 75 employers will be on hand to recruit and fill over 3,000 job vacancies. On Saturday, March 24th, kids aged 15 or older are encouraged to attend and try a hands-on activity in over 20 different trade occupations!

To promote "driving safely to work", the Alberta Safety Association will be bringing out a "vehicle roll-over simulation" demonstration.

Friday and Saturday ten community booths will be on location to share why Central Alberta is a great place to learn, work and play! Learn about the employment opportunities, cost of living, and quality of life in the Central communities! For more information visit the web at:

www.employment.gov.ab.ca/central

FACTS FROM THE BRAED REGION

Did you know that...

- ✚ Hardisty is the self proclaimed Flag Capital of the World?
- ✚ The original Buffalo National Park was established at Wainwright in 1908 to protect the endangered plains bison?
- ✚ Alliance was once the largest grain shipping area in the province with seven elevators?
- ✚ The last man hanged in Alberta, Robert Cook, was captured near Bashaw and jailed in a Bashaw jail cell which is still in existence and makes up a part of the Bashaw Fire Hall Museum?
- ✚ Camp Wainwright was used as a prisoner of war facility from 1945-1946 for captured German officers from World War II?



BRAED COMMUNITY TIES - VILLAGE OF IRMA -

The Village of Irma is located on Highway 14 within the Municipal District of Wainwright, 178 Kilometers southeast of Edmonton and 29 kilometers northwest of Wainwright, in the heart of the beautiful rolling parkland of the Battle River Country.

The Village of Irma came into being in 1908 when the Grand Trunk Railway came through. Irma was later incorporated as a Village on May 30, 1912.

There are two stories about how Irma got its name. The first is that it was named after one of the secretaries of a railway official, and the other is that it was named after the daughter of U. Wainwright, the second vice president of the Grand Trunk Railway.

With just over 450 people the economy is supported mainly by agriculture, oilfield activity and CFB Wainwright, supported by the Western Area Training Centre and the Canadian Maneuver Training Centre.

Commercial business is strong in Irma, supporting the Irma Co-op groceries and hardware, Co-op Cardlock, the Wainwright Credit Union, and Alberta Treasury Branch, Post Office, gift shops, convenience stores and various other businesses. Irma also has automotive shops, agricultural based garage, a building supply store and various Industrial businesses. One hotel, two motels can also be found in this wonderful little community, as well as two churches.

Irma hosts a school with grades from Kindergarten to Grade 12 and is part of the Buffalo Trail Public School Division which is headquartered in Wainwright.

Irma's economic base is rich in agriculture, grain and livestock production and large oil and gas activity. Its local resources are agriculture, oil, natural gas, sand and gravel products. Irma also has the distinction of having the childhood home of Jean Pare, founder of Company's Coming.

The village of Irma boasts a large campground facility that comes equipped with 30 full-services sites and 20 power serviced sites and an overflow area that is without service. The area has showers, washrooms and a dumping station. The campground is nestled at the north end of the village, right next to the ball diamonds, agricultural grounds, and the very active Arena and Curling Rink. Irma also has 9-hole golf course with grass greens, driving range and a practice green.

PLAN TO ATTEND!!!

The BRAED Annual General Meeting will be held in Provost on May 16th, 2007. Watch for detailed information.

If you have questions or comments about the BRAED newsletter, or if you wish to share news from your municipality, contact the BRAED office at:

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