

## Upcoming Events in the SouthGrow Region

August 18-19	Alberta Miniature Chuckwagon Races	Cardston	403-653-5139
August 19-20	Prairie Tractor and Engine Society Threshing Days	Picture Butte	403-732-5451
August 19-20	FCA Rodeo	Vulcan	www.fcarodeo.com
August 22-26	Whoop Up Days at Exhibition Park	Lethbridge	403-328-4491
August 25-26	Taber Cornfest	Taber	403-223-2265
September 8-9	Coaldale and District Chamber of Commerce Country Fair & Exhibition at the Community Center	Coaldale	403-345-2358
September 17	Terry Fox Run	Lethbridge	403-328-3995
September 23-Jan 7	Under a Prairie Sky – Festival of Quilts V11	Lethbridge	403-320-GALT
September 29	Southern Alberta Ethnic Association Culture Night – A Taste of Sudan	Lethbridge	403-320-1577
October 19-21	Spirit of Lethbridge Tradeshow at Exhibition Park	Lethbridge	403-328-4491
October 23	Halloween Spooktacular at Remington Carriage Museum	Cardston	403-653-5139

## Funding Programs Information Tool Box Training

Alberta Economic Development has released the Community and Regional Economic Development Funding Programs. Over twenty-five programs from the Government of Canada, the Province of Alberta and not for profit programs are described in the document, including general information, eligibility and contact information. For more information, call Linda Erickson at the Alberta Economic Development Office in Lethbridge at 381-5414.

## EDA Fall Conference and AGM

The Economic Developers of Alberta 2006 Fall Conference/ AGM will be held in Lethbridge from October 1-3, 2006.

The *Minding Your Own Business / Growing From Within* Conference will feature speakers who will discuss the following:

- Think without Boundaries
- Skilled/ Unskilled Worker Attraction
- Building Your Assets
- Rural Development Strategy Update
- Chinook Entrepreneur Challenge
- Something to SPIT(Z) About
- CED Coaching Guide

For more information or to register, call the EDA office at 1-866-671-8182.



**SouthGrow**

Regional Initiative

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Summer 2006

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## We Are...

City of Lethbridge  
Town of Cardston  
Town of Claresholm  
Town of Coaldale  
Town of Coalhurst  
Town of Magrath  
Town of Milk River  
Town of Picture Butte  
Town of Raymond  
Town of Taber  
Town of Vauxhall  
Town of Vulcan  
Village of Barons  
Village of Carmangay  
Village of Coutts  
Village of Milo  
Village of Nobleford  
Village of Stirling  
Village of Warner  
County of Lethbridge  
MD of Taber  
Vulcan County  
County of Warner  
Blood Tribe

## SouthGrow Holds 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting

On June 21, 2006, SouthGrow Regional Initiative held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting. During the meeting, membership was informed of the progress of the partnership's three committees:

- Strategic Collaboration
- Marketing and Communications
- Economic Development and Innovation

The 2006-2007 Operations Plan was also unveiled, with new projects and initiatives to raise awareness of the area and attract opportunities and investment to the region. Projects include: Site Selection information, Community Economic Development training, Regional Business Database, Community Economic Development Profiles, Investment Attraction Profiles, SouthGrow/V Cuisine, Website enhancement, Grow Your Own and Climate Change Central initiatives, and Alternative Energy initiatives. Linda Erickson, Manager of SouthGrow, detailed the budget related to these projects.

The membership also heard from Rick Siddle, Executive Director, Alberta Economic Development about "The Next Steps on the Road to the Rural Development Strategy." The group was pleased to learn that many of SouthGrow's initiatives fit well with the Rural Development Strategy and ensure that communities stay strong and vibrant.

Roger Holm, Head of the Farm Irrigation Management Section of Alberta Agriculture Food & Rural Development informed the group about "Alberta Agriculture's 2010 Growth Strategy." Roger confirmed that while there are growth opportunities in primary production, there are significant opportunities in value-added production. Value adding is not only responsible for increased trade, but also an increase in employment. Key areas of growth include beef, pork, industrial products,

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processed meats/ready meals, natural health products and crop processing. SouthGrow is sure to benefit from Alberta Agriculture's Growth Strategy.

Election of the new board also took place at the meeting. Representing the region are:

- Chairman – Roelof Heinen, Town of Picture Butte  
Vice Chair – Mayor Bob Bagozzi, Town of Cardston  
Treasurer – Deputy Mayor Larry Thomsen, Village of Nobleford  
Secretary – Deputy Mayor Danna Higa, Town of Raymond  
Director – Mayor Bob Tarleck, City of Lethbridge  
Director – Deputy Reeve Lenore Rockenbach, County of Warner  
Director – Bev Brezina, Economic Development, Town of Coaldale  
Director – Mayor Jamie Woodcock, Village of Coutts  
Director – Mayor Ken Vooyo, Village of Milo  
Director – Harley Frank, Blood Tribe Council, Standoff.

## SouthGrow Launches New Look

After three years, SouthGrow Regional Initiative gets a new look. The initiative is spearheaded by SouthGrow's Marketing and Communications Committee and provides a fresh, consistent look for the alliance. Lynn Stevens of Mind's Eye Design has been contracted to design the look that will be carried over into all of SouthGrow's print and electronic media. Tell us what you think of the new design by calling the Alberta Economic Development office at 381-5414 or by dropping us a note at info@southgrow.com.



**PEOPLE...  
make the  
Southgrow  
region proud.**



**World Competition Includes Region's Best**

In May, fifty of Alberta's top apprentices and trades people competed in the Skills Canada Competition in Halifax. Twenty-six of these apprentices won medals in the Canada-wide competition. Among the fifty people who were recognized as being Alberta's best in their recognized trade or technology, and winner of a silver medal was carpentry apprentice Willard Mans of Nobleford. Mans will be one of six Albertans who will join Team Canada at the World Skills Competition next year in Japan.

Lethbridge apprentice Josh Kurtz was one of three bronze medal winners from the south. Kurtz is an employee of Dunlop Collision and excelled in auto body repair. Landscape gardeners Daniel Indenbosch and Gerrit Van Glessen won bronze medals as well.

Other southern Alberta competitors placing high in the nation include Jordan Puchinger, an Internet website designer from Lethbridge who placed fifth and Daniel Van Harberden, an auto service technician from Coaldale who placed eighth.

**PRODUCTS...  
showing  
diversity in our  
region.**

**The Bridges at Claresholm Expands**

While the front nine of the golf course was built in 1974, the back nine of The Bridges at Claresholm was recently developed in a links design with fast and firm fairways filled with bunkers and dips and valleys. Players will be challenged with front and back use of bunkers, water hazards, and a good mix of left-to-right holes and right-to-left holes. A new clubhouse with a wind-shielded deck looks out over the course. A well-equipped pro shop ensures players have what they need for a good round of golf.

**U of L Researcher Receives Grant**

Oliver Lung, a virologist and biology professor at the University of Lethbridge has been awarded more than \$144,000 from the Canada Foundation for Innovation to set up a tissue culture lab and molecular virology lab. Lung studies insect viruses called baculoviruses, which kill certain species of insects but isn't harmful to humans. The virus is used as a bioinsecticide and is used to manufacture vaccines and therapeutic proteins and for drug screening. The new laboratory will allow Lung to further his research into baculoviruses and their applications to human health.

**Scholarship Established for Vauxhall Academy**

Yukio and Barbara Kitagawa, former residents of Lethbridge, have decided to honour Reno Lizzi by helping to establish a scholarship for the Vauxhall Academy of Baseball. Lizzi was Yukio Kitagawa's mentor and was integral in bringing Pioneer League professional baseball to Lethbridge in the form of the Lethbridge Expos and then Dodgers. Kitagawa, an athlete in his own right, captured the 1961 Junior Canadian Championship in weightlifting in the 132-pound weight class. The scholarships will be awarded based on academic standing, baseball abilities and the demonstration of citizenship and character. Reno Lizzi was a big part of baseball in southern Alberta, and now the scholarship in his honour will be a big part of the Vauxhall Academy of Baseball.

**Nobleford Growing**

Nobleford, the village 35 kilometers west of Lethbridge is growing. Not only have 45 lots in the new Centennial subdivision been put up for sale, but Council hopes to develop 30 additional residential and 20 industrial lots. The key to the land development and increasing demand for residential and industrial construction is the village's new water treatment plant which can produce four times the village's water requirements and the quality of the water is ten times better than the old system. The village plans on financing the subdivision by itself and does not plan on going into debt for the development or to debenture the cost of developing. Other good news in Nobleford includes three parks that enhance the village and a growing school population. With these exciting developments, Nobleford hopes to increase its current population of 700 to 1,000 within 10 years.

**PRIDE...  
in the region's  
accomplish-  
ments.**

**Iunctus Putting Us on the Map**

Iunctus Geomatics, a Lethbridge-based company, is one of nine companies showcased at the Smithsonian event in Washington D.C. Ryan Johnson, president of Iunctus, was proud to be the only Lethbridge high tech business at the Alberta Information and Communications Technology Forum in Washington. Iunctus showcased its diagnostic and imaging technology used in optical imaging of the Earth and TerraEngine software developed by the company to invited guests and potential American investors during the forum.

Iunctus Geomatics will also supply satellite images of the country in high resolution as part of a five-year project with Natural Resources Canada announced in June. The project involves Canada Agriculture, National Defence, Environment, Parks, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, along with a national partnership initiative called GeoConnections. Iunctus will be working with Telus who will provide the infrastructure and PCI Geomatics from Ontario who will assist with the production work. More than just data for the government, the information collected by Iunctus will be available online for Canadians to pull down to use in projects or planning. The website, [www.geobase.ca](http://www.geobase.ca) provides geospatial data in Canada and people can easily access it through this convenient mode.

**Regional Cuisine – SouthGrowN Style**

SouthGrow and Alberta Agriculture Food and Rural Development have stepped up to the plate to partner on an exciting new initiative that raises awareness and participation in the Dine Alberta campaign to local producers, restaurants and consumers. The initiative also promotes the concept of asking for locally produced products and to support local businesses, encouraging growth in the value added agriculture cluster in the region. The project involves a regional marketing campaign, on-line access to products and restaurants at SouthGrow.com, and "SouthGrowN Savors" Food Expo to be held in the Fall. If you would like to participate in the project or know of a restaurant or producer that should be involved, call us at 381-5414 or contact us at [info@southgrow.com](mailto:info@southgrow.com)



**Gliding into Vulcan**

Vulcan hosted the 2006 National Hang Gliding Championships in June at the Vulcan Municipal Airport. Not only was the event held for the first time in Alberta, but it was also the first time in Canada and the western United States that the event was held at a venue where the hang gliders were aero-towed to altitudes of a maximum of 2,500 feet by ultra-light aircraft. About forty-seven hang gliders participated in the seven-day long event during which gliders were asked to complete a task that took three to four hours and covered 80 to 120 kilometers. The National Hang Gliding Championships are the top qualifying event for the World Championships, which are scheduled to be held in Texas later this year.

**Coutts-Sweetgrass Railway Station Renovated**

The original Coutts and Sweetgrass railway station, which was built by Alexander Galt in 1890 and relocated to Stirling in 2000 has now been renovated and is open daily during the summer. The site is one of three remaining buildings in Western Canada that represents the international port of entry from the United States to Canada. It has authentic Victorian décor and highlights the interaction between Canadian and US border officials. In the future, a display of railway cars, a restaurant, bed and breakfast facilities, a roundhouse and a speeder car track around the site are planned to enhance visitor experience.

**SouthGrow's Regional Business Directory**

Deryk Nilsson, a cooperative education student from the University of Lethbridge has been contracted by SouthGrow Regional Initiative to compile a Regional Business Directory. The project entails contacting businesses in SouthGrow member communities and gathering contact information as well as details pertaining to sector, number of employees, foreign ownership, export/import activity, and product/service provision. This business directory will ideally be available to member communities for their economic development purposes, as well as through an electronic database on SouthGrow's website for use by site (location) selectors and other web site visitors. The directory, which is being prepared with the assistance of AlbertaFirst will also be available at [www.albertafirst.com](http://www.albertafirst.com). The project, which started on May 1<sup>st</sup> will be completed by the end of October. Please assist Deryk when your community or business is contacted for the required information. Businesses can also self-register by visiting the SouthGrow website: [www.southgrow.com](http://www.southgrow.com)

For more information, contact the SouthGrow office 381-5414.

**PROJECTS...  
to keep the  
region  
progressive**