

Focus on YOU!: Laserfix Eyeglass Repair

As a dental technician with 30 years experience and the owner of a dental lab in St. Albert, Darrell Fraser started wondering what else his laser welding machine could do when a dentist requested a repair on a dental implant wrench. Knowing that eyeglass repair shops were almost non-existent, Fraser set out developing the techniques needed for eyeglass repair and, as a result, Laserfix was the first in North America to perfect this technology.

“With our specialised techniques and machines we are able to repair, perfectly and permanently, 98% of all eyeglasses brought to us” says Fraser. The high-tech process involves using light energy to transfer and move molecules rather than soldering the joint and results in repairs that are invisible to the naked eye.

When Laserfix first opened in 2000, opticians were its sole clients. In 2009, realizing the business’s potential, Darrell expanded his services to the public by offering one-hour eyeglass repair. With this change, his client base has now settled around 50% opticians and 50% public clients.

With three staff members at the St. Albert location and their website www.laserfix.ca generating world-wide business, Fraser is planning an expansion. This fall, the first Laserfix franchise location will open in Winnipeg.

If you would like to have your company’s successes featured in an upcoming issue of Focus, please email your information to Megan at mstraker@st-albert.net

Local Physiotherapist & Doctor to go the Distance for Cancer Research

James Dean, a physiotherapist with two clinics in St. Albert (St. Albert Physical Therapy & Sports Injury Clinic and Dynamic Sports Physiotherapy), and his wife Celine Gannon, a doctor at Salvus Medical Clinic are taking part in LinkPink 2010 on August 25 & 26th in Jasper, AB. The 100km bike ride is put on by the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation and raises funds for Breast Cancer Research. Participants will also be riding with Lance Armstrong which is part of the draw for the pair “We see the opportunity to ride with one of the greatest cyclists in history as a once in a lifetime chance. We are big Lance Armstrong fans.”

As well as being able to ride with Lance, the two are motivated by the fact that both have family members and patients who are cancer survivors and family members who have lost the battle to cancer and feel that these events are incredibly important to generating awareness and funds for the cause.

The couple has received much support from their clinics with staff and patients donating and spreading the word about the challenging event. In order to reach their goal of \$25,000 each the pair is getting creative with their fund-

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Contact Information

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raising by holding “jean & pink shirt Fridays”. James and Celine are also volunteering with other races in order to get the word out and generate excitement.

When asked what he thought the benefits of the ride were, both personally and professionally, he replied:

“Personally, I take pride in using the talents I have been given to help others and support my community. Professionally, it is payback to a great community and to people who support us. It is more than worth it!”

To follow James and Celine’s fund-raising and training efforts you can visit their website www.stalbertphysio.com or the LinkPink site www.cbcf.org/linkpink.

Businesses are Blooming in Downtown St. Albert

Downtown St. Albert is blooming now that over 70 barrels and hanging baskets were delivered on Thursday, June 10. The barrels and hanging baskets are part of the Downtown Beautification Grant Program the City introduced in 2009. Other elements of the program that qualify for funding are bike racks, perpendicular signs and outdoor furniture. The City is hoping more businesses will take advantage of the program to beautify and improve their storefronts.

The program is available to any merchant who has a storefront property and whose business location is considered within the boundaries outlined in the Downtown Area Redevelopment Plan. Each merchant can apply for funding to cover up to 50 per cent of the cost for approved program elements and up to a maximum of \$2,500 per business or property.

“We want to encourage business owners to beautify the downtown and take advantage of the program, which will further entice people to visit their business,” said Nolan Crouse, Mayor of St. Albert. “The vibrant colours, outdoor furniture and signage all help to create an attractive, dynamic place that is welcoming to visitors and supports the needs of merchants.”

Studies have shown that beautification alone can increase sales between 15 and 35 per cent. Beautiful settings attract people and adding flowers, signage, street furniture and bike racks to the downtown district makes it more inviting and encourages people to stay longer.

“We know people like to spend time in beautiful places and we want our downtown to be beautiful; I can hardly wait to see the flower-lined streets,” said Joan Barber, Tourism Development Coordinator for the City of St. Albert. “We are proud to support the business and property owners who are making an effort to improve the façade of their property and the overall look of downtown.”

For more information, go to www.stalbert.ca/business

Calling all Small Businesses in St. Albert now is YOUR chance to SHINE

Star Search

ST. ALBERT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The St. Albert Chamber of Commerce is now accepting nominees for the **2010 Small Business Awards**

Visit the Chamber website at www.stalbertchamber.com or call **780-458-2833** for more information

This is your moment to shine!

Cultivate your Tastebuds

Country Cuisine: Taste! Of Summer
4 p.m. – 7 p.m. July 11, 2010
St. Albert Botanic Park

Don't miss one of the best events of the summer. Succulent strawberries, alpaca sliders with Saskatoon chutney, and chocolate covered bacon are just a few of the indulgent delights. Entertainment will be supplied by the Jessie Delamont Duo; as well five artisans will be on site for your shopping pleasure. Local beer, a local fruit wine & a white and red wine from BC will be available for your sipping pleasure.

Tickets: \$15.00 each – includes water, coffee, 6 “taste” tickets, and a goodie bag...containing the crowd favourite “everyday delicious” cookbook from Atco blue flame kitchen.

Tickets are available at: www.edmontonscountryside.com

St. Albert Census Results Show Growth

The City of St. Albert's municipal census results are in and show a population growth rate of approximately 2.8 per cent since 2008, with the number of residents increasing from 58,501 to **60,138**.

Census information is used in many ways, such as planning for schools, community programs and new facilities. The amount of grant funding received for critical infrastructure, including roads, utilities, recreation facilities and emergency services, is also largely based on census data.

“We are really pleased with the high rate of participation in this year's municipal census,” said St. Albert Mayor Nolan Crouse. “With this kind of information, the City can ensure that we are continuing to make sound planning decisions for our community's future, as well as obtaining maximum grant funding from other levels of government.”

This was the first year the City of St. Albert provided an online option for residents to complete the census. Nearly 40 per cent of residents completed their census online, while the remaining number of respondents provided their information to census enumerators who visited City dwellings as part of the second phase of the 2010 census.

“The City of St. Albert is extremely pleased with the number of online responses this year. The online system recorded responses from nearly 8,800 dwellings,” added Chris Belke, Chief Census Official. “We are also thankful for the dedication shown by our enumerators during the second phase to help us complete this year's census.”

The areas of the City that experienced the strongest growth (over five per cent since 2008) occurred in the North Ridge, Oakmont, Erin Ridge, Lacombe Park and Kingswood neighbourhoods. Results also show a balanced population, with a near equal split of males and females. Residents between the ages of 25 and 44 comprise the largest segment of St. Albert's population, with 24 per cent of respondents belonging to that category.

The 2010 census was conducted from April 1 to May 7. A full analysis of the census figures is now underway and complete results will be released later this year at www.stalbert.ca/census-2010.

Business Resource: BDC's Advice Centre

BDC has just introduced a new online Advice Centre where entrepreneurs will find the know-how they need to tackle the challenges of running a business.

The Advice Centre at BDC.ca is an information hub offering fresh ideas, useful tips and free tools on all aspects of managing a company and yourself. You will learn from experts and other entrepreneurs how to overcome problems and achieve your goals.

The information is easy to navigate, easy to understand and easy to put into action. Here's what you will find when you visit our Advice Centre:

Articles

Do you have questions or problems? Start here and discover how other entrepreneurs are handling similar issues. Find out what experts have to say and learn best business practices.

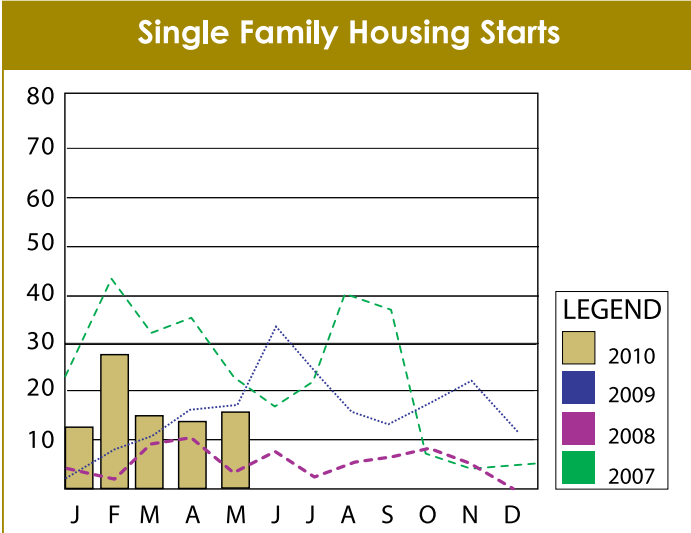
Tools

- Business plan template - Prepare a professional business plan that gives you a detailed road map for your company and increases your chances of obtaining financing.
- Entrepreneurial self-assessment - Find out if you have the aptitude, skills and drive to run your own business.
- Ratio calculators - Assess your business in key areas such as earnings power and debt load.
- Benchmarks - Identify where your company can improve by comparing yourself with the best performers in your industry on key business indicators.

Ask a professional program

Take advantage of our unique service that allows you to get help from a BDC Consulting professional free of charge. Each month we pick a new topic and invite entrepreneurs to ask their questions to one of our business experts.

May Charts and Stats



Single Family Dwelling Resales

MLS® - Number of Units & Average Selling Price

Month	Year	Units	Average Selling Price
MARCH	2008	82	\$449,624
	2009	73	\$374,311
	2010	72	\$458,642
APRIL	2008	80	\$432,100
	2009	107	\$402,571
	2010	79	\$460,247
MAY	2008	80	\$438,116
	2009	121	\$395,439
	2010	92	\$442,952

Building Permits Issued

	2010 May		2010 Jan-May		2009 Jan-May	
	No.	Value # (x 1000)	No.	Value # (x 1000)	No.	Value # (x 1000)
Residential						
Single Family	16	6,150	86	32,231	54	18,082
Multiple Family	0	0	2	570	9	3,873
Other	36	370	142	1,785	141	2,252
Resident. Subtotal	52	6,520	230	34,586	204	24,207
Commercial	2	336	21	3,817	18	389
Industrial	4	230	9	5,161	12	1,569
Institutional	3	350	3	350	5	341
Total	61	7,436	263	43,914	239	26,505

New Businesses Listings

Commercial/Industrial Businesses

Climate Crisis Recovery Group
780-460-1000

240 200 Carnegie Dr.
Environmental publishing
mattjendar@hotmail.com

Huston Grant Adjuster
780-460-1003

220 200 Carnegie Dr.
Insurance Adjuster
brian@hustongrant.com

**Perspectives Counselling
& Psychological Services**
780-405-0447

1110 13 Mission Ave.
Individual/family counselling. Specializing
in Psycho Educational Assessment &
Child/Adult therapy
bodnar@spschools.org

Segger Professional Corporation
780-916-9833

216 200 Carnegie Dr.
Chartered Accounting Firm
gen@seggercorp.ca

**Stana Buist With CST Consultants
Inc.** 780-460-1032

2203 13 Mission Ave.
RESP for Parents and/or Grandparents
stana_buist@hotmail.com

Trail Liquor Outlet Inc.
208 10 McKenney Ave.

Liquor Store

UC Baby 3D Ultrasound
780-488-1020

60 585 St. Albert Tr.
3D ultrasound for keepsake
ucbaby.stalbert@shaw.ca

YMCA Of Edmonton
780-460-3240

118 15 Erin Ridge Rd.
Child care for children aged 12 months
to 6 years
tmakar@edmonton.ymca.ca

Home-Based Businesses

Exceptional Line Painting Ltd.
780-278-5463

Parking lot line striping, marking &
maintenance, snow removal
kenzie2003@shaw.ca

Full Effect Contracting Ltd.
780-903-4463

General contracting
travis@fulleffect.ca

Innovalign Consulting Corporation
780-292-6884

Management/IT consulting services
gpenner@innovalign.com

Over The Top Cakes
780-994-0191

Custom cake design
jen@overthetopcakes.ca

Patios Plus
780-915-2060

Sales & installations of 3 & 4 season
rooms, decks & fences etc.

R & C Associates Inc.
780-459-8474

Communications consulting, media,
writing, editing & newsletters
rodney@rcassociates.ca

SME Railway Consulting Group
780-419-6104

Consultant relating to railway operations
jeff.whelan@shaw.ca