

## Joint Councils February 23, 2026

The Joint Councils of the Town of Carberry and the Municipality of North Cypress-Langford met in the Municipal Office's council chambers at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Muirhead in the chair with Councillors Rea and Kalinowich for the Town, while Deputy Reeve Olmstead and Councillors Van Kommer and Jardine represented the Municipality. This was not enough for a quorum, but no others were available. No binding resolutions could be made.

There were two delegations: First, Tyson Boychuk from the Chamber of Commerce's "Christmas in Carberry" committee came to give a report on their event for 2025, and plans for an expanded event in 2026. For 2025, with a revenue of \$1100 solely from advertising sales on their event calendar, their costs were \$1823.69, for a loss that was disproportionate to the size and success of the event. Donations of everything from hot chocolate to firewood made such a grand event possible. His fellow committee members, Laurie MacNevin and Brianna Renwick must be congratulated for their hard work in coordinating and complementing the affair. There were 35 entries in the parade, 42 elements, which put it at about half the size of the Brandon parade, an impressive achievement. The creation of "goodie bags" of candy for the youngsters to be handed out by Santa after the parade was almost successful in eliminating any throwing of candy along the street.

The planning is already underway for next year's event. There will be a name change; it will be called the "Christmas Kickoff," and it will be bigger, better, and more organized. Boychuk had brought several pages of maps outlining the possible routes for the parade, and the related horse drawn wagon rides. His preferred route would start and end at the Ball Diamonds, if permission was granted, and incorporate fireworks (if a proper site for them can be identified). A reviewing stand with dignitaries to judge the floats would replace the ballot collection and counting that presented problems in '25. A larger event would require a committee of more than just the three that produced last year's. Volunteers are needed for a wide variety of roles.

The intention is to hold the parade, party and fireworks on the Friday (November 27) and fill the CPCC with minor sports workshops on the Saturday, allowing hockey, figure skating, bowling and so on to showcase their sport and attract new participants. There will be no late opening "Madness" promotion; it wasn't successful enough to warrant the extra cost and time Chamber members were asked to put in. Instead, there will be a

general run of special pricing and promotions all over the town. The Holiday Calendar will again be published and promoted. It will be open to any participant with an event to publicize regardless of Chamber membership. Any fundraising will be put on hold for the duration of the Kickoff. The committee will be ensuring that participants have the necessary insurance to cover any mishaps that may crop up.

Boychuk asked whether it would be possible to reserve and use the Ball Diamonds for the day and was assured that if it wouldn't take any damage to the grass, there would be no problem. The streets to be used can be kept clear and parking areas cleared and established (Boychuk noted that the route and parking lots had not been closed off early enough on the day of the '25 parade). He was congratulated on a success in '25 and his plans for '26.

The second delegation was from Fire Chief Clyde McCallum, who had been asked to come and discuss the needs of his department in the face of the impending mandatory retirement of their principal pumper apparatus. The NFPA needs there to be a newer primary piece of apparatus to certify that the department is providing the proper level of protection. Without that certification, any fire insurance in the area will rise in cost. McCallum suggested various options for a 10 year plan.

In an election year, councilors are conscious of saddling the next councils with expensive undertakings. Following the municipal procurement policy, the Fire Chief will prepare RFP for evaluation at the next meeting.

McCallum also wanted to propose that inspections be resumed, and the results offered to the owners as information that could help them with the ongoing maintenance of elderly infrastructure. McCallum was thanked for his suggestions and help.

Media protocol was discussed from a Fire Department point of view and an amended Joint Confidentiality Policy was reviewed.

Quotes were received from Guild Insurance and Western Financial. More information is needed.

Mayor Muirhead reported that he had attended meetings of both the Splash Park and the Campground committees and noticed a common thread: The need for funds is driving labour-intensive fundraising efforts to the point of exhausting the very valuable volunteers doing the work. He asked the NCL councilors present to present the question to their council.

According to Gerond Davidson, who sits on the Whitemud Watershed Board, the Splash Park would use enough water to require a license from the

Water Services Board even if its usage were 95% recycled or repurposed. ICAO Unrau asked who would be running the campground.

The Masters had to leave Brandon in a hurry for technical issues, and through the mediation of Rob Van Kommer were invited to come to Carberry to play out their schedule. It has been arranged that as little of the local staff will be overloaded as possible (with the possible exception of Karla at the concession). Brandon will bring whatever staff they need. Because of the Bonspiel, the ice was already in proper condition.

### **Reports:**

The TOC ACAO is standing in for the Manager of Joint Services until a new one can be hired. She is receiving considerable help from Joint Utility Foreman Shane McCulloch who has taken on much of the role in the past. She has sent out invoices and caught up with the water testing that had fallen behind. The Bonspiel has necessitated lots of work by staff to prepare for such a large event. There will be a High School Provincial Hockey Tournament the following weekend. Thanks are offered to Bill Kalinowich for his work in getting the water softener working again. A maintenance schedule is being drawn up to make sure it stays working. At the old town hall, locking covers have been put on the outdoor receptacles and keys given to the staff. The EV charging station is down and no report of when it will be returned to service. At the Fire Hall/Handivan shop the new door is making disturbing noises. It is under warranty, and the supplier has been called. The old door will be taken to the Transfer Station as metal scrap. At the Community Hall, the bar cooler has failed. It was recently repaired, so this time it may need to be replaced. Stage lighting to replace the units removed at Hydro's order is being sought to prepare for a dance recital. Canada Summer Jobs and Green Team grants have been submitted. She is looking at water licencing requirements for the Splash Park.

The new Director of Leisure/Arts Services, Robyn Brydges, has been busy picking up the reins of her new position.

The Archivist has been preparing several brochures on historical topics and has set up a display of them in the old town hall.

The Health Action Committee met with Elite Safety Services of Brandon to discuss their program to train EMS workers. They continue to work with PMH and Shared Health to lobby for optimum care in the area. They are facing the impending loss of Dr. Alagaili in March. PMH has said that they will work to fill this vacancy in a timely manner.

Evergreen Environmental will be sending a delegation to Regina to assess the work of a crusher/grinder in compacting materials to be placed in their cells.

The Fire Department had several calls from alarms sounding in the cold, and some MVAs. Training is ongoing; a wildland course will introduce new recruits to the techniques before the spring wildfire season. A new NFPA approved extracting soap is being used to remove carcinogens from turnout gear. They are looking for a commercial kitchen sink in which to wash the gear. Safety inspections are scheduled for the trucks.

The Library has acquired an indoor hydroponic garden with a grant from Westoba Inspire facilitated by the previous Leisure/Arts Director and expects to develop new programs related to this system. She is pleased with the efforts to keep her steps and ramp clear during the snowy weather. A course on technology is being offered to seniors. A full calendar is available online.

The Museum has just received word that McCain's has offered to fully fund their planned exhibit building of the potato growing and processing history of Carberry. A Variation Order is being prepared to place the shed at the best point of their lot. They are developing a video loop of historical images and interpretation for inclusion in the display.

The Handivans are due for their safety inspections. Service for Seniors' programs are running well. It has been found that the Lifeline units are unable to find cell service to put in a help call. The units must be changed to a version that can receive cell service here (and apparently in Neepawa as well). 'On the Go' and watch units seem to have the greatest trouble.

The Tiny Taters Child Care Co-op has submitted their request for a grant from the provincial government but are held up by not owning their land. The subdivision was requested in March of 2025 but is still held up.

The Drop-In is in a positive financial situation and has also had grants from CACF to cover the purchases of an industrial dishwasher and a set of chairs. To attract more members the annual fee has been reduced from \$30 to \$25. The daily use fee is \$2. They depend heavily on Debbie at Service for Seniors. Through the year there have been upgrades to Debbie's space and her storage room and many upgrades to the kitchen area besides the new dishwasher. The Town and Municipality replaced their sandpoint and repainted both interior and exterior. They rent the space weekly for a meeting of the Youth for Christ group.

The Splash Park is fundraising intensively. They have a pork sale going, a flower sale for the dance recital, and they are planning another 'Hoedown,'

this year featuring a hypnotist. The committee is researching suppliers for their equipment. They are in contact with three of them through Canoe Procurement. They find they need to know what will happen to their water when they are finished with it. With a daily summer use of about 33,000 gallons when active, this is an important question. There are basically three answers: 1) It can be left to flow away, to a drainage ditch or a sewer. 2) It can be circulated. This requires a water treatment plant but uses 95% less water. 3) It can be caught and re-used elsewhere in town. This requires a tank and pumps and a potential nearby use such as irrigation. The committee and the potential supplier(s) need to know the answer to these questions. They also need to know how the water will arrive; presumably this answer depends on the provisions made for the campground, as they will likely share the infrastructure. Once they have a package together of all the pieces that will be included in the Splash Park, they could "piece it out" (approach companies, businesses, families to purchase a specific piece of equipment such as a water dumping bucket) and include a small plaque of recognition on the piece of equipment. Other towns have had success doing it this way.

The campground committee have retained Stefanie Lynch of Local Link Consulting to sort out and finalize a design for the recreation area. They have talked with prospective campground attendants to determine what is needed for the facility to be operational. Among the concerns are the provision of an office with power, office furniture, internet, computer, booking software, debit machine, etc. The hours of operation need to be settled, and staff hired. They feel that with power and water at each site and a sewer dumping point, they can advertise and operate before the washroom/shower/mechanical building is fully completed.

### **Around the Table:**

Deputy Reeve Olmstead commended ACAO Sudak for stepping up in the absence of an MJS. Appreciation was also expressed for the arena staff, whose hard work contributed to an excellent Men's and Ladies' Curling bonspiel this past weekend. The event was a great success.

Councilor Rea noted that when she visited the CPCC she spotted a large ice dam at the edge of the roof that was hazardous.

Mayor Muirhead congratulated the organizers on a successful Bonspiel but noted that the parking had been difficult. He wondered if the west side could be cleared for parking. When teams arrive, as they will for the upcoming hockey tournament, can an area be set aside for buses, so as to ease the pressure on the regular parking spaces? He has been asked by

CC's principal, Ryan Robson, to bring greetings to the tournament at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday.

There has been some very disturbing activity on social media. Threats and harassment for the local business. It should be impossible to post anonymously; anonymity encourages and permits criminal slander to go unpunished.

With that, the meeting ended at 9:10 p.m., not having quorum enough to adjourn.