

Building stats show steady growth in Dysart et al

GREG HOEKSTRA

Staff Reporter

It may not have been a record-setting year but building in Dysart et al remained strong and steady throughout 2006.

By the end of December the municipality had issued a total of 344 building permits in 2006 for projects worth more than \$33.5 million. That figure is less than \$2 million shy of the total in 2005, which was a record-setting year.

In early September, Dysart's director of planning Pat Martin reported to council that the municipality was on pace to surpass the 2005 total after issuing a total of 177 permits from May through August alone. By the end of August the municipality was ahead of the 2005 total by \$1.5 million but that number tapered off after fewer permits were granted in November and December of this year.

All in all, Dysart's chief building official Dan Sayers says the 2006 totals are certainly nothing to scoff at, and they show no indication that building in Dysart is on a downward slide.

"We're a little less than last year but it's pretty comparable in the overall scheme of things," Sayers says, noting that a \$1 or \$2 million difference could be made up or lost by one or two major projects.

"A lot of the dollar value has to do with big projects. If you take one of the bigger grocery stores, like the Independent Grocer, well, that was worth \$3 or \$4 million alone," Sayers says. "This year we didn't seem to have as many of the bigger projects, whereas over the past few years we have had the new Curry Motors and Independent Grocer, which boosted the dollars up high."

Despite not exceeding the 2005 grand totals, the number of permits issued in 2006 was up from 2004 and the total dollar value was also more than \$8 million higher. And with more large projects – such as the proposed Silver Beach condominium development – slated to break ground in the coming years, it would appear that Dysart's building industry will only continue to thrive.