

The Villager



Carmacks, Yukon

July 2004

Hello Again!

Welcome to the long-awaited second issue of **The Villager**. And please accept our apologies. We know we had promised regular editions, but with so much on our plates, it was hard to stop long enough to list our accomplishments or our challenges.

Council has tackled a lot of issues since the last newsletter, and hopefully with this edition we'll be able to go over some of the things we've been involved with – from the promised new school, to continued work on the wastewater treatment plant, to landfill improvements, to Tew Park and the soon-to-be-ready highway visitors' kiosk.

Your Council:

Mayor – Mick Larkin	863-5232
Deputy Mayor - Elaine Wyatt	863-6211
Councillor - Cory Bellmore	863-5088
Councillor - Doris Hansen	863-6009
Councillor- Stuart Harris	863-5014

Council Issues

Wastewater Treatment Plant – Since the last newsletter came out, Council agreed to change the site from Lot 32 to the YTG Lots closer to downtown. In March we received permission to obtain the lots from the government. The PreDesign Study has now been completed as well as a draft report for a community water system.

We were unpleasantly surprised when we received cost estimates in early May, and Council decided to look at other possible technologies to get the price of a new plant back on target. Mayor Larkin and Deputy Mayor Wyatt attended the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Conference in Edmonton, discussing options with a number of

equipment suppliers. In June, several Council and staff traveled to southern Alberta and BC to look at operating plants and different methods of treatment.

It now appears that we *will* be able to meet our original budget while producing near water-quality effluent from a quiet, odorless plant.

Landfill Operation

We are continuing efforts to encourage recycling to extend the life of our landfill site, and at the same time making the landfill operation more efficient and effective.

We have constructed a second kettle and moved the fence, installing a Texas Gate (what you may be used to calling a “cattle guard”) to discourage animals from getting into the site. We will install a fence and gate at the highway entrance and also an enclosed compound for tire storage, and by the end of summer will have controlled access to the dump to make clean-up and maintenance easier.

The fencing and gates were advertised for local tender but we did not receive any bids, and have consequently tendered the project to a Whitehorse firm that has done a fair amount of work for the Village in the past.

Perhaps as early as next year we will have a recycling facility near the landfill and may be able to process recyclable materials to reduce the amount of waste going into the landfill. Council will be discussing plans with the Tantalus Recycling Society.

Watch for more information on landfill hours over the next few weeks.

Birthday Party Planned

Did you know Carmacks is only 20 years old? While the community has been here for over a century, the Village wasn't incorporated until 1984, which makes this our 20th anniversary year. Plans are well underway for a birthday party, to be held on September 25th in the new Tew Park. Looks like it will be a great family day. Stay tuned!

Visitor Kiosk

Tenders have been let for the ground work for the new visitor kiosk site and for the building, both to local contractors. Berdoe Enterprises will construct the highway access and Dennis Larkin will build the portable kiosk and deck.

The kiosk project, funded by the Community Development Fund, was delayed when we decided to bring in a landscape architect to review our plans, but should be usable within a couple of weeks. There were no bids on the landscaping portion of the contract, so arrangements are being made to obtain a proposal from a qualified landscaper.

New Equipment Purchased

The Village has made three major purchases this spring – a pickup truck and Kubota loader for maintenance, and a back-up fire pumper truck.

The Village of Teslin purchased a new state of the art fire truck, and their old one was identical to our Pumper Number One. With the demise of our 1969 tanker truck, we decided to upgrade, hoping to get seven years of useful service from Teslin's 1986 vehicle.

The new Kubota has already become a valuable asset, being used at the landfill site and to assist in the cleanup of the Tew Park property. A sweeper attachment will save money and allow us to have the streets cleared earlier in the spring. Other attachments include a post hole auger, back hoe and grapple bucket, pallet fork frame, snow bucket and angle blade.

We are keeping track of what the Kubota is saving us and the extra work it allows us to do.

Architect Chosen for New School

A Whitehorse architectural firm has been chosen to design the new school for Carmacks. Kobayashi and Zedda Architects were introduced at an Open House at the Heritage Hall on July 8.

The next public meeting will be August 18 at 7:00 pm at the Recreation Centre. If you would like to have some input into the design, we have copies of the architects' *Community Comment Sheet* at the Village Office with a couple of preliminary designs as well as drawings of some of the recent schools built in the Yukon.

Drop in and pick up your copy of the *Community Comment Sheet*.

Pool Programs Well Received

Lots of action at the swimming pool the last few weeks with lessons, open swims, lane swims, and Carmacks Kings Swim Team practices. The Swim Team has meets scheduled in Faro and Whitehorse, and there could be some pleasant surprises!

We will have another lifeguard arriving to allow us to extend the pool hours from July 26 to the end of the season. If interest stays high we will be open to August 27th this year.

Mike Francis, who came to us with excellent experience as a lifeguard in Brampton, is thrilled with the response from both adults and children, and is really enjoying the community. Mike is already looking forward to next year.

Tew Park Projects

Work is proceeding well on Tew Park, with the removal of some outbuildings and selling of a lot of the treasure Merv accumulated over the years. Most local residents who took in the sale got some pretty good bargains along the way.

Work will continue on cleaning up the park and starting toward a small golf course. We are not encouraging people to come out quite yet to use the park for day visits as there is still some work to do to remove the last potentially hazardous materials and building debris.

Next Big Project??

Council has written to Glenn Hart, Minister of Community Services, asking the Yukon Government to assist in funding a feasibility study for a new water supply and distribution system for Carmacks.

People over the years have expressed concerns about the safety of private wells and the possibility of contamination from groundwater. Public Health regulations require municipalities to provide potable water to residents, and we have addressed this concern under our Water Licence Renewal Application.

But, like any project of this size, more work must be done before we can even consider drilling wells, building reservoirs or installing water lines. While a town water supply seems like a great idea, we also have to consider some of the constraints, such as ability to pay and whose responsibility it would be.

If the Government does a feasibility study, we could coordinate the water distribution and wastewater projects to take advantage of cost savings. The new school will need a sprinkler system for fire safety, and the timing could reduce their costs.

We're not sure if or when the feasibility study will be approved. It appeared before the federal election that there would be a considerable amount of funding available through the Canada-Yukon Infrastructure program, but the minority status of the government may mean some programs will be "on hold" for a while.

Cemetery Beautification Planned

As part of a three year project, we are starting to work on the Nordenskiold Cemetery. Councillor Hansen is trying to put together a Beautification Committee to plan on making the cemetery more attractive.

First steps on the project will be completed this summer, with installation of a section of fence and a gate, along with a well for easier maintenance and upkeep of lawns and flower beds.

If you're interested in helping with this project, please give Doris a call.

Kudos to the Works Crews

We've been getting major compliments from visitors and residents alike about the fine work our students and public works crews are doing along the roadsides. Thanks guys – great job!

Walking Tour Brochures are a Big Hit!

Even though they haven't been printed yet, the *Walking Tour of Carmacks* brochures are a very popular item with visitors to the community.

We're still waiting for all the approvals from Yukon Tourism and Culture, but have been using a draft copy to give visitors a sense of the history of Carmacks.

Even local residents should get a kick out of these brochures – there's a wealth of information provided by oldtimers in the community. Most of us know about the telegraph office, the boardwalk, the roadhouse and Hazel Brown's cabin, but did you know the story behind the old grader down at Tew Park? Or the *high cache* that sits near the fire hall on River Road? Do you know about "Happy" Lepage, Joe Britton and Orloff King?

Drop down to the Visitor's Centre and talk to Sharon or Chantalle, and don't forget to pick up your copy of the *Walking Tour* brochure.

This grader, at the entrance to Tew Park, is part of a collection of equipment and parts used for mining and road building. The grader was built in the 1940s and was pulled by a tracked vehicle.

Equipment such as this was used in the construction of the North Klondike Highway in the early 1950s, providing year-round access for trucks bringing silver ore from the mines near Keno City to the railhead at Whitehorse. Carmacks had a major road construction camp located where the highway maintenance buildings are today.