

## **Springfield News and Views**

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### **EXCEPTIONAL YEAR FOR NEW HOUSING STARTS**

Springfield is closing in on a record year for new housing starts. Building permits for single family homes have reached just shy of 100 so far in 2007. With 53 new single family dwelling starts in rural Springfield and the balance of 44 new homes started in Oakbank. Planning council meetings have been extremely busy with subdivisions and variances. Construction of commercial buildings throughout the municipality remains strong. This week's real estate paper listed a rural land price of \$150,000.00 for 5 acre treed parcel.

### **TIME TO START**

We need to start talking and planning about some form of future public transportation from Springfield communities to Winnipeg. With crude oil at a \$98.00 a barrel the day of \$1.50 per litre gasoline is near. Many students could use the service to travel from the municipality to and from University and College. Seniors require a cost effective method of transportation to access medical and specialist services in Winnipeg. Downtown employees could use the service realizing savings in parking, fuel, and maintenance costs. A Monday to Friday service may include eight round trips daily. The service could depart for a Kildonan Place Connection, Downtown Winnipeg, and/or the University of Manitoba. Community pick-up points could be a park and ride format from Anola, Dugald and Oakbank. Federal gas tax grants are now eligible for these types of initiatives. There would be an immediate benefit of reducing the number of vehicles off our busy highways. I am presently having discussions with the Provincial, Federal and Winnipeg officials to talk about partnerships in bringing this type of service to Springfield. With all the talk about reducing the carbon footprint it is time for our partners to step up to the plate.

### **EMERGENCY HOME PREPAREDNESS**

The worlds changing weather patterns are increasing the possibility of local events such as flooding, ice storms and snow storms. Disasters can drastically limit the availability of what you have come to take for granted - such as communications, electricity, water and access to gasoline. Each person's needs and abilities are unique, but every individual can take important steps to prepare for all kinds of emergencies and put plans in place. By evaluating your own personal needs and making an emergency plan, you can be better prepared for any situation. A commitment to planning today will help you prepare for any emergency situation. Preparing makes sense.