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# LUD TIMES

(Lorette)

August 2003

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### *LUD Committee/Village Update*

It's safe to say that 2003 has been a very busy year for the Committee. In fact, it may well prove to be our busiest year yet.

We have successfully negotiated an agreement with Federated Coop and a private developer for the extension of services West of Lorette. This was necessary in order to allow for construction of a new, modern 22,000 square foot grocery store. We are told that construction could start as early as this fall but more likely next spring.

The Village and RM completed the 5 Year development review. This working document was approved by the Province and helps set out present and future land use within the community. It is particularly important for orderly growth within our area.

After months of negotiations the Committee and owners of the Lorette Golf Course were able to come to terms on the major details of a lease deal that would allow the golf course to acquire the rights to the old Lorette lagoon site. This could allow the course to expand their operations to 18 holes.

Community servicing standards and connection fees were reviewed with input from Cochrane Engineering. New standards have been set and we can see the results in the new subdivision along Station Road. With its paved streets, large lots, and underground services, the new "la Seigneurie" development is the new standard by which all other developments will be judged.

We are currently working on establishing a Community Development Corporation. This will help the community access funds and professional advice that could bring new industry and businesses to our community. A professional vision study is also being researched and prepared. This document is very important as it will form a major part of the foundation for our community's future growth. Best of all, due to our community joining the Association of Bi-lingual Municipalities we have qualified for assistance that will allow us to obtain this \$30,000 study with only a \$5,000 investment. If you'd like to have some input please call Ross at 878-2052 or 878-2884 for more information,

### *Public Works*

The committee's decision to purchase our own equipment and hire a full time public works manager has been an overwhelming success. Ray and his seasonal crew have completed an amazing number of projects for the Village and the RM. The Village has never looked better and we estimate that we have saved the community over \$20,000 in the first year.

With this in mind, the committee has decided to expand on this success by purchasing additional equipment and taking on more projects. We have purchased a second mower and are currently looking to purchase a good used truck. We will be outfitting this unit with a dump box, a sander, and a plow with the intention of looking after our own sanding and light plowing needs. The dump box will allow us to get year round benefits from this equipment.

### *SUMP PUMPS*

This year we instituted a program to help residents upgrade their homes with proper sump pumps and back-up valves by contributing \$250 to each installation. Residents responded with approximately 15 households taking part in the program. If you're still interested in the program, please leave your name and phone number with the RM Office, 878-3321, as we hope to run this program again in 2004. Please keep in mind that it is **your responsibility** to take the necessary precautions to protect your home against sewer backup and that the Village is **NOT RESPONSIBLE**.

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Questions or Concerns? Contact your LUD Committee for the facts.

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Ron Tardiff 878-9585

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## ***WATER METERS***

The LUD is in the process of upgrading and replacing all water meters in the community. This is being done to provide easy reading of the meter through an outdoor reader pad as well as to standardize the type of meter used in town. Ultimately it will make the quarterly process of reading every meter more accurate and efficient as well as less of an inconvenience to the homeowner. We have already replaced approximately 250 of the 300 meters in town, but your assistance is necessary for the completion of this project. ***If your meter has not been changed, please contact the RM Office for an appointment as soon as possible at 878-3321. Thank you for your cooperation.***

## ***DRINKING WATER CHLORINATION***

If you've thought that the chlorine in your drinking water seems stronger than it used to be, **your right**. With recent events like Walkerton and North Battleford, guidelines for municipal drinking water are becoming more stringent. We have chlorination units at both pump houses and the water is tested at both ends of the system daily. Our operation has been recently inspected by the Provincial Health Department and received a passing grade. **While the chlorine may seem higher than you were used to in the past, it is important to note that we must meet the new health and safety guidelines.**

## ***Ditches and Drainage***

Do you have a ditch in front or along side of your home? Have you noticed that the LUD has been making great efforts to cleanup neglected ditches in our community? Ditches cluttered with trash, weeds, grass clippings and bulrushes are an eyesore and breeding ground for mosquitoes and possibly the West Nile Virus.

If the Village had to look after every ditch in the area the costs to the community could be enormous. Everyone can help by maintaining the ditch in your area. By doing our own little part we make our community more attractive, safer, and help keep our taxes some of the lowest in the area.

## ***West Nile Virus*** (details from [www.gov.mb.ca](http://www.gov.mb.ca))

**West Nile virus (WNV) is a relatively new infectious disease. In Manitoba, the risk of WNV so far has been low, but it may increase over time. For individual Manitobans the risk of infection is expected to remain low and the risk of serious health effects, even lower.**

**The virus is transmitted by mosquitoes. Most people who are bitten by an infected mosquito do not become ill. For those who do, the symptoms are usually mild. In some cases, serious illness and death can occur.**

Most of the time, people infected by West Nile virus have no symptoms and do not become ill. Of those who do become ill, most will have a mild illness with symptoms such as fever, headache and body aches.

Less frequently, the virus can cause encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain. This is more likely to occur among older adults (50+) and people who have weakened immune systems. Encephalitis has serious complications and can be life-threatening. These complications include weakness, paralysis, confusion and coma.

You can help to reduce mosquito numbers by reducing mosquito-breeding sites around your home.

- You can minimize your exposure to mosquito bites.
- You can help detect the West Nile virus in your area by helping with bird surveillance efforts.

Birds from the crow family (corvids) are very susceptible to WNV. Many die soon after becoming infected. Testing dead crows and other corvids provides an early indication of the presence of infected mosquitoes in an area.

You can help detect West Nile virus in your area by reporting dead crows, blue jays, magpies or ravens to Health Links at 788-8200 in Winnipeg (outside Winnipeg toll-free 1-888-315-9257).

**Not all reported birds will be picked up for testing. The type and condition of the bird, and whether a positive bird has already been identified in the same area, are factors that Health Links will consider when you call.** If appropriate, arrangements will be made to pick up the bird for testing. Health Links may offer alternative advice, including precautions you should take to handle a dead bird safely:

- Don't touch the dead bird with your bare hands.
- Take care not to scratch or puncture your skin while handling the bird.
- Use a shovel or a plastic bag to pick it up.
- Promptly wash your hands well with soap and water. To reduce mosquito-breeding sites around your home, eliminate unnecessary standing water by:

- cleaning and emptying your eavestroughs, pool covers and other items that might collect water regularly;
- cleaning and emptying bird baths weekly;



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- ensuring that openings in rain barrels are covered with mosquito screening or tightly sealed around the downspout; and
- making sure your yard is clear of old tires or other debris that collects water.

Earlier this year the LUD Committee requested that council participate in a program with the City of Winnipeg to larvicide in our area. Unfortunately council declined this request as it would have been limited to the western wards of the RM and Village of Lorette. We have been fortunate that mosquitoes have not been a big problem this year, but hopefully Council will reconsider for next year, as it's obvious that this problem is here to stay.

In the meantime we must all take action to help protect ourselves. For more information go to [www.gov.mb.ca](http://www.gov.mb.ca) or call 788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257 for more information.

## **2003 Taxes**

Did you notice a slight increase on your property tax bill this year? We did too! Along with your tax bill there was included a summary and comparison of the mill rates from 2002 to 2003. *It's important to note that the LUD Committee was able to reduce the mill rate for the LUD of Lorette again this year. The 2002 mill rate was 8.247 reduced to 8.167 in 2003.*

Unfortunately, the RM ran a deficit in their 2002 operation. That deficit resulted in a levy of .562 of a mill. In Lorette, that translates into about \$15,000 that was levied to help repay the RM's deficit. In addition the RM increased the general municipal rate from 4.275 in 2002 to 5.432 in 2003. This increase of 1.16 mills also contributed to higher taxes. It needs to be pointed out that both increases were instituted by the RM Council and are out of the control of the LUD Committee.

## **Katimavik**

As you may be aware, Katimavik has arrived in Lorette. Katimavik is a Federal Government Program, which offers young Canadian men and women aged 17 to 21 an opportunity to acquire valuable personal and professional skills through an alternative educational program. Like the American Peace Corp, The Katimavik program is based on the concept of service learning - learning through volunteer work on community projects to which participants make a significant contribution.

The Katimavik participants were very active throughout the community of Lorette and the RM of Tache. They offered their services to the local schools, and community complex, as well as the LUD of Lorette and

the RM. The program has ended for this year and is expected to start up again in January. It is a three-year program that costs our community absolutely nothing but offers huge rewards. The LUD Committee would like to thank the 2003 Katimavik group for their contribution to our community and also wish them much success in their future endeavors.

## **Parks and Recreation**

Have you noticed the newly paved walkway, benches, trash containers, and pathway lighting in Community Spirit Park? If you haven't you need to take a walk and check them out. In addition, the park has a new monument dedicated to the veterans of our area. We will be hosting an official unveiling and dedication at the site at 11AM on November 11<sup>th</sup> and everyone is welcome to attend. Thank you to the LUD of Landmark, RM of Tache, Cam-Arrow Drilling, Control Electric and All-Star Concrete for their contribution to this project.

With more and more residents using the fitness trails in our community we have added a new pathway from Carson Park Dr. to Place Sauveur and paved the walkway from the new bridge to the schools. Benches have also been installed so you can stop and rest along the way, or just stop and watch the world go by.

## **Service Groups/Upcoming Events**

### **Firefighter's Pancake Breakfast**

When: September 6<sup>th</sup>, 8-11 AM  
Where: Lorette Firehall

Check out this excellent annual event, meet your neighbors and enjoy a great breakfast. Don't forget the silent auction, as proceeds will be used to add to the Jaws of Life. All are welcome, we hope to see you there!

### **Lorette Community Complex Fall Registrations**

When: September 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 PM  
Where: Curling Rink

Fall registration will soon be on at the Community Complex Curling Rink. Are you interested in Hockey, Ringette, Figure Skating, Curling, Girl Guides & Brownies, Scouts, Beavers or Cubs? Come check it out.

### **Optimist Club**

When: September 8<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM  
Where: Lounge, Dawson Motor Inn

Are you interested in getting involved in a service club dedicated to helping youth in our community? Then you need to check out the Optimist Club. If we all do our own little bit, we can make a difference. Come out or call Andrea at 878-4244.

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## Community Appreciation Day

When: September 13<sup>th</sup>, 3 PM  
Where: Community Spirit Park

This free community BBQ is sponsored by the LUD, the developer of the "la Seigneurie" development, and the contractors involved. Come out and enjoy a free Canadian Beef burger, listen to some live entertainment, and check out all the improvements to Community Spirit Park. Hear about the upcoming 55+ developments, or meet representatives from Federated Coop and discuss their new store. We also hope to have representatives from Lafarge Canada responsible for the donation of the slab for the new bridge. All are welcome, we hope to see you there!

## Remembrance Day Dedication

When: November 11<sup>th</sup>, 11 AM  
Where: Community Spirit Park

A new monument has been placed in the park in honor of Canadian Veterans, and in particular veterans of Tache. A special dedication has been planned and all are welcome to attend.

## Community Christmas Tree

When: December 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM  
Where: Downtown Lorette

The annual Santa Lights Up The Night Parade and lighting of the Community Christmas Tree are one event you won't want to miss. There will be hay rides Christmas carols hot chocolate and dainties. In addition, the parade and kick off to the holiday season is expected to be even bigger than last year. All are welcome, we hope to see you there!

## Lorette Community Complex

- The CCLCC is looking for someone to operate a small pro shop in the arena. The CCLCC will provide the space based on a percentage of the proprietors sales.
- The CCLCC requires a volunteer coordinator to manage our volunteer database throughout the year.

For information on any of the above please email Jim Hardy at [jimh@mts.net](mailto:jimh@mts.net) or call 470-8626.

## Lorette Communique

Published bi-weekly by local volunteers and supported by the LUD Committee, the Communique is an excellent source of local information. This local newsletter is available at most businesses and can also be found in electronic format at [www.loretteonline.ca](http://www.loretteonline.ca). You can

email your upcoming event to [news1@mts.net](mailto:news1@mts.net) or [news2@mts.net](mailto:news2@mts.net). Of course the phone works too, just call 878-2353 or 878-3547.

## Beautification Committee

Have you ever come across something in your travels and said, *We should do that in Lorette?* Ever wanted to get more involved in sprucing up the community? Do you have ideas and suggestions that you'd like to share?

If you answered yes to any of these questions you should consider joining the Beautification Committee. Meet once or twice a year with likeminded people, plant a few flowers or trees and make a difference. Contact: Mona Turcott 878-3771, (Chair of the Beautification Committee), Chris at C&S Garden Center 878-3454 or Ron Tardiff 878-9585.

## Citizens on Patrol Program

It seems that vandalism and petty crime affected most communities this summer and were the hot topic in the coffee shops. Lorette was no different, but we at least have the tools to help ourselves.

With the C.O.P.P. program, local citizens act as the eyes and ears for the RCMP. Pairs of volunteers randomly patrol our streets until the wee hours of the morning watching for suspicious behavior. If something suspicious is noted the RCMP can be contacted via cell phone and usually respond very quickly as they know a call from our volunteers is not a crank call.

This program will never take the place of having our own community police officer, but it's a solid effort to help ourselves and it cannot be successful without the full support of the community.

We would like to thank Dave and Marg MacDonell as well as all of the volunteers for their help and time with this program. To get involved contact Dave or Marg MacDonell at 878-2353.

## Village Web Site [loretteonline.ca](http://loretteonline.ca)

The official web site for the Village of Lorette, [loretteonline.ca](http://loretteonline.ca), is up and running. It currently offers: minutes from the LUD Committee meetings, online copies of the LUD Times and Lorette Communique write-ups, links to the schools, aerial photos, maps of the Village and RM, space for development opportunities, an events calendar, links to the area churches and Community Complex, and much much more. We regret that the French version is still not in operation, but we are working on it.