

## **Springfield News and Views**

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### **CHANGES NEEDED IN THE NUMBER OF WARDS**

Springfield is one of the few Manitoba Municipalities with an even number of members of council. In fact over 94% of Manitoba Municipalities have an odd number with usually four councilors and a reeve/mayor in the chamber. I'm sure when the number of wards was changed five years ago by the council of the day there was a political agenda behind the alteration. Before the month of October in 2010 this council must change the number of wards by decreasing to four or increasing to six. In dividing a municipality into wards and establishing ward boundaries, or in making a change in the number of wards or ward boundaries, a council must try to achieve an approximately equal number of residents in each ward; and may take into consideration community or diversity of interests, topographical features, settlement patterns, and population trends.

### **SAVING THE WETLANDS THROUGH CONSERVATION**

Wetlands are the kidneys of the land because of their ability to filter surface water. If water carrying silt or other sediments flows into a wetland, much of that material will settle out before that water leaves the wetland. Watersheds with wetlands will have less flooding than watersheds where wetlands have been drained. Acre for acre, wetland habitats are among the most productive natural areas in the landscape. That productivity results in habitat for a wide range of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, invertebrates and plants. Wetlands filter out sediment and pollution from the surrounding environment so that the water they discharge is cleaner than which entered the wetland. Wetlands store excess water and replenish local groundwater supplies.

We should be focusing to restore natural wetlands and developing new ones such as water retention projects. Our municipality has many ecological areas which many are wetlands. True conservation is the preservation, management, and care of the natural resources.