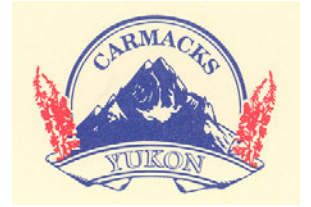


The Villager



Another Issue of The Villager

Since the last newsletter, many of the issues we were dealing with have become reality, and much progress has been made on others. We have received almost one million dollars toward our past expenses on the wastewater treatment plant and are actively working toward a second funding agreement that will allow us to complete the project by late 2006. We've had a very successful party at Tew Park to celebrate our 20th anniversary as a municipality. We have a new works tractor that will soon be plowing snow. We have just produced a bylaw to establish a scholarship fund and will very soon be presenting a new Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw at a public meeting. We will be bringing in controlled landfill site openings to help our dump maintenance. We have a new visitor kiosk and are running another FireSmart program.

Council is looking forward to continuing to work on behalf of the residents of Carmacks to complete the projects we've started and to continue our efforts to bring more amenities to the community.

We will be producing another Villager shortly to review some of the items noted above, but because of the debate and controversy surrounding YTG's decision to add a college campus to the new Tantalus school, Council wanted to provide you with information on this issue. For that reason, this Villager is dedicated to the college issue.

College Issue Causes Hard Feelings

One of the most contentious recent issues in Carmacks is the decision by Yukon Government to affix a Yukon College campus to the new Tantalus School. Those for and against have made their arguments and there are many reasons, depending on who you speak with, in support of or in opposition to the decision.

Much of the tension is created by the differing mandates of the parties involved. Yukon Government is responsible for education in the territory, and it provides curriculum and infrastructure to meet its mandate. The Village of Carmacks is a creation of the territorial government and is responsible primarily to provide residents within the Village limits with services, and where possible to work with others for the benefit of the residents of the whole community. Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation also has its mandate.

That is "the big picture" that has created some of the issues around the location of the college. Different mandates and different approaches are an open invitation to occasional disagreements. It is important that we recognize those mandates and keep the disagreements on a political level rather than making them personal. On the personal level, though, the decision to combine the school and college *has* stirred emotions, where people are "wearing many hats" - as LSCFN or Village leaders, as employees, as educators, as parents, as residents, and as concerned citizens. Again, anger and frustration can be avoided if we respect each other as human individuals with differing political points of view.

The Minister of Education announced his decision to add the college to the new school on October 13, at what Council originally understood was to be a joint meeting with LSCFN. At the meeting, the Minister presented a number of reasons for the decision, and asked for Council support.

Your elected Council had a tough decision to make. Although we realized our support would likely generate some negative reaction in the community, **Council made the decision to support the government for the following reasons:**

- 1. An improved facility and services.** The campus size will be increased to 2500 square feet. Adding it to the school allows for joint use of amenities such as the industrial arts shop, and shared programming and use of instructors, where appropriate, in a planned facility.
- 2. People concerns were addressed.** We heard from people who felt that the health or safety of younger children might be compromised by proximity to adult learners, and from people who see benefits in a distinct break between high school and higher education. We believe those issues can be addressed in the architectural design, supervision and scheduling.
- 3. The cost of adding on versus the cost of a stand-alone campus.** The cost of an add-on has been estimated at \$750,000, on serviced land already owned by the government. To build a separate campus would require land purchase and provision of water, sewer, power and possibly roads before the building is even started. Operating costs would be significantly lower in a combined facility. Yukon College will not be charged rent in a Government facility, which will allow the local Campus Committee to lobby to have those dollars dedicated to be spent for more instructors and programs.
- 4. Political will and timing.** Your Village Council has been working with government to try to bring benefits to Carmacks, and we are convinced that what brings economic development and greater learning opportunities for post-secondary students makes us a stronger, better community.

This government has offered us wastewater treatment, a new water distribution system, a new school and a new, larger college campus. We have been waiting over 20 years for a new school and have been working for 10 years for a sewer plant. If we pass up this offer of a new campus, how long will we have to wait before we get another one?

Yukon Government has made the decision to affix a Yukon College campus to the new school. We believe that it is in the best interests of the residents of Carmacks that your Village Council support the government in this decision.

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