

Springfield News and Views

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BEAUTIFICATION PARTNERSHIPS

The individual town beautification committees once again deserve praise for their volunteerism and dedication in making our communities charming and inviting. I would personally like to thank each member from the different committees, as your work is truly appreciated. Council has added more resources this year to the maintenance of the landscapes and performed additional construction projects to enhance these neighborhoods. Examples of these are the removal of the old cement foundations and terrain reshaping to the Highway #15 side of North Plympton Village in Dugald, extensive drain reshaping and sod placement to Weiser St. in Anola, and regular mowing of the drains and boulevards of our communities. We still have a lot of places and areas which need attention and/or improvements, but we are making impressive progress.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Council is seeking expressions of interest for the land just east of Oakbank which once was the town's lagoons. The decommissioning of the area has been moved forward to 2009. This will involve the draining of the water, collection and drying of the bottom sludge, hauling of the dried sludge to an approved landfill outside of the municipality, substantial excavation and reshaping of the land with heavy equipment to remove the mounds and cells will take place next year. The decommissioning is 50% funded from the water services board and is a remaining part of the 2003 regional lagoon project where the new lagoon system site now services Anola, Dugald, and Oakbank combined.

The old lagoon site is approximately 120 acres and has limited future uses such as a golf course or sports fields. The municipality will advertise for expressions of interest from the business and developer community. Ideally a golf course similar to the Kingswood Course in Lasalle Mb. where an upscale residential housing component is surrounding the course would be a good fit. A great course would bring thousands of visitors to the area per year for added commerce to our business community. Seasonal jobs would be created for our youth and residents once fully operational. Our residents would have a new course right in their backyard.