



St. Clements

The place to be

St. Clements *focus*

**ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES
IN THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ST. CLEMENTS**

ICE JAMS AND RUN OFF FLOOD THREATS HAVE PASSED!

As of our printing deadline your Municipality can proudly say the threat of flooding caused by overland flooding and ice jamming has passed. The river crest is projected at a level that may affect a few properties. We will closely monitor the river projections and protect these properties if need be. At this point, all the high risk flood threats have passed.

Your Council thanks all who helped make this year's flood threat a non-event.

This spring could have turned out differently. The efforts of individual homeowners, public works staff, personnel at our three firehalls, administration and our emergency operations centre team all contributed to the success.

This effort was led by our Municipal Emergency Coordinator, Jim Stinson, who worked tirelessly for many months identifying and preparing at-risk properties.

Thanks must also go to the Province of Manitoba, which provided many resources in terms of equipment, advice and funding to help ensure we would be ready for any type of flooding. Without the Province's support, the at-risk properties bought out in 2009 would have again met with disaster, diverting our preventative efforts from many other at-risk properties.

The Federal Government also deserves some credit. In late March, our MP James Bezan announced changes to the Disaster Assistance Program. As a direct result, in anticipation of a favourable announcement, we moved forward to build permanent diking to protect Peltz Drive which did prevent ice flows from damaging homes on April 8.



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Get more updates from your Municipal Office. Join our new Facebook page. Search under Rural Municipality of St. Clements and "like" the page.

FINANCIAL PLAN HEARING

The annual St. Clements Financial Plan Public Hearing has been scheduled for May 12 at 7 p.m. at East Selkirk Hall. All are welcome to hear the presentation of this year's budget and to provide input to your Council members. Copies of the plan are available at the Municipal Office or on our web site: www.rmofstclements.com. If you would like to discuss the plan ahead of time, please call our CAO, DJ Sigmundson, at 482-3300 or e-mail cao@rmofstclements.com.

See inside this newsletter for budget highlights.

EAST SELKIRK SEWER AND WATER PROJECT MOVES AHEAD.

After decades of drinking water concerns in the hamlet of East Selkirk, we are proud to announce the sewer and water project will move ahead this spring.

Tenders for the \$13-million project have come in within budget, with Crown Utilities being selected for the installation of the water and sewer lines.

This project will protect our most valuable resource — our drinking water. It will also remove the “Boil Water Order” placed on the community in 2001.

For more information, please call the office at 482-3300 or look at our web site at www.rmofstclements.com for answers to frequently asked questions about this project.

TRANSFER STATION SUMMER HOURS

Libau Landfill:

Tuesday to Saturday - 9am to 5 pm

Dunning Transfer Station:

Saturday & Sunday - 9 am to 5 pm

Monday, Thursday & Friday - 11 am to 7 pm

Clark Transfer Station:

Saturday & Sunday - 9 am to 5 pm

Monday, Thursday & Friday - 11 am to 7 pm

Grand Marais Transfer Station:

Thursday to Monday - 11 am to 7 pm

Gull Lake Transfer Station:

Thursday to Monday - 11 am to 7 pm

DUST CONTROL

Each spring many residents call the office to request dust control on their road. This is an automatic process that the RM undertakes each spring. Weather permitting it takes approximately three (3) weeks to apply the dust control product on our 900 kilometers of roads. The process can begin once the road restrictions are lifted. This year it is expected we will begin in late May.

The process involves first grading out existing potholes and wash board, next new limestone is placed on the road and finally the dust control is applied.

Thank you for your patience.

BUDGET 2011

As Council begins a new four year term, the question is, “What do we want to do, how are we going to do it, and how much is it going to cost?”

The first step in this process was to develop a basic strategic plan for the next four years. The plan identified and prioritized all of the things we want to accomplish, examined our ability to meet these challenges and defined an action plan that can be used to measure the success of our plan.

So now we know the WHAT and the HOW, now we want to know, what’s that going to cost?

The 2011 financial plan is a reflection of the four year vision of Council. More money has been allocated to the priorities identified. The 2011 plan includes a mill rate increase of 0.733. This translates to a property tax increase of \$66 on a \$200,000 home. A basic four year budget was developed to ensure that adequate funding was in place to complete all of the initiatives undertaken in the strategic plan.

The 2011 flood forecast required significant funding for preparation activities such as additional ditch clearing. More equipment was purchased to place us in a position to react quickly to rising waters. These purchases included a new culvert steamer, pumps and other small tools. By far, the largest cost is attributed to the construction of a berm to protect the St. Peters Road and Peltz Drive areas from ice jam induced flooding.

We began construction of these berms in the last week of March. Their effectiveness was tested on April 8th when the ice did jam and caused a rapid increase in water levels. The berms worked and prevented blocks of ice from damaging any homes or flood tubes that had been set up in the area.

Seeing this success, Council chose to continue on with the dike to permanently protect as many high risk homes as possible. It is Councils hope that the cost of the project will be shared by the Provincial and Federal Governments, however funding is not assured at this time.



BUDGET 2011 (Cont.)

Drainage is another high concern. Funds have been put aside to hire contractors to assist the public works department to catch up on overdue drainage maintenance that has resulted from the back to back wet years we have endured. As well, money is earmarked to undertake more engineering to identify solutions to some of our areas most prone to overland flooding. The development of a proactive and effective drainage plan is also high on our list of priorities.



One of the greatest challenges in our municipality is roads... 900 kilometers of roads. Significant resources are dedicated to maintaining, repairing and upgrading the road system. Gravel roads require constant maintenance and are adversely affected by the wet weather conditions that have existed over the past few years. Gravel, grading and dust control make up a large part of our budget. Hard surface roads require less maintenance but are extremely costly to construct. This is the reason that these projects are typically done over a two year period. Engineering and base preparation is done in the first year and the actual hard surface is applied in the second year. This year's road plan includes the preparation of Nanton road for hard surfacing, chip sealing and seal coating on Rebeck and an urgent repair to a portion of Ferry Road. Traffic counts for roads off highway 59 will determine the need for surface upgrades in those areas. A feasibility study will determine the best solution for the area of George and Harold.

Over \$1 million dollars is contributed to reserve funds on an annual basis. These reserves are used for capital projects and improvements and equipment purchases. The source of these funds is a combination of Gas Tax grants, revenue from development fees, lot sales and of course, taxation. For the 2011 year, 18% of our total revenues will

be allocated to reserve funds. This consistent level of funding ensures that money is available to meet the demand for infrastructure and capital purchases that would otherwise be unaffordable in a single budget year.

The development of a four year plan not only deals with the immediate challenges of the municipality, it provides us the opportunity to become more proactive instead of reactive. The plan gives us the ability to define our goals, identify and strengthen our weaknesses and measure our successes. It is a big step in laying a solid foundation based on efficiency, financial responsibility and transparency and the first step in creating a viable, healthy, sustainable municipality.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY!

Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held on Saturday June 18th, 2011 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the City of Selkirk Public Works Yard - 739 Sophia Street.



RM CONTACT INFORMATION

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To contact any member of Council,
please call the office.

Rural Municipality of St. Clements currently has several lots for sale within the Sunset Bay Cottage Development. For more information please contact Bob Jefferson at (204) 482-7911.



Rural Municipality of St. Clements

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St. Clements

The place to be



ST. CLEMENTS “MOVING FORWARD” THE FOUR-YEAR PLAN.

The Vision

Elections are important opportunities for citizens to voice their concerns and to elect candidates they believe will move the Municipality in a direction you think is important.

Your elected Councillors have heard your concerns and have worked hard these past six months to develop a vision for what the Municipality can look like at the end of the term.

From this vision, we have developed a four-year plan to help achieve the direction you have helped Council set.

Flood Prevention

Since the spring of 2009, the RM has suffered damages in two flooding events, and successfully prevented extensive water damage in the spring of 2011.

Each of these events takes a large toll on individual homeowners but also greatly tax municipal resources as we deal with prevention or reaction to an event.

Nature will continue to dictate how much water we will see and when we will see it. What we can control, however, is developing plans and infrastructure that will reduce the at-risk properties to the point they would no longer be considered at risk.

Our plan will see us:

- Build permanent dikes where feasible.
- Work with Province on individual flood-proofing programs.
- Develop drainage alternatives for areas at risk of overland flooding.
- Eliminate new building in high-risk areas.
- Manage water on a watershed basis.

Environment

Protecting our water source and reducing our impact on Lake Winnipeg are two important priorities.

Reducing our solid waste production also needs to occur, both from a financial and environmental standpoint.

Our plan will see us:

- Complete the Water and Sewer Project in East Selkirk.
- Provide a sewer system to the Old River Road “Health Order” area.
- Develop an infrastructure for future sewer hook-ups along Henderson Highway.
- Introduce co-mingle recycling by placing large drop-off bins at the transfer stations.
- Study alternatives to increase recycling, including curbside pick-up.
- Protect our marshlands.
- Reduce our overall phosphate discharge into Lake Winnipeg.

“YOUR ELECTED COUNCILLORS HAVE HEARD YOUR CONCERNS AND HAVE WORKED HARD THESE PAST SIX MONTHS TO DEVELOP A VISION FOR WHAT THE MUNICIPALITY CAN LOOK LIKE AT THE END OF THE TERM.”

Roads and Drainage

With more than 900 kilometres of roads and 1,800 kilometres of ditches, this will always be an important component of every budget. Council intends to continue its allotment of \$500,000 to road upgrade and resurfacing projects for each of the next four years. This represents over 10% of our entire revenues from taxation. Options will be studied to determine the appropriate surface to match the unique use of any particular road. This should result in the ability to upgrade more kilometres of road in a shorter period of time.

Drainage will be addressed by a new “Drainage Committee”, which will feature a mix of property owners, council members and staff. This committee will study options and provide recommendations to Council on which drainage projects provide the biggest bang for the buck, but also look at other options, such as water retention. Additional funding will be set aside to implement the projects as quickly as feasible.

Our four-year plan will see us:

- Complete a road resurfacing policy.
- Develop and fund a drainage committee.
- Develop and begin action on a long-term drainage plan.

Growth

Historically, the population of St. Clements has grown at a rate of 3% per year. If we continue to grow at this rate, our population will nearly double in the next 20 years. The City of Winnipeg's growth planning document, "My Winnipeg", anticipates growth in rural areas happening at a much accelerated pace.

Our challenge is how to best manage this growth. We need to ensure future subdivisions are well thought, do not overtax our existing roads, improve existing drainage patterns and encourage more density. Much of this is addressed in the soon-to-be-approved development plan for the Municipality.

Along with the development plan, Council needs to improve the subdivision approval process, while developing new by-laws that encourage smart growth and result in better communities.

Economic Development

Economic Development is an important goal for every municipality. As we look forward 20 years and imagine our population twice the size it is today, we need to think where everyone will work. By creating employment within our Municipality, we can greatly increase the likelihood of our citizens finding work within our Municipality.

To accomplish this vision, we require good long-term planning to ensure we have the infrastructure to encourage business owners to open shop or expand in St. Clements.

The next four years will see secondary (growth) plans completed for Grand Marais, Lockport, East Selkirk and Libau areas.

Recreation

In St. Clements, Recreation Services are delivered through many non-profit, community-based associations. Your Council supports these groups by providing grants for operations and capital projects. As a fine example, the past few years has seen the East Selkirk Recreation Association achieve success with the development of new soccer fields and baseball diamonds. They did this by leveraging fundraising activities and grants from the RM to get additional funding from the provincial and federal governments.

Over the next four years, Council will begin a consultation process to determine the recreation needs of our residents living south of Lockport. We will continue working with Trails Canada to develop more walking trails.

Transparency and Citizen Engagement

A mark of good governance is a high level of citizen engagement and transparency in Council actions.

To increase engagement, Council will be undertaking considerable community consultations regarding the previously-mentioned secondary growth, recreation and drainage plans. The more people that participate in the development of our plans, the better served the community will be.

The past four years saw many new initiatives to increase transparency. The municipal web page underwent substantial redesign. For the first time Council agendas and back-up documentation became available to all. The newsletter was expanded and produced on a quarterly basis.

Yet Council knows you can never quit improving transparency or communication. You can now find us on Facebook. This allows us to "push" timely information, such as road closures and snow clearing schedules. It also gives us another opportunity to proactively answer questions from residents as we become aware of an area of concern. Our Facebook presence also provides another vehicle to promote local events.

We have also begun to gather names and e-mail addresses of companies interested in undertaking contract work for the RM. This ensures all have fair access to RM projects.

Large subdivision applications also present a challenge. We will be exploring methods to better get the word out when a substantial subdivision is proposed.

Council will be reinstating open houses this fall. The purpose of the open houses is to provide informal opportunities for you to speak to members of Council or staff.

What do you think?

The preceding pages have outlined some of the challenges facing the Municipality and provided a plan to address the changes we anticipate during the next four years.

It's important that Council members hear if you think something is missing or if you support a particular portion of the plan.

You can send comments to info@rmofstclements.com, by phone at 204-482-3300 or come to the Financial Plan hearing on May 12 at 7 p.m. at East Selkirk Hall.