



Medicine Hat
The Gas City

MEDIA RELEASE

City of Medicine Hat - 580 First Street S.E. - Medicine Hat, Alberta, T1A 8E6 - (403) 502-8071

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 23, 2004**

NEW FIRE STATION OPENS

Medicine Hat – The City of Medicine Hat’s new fire station opens next week.

Gershaw Drive Fire Station No. 3 starts fire and rescue response operations in the southwest area of the city at 8 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 30, 2004.

“The new station has a response crew of four firefighters and an array of equipment to protect people and structures,” says Fire Chief Garry Mauch. “The Gershaw Drive Fire Station No. 3 enables the Fire Service to provide rapid response to neighbourhood communities in the southwest area, and to respond to incidents that occur on highways one and three, the light industrial area and, an array of commercial businesses located throughout the area.”

Gershaw Drive Fire Station No. 3 is the first fire station expansion of the Fire Service in 26 years. The expansion and retirements led to the recruitment of 20 additional, highly trained firefighters in November to protect and serve the entire community of Medicine Hat.

According to the City, the need for the station reflects Medicine Hat’s growth in both population and building developments.

“The new firefighters and station will serve to enhance overall fire and rescue operations by blending into a response matrix that significantly improves emergency management in all areas of the City,” says Mauch.

The City is planning an official opening of the station on Friday, Jan. 21, 2005. The public is invited to attend from noon to 2 p.m. to tour the building and learn more about Medicine Hat’s Fire Service.

In addition to providing enhanced fire service in the city, the new fire station is a model of energy efficiency. The City received \$23,626 in funding under the Alberta Plus Initiative for surpassing the Model National Energy Code for Buildings (MNECB) by 46.5 per cent due to a “green” building design for Gershaw Drive Fire Station No. 3.

The “green” building design includes:

- Energy efficient ‘Low-E’ glass windows.
- High efficiency boilers and lighting systems.
- Solar panels for supplementary hot water heating.
- Motion detecting sensors for lighting.

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- Low volume water use toilets.
- Recycled tire material flooring in the exercise room.
- Native plants in landscaping to reduce watering requirements.
- Heat recovery system on building exhaust systems.
- Increased 'R' value insulation in the walls and roof assemblies.
- Natural light to all continuously occupied spaces.

The new fire station will save more than \$8,600 a year in energy costs because of the efficiencies in the design, which also help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and use renewable resources

Medicine Hat opened the Maple Avenue Fire Station No. 1 in 1975, followed by the Dunmore Road Fire Station No. 2 in 1978. The Medicine Hat Fire Service (originally called the Fire Brigade) was formed in 1900.

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**BACKGROUNDER ON FIRE STATION NO. 3 ATTACHED
PHOTO OF NEW FIREFIGHTER RECRUITS ATTACHED**

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BACKGROUNDER ON GERSHAW DRIVE FIRE STATION No. 3

Started Construction:	March 13, 2004
Size of Fire Station:	1,092 sq. metres
Number of vehicle bays:	Eight
Project Cost:	\$3 million

Equipment:

Gershaw Drive Fire Station No. 3 has a hazardous material response vehicle due to its proximity to the light industrial area and the crossroads of two major highways. It has an airport crash vehicle because the station is located closest to the airport. It has a medium rescue vehicle, a pumper truck, and a mobile disaster command vehicle. The emergency vehicles assigned to the station reflect the types of unique hazards in Gershaw Station's immediate response zone.

Environmental Benefits:

Gershaw Drive Fire Station No. 3 has many energy conserving and "green" building design features, including:

- Energy efficient windows.
- Flooring made from recycled tire materials in the exercise room.
- Motion detecting sensors for lighting.
- Low water use toilets.
- Solar panels on the roof for supplementary hot water heating.
- Use of native plants that don't require watering for landscaping.

In addition, Gershaw Drive Fire Station No. 3 is designed to post disaster standards of construction in accordance with the requirements in the Alberta Building Code. It is also designed for both genders and has barrier free access for persons with disabilities.

PHOTO OF NEW FIREFIGHTER RECRUITS



Back Row L to R: Dany Theriault, Scott Berg, Nathan Balderston, Pat Clarke, Steven Seymour, Scott Plesuk, Tony Mohagen, Jason Van Dam, Micheal Pirot. Front Row L to R: Nolan Osadczyk, Reg Friesen, Jeff Turner, Bill Messner, Steve Thompson, Cam Potts, Trevor Cross, Colton Reschny, Dan Yonkman, Willy Taillon, Jason Labash.

