



# Four seasons News and Views

## Animal Control By-Law Being Prepared by Council

By Gus Wruck

The Rural Municipality (RM) of Lac du Bonnet is in the process of developing a new Animal Control By-law. The new by-law does not require dog licensing but it will define in detail the responsibilities an animal owner in the RM has for his animals especially dogs.

Probably the most important aspect of animal control is the need for animal owners to know and understand that animals are not to be running-at-large. Under the Animal Liability Act of Manitoba, "running at large", in relation to an animal, means that the animal is not (a) under the direct, continuous and effective control

of a person competent to control it, or (b) securely confined within an enclosure or otherwise so that it is unable to roam at will. Generally an animal owner is also responsible for all damage his animal may cause to property or people. Animal control is a municipal responsibility and thus it is the reason an Animal Control By-law is needed.

The Animal Control By-law is based on a model by-law developed by the provincial government. The by-law provides an effective guide for the activities of the Animal Control Officer or by-law enforcement officer. Some

allowed activities for the Animal Control Officer include the right to enter onto private property to determine compliance with the by-law. If warranted the Animal Control Officer may impound the dog immediately.

The Animal Control Officer may act in three ways in response to a

complaint inspection. The first is to dismiss the complaint, the second is to request corrective action and the third is to impound or charge the owner. A system of charges and the appropriate fines have been pro-

*Animal owners have the responsibility to not let their animals run at large.*

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## By-Election October 24th, 2007

With the resignation of Councilor Karen Weir, a by-election will be held to fill the vacant council seat.

As in every election, it is important for voters to recognize how important it is to vote. Traditionally, by-elections do not attract

much attention and voters are frequently apathetic. When voter response is low the value of each vote is increased.

Voters need to take an interest in the candidates and the issues. They should then make their choices accord-



ingly and vote for the candidate they believe will serve the Municipality best.

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### Special points of interest:

- Historical Society is busy with log cabin restoration.
- Detailed information on how the solid waste and transfer station program is operating.
- Reasons for the purchase of new graders is provided inside.

# Historical Society Continues Restoration on Cabin

By Miriam Simoens

The Lac du Bonnet and District Historical Society is continuing with the restoration of Hans Erickson log cabin for their future community museum. Tembec has donated and delivered logs to the site. Peter Friesen and Ray Tyn-dall have helped move and sort the long heavy logs. Leon Clegg, the Society's Project Manager along with other volunteers have peeled them.

Ray Wentz of R. & L. Construction will soon begin replacing several damaged logs and will begin surface repair on others. Some of the logs will also be used to reconstruct the front porch, and some will be sawn into lumber for an addition at the rear of the building. The exterior of the building will be cleaned before repainting, and the doors will be restored. New special heritage windows will be protected on the outside by additional Lexan panes.



Ray Wentz discussing restoration with Society members  
Below; Log cabin and delivered logs



This phase of the project has been made possible by grants from our provincial government's Designated Heritage Building Grants Program, The Thomas Sill Foundation Inc. (Manitoba Prairie Icons Project), Hometown Manitoba, and the log donation from Tembec.

The Society has received support and assistance from our local Community Futures Winnipeg River, the Town Council and the RM Council. These organizations have helped us to stay on target to move the building into town next year. The Society is grateful to the many agencies and volunteers.

The Historical Society needs volunteers to help with the planning and fundraising for the next phase of the project. Contact any board member or call Leon Clegg 345 8419 or Miriam Simoens 345 0249

## Beavers an Ongoing Challenge by Don Halbert

There is no question that the beaver is a national symbol of Canada. However, from a municipal perspective, these prolific, industrious, fur-bearing, aquatic rodents can be a real nuisance.

Wherever an abundance of water and deciduous trees can be found, so can the Canadian beaver. Because beavers require a great quantity of water to survive, they are terrific at building dams to maintain a constant water level within a specific geographical area. While these watery enclaves can spell success for the beaver, they can prove disastrous due to flooding for farmers and other property owners, municipal, transportation personnel, along with utility service providers.

Each year, beavers, their control and the damage they cause account for hundreds of millions of dollars being spent nationally. Needless to say, the Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet is not

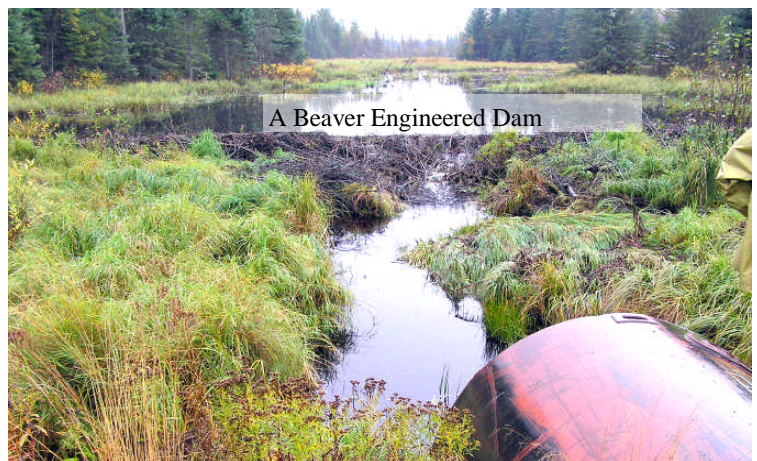
immune from this situation.

To deal with the problems created by beavers, the R.M. of Lac du Bonnet has implemented a Beaver Control Program, whereby a bounty is paid to designated Beaver Control Officers for removal of beavers from problem areas. During winter months when beavers acquire dense fur for cold-weather survival and their pelts are marketable for the fur industry, the RM works closely with Manitoba Conservation and local trappers for the control of these animals.

On average, the Rural Municipality of Lac du Bon-

net spends approximately \$22,800 annually to address the problems created by beavers.

Although the beaver will remain a symbol of our great nation and will be considered by the public as ingenious "engineers and builders", given the right conditions, these furry, little creatures can wreak havoc.



# Solid Waste Disposal – from Nuisance Grounds to Transfer Stations

by Marlene Watson

Disposal of waste in the Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet has changed drastically over the years, largely due to provincial legislation with stricter requirements.

The province issued warnings as early as 1995 that the Municipal landfill on PR 313 would be closed as soon as an alternate disposal method was found. The RM was faced with two options, to build a new landfill or construct transfer stations. Due to costs and unavailability of suitable land, Council began the process of building transfer stations.

The first transfer station opened in September 2000 along PR #313. An agreement was entered for the disposal of waste at the RM of St. Clements landfill located off PTH #59 south of Libau. A second transfer station opened along PR #214 in 2002.

In the year 2001 the cost to move waste from the Municipal transfer station to the landfill at St. Clements was \$48,500 per

annum. By 2003 these costs escalated to \$57,600. Council opted to implement a bag limit program in the 2004 year. This program has been hugely successful and costs were reduced to \$31,900 in 2006.

Recycling has increased significantly and the Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet received an A+ from the Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation (MPSC) for the amount of recycling occurring per residential home. Recyclable items can be disposed at the landfill at no charge, providing you are a landowner in the Municipality. We have currently improved the Municipal recycle station to increase deposit convenience.

Residents have voiced a concern about mattresses, chairs, etc. and appliances being disposed in the bins and not kept separate as reusable items for residents to salvage. Council has defined “reusable” items as only those made of metal or real wood. Any items that are not metal or real wood cannot survive our Manitoba weather and stay in a useable condition.

Residents have also voiced a concern about the one dollar charge to dispose of tires without rims. It is true that you are already paying a tire tax when you buy new tires. The tire stewardship board does not cover the cost of loading the tires on the trucks. The \$1 fee covers the cost of loading. There are always expenses associated with handling these items.

Provincial legislation requires a certified person to remove Freon. The Municipality contracts with an outside resource person who attends our site to remove the Freon. The number of stickers charged a resident for the disposal if items containing Freon is our actual cost. In the past it was \$24.00, but this has been currently reduced to \$15.

A big “thank you” to those residents who have taken advantage of recycling to reduce waste costs. This is win-win for both the Municipality and the Environment!

## New Graders Purchased by Marlene Watson and Gus Wruck

In early 2006, the Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet purchased two Case graders and two Case backhoes as package deal at what appeared to be a very attractive price. The backhoes have performed quite well with few problems. The graders on the other hand have been problematic almost from the day of delivery. This is contrast to a third grader a Volvo that was purchased in 2001 and continues to provide good service. To provide good road maintenance and snow clearing, the municipality needs reliable equipment that is able to perform daily and without break down.

With a very poor record of service and after considerable frustration, it was decided by Council to trade the two Case graders for two 2007 Volvo graders. This decision was made based on the amount of down time encountered with the Case graders and the good record of service from the existing Volvo grader. The reason for purchasing new machines in 2006 was to avoid mechanical repairs and breakdowns. This did not happen. The Volvo's were chosen on the basis of known service performance and competitive pricing.

Satisfying residents is always Council's objective. A



*Unloading one of two new Volvo graders in public works yard*

machine sitting in the shop being repaired does not satisfy the needs of residents for properly graded roads. This was an expensive lesson to learn but what appeared to be a good deal in 2006 was not so in 2007.

RM of Lac du Bonnet  
Box 100  
Lac du Bonnet MB ROE 1A0  
Phone 204-345-2619  
Fax 204-345-6716  
E-mail: rmldb@mts.net

**Were are on the Web, See:  
Lacdubonnet.com**

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posed as a deterrent. The Animal Control Officer should be able to issue a "Notice of Breach" or a "Common Offence Notice" that is associated with a fine for each offence.

Animals considered to be dangerous can be declared as dangerous by the Animal Control Officer. This declaration will require additional responsibilities and fees for the owner if he wishes to continue keeping the dog. The new by-law also lists a number of animal species that have ownership restrictions. Generally these are wild animal species and unusual animal species such as reptiles and primates.

There are also limits on the number of dogs a person can keep. For dogs the maximum number of adult dogs a person can have or keep is three. In addition a permit is required from the RM to operate a kennel or breeding operation.

***Dangerous Dogs Must be Controlled***



**LAC DU BONNET: LIVE IT! WORK IT! PLAY IT!**

## **Purpose of Municipality as noted in the Municipal Act of Manitoba**

To provide good government

To provide services, facilities or other things that in the opinion of the council of the municipality, are necessary or desirable for all or a part of the municipality

To develop and maintain safe and viable communities

## **Our Mission Statement:**

To make Lac du Bonnet the best Manitoba Community in which to live, work and play

### ***A Four Seasons Playground***

*You can receive this publication by email if you send an email to: rmldb@mts.net*

## **Roads** by Gus Wruck

### **Major Road Repairs**

As everyone knows road maintenance is a never ending challenge in the Lac du Bonnet area. Three roads were identified as needing urgent upgrades. These were a portion of Wendigo Road just north of PR #313, a portion of Riverland Road near Anderson Road and Allegra Road south of PR #317.

Allegra Road was chosen to receive attention. There was a 1 km section that was slumping badly into the drainage ditch along the east side of the road. This has been an ongoing problem for several years. The problem was getting to be a serious safety hazard especially if a heavy truck would cause a cave-in while passing by. The contracted costs for this repair are expected to be in the order of \$220,000. The work is now under way and it is hoped it will be finished before freeze up.

Riverland road also received attention but this work was handled by public works staff and equipment. This work is nearly finished and should be an improvement over the previous condition. Wendigo road was delayed until another time because of insufficient capital funds for this work. It will be re-evaluated in future years.

### **Road Stabilization**

Every year the Municipality applies magnesium chloride to the road surfaces especially in front of residences and sub-divisions to control dust from traffic. Magnesium chloride acts by attracting water from the atmosphere and incorporating it into the road surface. With the right grade of gravel present on the road, the road will become very stable and hard. This treatment also prevents dust and gravel whip-off from occurring as traffic passes over the road. Another benefit is the reduced need for grader maintenance.

Some jurisdictions have found they can considerably reduce the cost of road maintenance because of less need for grading. In fact the Municipality has a policy of not grading the roads at all in the summer time after the application of magnesium chloride. In the future the Municipality will likely test the increased use of road stabilisation in high traffic areas to reduce overall maintenance costs of gravel roads.



Allegra Road under construction