

Springfield News and Views

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THE VOLUNTEER HOURS OF SWARPC

After thousands of volunteer hours by The Springfield Wellness and Recreation Planning Committee they recently completed and released the results from the Wellness Survey. Their mandate was to assess the needs of Springfield citizens and community groups and to prepare a feasibility study to proceed with a new multipurpose wellness and recreation complex in the RM of Springfield that will enhance the quality of life for all residents. This home grown committee has developed a terms of reference, established three main sub-committees, organized meetings and listened to stakeholders and community groups who all signed "memorandums of understanding", gathered information, researched plans of action, and allowed citizen participation. Countless hours of work which to date has resulted in the most transparent and open process of any project ever seen in the municipality. I would like to personally thank all the members of the committee who participated over the last year. Gail Bagnall, Wendy Bobby, Don Bonneteau, Curtis Boughton, Dan Brewin, Anne Burns-Bensch, Joan Charles, Marilyn Claydon, Paul Fust, Bob Handler, Ron Hildebrand, Scott Hopkins, Karen Lalonde, Jocelyn MacLeod, Ron Malkowich, Kevin Maslechko, Chris McColm, Andrea Plante, Mike Poitras, Steve Soychak, Jeannine Stotski, Larry Tetrault, Brian Thompson, Lorne Vaags, Neil VanRyssel, Lorna Verchoore, Eric Wasylenko, Gladys Hayward Williams, and Tony Zerucha. The majority of people on the working group are volunteers who received no monetary reimbursement for participating. To date the committees total expenditures are approximately \$3000.00 or equal to the average 16 day period of compensation of the RM of Springfield Ward 1 Councilor.

DUST ABATEMENT PROGRAM INCREASED

Council has substantially increased the funding towards dust abatement of gravel roads throughout the municipality. The 2008 dust abatement program at just over \$300,000.00 has been increased by approximately 33% more than the 2006 levels. There is a focus on providing additional continuous dust abatement to main collector roads throughout the RM. Advantages to the application of the product are an increased road load-bearing capacity, firmer road surface, elimination of loose gravel, increased safety and comfort, elimination of 80-100% of dust, and reduced maintenance costs (grading). Studies have shown as much as one ton of aggregate (gravel) per mile is lost each year for each vehicle that passes over the road daily from the dust particles blowing to the ditch or neighboring properties. This means a road carrying 200 vehicles a day will experience the loss of 200 tons of aggregate per mile each year.