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# LUD TIMES

(Lorette)

Fall 2004

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## ***Annual Christmas Tree Lighting & Parade***

Christmas is just six weeks away, but we're sure no one is too sad that there's no snow on the ground yet. The Christmas tree lighting is planned for 6PM on December 4<sup>th</sup>, with the parade starting at 5PM. Please plan to stick around after for hot chocolate and coffee as well and some good conversation with friends and neighbors. ***If you can, please also bring a non-perishable item to the hall for the Tache food bank.***

If you're interested in putting together a float or you need a warm space to decorate your float? Call Ron Tardiff 878-9585, **Parking on the North side of Dawson Rd will be reserved for floats.**

## ***Beautification Committee***

Have you 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. Contact: Chris at C&S Garden Center 878-3454 or Ron Tardiff 878-9585.

***Next meeting will be January***

## ***Prairie By-Law Enforcement***

Love them or hate them, they're likely to be back on the streets next spring. The private police hired by the LUDs of Lorette and Landmark were very effective in curbing driving offences, speeding, and vandalism in both communities. While they typically gave out more warnings than tickets, almost 2 to 1 they also stopped a few very serious offenders. The worst cases were 100 KPH in a 50 and 120 KPH in a 60. In addition, by helping out with traffic duty they helped free up the RCMP so that the RCMP could concentrate on other more serious issues.

This type of private policing has been working very well in Beausejour for the last 4 years and has even withstood a court challenge. It seems with the growing popularity of this service, the Justice Department wanted to better define the duties of Peace Officers and suspended their operation until this could be done.

The municipalities involved, Department of Justice and RCMP are hoping to put together a working group that

will define the duties of private police alternatives in time to have them up and running for the spring. If you support this type of initiative it wouldn't hurt to let the Department of Justice know with a phone call or letter.

## ***Sump Pump, Backup Valve Program Extended***

In 2003 we indicated that we were implementing a program to encourage all homeowners to upgrade their homes. The building code dictates that all homes built after 1991 must have a sump pump and proper sewer backup valve. This valve must be an inline valve not the old rubber stopper type, as these are not sufficient to protect your home.

The proposal was to provide funding of up to \$250 per household for the installation of back-up valves and sump pumps. This amount will help cover the cost of materials. The conditions that apply are that permits and inspections are a must, and the program will be limited to a maximum number of applications per year. So far there have been a good number of residents who have taken advantage of the program. Not only are they protecting their home, they are also extending the capacity of the sewage lagoon by not directing ground water into the sanitary sewers.

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.**

***As a reminder you should remember to direct your sump pump discharge away from ditches and storm sewers at this time of year to prevent freeze ups next spring.***

## ***New Lift Station Completed***

Have you notice the crane and construction at the corner of River Dr. and Lagimodiere and wondered what was happening? It was a \$350,000 plus upgrade to the Lorette sewer system in the form of a new lift station.

Done through the Canada/Manitoba infrastructure program the outdated, 30 year old system was completely replaced. Our portion was paid through reserves so there was no need to approach the residents of Lorette for borrowing or increased taxes.

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

Ron Tardiff 878-9585 (chairman)

Carol Laramee 878-3704

Ross Deschambault 878-2052 (deputy chair)

## ***Citizens on Patrol***

This year we had another tremendous response from the residents of Lorette. We were patrolled by 80 volunteers on 40 occasions for a total of 320 hours. Congratulations to all of the volunteers and especially the organizers. If you can spare an evening and would like to volunteer please call Dave or Marg at 878-2353

## ***Village Incorporation***

Last spring we reported that we were seriously looking at incorporation, and that we had already met with council to discuss ten items that needed to be addressed as an alternative to incorporation. Council at the time asked us to delay public meetings until the fall so they could prepare a response to our concerns. Unfortunately fall is almost over and despite the fact that we have had several more meetings with council on the issue, there has been no serious effort on their part to deal with our proposal.

So, what's driving the current discussions on incorporation? Well the most obvious reasons are financial and council's spending habits. With council likely to run yet another deficit this year, the LUDS will pay the price for council's lavish spending habits. We are certain that incorporation will offer better control of taxes generated within the village.

Equally important, incorporation will offer the residents of Lorette more effective representation. Currently important issues affecting Lorette are made by councilors not elected in Lorette and not even living in the area. How can they be expected to know or act in Lorette's best interest? Incorporation will give the community autonomy over decisions affecting Lorette

It was always the LUD's hope that council would make an effort to provide the residents living in both Lorette and Landmark with a legitimate option to incorporation. With that said the LUD presented the RM with 10 issues that should be addressed, they are:

- 1) ***Taxes added***, should remain with the LUDs or RM depending on where they are generated. To explain, when a new building is built, during the first year before the property is placed on the assessment rolls 100% of the taxes collected go to the RM. This year in Lorette, approximately 40 new homes will be built and 2 major businesses. Taxes added could easily be in the range of \$75,000; this year alone, none of it will go to the village.
- 2) ***Per Capita Grants***, The province pays a grant of approximately \$35 per person to be used for policing and other services. Currently 100% of the grants go to RM general revenue. That's another \$75,000 that has left the Village. What about the proposed return of the

gas tax? How many more dollars will be handed over to the RM to be spent at large with no sharing plan for the villages?

3) ***VLT Revenues***, Until last year VLT revenues went to the RM and ended up in general revenues/spent at large. We are requesting that these funds always be directed to recreation as they were intended to be.

4) ***No More Deficit Financing/Double Dipping***, Why should the villages be expected to help pick up the tab when council overspends in the wards on public works. Village residents already pay for public works in their areas. Helping to make up council's shortfalls is nothing more than double taxation. **Seven of the last ten years there have been deficits and another is expected in 2004.**

5) ***Machinery replacement reserve***, The LUDS have been contributing to the machinery replacement reserve since 1974. Yet when they need equipment council has to be begged to contribute even a small portion of the cost. The LUDS should be allowed better access to funds for equipment to service the villages.

6) ***The Ward System*** should be completely abolished. If council were elected the same way the Reeve is elected councilors would have to represent the interests of all of the residents of Tache, not just their area. This would force council to be more accountable for their decisions and spending. At the very least there should be more representation from the settlement areas based on population.

7) ***Global Planning***, If the RM were to plan their public works on a global basis we believe they could avoid the continual cycle of deficits, which is a sore point with the LUDS.

8) ***Incentives to Business***, If the RM wants to share in the taxes generated, then the RM should also share in any incentives offered to businesses to locate in the urban centers. This is not currently the practice.

9) ***Autonomy over decisions made by the LUDS***, The LUDS are duly elected to represent the interests of the villages and we believe council should respect the decisions made by the LUDS. After all, if the local residents are not satisfied with the actions of their LUD they can deal directly with them in the next election.

10) ***Amendments to the Municipal Act***, The LUDS of Lorette and Landmark are the 2 largest LUDS in the province. Both in excess of the 1000 resident threshold needed for incorporation and similar in size to Oakbank and Stony Mountain. It's interesting that all of these communities are or have contemplated similar changes. Obviously there are shortfalls in the municipal act that need to be addressed or the urban centers will secede from the RMs. We believe Tache should take a leading roll in discussions with the province and this is our final point.

Questions or Concerns? We'd like to hear from you.

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