

## **Springfield News and Views**

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### **BALANCED GROWTH**

Early in 2007 council reviewed the capital lot levies for the developers in the urban areas. The information assembled indicated a correction needed to be made in the rates and invoicing of capital lot levies. We made the necessary changes without delay. Some developers experienced a 410% increase for their capital lot levies. We needed to consider the balance between sustainable developments while being aware not to impede or hinder growth. Today each urban lot developed brings in on average \$7500.00 in capital lot levies to the treasury of Springfield. One can see if you are averaging 55 urban homes a year within 5 years the 1.9 million dollar water expansion plant is paid back to the reserves. This could be referenced as a user pay system where the taxpayer at large is not paying for a development or for the upgrade of any urban utility. At the same time the 275 new homes in growth will provide \$400,000.00 of municipal property taxes and \$100,000.00 in per capita grants for a total of five hundred thousand dollars per annum to the treasury. Council is currently analyzing rural and industrial development capital lot levies to establish rates which are at or near parity within the capital region. This type of financial and infrastructure planning for the future is the direction we are headed. Things are changing, and times are changing. If we do not change along with them, we will not move forward.

### **OPERATION PUBLIC ALERT**

Council has asked our Protective Services Department to train our Public Works and Planning field staff in the Operation Public Alert (PAL). All municipal vehicles and road equipment will be labeled with identifiable visible PAL labels. These trained municipal staff will report any suspicious activities, abandon vehicles, and criminal activity to the appropriate law enforcement authorities. Operation PAL is designed to help the public, RCMP and the public safety officers keep our communities safe. The program should be ready and operational by the summer of 2008.