

Carberry Newsletter

This is Volume 5, Number 2
The issue for January 2026

By-Election — get out and vote! or *run* and vote

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Neepawa chapter of Habitat for Humanity Manitoba approached the Town of Carberry to work together to build a new home right here in our hometown, so we're looking for community members who want to lend a hand! This is a wonderful opportunity to give back, build community, and be a part of something meaningful.



**Habitat
for Humanity®**
Manitoba

Volunteers are needed for a variety

of tasks, including forming a sub-committee of the Neepawa Chapter. We'll need a chair, a secretary, treasurer, fundraisers, members to help with family selection, a volunteer lead, a building lead, and members at large to round out and assist the principals. If you are interested in joining the volunteer team or would like more information, you can reach out to acao@townofcarberry.ca. We'd love to have you involved!

With the resignation of Councilor Sudak, a vacancy arose in the Council Chambers. In the last year of their term, Council were not required to refill that vacancy, but things run better with the proper odd number of votes cast for each resolution. Besides, most of the council first came on board in a by-election, and know the value of "getting your feet wet" with the help of experienced sitting members.

Councilor Sudak, in the last recorded words of his term, encouraged "anyone with good ideas and a wish to help" to "give'er a go!"

For those of us sitting waiting to hear our choices, let's try and make the right choice among the contenders. It can make a big difference in how our lives go here in Carberry.

When all the nominations are in, on February 9, the SEO will be able to publish a list of who is running, and there will be opportunities to see and speak to them at public events and see their platforms on social media.

Make your town stronger by getting out to vote. March 17 at the Drop-In. ***IT'S A DATE!***



Advice from the RCMP

Do you have a crime to report? Our dispatch center is open 24 hrs/day 7 days a week:

Call (204)834-2131 and follow the prompts – a dispatcher will take the

information and advise on-duty members

You can also report minor mischief, thefts, lost property, theft from a vehicle, driving complaints, to the RCMP Online Crime Reporting website:

<https://ocre-sielc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca>

To Report an Emergency Call 911

SERVING ON COUNCIL — WHAT TO EXPECT:

TERM OF OFFICE:

Normally four years, but this time only until the next election on October 26, 2026.

TIME COMMITMENT:

Regular Council meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. Joint Council meetings with North Cypress-Langford on fourth Monday at 7:00 p.m. In addition, members are expected to attend special meetings, committee and sub-board meetings, and various public meetings and community events.

DUTIES:

In council, work collaboratively to develop and evaluate municipal policies and programs. You are responsible for ensuring that services are delivered to residents and property owners efficiently and effectively.

REMUNERATION:

Modest compensation for time and commitment to the community. Expenses incurred on municipal business can be claimed.

This Month's Council News

December 1, 2025 Joint Councils' Meeting

Charmaine Virtucio of the Western Financial Group visited by Zoom to explain the AMM's insurance policy which Western Financial manages, first created in 1970. Included in their service is an employee benefits package for their 165 member municipalities. Part of the coverage is a member-owned self-insurance plan, which enables them to return a portion of the premiums each year. Each location insured is covered up to \$10 million, and there is no limit on the number of locations. There is also a \$50 million liability coverage, which applies to directors and officers as well. Surveys show an overwhelming positive response. Special events need to be covered separately, but that is economical, and only involves calling or visiting an online portal.

The coverage being purchased can be of three types: Full replacement cost, a depreciated value, or an agreed value. The amount this represents of course affects the cost of the coverage. The figure can be adjusted at renewal time, or indeed at any time.

Ms. Virtucio concluded by saying that she is always available to members to give advice, clarify, or make changes to the policy. She left a spreadsheet of all the locations covered with the CAOs.

Next, from the Splash Park Fundraising Committee, Claudette Christison and Alyssa Hall presented a detailed list of the cost and yield of each of their fundraising initiatives. They have saved \$235 thousand and are ready to find out detailed costs and seek funding grants. They will need engineering details of the water and drainage available. The supplier's representative will discuss this on a Teams call with Manager Syrik. Councillor Kalinowich will help. The committee hopes to settle costs to enable a donor to fund a particular feature and be recognized for it. Councils agreed on the desirability of a strategic plan for this and the whole of the rec lands.

Finally, a delegation from the Arts Council represented by their chair, Candace Church. Her board proposes to dissolve and form a "Program Advisory Committee" in order to skip their administrative obligations and get on with the more valuable work of delivering impactful arts programming. When the Rec Board faced the same frustrations, they simply quit. The Arts Council does not want to do that; they feel the loss of arts programming would have serious consequences in personal and mental health and in the area's attraction to possible newcomers.

A problem that makes the development of programs difficult is the lack of a dedicated space. Most arts programmers have some. The basement of 122 Main Street was supposed to be theirs; they contributed thousands of their dollars to the renovation of the building. Now they are just a tenant. Others' equipment is stored there; two- or three-day workshops are impossible. Costing of programs that must incorporate space rental means many classes and projects pass out of the reach of those who need them.

The committee appreciated Church's frustration and thanked her and her colleagues for not quitting outright. She was encouraged to keep councils directly informed and avoid the poor communication that has contributed to the problem. The Arts Council intends to draft a short charter describing their hoped-for committee's purpose and scope and then dissolve in favour of the committee whom they would then recruit. They suggest in passing that a similar process be set up for the Rec Board.

Most members of both councils were present but wondered how necessary full membership meetings might be. The original intention was to have full participation until the Joint Services Agreement was finalized and revert to the 'three and three' format and to skip meetings if there is little to discuss. The last three meetings have, however, each had four delegations, which suggests a need for a joint forum. The January meeting will be an inaugural meeting, and the final details of the Joint Services Agreement are to be settled.

The province has sent the reimbursement for the firefighters and apparatus that went north to fight wildfires. The Town and Municipality were well paid for their contribution. The profit will go towards the new pumper.

Councillor Van Kommer reported that he had visited Commercial Emergency Equipment in Winnipeg and found a pumper truck that seats five and meets the necessary criteria to replace CNCLFD's ten-year-old first line pumper for just over \$700 thousand, rather than the \$1200 thousand for the unit the Fire Chief suggested which is beyond the budget. It is a purchase that must be chosen among three quotes. It must be remembered that besides the need for another truck in the mandated ten years, there is possible failure and other

reasons why apparatus might be needed before the tenth year — for example if Sandhills builds their planned three-story hotel and CNCLFD must acquire a ladder truck. Chief McCallum will be invited to the January meeting to discuss the impending purchase and help decide the best value.

Local contractors will be asked for ideas to repair and upgrade the library's steps, ramp, and entrance. Apparently, there is already an exterior water supply line that was covered over. Its pipe and tap will be replaced and returned to service. The Transfer Station's camera has been repositioned to capture license plates. It will need hydro; a solar collector isn't strong enough.

A technology course for seniors will be offered at the library for six weeks in February and March. Participants can pre-register with Deb at Service for Seniors.

Cypress Planning District has issued 156 permits, the busiest year since 2016.

The 'Parade of Lights' and Christmas Kickoff were a great success, both in participants and attendees. The Chamber's committee led by Tyson Boychuk were congratulated and thanked.

Mayor Muirhead felt he should speak on behalf of the Town of the sadness felt that the office of North Cypress-Langford was considering leaving the town. The association between the two municipalities goes back far into the twentieth century. He was assured that the Municipality had no intention of leaving the building empty and were seeking a suitable tenant.

December 2025 Town Council Meeting

There was a delegation from Faron and Kera Gabler, the owners of the old bank building at 33 Main Street, who had come to give a report on their progress and plans for the building. They have started in to complete the demolition of the second floor and have removed over five tons of material from the site. They have also started on a program of pigeon control using a timed feeding of a bait that does not harm the bird but affects its reproduction. They are consulting Heritage Winnipeg for artists and engineers to prepare a concept drawing of the site by spring. They have two possible structures in mind; the first is an enclosed event space that would keep the fine turn of the twentieth century façade and set a steel building behind it that would meet all the requirements of today's building code. The second and preferred one is to keep the façade as above but turn the building behind into a space for craft or artisanal manufacturing. Their favourite scenario would be to establish an artisanal distillery, but they know that the licensing of such a project would involve a mountain of paperwork. Still, with Carberry's water and potatoes? They have investigated it far enough to know that the idea of pairing it with serving food is prohibited. It must serve food or distill, not both.

Nothing about the demolition presents any danger to the public. He intends to keep the original floor height of the bank to match the façade's entrance, despite the difficulties it will cause with today's accessibility requirements. He would like the Town's help in applying for funding grants. The tax incentives for Main Street renovations will help a little.

Council passed a resolution approving a grant of \$1 per capita to STARS Air Ambulance. They also accepted the tender of Dylan Haney to clean 122 Main Street. All joint employees not under an agreement will receive a COLA based on the November '25 CPI.

Councillor Mike Sudak went to the CAO on December 1 and submitted his resignation. As required by the Municipal Act, Council accepted the resignation with regrets and promptly ordered the Senior Election Official to hold a by-election as soon as possible. Because 2026 is an election year, they could have limped on with only four councillors but wished to avoid the situation where with only four councillors a tie vote is a loss, and the matter cannot be brought before Council again for a year. There are situations in which that result would be considerable trouble. Council also felt that giving a new councillor a chance to "get their feet wet" in advance of the election in October would be an advantage.

Carberry Collegiate will host the provincial high school hockey tournament at the end of February.

A contractor who uses the shop/ballpark manhole reports he has several contracts nearby in NCL and estimates he dumps 8,000 gallons per week that can include sand and other solids. If a charge is to be levied, he suggests a blanket permit; if each load is separately charged, the administration is a nightmare.

The MEC has made the requested changes to the Emergency Plan but has to clarify the location of Emergency Operations Centre. It should not be in the same place as the Reception Centre, where

evacuees receive shelter, food and support services. It also cannot be in the Council Chambers, as that is where Council and CAO make the decisions that respond to information from the Emergency Operations Centre. She suggests that the EOC be sited at the Hall, and that the Reception Centre be at the rink.

Christmas lights were installed at the CP park for the Parade of Lights with the help of the joint staff. More will be added each year for a while. The turnout for Habitat for Humanity's information session was excellent, and the ACAO hopes to promote their work here, including forming a local committee. Manitoba Housing will be repairing the untenanted houses in town; they will not be available to purchase for Habitat.

The Community Hall still has the stage lighting system in place that was ordered removed by Hydro when they came to inspect before the installation of the auxiliary generator. It is hazardous and should be removed ASAP.

Dr. Maharajh would like to hold a roll-out ceremony for his advanced prostate biopsy clinic in the Super Thrifty building.

The province is starting to allow Emergency Medical Responders to work with Fire Departments, and the HAC is considering offering bursaries for local First Responders wishing to take the training and undertaking to remain in the area.

Councilor Sudak, in his last appearance as a councilor, said it has been a good seven years of service, and though he feels bad about it, his life is getting so busy that he didn't want to make promises to attend that he couldn't keep. He encouraged anyone with good ideas and the wish to help to "give 'er a go."

January 2025 Town Council Meeting

Paige Bailey appeared before Council to inform them of her intention to establish a mobile coffee shop, tentatively called *Good Morning Coffee Co.*, which will take the form of a small trailer with a self-contained quiet generator (<70db) from which she would sell coffees and pastries. It is uninsulated, so it would only be in service above 0° C. By spring she hopes to have all her permits and insurance in order and to roll out in May. She would like to work entirely in Carberry if that proves possible and permissible. Her preferred site would be by the cenotaph park on Main Street where patrons could sit and enjoy their purchases nearby. She would, however, take whatever location the council might approve, or move around. Council enthusiastically approved of her intentions. There is a policy on the books about food trucks, but it was aimed at opportunists from out of town who would take their profits and return home leaving nothing for the Town. It will be examined to make sure it could not be applied to a local resident's business.

The next delegation was from Shana Zoghaib, office manager of the Carberry Small Animal Veterinary Clinic. She was proposing a subsidized Spay-Neuter Assistance Program [SNAP] modeled after a successful one run in Dauphin. The clinic and the Town would contribute to the cost of neutering any pet that is licensed. Vouchers with a value of about a third of the cost of the operation would be made available by the Town to the owner of a pet license. The program should reduce the number of unwanted litters, thereby decreasing the burden on local shelters and animal control services. A complimentary rabies vaccination will be administered, further adding to public safety and that of the animal. Council was concerned that 30% of a year's neutering would be a considerable figure. A suggestion that a fixed maximum number of vouchers might be established, and distributed on a 'first come, first served' basis, was suggested as a cost control measure. Council will discuss the matter at budget time.

Final delegation was from Fire Chief Clyde McCallum. He had a several matters to bring before Council. First was a proposal to revamp the pay structure for firefighters, based on the amounts paid by the OFC when firefighters are on deployment. All work would be paid at the standard rates that distinguish only between firefighter and officer — no exceptions. Meeting/training nights would be paid for two hours instead of the \$25 flat rate now paid, avoiding any problems with WCB if a member were injured in training. McCallum had calculated the additional cost for the training and the increased hourly rate based on the actual hours worked in six months. The annual cost would rise from about \$40 thousand to about \$54 thousand. Next, he wished to acquire 500' of Hi-volume 4" hose, which provides a lossless connection to a hydrant for a pumper situated beyond the furthest hydrant. The department has enough hose to reach homes and businesses farthest away from the last hydrant, but it would be prudent to be prepared for a hose being damaged or failing a test. He would also like to propose that the

second overhead door in the older firehall be replaced as was the one used by the handivan.

Council advised McCallum that the site of the old shop remains Town property only; NCL did not agree to purchase half and devote it to the Department's needs for storage and for training facilities. This may make for "interesting" rental charges if the Department, a jointly owned entity, wants to use a space owned by just the Town.

McCallum asked if there had been any further discussion of the acquisition of the pumper that will be required before the end of the year, and an annual subscription to a fund to cover the next mandated purchase in ten years. It was admitted that there had not been any such discussion.

He also mentioned that the animal control officer has been using the Handivan garage at the end of the firehall as a storage location for captured animals. He does not think that the firehall is an appropriate place for this. The smell is unpleasant, and the hall's doors are often left open during fire calls, which can let an animal that has escaped its cage back out into circulation. Why should animals be stored? Shouldn't the fines levied cover the cost of taking animals to their proper destination?

The by-election date has been set for March 17, 2026, with advanced polls on March 8. They will be held at the Drop-In Centre from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Registrations are already open since January 5, and the nomination period is from January 5 to February 9.

Many resolutions were passed as appropriate to the first meeting of the calendar year. Annual memberships were approved, a board of revision was appointed and scheduled for October 13, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. A half-million-dollar line of credit was arranged with the Credit Union, and the tax year (2025) and tax sale date (October 6, 2026) were set. Committees of Council were reassigned to cover the resignation of Councilor Sudak.

Council approved the installation of a crosswalk at the location of Stickle Avenue and Wellwood Road, with installation and costs to be covered by the Town of Carberry.

This is a tax assessment year, and a tax impact meeting will be held at the May meeting, and the Assessment Branch will hold an open house to discuss assessments with taxpayers, scheduled for June 23, between 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

U of M's medical students will again be invited to town during the University's Rural Week, May 25-29, 2026

Public Works' most significant concern has been the failure of one of the pumps of the Jardine lift station. The problem was traced to a stretch of underground pipe which was successfully excavated and repaired. After some replacements, all the string lights on Main Street are lit.

Burns Maendel were retained to design the lagoon expansion in early November of 2025, and they have examined the previous studies, notably a feasibility study from 2016. Updated growth analysis suggests that a larger facility will be needed to accommodate growth through the next 20 years. They will provide a new design and cost estimates by mid-February. The approved ICIP funding from all levels of government amounts to \$7.7 million, and it is likely that another \$1.1 million will be needed. Construction is on target to begin in late spring of 2026, subject to design, regulatory and financial approvals.

The HAC has been informed that Dr. Aligallie will be leaving Carberry in March, and a replacement has not been found yet. Aligallie may be available to do occasional locum work in the future. The doctor shortage we face is widespread; even Brandon is now down to a single ER physician.

Next year's Parade of Lights will take place on Friday, November 27, 2026. This year's 'Float of the Year' was awarded to Carberry Signs.

—30—

Want more detail? Sooner?

...then give your contact info to Tricia at admin@townofcarberry.ca, and she will put you on the distribution list for the full reports.

You could even call her at (204) 834-6628

Tech Time for Seniors @the Library

Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.
for **six weeks**
starting Feb. 16, 2026
runs 'til April 1, 2026



Use your own device and learn at your own pace in a comfortable class.

Assistance with using texts, emails, pictures, apps, settings and more!

Pre-register with Deb at:
(204) 834-6613

Come on, be adventurous, give one of these a try!

Hometown Fitness Centre

Senior Open House

Thursday, February 26
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Join us and check out the new Quick Fit Circuit at Hometown Fitness! See how you can benefit.

BONUS!! We have funding secured through the Carberry and Area Community Foundation and we are able to offer reduced membership rates for those Seniors in attendance!

Movie Time at the Drop In

Tuesday, February 17
Shows start at 1:30

SCARLETT STREET

JOAN BENNETT & EDWARD ROBINSON

\$2 Drop In fee,

Silver collection for popcorn and drink

This Newsletter is brought to you by the

TOWN OF CARBERRY
SUBMISSIONS MAY BE MADE TO
admin@townofcarberry.ca

at the *Library*

Weekly Events

Story Time Wednesdays 10:00 am.
stories and crafts for pre-schoolers.

Chess Club Wednesdays 3:30 pm.

Magic the Gathering

Fridays, 3:30 pm.

Monthly Events

Readers' Tea second Tuesday
at 2:00 p.m. Feb. 8, Mar. 8, Apr. 14
Enjoy conversation with other
readers, treats, tea, and a story
read aloud. No registration
necessary. Everyone welcome.

Fibre Arts Night Second Thursday
7:00 - 10:00 pm. - Feb. 12, Mar. 12 Apr. 9
Join us as we explore knitting,
crochet, sewing and more.
Share what you're working on,
learn a new skill, or just sit and
chat with other people who love
to make things. *All ages and skill
levels welcome.*

ICE PAINTAPALOOZA

last thing before we tear out the
ice for the season, the kids can
come and paint the ice.

Friday, April 3, 2026

at the *Rink*

- High school curling mixed doubles
Jan 30th-31st
- U9 hockey tournament
Feb 13-15th: details TBA
- Curling Bonspiel
Feb 16-22nd: details TBA
- High School Hockey Provincials
Thurs Feb 26th - Feb 28th
- Legion Curling Bonspiel
Mar 20th - 22nd

FREE Mature Driver Refresher Course

*Free for drivers 55 & over,
in rural MB*

Tuesday, April 14,
1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

at the Drop-In Centre
register with Deb (204) 834-6613

- Learn updated laws and safety rules
- Brush up on defensive driving techniques
- Learn how to compensate for changes in
hearing, vision, flexibility and reaction time

Offered by Safety Services Manitoba and M.P.I.

Youth Drop-In

(grades 5-12)

Mondays, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Carberry Memorial Hall

*All kinds of things to do —
ping pong, scooters, board
games, colouring, baking*

*Bring a friend, come hang out
and connect*

Brought to you by:

Willow Family Resource Centre
Carberry/NCL Parks and Recreation

Public Skate Party

Public skating with lights and
music, just like the old roller rinks
used to do it!

scheduled for:

Sat. January 31, 5-7 p.m.

Sun, March 1, 2:30 - 4:30

Sat. March 28, 5-8 p.m.

Times & dates subject to change based on
availability



Clyde says

Be careful not to
leave small auxiliary
electric heaters unattended
in this cold snap. Especially if used
with an extension cord this can be a
fire hazard. Secondly National Burn
Awareness Week is taking place
Feb. 1-7. The focus is on
workplace burn safety.
Burns can occur
anywhere but
prevention
begins with
awareness.

Stay safe!

Transfer Station Hours

Year round

Monday - 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Wednesday - 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Friday - 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturday - 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Closed on Statutory Holidays

I'm napping indoors until March

