

Healthy Communities Meeting
Friday, December 11, 2009
Carman Memorial Hall

PRESENT: Georges Picton, Muriel Derksen, Shirley McCutcheon, Alvin Iverson, Lorne Zacharias, Melanie Ballard, Marge Warkentin, Colette Mignon, Julie Hesketh, Richard Dyck, Wendy Durand, Lavonne Kroeker, George Gray, Tyler King, Susan Mooney, Linda MacNair

Chair Susan Mooney called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. and introduced Cal Giesbrecht, who has been Carman's Senior Water Treatment Officer for the past year.

Giesbrecht explained that Carman's water treatment plant is a lime soda process using pebble lime and soda ash for softening agents. The treatment is all done by chemical reaction, so it is more in depth than a filtration-only process. The Carman plant runs water into a clarifier, where it is mixed with the chemicals, which bind with the impurities and settle out. The water is then recarbonated to lower the Ph level, then filtered and chlorinated. It is fluoridated – this is a community choice and is not required by law, although the provincial government regulates the level of fluoride. The hardness measure coming in is 300 mg/l, and the system reduces it to 120. There is always a fluctuation in the amount of water, and also in the hardness level as it comes into the plant, so it is always a challenge to fine-tune the chemical content. The water is tested 5 times/day. There is still some calcium, potassium and manganese in Carman's water. It is safe to drink, and actually healthier to drink than bottled water, because the body needs some of these minerals and bottled water contains none. Chlorine kills any bacteria in the water and is not harmful to human health. Once every two weeks, water samples are sent to a lab in Winnipeg for analysis, and are also sent to the provincial government. In the past year, there has not been a bad test – 0 on all risks. A mandatory annual report is written up and posted on the Town's website. The Stephenfield water treatment plant does exactly the same process, but the Stephenfield plant is newer and therefore more automated. A big issue with the plant is cost, because new equipment is expensive and Carman's plant is outdated. Operators need to be vigilant with Ph levels, which can corrode pipes. Carman's water tower is being used as a pressurizer for town water. It cannot be used for both pressure and storage, so Carman is actually short of water storage capacity. The plant treats approximately 150 gal/minute. It is capable of 210-250 gal/minute. Right now there is some restriction in the pipes from lime buildup. The office is staffed from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m., with a final check at about 9 p.m. The plant will turn itself off in the very early morning because it is caught up. Carman's is a Class 3 plant, and a licensed operator needs 2 years of university plus 4 years of experience. The government will allow 8 years of experience in replacement for the 2 year education. There are continuing education units now established to help existing operators achieve the required educational standards. Cal has 17 years experience as a water treatment officer and also has some training in waste water management.

2010 Meeting Schedule

Speakers will include:

- Ed Vandersluis with Carman Fire Service
- Sandy Kauenhofen from Rainbow Residence
- Sandra Yeo from Boyne Regional Library
- Val Olson from the Friendship Group (assistance for learning disabled)
- Spring Cleanup – May evening meeting prior to summer break.

Another speaker suggestion was Mary Heard with the Patient Advocacy Committee with a game focusing on the state of patient care in the community.

Suggested dates for meetings:

- January 22nd
- March 5th
- April 16th
- May 28th

Those present were in agreement that Healthy Communities will work with Deputy-Mayor Swanton to plan a spring cleanup.

Round Table Discussion

Tyler King – Economic Development Officer – part of the Olympic Torch relay event is a Carman Snowman Challenge sponsored by the Golden Prairie Arts Council. Residents are encouraged to build snowmen or otherwise decorate their yards for the event, incorporating some red colour in the design. The Torch comes through Carman the morning of January 7th between 10 and noon. There will be flags available at the Co-op and the schools will have them. There will be traffic restrictions, so please come early. Also, the Town of Carman and the R.M. of Dufferin are holding their annual planning meeting jointly on Thursday, January 14th. Organizations requesting funding can submit a written request or make an in-person presentation. Healthy Communities will submit a written request, as there are town and municipal councillors at the table.

Muriel Derksen – Palliative Care Co-ordinator – Muriel is retiring from Palliative Care after an involvement in the field of more than 20 years. The RHA will be advertising for a replacement.

Shirley McCutcheon – Boyne Lodge – thanked Muriel for a job well done as Palliative Care Coordinator. Shirley noted that Boyne Lodge passed 12 out of 12 standards examinations in a recent assessment, and were pleased with such a positive report. The Seniors Resource Council is sponsoring a 6-week evening Policy Academy to be rolled out in January. Speakers will include lawyer Tom Mooney speaking on elder abuse and Carman's new RCMP sergeant, Joanne Prejet.

Lorne Zacharias – Carman Chamber of Commerce and Carman Co-op – Lorne commented on the excitement being generated by the Olympic Torch visit, and noted their family is particularly excited because his wife Colleen is one of the torch bearers.

Melanie Ballard – Employment Manitoba – One of the four councillors in the Morden office had moved and Employment Manitoba is hoping to hire a replacement in Jan/Feb.

Marge Warkentin – Alzheimers Society – A “Living with Alzheimers” workshop is to be held in January at Boundary Trails Health Centre. This is a 2-day event. Carman Ukrainian Alzheimers Awareness Supper is scheduled for Friday, February 19th. The event generally sells out, so get tickets early. A provincial conference is scheduled for March. The Carman support group continues to meet.

Colette Mignon -Healthy Living Coordinator – A Healthy Communities conference is being held in Morden on April 23, 2010. Posters will be distributed shortly. The Carman Healthy Communities Council is being invited to host the 2011 conference. Debbie Iverson is putting the final touches on a Healthy Living Grant application for several projects in Carman (total of \$10,000).

Julie Hesketh – Public Health – There have been over 2,000 H1N1 shots administered in Carman to date. There is more vaccine available, and interested parties can be vaccinated by scheduling an appointment at the Public Health office in Carman. Look on the website for clinic dates. About 37% of Manitobans have now been immunized.

Richard Dyck – Access Credit Union – On January 1st the Lowe Farm Credit Union will be joining the amalgamated group. There are some good news items coming out of Access to be announced in the near future. There are changes coming in the system, which will require a great deal of communication with members.

Wendy Durand – MAFRI & Elementary School Parent Advisory Council - MAFRI Carman Office has a video conferencing unit that has the capacity to receive seminars from the Canada-Manitoba Business Service Centre. There are some workshops on non-profits and other topics available from that Centre. One of the challenges is to find the most effective ways of making people aware of upcoming seminars. MAFRI will be hosting a workshop on business transition in Carman, for businesses looking for information on exiting, selling or transitioning a business. Carman Elementary School is having an appreciation luncheon for school staff and bus drivers. The students will be actively participating in the Olympic torch relay events.

Lavonne Kroeker – MAFRI – Funding is in place for a volunteer management workshop in early March. Anyone interested in partnering or with ideas for the workshop is asked to contact Lavonne.

George Gray – R.M. of Dufferin – The R.M. participated in an announcement made the morning of December 11th on BizPal, a federally funded program for assistance in starting a new business. Tyler is the contact for the program, and it is a good program for anyone looking for support and advice in starting a new business in the district.

Linda MacNair – Carman Area Foundation – The Foundation has established designated funds for the Carman Memorial Hospital and the Boyne Lodge, which will give people interested in supporting those

institutions the option of doing so through the Foundation. The organization is launching a "Million Reasons" campaign to help achieve the goal of exceeding \$1 million in assets. The Foundations assets currently stand at more than \$940,000.

Marge Warkentin reminded the group that the Ministerial Association is hosting a Community Advent Service on December 13th at the Carman United Church.

Next meeting – January 22nd.

Adjourn – 1:15 p.m.