

# Val Marie Economic Development Committee

The Val Marie Economic Development Committee (VMEDC) was established in August of 2010 when local community volunteers saw a need to promote and expand local services for residents and visitors. The committee is comprised of representatives from the municipalities of the Rural Municipality of Val Marie # 17, the Village of Val Marie, Grasslands National Park, the Southwest Enterprise Region, and local organizations including Prairie Winds & Silver Sage, the Val Marie Business Community, Val Marie Recreation Boards, Val Marie School, and the Prairie Learning Centre. They are currently implementing a strategic plan for the Val Marie area.

The Committee members came together in April 2011 to draft a Memorandum of Understanding with a common goal of promoting economic development in the area. The committee works at identifying shared resources and mutually beneficial objectives, promoting the local landscape and prairie culture, and strengthening local and regional co-operation. They hope to eventually hire an economic development officer. They collaborate on three main priorities: (1) improving local services, (2) fostering and promoting a local identity, and (3) establishing and enhancing local and regional relationships.

***THEIR VISION:***  
*The Val Marie Economic Development Committee is a dedicated group of community members and local organizations working together to build a prosperous, thriving, and attractive destination. They demonstrate mutual support and commitment in promoting an appreciation of local prairie life and livelihood, and the natural environment.*

This enthusiastic and active group meets once per month to address shared objectives. They are currently focused on increasing economic opportunities in their region.



<http://www.villageofvalmarie.ca>



The members of the VMEDC enjoy their rejuvenated Village Square.  
**L to R:** Deanna Waldner, Catherine Macauley, Angela Clement, Carrie Clausen, Caitlin Mroz, Christie Thomson, Paulette Legault, and Ashley Wruth (Missing from picture: Ervin Carlier, Larry Grant, and Pam Woodland)

***THEIR MISSION:***  
*The committee is committed to developing co-operative relationships within and among Val Marie area community organizations and business owners through networking and mutual support. It works collaboratively for the purpose of attracting new business investment tourism in the area, promoting arts, recreation ranching and farming, and the natural landscape - for the benefit of residents and visitors from all walks of life.*