

Downtown Businesses Steady Increase

During 2008, the City of Camrose issued several new business licenses for Camrose.

Twenty-seven of those licenses were for new businesses opening in the Downtown.

A breakdown of the businesses shows that six are retail, seven are health related, and eight are service businesses.

This year four licenses were issued for new owners of existing businesses and two licenses were for businesses that had moved locations within the Downtown.

Here are some of the changes that have taken place since the last newsletter:

Ryan Reid has opened **Tattoos by Ryan** at 4929B 50th Street.

Ross Drever has opened **Drever Technical Solutions Inc.** at 4906 46 Street.

Aaron's Sales & Leasing Camrose, #2A 5000 51 Avenue, operated by Neceib Moussa, opened a lease to own retail furniture, electronics, computers, and appliances.

Connie Woods has opened **Biconni's Sweet & Savory**, specialty food & concession equipment

rental at 5018 50 Street.

Kathleen Stables is providing general office work & bookkeeping services at #103 4909A 48 Street, her business known as **KMS Business Services**.

Linda Conron has opened **Rumorz** (clothing) at 4970 50 Street.

Esther Eckert is the new owner of **Curves**, 5206 51 Avenue.

Karen Anderson is providing reflexology massage at 4929 50 Street.

Norma Lawrence has opened **Norma Jean's Fashions** at 4887A 50 Street

Elaine Nixon, owner of **The Shirt Off My Back**, to a bigger space at 4937 49 Street.

Best wishes and abundant prosperity to all of the above!

Note: A few businesses have moved away from the Downtown area over the last year or so but the vacated premises have been filled quickly with new business owners, indicating a thriving community. Already 2009 has seen six new business licenses in the Downtown.

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New City Center Manager



City Center Camrose's new manager, Carole-May Coty

Here's the scoop on City Center's new manager. For the past year and a half, Carole-May has worked at City Center's office as Robert Earley's clerical assistant, where she learned a lot of the Center's routines and dealings with Downtown businesses as well

as with the City of Camrose. With the advent of Earley's retirement, the Center's Board of Directors posted the job opening to solicit applicants for the position. Several were interviewed and Coty was selected. Besides a comprehensive business background, she is a prolific visual artist, showing her art at the Candler Art Gallery, here in Camrose. She is enthusiastic about Camrose and acting as Manager and looks forward to serving in this new capacity. Coty also serves on the Bailey Theatre Society's Board as Secretary.

STAMP AROUND A GREAT SUCCESS

Once again the Downtown Stamp Around promotion was a huge success. The 2008 Stamp Around was one week shorter than previous years. However, when averaged out, the dollars spent during that seven week shopping period shows and increase of 15%. Woo-hoo!!! Good thing no one leaked the 'R' word to Camrose shoppers. There were seven delighted winners of \$100 worth of Downtown Dollars and a very happy Grand Prize winner of \$1500 Downtown Dollars. An exciting program indeed.

The following is a list of the winners.

- Wk 1 - Mary Weremczuk, Camrose
 - Wk 2 - David K. Rurka, Camrose
 - Wk 3 - Lil Farrow, Camrose
 - Wk 4 - Ruby Hutchinson, New Norway
 - Wk 5 - Jamie Davis, Camrose
 - Wk 6 - Lorne Schiestel, Camrose
 - Wk 7 - Luke Bos., Camrose
- Grand Prize - Noreen Misner, Bawlf Stamp Around Downtown Dollar winnings are spent at participating Downtown businesses.



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Heart of the Rose City



City Doin's

- Feb 19 Blood Donor Clinic - Norsemen Inn
- Feb 20-22 The trade show is at the Camrose Regional Exhibition.
- Feb 21 Bailey Theatre Dinner & Dance fundraiser Camrose Regional Exhibition.
- Mar 6 About Time Production presents GREASE - Camrose United Church
- March 9-10 Going Organic Conference - Norsemen Inn
- March 20 -22 March Spring Classic Rodeo - CRE

Downtown Tidbits

SNOW REMOVAL - Compliments to those Downtown businesses who have made a concerted effort to keep snow removed from in front of their respective premises. This year has been a real challenge. Many thanks for keeping up with the big job. Your customers and those who shop and do business downtown appreciate your efforts.

BUTT CANS - Kudos to the business owners who have purchased receptacles for the convenience of their employees and customers. As business owners, you know the value of impressions experienced upon approaching your establishment. As the saying goes, you never get a second chance to make a first impression. Your providing butt cans assists in preventing the unsightliness of cigarette butts strewn on sidewalks and cobblestones. Let's all see what we can do to improve this.

Newsletter Input

If you have an interesting article or commentary that you would like to see published in *The Downtowner*, please contact City Center office at 780-672-5191 by March 31.

CCC Board

President: Elaine Nixon
(The Shirt Off My Back Tailoring)

Vice-President: Dan Olofson
(Duff Layton's Men's Wear)

Treasurer: Paul Pedersen
(Pedersen's Florists)

Directors: Alana Hogstead
(Martha's Music)

Audrey Pfanmuller
(Candler Art Gallery)

Crystal Westergard (Battle River Physical Therapy)

Pat Westergard (Cathel Books)

Rodger Forth (4th Street Home Services)

Shauna Arrowsmith (The Camrose Canadian)

Tish Olsen-Franc (Tish's Fashions)

Wayne Thronson (City Council representative)

MIDNIGHT MADNESS - A BUSY NIGHT OF FUN



Midnight Madness held Friday, Dec 5th was once again a successful night, complete with Santa Claus handing out candy canes, about fifteen carolers from Camrose Composite High School, horse drawn wagon rides, and wonderful weather for the event. Happiness was in the air as shoppers, mums, dads, and kids alike seemed filled with the joy of the season. Many Downtown retailers provided refreshments for customers, showing appreciation for their patronage.

AGM - New City Center Board Members

City Center's Annual General Meeting held November 26th was lively and well attended. Elections for the 2009 Board of Directors took place. There was much enthusiasm at the meeting and saw several Downtown business members step forward to fill positions on the Board. **Elaine Nixon** stays on as President and **Paul Pedersen** remains Treasurer. **Dan Olofson** is the new Vice-President replacing **Rodger Forth**, who stepped down from that position but will remain as a Director. New Directors are: **Audrey Pfanmuller**, **Pat Westergard**, **Shauna Arrowsmith**, and

Tish Olsen-Franc, **Alana Hogstead**, **Crystal Westergard**, and **Wayne Thronson** continue to serve as Directors. The proposed budget for 2009 was adopted at the AGM, and sent to City Council. A public hearing will be held in March on the proposed budget before it is accepted by City Council. **Robert Earley** gave his final report, recapping meaningful achievements of his twelve years of service as City Center Manager. Robert is wished well on his continued journey and his latest endeavour as Manager of the **Bailey Theatre** operations.