

Springfield News and Views

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SPRINGFIELD ONE AND ONLY IN THE PROVINCE

Springfield has the only town in Manitoba with a population of over 2000 people which does not protect their homes with fire hydrants. Just imagine the catastrophic disaster if the personal care home, condominium complex, Springfield Middle school, the Oaks shopping mall or the sports complex/arena had a major fire. Years of inadequate planning of infrastructure projects have left our largest community without a distribution system of safe drinking water and fire hydrants only installed in Aspen Lakes and Sage Place, which do not have adequate capacities and flow rates. The later is being corrected this year with the current expansion and upgrade to the water reservoir and pump house.

The community has over 900 lots including residences, businesses, and schools which are not tied into the public water distribution system. Water quality throughout the community varies tremendously with generally better water in the north and poorer water in the south. This can be attributed to the sources of wells being drawn from two different aquifers.

Currently planning is under way to propose a Local Improvement District to undertake the water distribution of these 900 lots. This means through assistance from the provincial and federal governments the cost of the distribution system would only affect the specific lot owners who would receive the service improvement. Public hearings and forums would gather and share information from the public in regards to the following: a) should the project be done in stages, phases, sections or all at once. b) should the project be financed over 10 or 20 years. c) should the owner be able to pay for the improvement in one lump sum at a reduced rate. d) projected cost of the local improvement (water distribution system). e) what would the interest rate be for the financing of the project. f) would the lines be pushed underground to limit disturbing the landscape and roads.

To this point the CAO and council have met with the Provincial Water Stewardship Board, our MLA and our MP to discuss this project. An engineering firm has performed a preliminary study of cost and design of this water distribution system. More information will be distributed in the mail to those in the catchments project area.

