

Carberry Newsletter

**This is Volume 4, Number 5
The issue for July 2025**

Ding! Dong! The RCUT's dead!

It was announced on Wednesday, July 9, that the intersection of Highways 1 & 5 will not be laid out as an RCUT. This follows a concentrated lobbying effort by area residents, a petition with well over 2,000 signatures and a heated confrontation with the designers at Carberry Collegiate last month, which made it onto the national news.

The change of plans was first announced by the premier in private to Mayor Muirhead on July 4. The news release of July 14, which is billed as "Manitoba Government Investing in Safety Including Upgrades for Infrastructure in Western Manitoba" includes work on the bridges over South Boggy Creek east of Douglas, and eventually the repaving of the Trans Canada from 19.5 Km west of #5 to 5-10 Km east of #5, listed as being in the 'Preparation and Purchases' stage. The intersection itself is now listed as still in the design stage. In other words, we're back to square one.

Mayor Muirhead appreciated the premier's personal call, evidence of understanding the situation in the tension between the need to do something to increase safety and the local insistence on the need to give PTH 5 an unencumbered path for the heavier traffic it carries. He thanked Premier Kanew for the attention given the intersection, and remained convinced (like the rest of Council) that the only proper solution for the intersection is the grade-separated (overpass) layout that has been repeatedly promised, and isn't getting any cheaper as we wait.

Massive changes at the Town Office

The Town Office is about to lose two of its key people. July 18 will be the last day for our CAO of the last six years, Grady Stephenson, who is leaving town to pursue other opportunities further north. And then on July 24, EDO Karra Burney will step down from the post she has made so much use of to take up a more demanding job in Brandon, though she will continue to live here in town and keep in touch.

Both of the departing members have left a large mark on the posts they leave, and particularly in a small office the post expands or contracts to fit the person filling it. Mayor Muirhead and the council will face a complete restructuring of their administration, and will have to give a lot of thought to whom they give which duties and what sort of changes will be best — and that is before they get a look at the resumes they will be offered.

**Don't forget to set aside
August 23 for**

**Homecoming Festival
2025**

A farewell from Karra Burney... As I prepare to step into a new chapter in my career, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to the Town of Carberry, the community, and the Carberry & District Chamber of Commerce for the invaluable support, lessons, and memories over the past four years — a time that has truly flown by.



Starting out as the Manager of Leisure Services and moving into the Economic Development Officer role has given me opportunities for professional growth, meaningful community connections, creative challenges, and a wide network that has stretched from local partners to provincial collaborators and beyond.

I take great pride in what we have accomplished together during my time here. Carberry is on the map — talked about,

recognized, and growing strong — and that success is thanks to the open minds, dedication, and collaborative spirit of the staff and Council at the Town of Carberry and this incredible community as a whole. I have no doubt that Carberry's momentum will continue, and I look forward to watching its bright future unfold.

I will be moving on from my role as EDO with the Town of Carberry to take on an exciting new challenge as Executive Director for the Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation. This opportunity allows me to continue working in economic development while broadening my experience in community revitalization and growth.

While my professional path is changing, my family and I remain deeply rooted here. We plan to continue calling Carberry home and I will be commuting to Brandon for the foreseeable future. We love this community and are grateful every day to be a part of it.

Thank you all for the support, trust, and collaboration over the years — it has been an honour to serve this community.

-Karra Burney

This Month's Council News

June 2025 Town Council Meeting

The meeting started with a public hearing to consider varying the setbacks of a duplex on Wheatland to enable it to be severed and sold separately. It was not controversial and the variation order passed.

Tiny Taters Child Care Co-op appeared before Council to ask for a tax holiday for the duration of their mortgage. Though they are exempt from property tax, the levies for fire, police, streetlights, sewer and garbage amount to an estimated \$7.5K a year. Over 25 years that is a considerable amount. The problem they face is that they have been advised by the grantor to ask for their full building's costs rather than phasing in the costs. The pot of 60/40 funding is not likely to be refilled. Since that makes their 40% larger and brings on all the incidentals not covered by the grant, like furniture and staffing, they face the mortgagor's requirement that their revenue will cover their expenses, and the taxes are a significant expense. They need a decision before the end of the month if possible because the grant must be approved before an election call closes off all government funding, and both province and feds are due an election soon.

The schedule that TTDC has drawn up is impressive. If the application is filed on time, the builder of the component RTM buildings is primed to deliver within weeks of the go-ahead, by which time the site can be ready, and according to their advisors they could be open by the end of the year. More realistically, they expect to open in spring of '26. They will be taking waiting list names on the Town-wide Yard Sale Day (June 14) at a booth in the CP Park.

Council was enthusiastic about TTDC's speed and success and promised to do whatever they could to support them. They will have to examine their Tax Incentive by-law to determine just how to accomplish the support. They also suggested approaching NCL for a matching grant. Taxes are solely the Town's for the Rec Lands, but daycare is a concern for the wider community. The added attractiveness of available daycare will more than justify any grant the Town can offer.

It is time for a review of the Traffic By-law. A revision, #12/2025, was given first reading and circulated among the councilors.

The intersection of Highways 1 & 5 has been a matter of some contention. After three public presentations, the engineers are close to the recommendation they will propose to MTI. It seems likely that they will suggest a "Reduced Conflict U-Turn" or RCUT layout, as has been successfully used in Europe, is finding favour in the States, and has been tried once in Canada, at Dalmeny SK, on Highway 16. There has been a protest at the site, and a public meeting will be held in CC on June 25 to present the choice. The mayor has been chastised for not attending the protest, but counters that it would be inappropriate to go to a protest in the RM at all, particularly when the Town's position, formally stated, is in favour of an overpass.

As due diligence, Muirhead has called out to Dalmeny and spoken to the CAO and the Fire Chief there. The RCUT was as unpopular there but after two years has proved only a slight delay and has lived up to the promise of safety.

The CPCC successfully hosted the Junior Rifle Club provincials recently. Summer will see upgrades to the facility, and the Zamboni is out for overhaul.

Two of the three highway billboard applications have been approved, but one is still being studied. A grant application is still pending, and no costs can be incurred before the grant is approved.

The Fire Department's Texas Breakfast is coming on June 14. Six members in two groups volunteered to go to Flin Flon to fight wildfires, taking a pumper with them.

The HAC has committed funds to PMH to pay for the renovation of the tiny doctor's office at the clinic, making two small offices into one, so PMH has started the work.

The Splash Park's "Hoedown with Hick Town" fundraiser was a great success, with around 250 attendees.

The mayor is actively promoting the utilization of CSOs, speaking with the Minister of Justice, and being interviewed on CBC. The Western Caucus meeting held at the Hall was a success and Carberry will probably be asked to host another.

June 2025 Joint Councils' Meeting

The Joint Councils' Committee started off with a delegation from the Tiny Taters Daycare Co-operative, who have been impressively quick to get under way with their facility. When previewing their plans to the granting authority, they were encouraged to build and outfit both the floors of their planned building when they were initially asking for one floor as a preliminary stage, to be followed by the second floor when established. But the supply of 60/40 grant money is limited, so better do the whole thing at once. This means finding the additional 40%, in addition to coming up with the initial running costs, furniture and staffing. Recent provincial mandates require ECEs to be paid much more than used to be the case. These costs must be met, initially at least, by their mortgage, so the bank must be persuaded that the plan is viable. The Co-op has asked the Town for exemption from the taxes they face (just under \$8 thousand per year) for the duration of the mortgage, twenty-five years. That amounts to nearly \$200,000, and it could be more if levies rise. The Town has agreed. What the TTDC was asking this meeting was whether NCL would consider helping the Town with the ongoing expense.

There is no question whether the Daycare is a desirable asset to the area. In any surveys done, the need for daycare is always at the top of the list of the community's needs. TTDC advertised a sign-up session on Firemen's Breakfast/Townwide Yard Sale Day, and people were lined up from 6:00 a.m. The waiting list at the end of the day was 24 infants, 32 nursery age, and 14 school-age. Which is to say that they are already oversubscribed. They intend to start with a capacity of fifty-five and will be able to double that when they open the lower floor. Once at capacity, they expect to be financially self-sufficient.

The members of NCL's council were clear that the Daycare was a top-priority project deserving of support. They will, however, have to hammer out just how to provide that support. They are hesitant to saddle the next five or six councils with a committed debt. They also have to consider how fairly to serve both their north and south constituents. They will have to discuss the matter with their whole council and perhaps offer a support grant over a shorter period of time.

Cemetery Road is potholed and breaking up. To do a proper job of repaving could cost about a million dollars. To fill the holes, apply gravel, and dust seal it would be more cost effective, but would seem to be a step backward. A compromise might be to pave just a walking path for people to use to the cemetery and gravel the rest of the width. The Public Works Foremen of both municipalities will be asked to work something out.

The Manager of Joint Services needs an analysing photometer to assess the pool's water quality before she can open, and there are none available. Water quality is also an issue at the campground, where a UV system will be installed if chemistry tests confirm that it's feasible.

The Director of Leisure Services is starting up Roller Skating as school ends. Summer camp registration is good enough to run the camp eight weeks with a wide range of events and trips, some made available to kids not enrolled for the camp. At the pool there will be special events — a Glow Swim, a Cardboard Boat Race, and a Movie Night in the Pool.

"The statistics on sanity are that one out of every four people is suffering from a mental illness. Look at your 3 best friends. If they're ok, then it's you." — Rita Mae Brown

CC's Youth in Philanthropy have allocated this year's funds to the Rec Department.

The Arts Council received the donation of a piano, which was taken to the basement of the Old Town Hall by a crew from the Fire Department.

At the Care Home, the HAC's renovation of the courtyard is underway, with a construction crew called in to remove the soil of the raised beds. The material had to be lifted out over the roof of the building with a crane.

Councilor Van Kommer called a meeting with MTI at which the minister did not appear. He accepts that the RCUT is indeed the safest way to lay out the intersection but is not in favour of its use here. Traffic from the surrounding RM and other points north heading for Carberry and the plant is seriously inconvenienced, and there is a lot of such traffic. In particular, during potato harvest season, the number of tri-axles, semis and super Bs that need to pass through the intersection on 5 is enough to cause bottlenecks and many accidents — even if they are of a less critical nature. There are problems with taking a heavy truck up to speed, merge, and back down to perform a tight U-turn and get back up to speed, merge, and back down to exit. It is not ideal; it is not simple, even though it is inherently safe from the kinds of 90-degree conflicts that are so lethal. For an intersection that has a lot of heavy through traffic, it is a poor choice.

July 2025 Town Council Meeting

Two councilors had to miss this meeting, which reduced the number of things that could be passed. The planned second and third readings of By-law 12/2025, the amendment to the Town of Carberry Traffic By-law were tabled until the whole council could vote. The first two readings of By-law 13/2025 which would exempt the Tiny Taters Child Care Cooperative from municipal taxes were passed on the understanding that the third reading would be before the full council.

The reduction of the speed limit on PTH 351 within the Town limits has been in the works for years. At a recent meeting between MTI's Director of Traffic Engineering and CAO Stephenson, an agreement was reached to extend the 50 Kph limit out to the Town Limits. The necessary change in the Regulation requires several time-consuming steps, but the process is now underway.

It will be necessary to provide a crosswalk on Wellwood Road to protect pedestrians, especially children, crossing to the Rec lands for the zip-line and the campground. Wellwood Road is under provincial control, the necessary permits will take time but should be undertaken. The CAO suggested that the crosswalk be placed at Stickle Avenue by the CPCC, and that a path be mowed from its west end to the zip-line and campground to ensure that it does not seem to dead-end at its west end.

Council passed resolutions in support of two resolutions to be presented to the AMM. One is from Elton, requesting that AMM lobby the hotel industry to establish a standardized municipal government hotel rate, similar to the rates given to the federal and provincial governments. The other is from Wallace Woodworth, asking AMM to lobby for the launch of the combined Laboratory

and X-ray Technology course program mandated by the provincial government to be expedited, and that existing diagnostic training programs be expanded, and that the government develop partnerships with out-of-province institutions to allow rural students access to immediate training opportunities.

With considerable regret, Council accepted the resignation of CAO Grady Stephenson effective July 18, 2025. As a replacement, Council appointed Teresa McConnell to be Interim Chief Administrative Officer effective July 18, 2025.

A resolution to approve the closure of Main Street from First Avenue to Fourth Avenue from 8:00 a.m. to midnight on August 23 for the Homecoming festivities was tabled until it can be discussed by the whole Council.

In light of his impending departure, CAO Stephenson has taken steps to ensure that ACAO McConnell will be prepared, and that whatever projects he has been working on have been taken as far as possible and documented. This includes requesting a date for the province to give their presentation on the hiring and utilization of a CSO; and preparing an RFP for a project manager for the lagoon project. He also offers to be available by phone for any help he can provide after July 18.

Only two of the highway billboards have been approved by MTI, so another \$500 application will be needed. In the meantime, a decision is needed whether to go ahead with the signs at our own cost or wait and see if our application to 'From the Ground Up' is awarded. No work done before the grant is awarded can be paid by the grant.

Communities in Bloom are short of volunteers and considering closure. Flowers for next spring will be ordered, including the hanging baskets, but the EDO is concerned that the planting will need to be done somehow. For Homecoming this year, she would like to do a 'Paint the Bench' contest to beautify the Town's concrete benches.

The Fire Department reports that its 'Texas Breakfast' served 750 meals and cleared somewhere between \$13 thousand and \$15 thousand.

The opportunity will be taken in fall to top up the sunken flower plots in the cemetery.

The mayor made a particular point of expressing his regrets at the resignation of Grady Stephenson, thanked him for his service, and wished him the best in his new position. He also welcomed and thanked Teresa McConnell for stepping in. CAO Stephenson expressed his thanks to the council for their support and encouragement and felt that together many things had been accomplished that all could be proud of. It has been great to work with Council.

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Be sure to follow
facebook.com/carberryparksandrec/
For all the latest programs, games, and classes.
Don't miss out!

A farewell from Grady

"I would like to thank the Council, staff, the boards, and countless volunteers for the opportunity to work with them over the last decade. Together as a community, we have accomplished many great things. From the administration office renovation, splitting our administration to solely town, the fire hall expansion, many renovations at the CPCC and the development of the campground, to many other worthwhile projects. There are challenges ahead, but the leadership of the community will carry things forward for the betterment of the residents and for the growth of Carberry. I wish everyone all the best."



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

Advice from the RCMP:

With the warmer weather, there are more pedestrians, bicyclists and children out and about. Please be cautious while driving in town, and if you are walking or riding a bike, be aware of your surroundings.

From the

Fire Department

Lots of new things to talk about — for a start, Gopher has retired, and we have a new Chief! Clyde McCallum has taken over the position, and reports that:

The Fire Department has been busy the last couple of months with grass/bush fires, MVC's, and some members deploying up north to help out other communities.

And...

Clyde says

Fire Safety:
Lithium Ion Batteries in your home. These batteries while powerful and convenient can over-heat and cause fires if handled incorrectly. When charging common devices such as smartphones, laptops, e-cigarettes, and power tool batteries always have the device or battery on a hard surface such as kitchen counter. Do not charge these devices on a soft surface such as your bed or couch. As the lithium ion battery charges it creates heat which if the battery is compromised it could cause soft cloth materials to ignite.

Stay safe!

Seniors! Don't forget you have a date every Wednesday for

Lunch at the Drop-In

Carberry 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

Are you 50+?

Join us at the Drop-In Centre!

Drop-In fee \$2 per visit

- Cards Mon Wed & Fri @ 1:00
- Coffee & Crafts Tue. @ 10:00
- Pool Tues. @ 9:00 & Thurs. @ 1:00
- Bring your own craft 1st & 3rd Thurs 10:00
- **Lunch every Wednesday Noon, \$12**

Everyone welcome!

"Anyone who thinks sitting in church can make you a Christian must also think that sitting in a garage can make you a car." — Garrison Keillor -- or was it Billy Sunday?

Report from the Museum

By Gloria Mott

The museum opened for the summer on June 14. We have three staff: Kathy Hume, who has been with us for several years, and two students, Jessica Cox and Rhianna McMillan. The Board has been working on changing a few displays. We have added a section featuring Fox Memorial Hospital artifacts, and revamped the Indigenous display. We were fortunate to receive two more cases of arrowheads and other artifacts found in the Sandhills from a former Carberry RCMP member. We have added to our military display with recent uniforms from Canada's role in Afghanistan, thanks to local veterans! Come and visit us and check out these new displays!

We are hosting a museum fundraiser: a barbecue at the Farmers' Market on July 30 from 5-7 p.m. at the CP Park. Come join us for hotdogs and smokies, along with some delicious extras!

Also, the week of August 11-15, we are planning some activities to encourage grandparents to bring their grandchildren to the museum. There will be special activities during that week! So, if your grandchildren are visiting - bring them to the museum! We are air conditioned, so on a hot day, it is a cool place to visit! Our museum stays open until August 30! Do you know about the history of Carberry and North Cypress-Langford?

Come check it out!

Recreation Opportunities

At the pool:

July 25 - Movie night
August 22 - Glow Swim
August 30 - the second annual Cardboard Boat Race!

This Newsletter is brought to you by the

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

at the **Library**

Preschool Story Time

Wednesdays, 10:10 a.m.

Stories and crafts for toddlers

Weekly Programs

Chess Club - all ages and skill levels. Wednesdays 1:00 pm

Library Explorers - Tuesdays, 1-2 pm. Ages 5-8. Crafts and activities. Free. No registration

Library Adventures - Thursdays 1-3 pm. Ages 8-12. Crafts and activities. Free. No registration.

Magic the Gathering - Fridays, 1 pm. Drop in, friendly games of Magic, learn to play using our cards or bring your own.

Crochet Club - Drop in any time, we have hooks, yarn, and people who are ready to teach you. All skills levels welcome.

Monthly Programs

Readers' Teas - July 8, Aug. 12, Sep. 9 at 2:00 p.m. Enjoy conversation with other readers, treats, tea, and a story read aloud. No registration necessary.

Everyone welcome.

Chess Tournaments Saturday June 7, 12:00 - 1:00 pm.

All ages and skill levels

welcome - including beginners!

Summer Reading Challenge

Help us reach 30,000 minutes read. Sign up and track your reading. All ages (adults too!)



**EMERGENCY RESPONSE
INFORMATION KIT**

The Health Action Committee encourages all residents to complete an **E.R.I.K.** (Emergency Response Information Kit) available through Service for Seniors at the Carberry Drop-In Centre. It is most beneficial to assist emergency personnel that may be responding to your 911 call.

Carberry
Plains
Archives



Open Tuesdays, Wednesdays
And Thursdays

Wake me again in September...
when it cools down a bit

