

Village News

NOVEMBER 2010



LETHBRIDGE FAMILY CIRCLE ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS

Special points of interest:

- * Annandale Tours—
December 10-12
- * Morning of Reality
review
- * Candidates Forum
review

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Celebrate Christmas at 'Historic Annandale'

Join us for a tour of the Annandale house and property as it is decorated for the Holidays. See the Victorian Village and 12 foot Christmas Tree, then warm up with a hot chocolate or cider.

1280 4th Ave South, Lethbridge
December 10-12, 2010
6:30 - 8:30 pm

ADMISSION BY DONATION



FOR INFORMATION: info@thefamilyvillage.ca ph. 403.381.4676

Meet our New Board Members



Ray Hoffarth—Member at large

I have been married to Virginia for twenty-six years and I have two sons, Kyle is 24 and lives in Vancouver, while our youngest son Devin is 21 and lives at home in our basement / his apartment. Devin has Autism and our journey with him has brought me to my present position with Behavioral Solutions helping provide supports and training for families with children with learning/developmental disabilities. The Family Village concept is both worthwhile and necessary in our increasingly complex world. I am proud to assist and stand with my member organizations to help realize this goal for our community.



Noreen Neufeldt—Member at large

Noreen joined the board of directors in October 2010 but has been active with LFCA for the past year. She believes in the vision of LFCA where families can access services to meet their needs in as efficient and unobtrusive manner as possible. She is the Office Manager for McMan Youth, Family and Community Services Association where she has been employed for the past 18 years. She has three grown children and was blessed with her first grandchild this year. She enjoys travelling and has made numerous trips to developing countries with an economic development agency.



Lyndsey Robinson—Member at large

Lyndsey Robinson has a degree in Kinesiology and is a CSEP - Certified Exercise Physiologist. She has worked in health and fitness for the last 9 years, addressing school health, workplace wellness, and community health. Provincially and locally, she has contributed to numerous obesity prevention initiatives. As a Health Promotion Specialist for Healthy Weights, her passion lies in creating healthy, supportive environments for children and in advocating for a healthy built environment for everyone.

Morning of Reality

Reality

- the state of being actual or real
- an individual observer's own subjective perception of that which is real..

From Wikipedia

Forum

- a place for discussion.
- a gathering for the purpose of discussion.
- a form of discussion involving a panel of presenters and often participation by members of the audience.

From Wikipedia

On October 6th, Mayor Tarleck had a unique opportunity to participate in a Morning of Reality. The activity had him attempting to access social services around the downtown core. Not only did he experience re-direction and misdirection, he also had a child to tote around in a stroller, had to access an inaccessible building in a wheelchair and in general, didn't know where to go for services. Although Mayor Tarleck has always been a supporter of Family Village, the activity still provided "ah ha!" moments and brought home the fact that a Family Village is absolutely necessary!

In the early spring, we will pose a similar challenge to the new mayor and council.

Thank you all the members who came out to help. A special thank you also to Jeff Charlton, a University of Lethbridge student, who voluntarily video taped the entire morning.

Candidate Forum

Through a partnership with Volunteer Lethbridge and Servus Credit Union, LFCA helped host an all candidates forum. Questions posed were all related to the non-profit, charitable and voluntary sector in Lethbridge. The majority of the candidates were in attendance. Prior to the event, each candidate was sent 4 questions with their answers collated and circulated at the event. Due to the sheer number of aldermanic candidates, each was only given one minute to speak to their platform, followed by an informal meet and greet and small group discussions.

Thanks you to all the volunteers who helped make this event a success.

A special thanks goes to Laurie Ruff and Volunteer Lethbridge for all the extra hours put in!

Partner Highlights

Advancing Community Literacy



Our Vision and Mission

The stated vision and mission of the Lethbridge Community Network (LCN) is to provide "Public access for everyone everywhere in the community... connecting community through the Internet". In essence, the LCN is providing ongoing access to computers, technical support, and the Internet in order for all members of the community to take advantage of the opportunities made available through these technologies.

Who are we?

The inspiration for the Lethbridge Community Network came about in 1999 as a result of the efforts of a dedicated group of volunteers who began to work toward obtaining available funding from Industry Canada under its Urban CAP (Community Access Plan) program. These volunteers saw a demonstrated need for public access to the Internet in Lethbridge and a chance to remedy the situation using Urban CAP funding.

In order to obtain maximum utility of the funds received (to be used between 2002 and 2004), it was recognized that a society should be formed among the 31 like-minded community organizations participating. Thus, the Lethbridge Community Network was incorporated under the Alberta Societies Act in 2001. A system of bylaws, financial controls, and governance for the society were developed under the tutelage of Alberta Community Development.

LCN Programs

The **primary service** provided by the Lethbridge Community Network is to ensure that all members of the community have barrier-free access to online information and a way by which this information can be accessed. In most cases, this means that computer hardware / software, printer, Internet access, and technical support are provided at no cost to member organizations. These organizations act as host locations for a series of "community access sites". Each organization has made substantial contributions to the network through supply of facilities, staff and volunteer support. Sites are located at social service, educational, recreational and retail locations. The public is thus able to freely obtain essential government, health, education, employment and community information via the Internet from virtually every part of the city.

A full range of **support services** have been developed in support of the LCN's primary service. These services include:

- **Training** and education courses relating to Information Technology (IT) for community residents who are now without these essential skills and resources. The training is led by qualified instructors and takes place in a community training centre developed in partnership with the Lethbridge Public Library.
- **Computer Skill Development Program** offered at no cost to barriered learners who are on social assistance. This program is targeted to many individuals in our community who are challenged in learning, literacy, economy and technology skills.
- **Technical support services** for computer networks of member organizations in addition to the basic LCN computer hardware and software support. This support is provided by college and university practicum students.
- A **community portal web site** that provides information on events taking place in the community.
- Securing a network coordination **office facility** and infrastructure so that volunteers and member sites have a central location for questions and support.
- In the summer of 2006 the LCN became the southern Alberta distributor for the **Alberta Computers for Schools Program**. Through this program we refurbish over 1200 donated computers per year, making them available to schools, not-for-profit organizations and individuals supported by social service organizations.
- **Custom Database Program**. The LCN applies its skills and knowledge in developing custom databases for organizations in the not-for-profit sector. We design and build databases to serve their special needs for information management.
- **Web Site Design and development**. The LCN builds websites that are 90% content manageable using minimal word processing skills. For more information on custom website and databases contact the LCN our database and web design teams will be pleased to discuss your organizational needs and support.

Connection

- the redundant interaction of many small parts to form a greater whole

- a feeling of understanding and ease of communication between two or more people

From Wikipedia

AGM Successful

LFCA successfully held the second Annual General Meeting on September 13th. Over 25 people were in attendance with appearances from Mayor Tarleck and numerous Aldermen. After receiving an update of the happenings over the past year, we also had an informal presentation from Commonwealth Corporate Support Services Group.

Thank you to all that were able to attend and participate!





LETHBRIDGE FAMILY CIRCLE ASSOCIATION

As the holiday season approaches, we would like to wish you and your family a peaceful time of reflection, joy and time filled with family and fun. We wish you the best for the 2010 Holiday Season!



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Meet our members

LFCA would like to introduce our members:

Agency members:

Alvin Reinhard Fritz Architect Inc.
Behavioral Solutions Inc.
Body Talk
Boys & Girls Club of Lethbridge & District
Brain Trauma Support Society
Breathtaking Births Professional Doula
Canadian Mental Health Association
Canadian Paraplegic Association
Community Conflict Resolution Services
Family Ties Association
Greystoke Homes & Support Services Inc
Interfaith Food Bank
It's a BLAST
Kidney Foundation of Canada
Lethbridge Community Network

Lethbridge Family Services
Lethbridge Food Bank
Lethbridge Schizophrenia Society
Lethbridge Senior Citizen Organization
Lethbridge Sport Council
McMan Youth, Family and Community Services Association
Office of the Public Guardian
Opokaa'sin Early Intervention Society
PEAK
Rhapsody Music
Safety City Society of Lethbridge and Area
SALAS Ltd.
Southern Alberta Community Living Association
Southern Alberta Individualized Planning Association
Volunteer Lethbridge

Individual members:

Diane Bland
Melanie Chambers
Tennille Entz
Stephanie Fisher-Dortman

Susan Jensen
Lisa Lambert
Corinne Steele

We look forward to working toward the opening of our Family Village!

Do you know of someone who is interested in becoming a member?
Have them contact Tara at info@thefamilyvillage.ca for membership information.