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# LUD TIMES

(Lorette)

Fall 2005

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## *Upcoming Events*

### Remembrance Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>

The LUD is organizing a ceremony and all residents of the RM of Tache are welcome to attend. It will be held in Community Spirit Park at the Veterans Memorial between 10:00 and 11:00 AM.

### Annual Parade & Tree Lighting

This year the Christmas tree lighting is planned for 6:15 PM on December 3rd, with the parade starting at 5:45 PM. Please plan to stick around after for coffee and hot chocolate at the church hall. If you're interested in entering a float call Ron Tardiff at 878-9585, so we can plan the event.

Thank you to Manitoba Hydro for their donation of LED lights for the tree and town ornamental lighting, also Tri-Clad Design, and Dave Sutherland the Sign Doctor. **Your contribution to this event was incredible!!**

## *Law & Order!!*

Councilor Norman recently attended a meeting in Ottawa where he had the opportunity to speak to the Commons Committee on Justice. Jeff was a strong voice at the meeting, voicing the community's concern about the level of service provided by the RCMP and our disappointment with the loss of service from Prairie Bylaw Enforcement.

This meeting was also an excellent opportunity to state again publicly that Prairie Bylaw was a program to supplement policing service for the community and free up the RCMP's time so that they could concentrate on larger crime issues. If we're ever to get a grip on crime in this country someone will have to start thinking outside of the box and it's the LUD's opinion that this would have been a good start.

Good job Jeff! Let's hope you were successful in bringing some attention to this problem.

On another note, does your young person have a new Canada or Manitoba flag? If so you might want to ask him or her where it came from. This summer we had 8 flags stolen from the poles on the boulevard. We suspect that the same individuals were responsible for the arson at Déjà Vu, setting fire to the street and church steps with gasoline, setting fire to the trash

containers & portable toilet at Community Spirit Park, smashing the widows out of a grader parked overnight in the new development, damaging windows in the mall with an air rifle, and other assorted acts of vandalism. The flags were marked and the RCMP may have some leads. If you were involved or know who was and come forward prior to the RCMP paying you a visit, this may go in your favor.

Parents, if you've seen the flags in question you should know that you've got a bigger problem than some petty crime on your hands. **We're just fortunate that so far no one has been hurt!**

## *Boil Water Advisory*

Like many communities throughout the province, the LUD of Lorette has been under a boil water advisory since late summer. As we routinely test the raw water weekly the problem was quickly detected and a notice was hand delivered to every residence as well as being posted in local businesses.

Even prior to this event it was our policy to test chlorine levels daily and send water samples from the two municipal wells to a provincial testing lab weekly. Since September the tests have indicated that the water meets Canadian Drinking Water guidelines, but the boil water advisory still remains in effect.

The problem occurred due to the extreme rains of June & July, and as a direct result of overland flooding contaminating a local well or wells. The exact location and numbers are impossible to estimate. When this first occurred our first thoughts were that the problem must have originated from a farm in the area, but when the LUD Committee met with Provincial officials this was quickly corrected. Experts explained that water in an aquifer actually moves relatively slowly through the cracks and fissures in the bedrock and that the source would likely be within 150 meters of the east well.

There are two wells supplying the village system one at the east end of town and one at the west and as contamination levels were higher in the east the source should be in that area. With some quick training the LUD Committee proceeded to inspect approximately 80 private wells in the immediate area. Many of the wells were in good condition, but many

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others were older in style with the well head being located in a metal cribbing. It's believed that these were the source of the contamination as in many cases the cribbing was full of surface water with the well head submerged and all types of possible contaminants in the cribbing and around the area. Keep in mind that the source could be as simple as this rain water washing over animal droppings and entering the aquifer through the type of well described. This has never been a problem before in this community, but this year was far from normal.

In addition to locating the source, the Province has asked that we come up with a plan to protect the aquifer in the future. We believe this should be a three phase plan and if approved would be as follows:

- 1) Complete the assessment we started of all local area wells and proceed to remediate all potential problem wells in the community as soon as possible. In this phase would also include the construction of a reservoir and pumping station to provided additional capacity and chlorine contact time for treatment of the municipal supply.
- 2) As only approximately half of the village is on the municipal supply phase two would be run municipal water mains down every street in the village so that all residents can connect to the system.
- 3) Finally, phase three would consist of capping, decommissioning and securing all private wells in the area to protect the aquifer.

This plan has been formulated with input from Cochrane Engineering and submitted to the Province for approval. With our plan formulated and submitted along with two months of clean tests we have requested that the advisory be lifted and have been advised that this can happen with a few additional precautionary measures taken. We'll keep you posted as things progress.

## ***Station Road & Area***

The Committee is well aware that this area of town has been terribly inconvenienced by all of the construction in the area, and we have plans to deal with the condition of Station Rd. However, with tons of concrete, stone and equipment coming and going as well as major development happening in this part of town it didn't make sense to do any more than grade the road until the major work was complete.

With the last of the asphalt being laid in later October we can now deal with the condition of the road. This fall we will be extending the culverts under Hwy 207, north along Station Road approximately 60' and installing an engineered grating system at both ends of

the culverts. This is in response to a safety concern raised by area residents. There are also plans to deal with the condition of the road this year. Long term plans will be to pave this road after the majority of development is complete.

## ***Village Incorporation***

While things have been quiet on this matter, it is far from over. We're reported in the past that we've been trying to meet with council to discuss our concerns regarding this matter and had even presented council with a list of concerns as a basis for discussion. For the most part it seems that the RM Council has not taken these concerns seriously and in our mind they have seriously underestimated the will of what we believe is the majority of LUD residents to separate from the RM of Tache.

Since this topic came up we have commissioned two studies to determine the feasibility and the worst case indicated that there could be a 4 mill increase in Village taxes, with the best case being little or no increase. However, the RM would be faced with a major increase, as they would be loosing 20% of their tax base if the Village were to separate. There are two major reasons the LUD is considering separation, they are inequities in taxation and representation.

- 1) On the issue of representation we have serious concerns with ***The Ward System*** and believe it should be completely abolished. If council were elected the same way the Reeve and LUD Reps are 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.
- 2) ***Taxes Added, Deficit Financing, and Per Capita Grants or Income Sharing***, are the taxation inequities that need to be addressed. For instance we just discussed the work necessary on Station Rd. These repairs will fall directly onto the LUD yet the initial taxes generated through Taxes Added will go directly to the RM with not a penny coming to the LUD. This doesn't seem fair and needs to be addressed.

## ***Firefighters looking for Recruits***

The RM of Taché/Lorette Fire Department is now accepting applications for the position of Fire Fighter, applicants must obtain a class 4 license with air brakes. Interested applicants can apply Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 at the Lorette Fire Hall.

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