



TOWN OF BLACKFALDS

Municipal News & Information

Phone: 885-4677 Fax: 885-4610

www.blackfalds.com

JANUARY 2010

2010 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS:

Operating Budget

Town Council passed the 2010 Operating Budget for a total of \$9,764,639 at the regular meeting of council on December 8, 2009. The budget consists of status quo services for the community and a basics only approach to programs and services that are in place. This philosophy allows for the standard operating cost increases to be covered by the additional taxes from growth in the community combined with an average of 1% tax increase to the rate payers. "There were some hard decisions to be made based on the economic climate of today. We had to balance community growth, fiscal responsibility and operational requirements with the household financial challenges that the individual rate payer faces" stated Blackfalds Mayor Melodie Stol. Priorities set by council continue to be addressed in this budget. Monies set aside in a reserve to use for a community green initiative will be drawn on in 2010 to provide the rate payers with an opportunity to purchase composters and rain barrels at a cost price. Strategic planning has provided the council with reserve dollars to draw on for items such as the 2010 election. Each year an annual transfer has been set aside for this purpose and then in the election year tax dollars in excess of the annual allocation are not levied. This approach has been maintained in the 2010 operating budget with items such as building repairs, upgrades and equipment replacement.

SNOW REMOVAL REMINDER - All sidewalks need to be cleared of snow and ice within 48 hours of snowfall. Each business owner and residence owner will be given only (1) 24 hour warning. Failure to comply with this will result in a \$35 fine plus costs incurred by the Town to clear any obstructions. After the first warning there will not be a second. Any subsequent snowfall not removed in 48 hours will be ticketed immediately. Bylaw 890/01 supports these statements.

If you are physically and/or financially unable to maintain your sidewalks, you are asked to make arrangements with family, friends or neighbors to assist you. Please be a considerate neighbor and keep our sidewalks clean and safe!

WINTER DRIVING TIPS

-When starting out on a trip either short or long, in town or on the highway be prepared to meet any situation. ie rain, snow, ice, dry roads, wet roads or slippery roads or snow covered roads.

-Be aware of the weather and any unexpected changes.

-Make sure your car is winterized, such as, proper tires (winter tires are recommended) and your car kit has a flash light, ice scraper, and other emergency equipment.

-Adjust your speed to conditions of the road, visibility and the surroundings.

-Test the road to ensure you are aware of the road conditions.

-Drive defensively and allow other drivers plenty of room.

-Keep your windshield clear of fog, snow or ice.

-Apply brakes gently (know how ABS brakes work) to slow down or stop and keep a safe distance to the car in front of you.

-Do not use cruise control when roads might be slick or there is a lot of ice on the roads. Cruise control must be used safely and wisely.

Capital Budget

Town Council passed the 2010 Capital Budget for a total of \$531,300 at the regular meeting of council on December 8, 2009. The capital budget for 2010 consists primarily of equipment replacement, repair and annual transfers to respective reserves for future expansion, replacement or repairs.

Ongoing Capital Projects Carried Forward from 2009

- Police detachment building &
- South Street roadway improvements &
- Servicing for Protective Services Site (Total Project Cost Approx \$7,840,000)
- Fire Hall (Total Project Cost Approx \$3,608,000)
- Vista Trail roadway improvements (Total Project Cost Approx \$5,000,000)
- Sewer treatment lagoon upgrade, Lift station & trunk main (Total Project Cost Approx \$5,436,000)

*The above list includes most large projects, however, an exhaustive list of all projects will not be available until the year end process is complete.

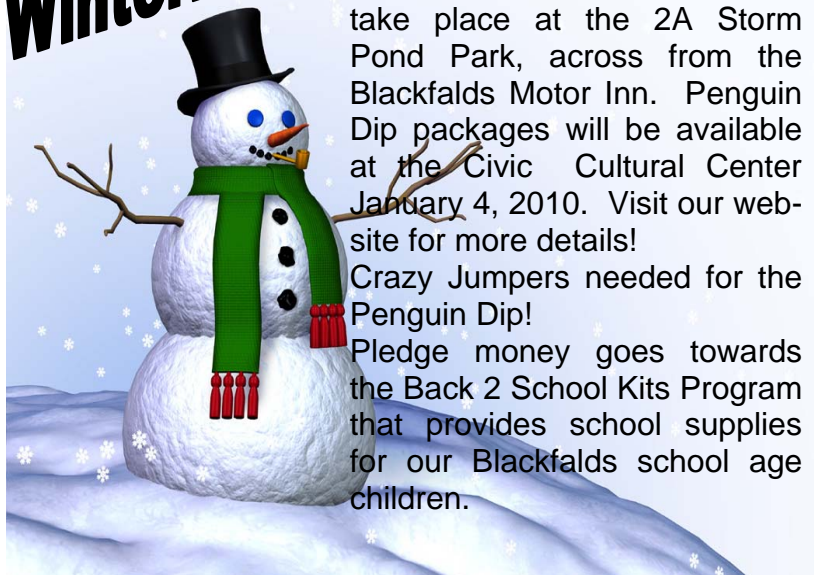
Town of Blackfalds staff and guests raised \$4,476 at their Town Christmas party in support of the **Blackfalds Food Bank and our FCM Municipal Partnership with Bohol, Philippines** for their "Farm to Market Roads Project". We would like to thank everyone who contributed silent auction items.

OUTDOOR RINK PROJECT beside the Blackfalds Multi-Plex was to be constructed in October of this year. The company who was originally awarded the project advised they were not able to take on our Outdoor Rink. Another company thought they could possibly take this project on this fall but they had other commitments to fulfill but they are still looking to construct the Outdoor Rink in May of 2010. This rink is not a typical boarded rink made out of wood. It consists of steel girders and hard plastic boards that are extremely resilient to weather and high use and this is why we had to contract out this particular project. We are sorry for any inconvenience that this may have caused but are committed to getting this project complete in 2010.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE: Please note that Council has passed First Reading of By-law # 1099/09 which states that Schedule "A" of the Town of Blackfalds Land Use By-law No. 1081/09 be amended by changing the westerly portion of Lot 1 Block 1 Plan 802-0395 to Public Facility (PF), and the easterly portion to Commercial Highway District (C-2) in accordance with the attached plan. A Public Hearing has been set for January 26, 2009 at 7pm in the Town of Blackfalds Council Chambers.



Winterfest



Winterfest 2010 will be held Monday, February 15th. Events take place at the 2A Storm Pond Park, across from the Blackfalds Motor Inn. Penguin Dip packages will be available at the Civic Cultural Center January 4, 2010. Visit our website for more details!

Crazy Jumpers needed for the Penguin Dip!

Pledge money goes towards the Back 2 School Kits Program that provides school supplies for our Blackfalds school age children.



Want to get information about a community group or organization out to members of our community? Want to advertise in the Program Guide? The **Spring/Summer Program Guide 2010** will be out in February 2010. Deadline for information is January 11, 2010. For more information call 403-885-6247.

The Blackfalds Public Library



Children Programs

All our programs for Mother Goose, Story Hour, Terrific Three's, Lets Play & Creative Explosion begin the week of January 5th, 2010. New children are always welcome. **Registration is required for all classes.**

Memberships are required for all Children & Young Adults to attend any day, after school programs. For any questions and/or for registration please call **Teressa @ 885-6251** or visit our website.

Around the World Wednesday – C.A.R.E

Come to the library Wednesday **January 27th** @ 1:30pm and 5:30pm (repeat session) and experience a variety of crafts, stories, activities and yummy ethnic food from around the world. This is a FREE event.

Movies @ your library

Did you know your local library has movies you can borrow for 7 days? We have many to choose from but we also have access to other libraries across Alberta who you can borrow from as well.

****Remember you can place blocks on your children's library cards to restrict them from taking out specific items. For more information please call the library.**

Music @ your library

Did you know that you can borrow music from your library? If we don't have what you are looking for possibly our 50 other libraries in our library system will have the artist.

Do you have any Music Cd's or DVD's

The library is accepting music cd's or dvd's to add to their collection. If you have any collecting dust or you are willing to part with any in your collection, then bring them to the library to share with others.

Please make sure they are in working condition.

Blackfalds Historical Society

Happy New Year! While you're in the library, take time to check out the meeting room, where the Historical Society now sets up its rotating and permanent displays. We're always looking for ideas for new displays. Do you have a collection you'd like to lend and show off for a month or two? Contact Judy at 403-885-4314. New members and donations of significance to Blackfalds always welcome.

Library Hours:

Monday & Wednesday – 10am-8:30pm
Tues, Thurs, Friday & **Saturday – 10am-5pm**

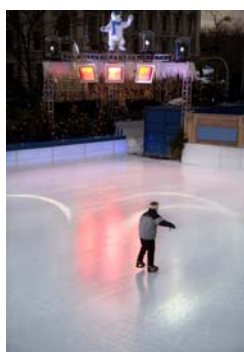
Sunday & Stat Holidays – Closed

www.blackfaldslibrary.ca

***Closed Friday, Jan. 1st, 2010**

Our Book Drop is open 24 hours 7 days a week for your convenience!!

Please do not put CD cases in the drop box. Thank you.



Drop-in Skating

January 29 11am-1pm
\$2/person or \$5/family
Helmets required!

Drop –In Shinny

Every Tuesday and Thursday
11:30am to 1pm
\$5/person

Winterfest 4 on 4

Family Pond Hockey Challenge

Call Jeff at 403-885-6246 or visit our website for more information!



Women on Weights

Winter/Spring 2010 Session

Tuesdays at Iron Ridge
Elementary Campus
January 12-March 16-10 classes
7:30pm to 8:30pm Cost: \$100
Registration Deadline: January 8, 2010



Household Dog Obedience

Every Wed at Community Hall
January 13 to February 17
6 classes
Time:7:30 - 8:30
Cost: \$85 + GST
Registration deadline:
January 8, 2010

Call Jeff at 403-885-6246 or visit our website for more information on any of the above.



