

SPRINGFIELD'S KEY ISSUES TO CONSIDER BEFORE YOU VOTE

FIRST AND FOREMOST:

The responsibility of our municipal government is to protect its citizens and their rights.

Our uninterrupted access to clean water via residential wells or a municipal piped water system is our most important community asset and **MUST BE PROTECTED.**

SPRINGFIELDERS AGREE

Why Mayor Fell and Councillors Glen Fuhl, Howard Bredin, and Val Ralke should be FLUSHED OUT of council; because we have had four years of poor decisions that lack transparency, accountability, and public representation.

TOPIC 1: WATER

1. THE SIMPLE TRUTH SHOULD BE DON'T MINE INTO AN AQUIFER WHERE WE GET OUR WATER FROM.

Obviously, protecting our water is NOT on this council's agenda.

2. Their Agenda includes a Capital Budget spending over \$35 million for **pipied water supply and expansion**. Very little is known about this expansion plan: such as by whom and how it will be funded, and who is going to benefit from it.

a. A Hydrogeological Review of Groundwater Resource along Highway 207 was done in 2021 by the municipality, and references have been made to extending water to a new Industrial corridor so it seems likely that this expansion is geared to benefit industrial development. But Mayor Fell and her council followers after much public outcry did not require a Hydrogeological Review of the Groundwater for the Anola/Vivian area.

b. A \$3.3 million Expansion piped water in Anola shows in the 2022 Budget. Twenty years ago when Anola was under a boil water advisory, a piped water system had to be installed at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million. To date there are only 54 customers on that system. Mayor Fell and council have refused to explain why a \$3.3 million expansion is necessary ... perhaps they are anticipating contamination of the ground water from the SIO SILICA proposed mining and sand extraction from the nearby Vivian/Anola area. **Whatever the rationale is, Mayor Fell and council should come clean and explain this extravagant project to the residents who will likely pay for the expansion.**

3. **SIO SILICA's** underground sand extraction project in Vivian/Anola area, has been described as drilling 450 wells per year to extract 1.36 million tonnes of silicate via a slurry system that will utilize 25 million gallons of water per year. The water will be drained out of the silica slurry and be returned into the aquifer. **This project and its untested mining process is the largest potential threat to much of Springfield's groundwater supply**, but it has been subtly facilitated by council under the direction of Mayor Fell. Their reluctance to demand and make public, professional studies and reports about the silica sand removal process and deflecting all responsibility to upper levels of government is tantamount to abdicating their accountability to Springfield residents. **Council's proposed new Zoning by-law paves the way for industries like SIO SILICA to proceed in Springfield without any local Public Hearings.**

4. **New Dugald Water Supply Project:** there have been significant delays, issues including disruption and interference with local resident's water supply and increased costs regarding this water supply and treatment project. **Mayor Fell has refused to discuss these issues**, including:

- The current status of the chemistry and suitability of the well water which we have found out will require expensive changes in the water treatment process,
- Excess operating expense and excess water usage from the Dugald Wells will be required for the now needed reverse osmosis treatment process

Importantly what this project is costing the utility customers and/or the ratepayers and who should be held responsible for the needed corrections? WHY IS COUNCIL NOT BEING TRANSPARENT? Concerned residents are frustrated by council's secrecy on this project.

SPRINGFIELD WATER CONSUMERS and/or TAXPAYERS WILL BE STUCK WITH THE COSTS

So what else has council not done regarding our water?

1. Springfield has paid for 6 studies including:

- Municipal Groundwater,
- Drinking Water Management Plan, and
- Aquifer Capability and Ground Water Vulnerability

Mayor Fell and her council have **ignored recommendations** arising from these expensive Water Studies and not done a study on the Sandilands Aquifer where the SIO SILICA sand mining project is proposed.

Instead Mayor Fell and her council followers have **THEIR VERY OWN PLAN.**

- Spending \$35 million for a piped water supply and expansion system but no plan for protecting ground water for residents that get their water from wells.**
- Quashing the proposed Aggregate By-law #20-22, which included measures for protecting the existing groundwater sources particularly at the municipal well site on Heatherdale and initiating another quarry by-law that was supported by MHCA (Manitoba Heavy Construction Association).
- If the water from the Moosenose aquifer gets contaminated by gravel operations etc. Council's plan for abandoning the wells does not consider any impact to rural residents' water supply. There is no plan for residents and businesses on private well water.

Council's position on private wells was stated on the municipality's website:

"As a well owner, it is your responsibility to protect groundwater by being informed and Well Aware!"

CLIMATE CHANGE:

Last year in particular Manitoba experienced reduced precipitation which lowered the levels in our aquifers. We should not be complacent about these water levels just because this year we have more than normal precipitation. This year's precipitation will only provide us some more time. More time to **TAKE ACTION** to protect our critical water sources, water quality and water supply.

Higher summer temperatures are occurring around the world and we can see and learn from other areas that are experiencing the impacts of water shortages. **THE CLOCK IS TICKING ... THE TIME IS NOW** to take preventative action.

2. Unlike former councils who planned for financing piped water in Springfield:

A. **For existing homes** that had poor or unsafe drinking water, areas were identified as a local improvement district (LID) and grants from the two levels of government were sought to help relieve the associated expense of changing from well water to municipal piped water ... *These types of grants have been cut back and many communities are fighting for the same designated funds; so government subsidization may not be as available.*

B. **For new development**, developers are not eligible for grants from the upper levels of government, but were charged a levy against each new lot created and the levy was to be put into a specific reserve account that was to be used for the sole purpose of expansion to the water supply and treatment systems ... *a significant amount of the levies that have been collected from new development have been expended on minor improvements or repairs to the existing system and are not sufficient to fund the next expansion. Current Reserve balances for water and sewer expansion are \$4.5 million, less than a 10th of what will be needed.*

"Springfield Council introduced legislation to force Oakbank, Dugald, and Anola residents to curtail water use during times of drought. Violators will face large fines. The same council gave approval to Berger Peat Moss Processing Plant to go ahead and apply for a commercial water license from the province. This license will be equal to 2,300 Springfield residents daily use. Sio Silica Sand, formerly Can White Sands, was allowed to experiment with a extraction process with no prior history of established safe outcome. Can White previously admitted that the protective shale layer separating the carbonate and sandstone aquifers may be compromised by sand extraction resulting in cross contamination. Can White also stated that 32M gallons of water will be directly lost each year from the Sandstone aquifer from 1.36M tonnes of sand being mined. Who benefits from these bad decisions, certainly not the citizens who elected this government?"

This council has been irresponsible with our water source that could potentially affect many other municipalities who share this aquifer. Safe drinking water is essential for life. Springfield could potentially be held accountable by other municipalities for destroying their water source as well."

Karen Lalonde (Former Councillor for Springfield)

Current council has Springfield taxpayers **SAILING ON A SEA OF DEBT**

TOPIC 2: SPENDING OF TITANIC PROPORTIONS

Since this council came into office, operating expenditures have increased by \$6 million or 25% and in 2023 it is predicted to increase by a further \$3.3 million. Over the same period Springfield's assessment has grown by \$153 million, but instead of added growth helping keep our taxes in check, the new assessment is being eaten up by the added demands the new growth requires.

Moderate property taxes, which have been one of the benefits Springfield property owners have appreciated, are now steadily increasing at a concerning rate.

In the Capital Budget approved by Mayor Fell and her council followers they are projecting Springfield's **long-term debt to increase from \$9.8 million to \$40 million**. Instead of following the past practices of former councils and saving ahead of time, this council seems to be ready to borrow at an unprecedented rate.

The cost to service this debt will impact on our property taxes at about the same rate (current annual repayment is \$1.2 million but would grow to \$4.8 million)

Springfielders want our municipal government to provide stable and balanced budgets.

Projects passed in the 2022 budget include:

INFRASTRUCTURE:

Dugald and Oakbank Water supply	\$28,000,000
Regional Lagoon expansion	\$21,375,000
Anola Water expansion	\$ 3,300,000
Distribution Network and upgrades	\$ 3,700,000
Total	\$56,375, 000

RECREATION

Springfield Recreation Centre	\$18,320,000
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** Not shown in the budget is financing of the \$26 million Springfield Heritage Housing and Swimming Pool project.

COUNCIL HAS NOT LAID OUT THEIR PLAN IF SUCH SPENDING IS WARRANTED OR JUST WANTED BY THEM

TOPIC 3: INCREASED DEVELOPMENT AT ANY COST

Mayor Tiffany Fell and all councillors: Glen Fuhl, Howard Bredin, and Valerie Ralke are focused primarily on development and not on the interests of Springfield taxpayers.

STOP TAX BREAKS for COMMERCIAL DEVELOPERS

Without any public consultation or consideration being given to our ground water and infrastructure capabilities, council decided to give new commercial **development a tax break for 5 years**.

"This council has bypassed all the legal things they should have done (in reference to Berger Peat Moss Processing Plant). When I was on council we never had to give incentives for industry to build in Springfield and they still came."

**Garry Brown,
Former Councillor for Springfield**

NO DEVELOPMENT RESTRICTIONS ON WATER USAGE

Councils via development agreements, have the ability to pass on related costs to developers, put restrictions on the operations such as hours of operation, and also place conditions as to certain uses including types of septic waste disposal systems and water consumption. Mayor Fell and Councillors Fuhl, Bredin and Ralke often disregard the concerns of nearby existing properties and unilaterally determine what goes into development agreements if anything.

Berger Peat Moss Processing Plant (A Quebec-based company)

This industrial business was permitted by council to develop on a quarter section of land that was zoned agriculture restricted (as is much of rural Springfield). The sole intent of Berger is to receive and store 200 million pounds of bulk peat moss from other sites and process it into marketable products for sale across North America. When completed the processing facility will exceed 44,000 square feet and include raw material storage that will cover most of the 160 acres of land. The only restriction to operations that council has required is that Berger Peat is responsible for the condition of Oakwood Road from PR #207 to their approach.

With no discussion or resolution passed at a council meeting, Berger Peat Operations was given permission by Mayor Fell to operate 24/7, the Noise by-law will not be applied to their operations and they have a water license for **200 gallons per minute (that is under appeal)**. There are currently 84 residences within 1½ miles of the plant who rely on well water that has already been negatively affected by the construction of the floodway.

South Mills Champs Mushroom Factory (An American company)

Formerly known as **Loveday Mushrooms**, situated about a mile south east of Berger, was not subjected by council to any conditions as part of a development agreement regardless of the concerns raised by nearby residents particularly about the protection of their drinking water. A request for information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding Loveday's water license is over 60 days late but it is expected to be substantial.

Council has also continued to permit large residential developments to begin (Qualico) or expand (Wheatland Estates), even though the existing piped water supply and sewage lagoon have been identified as being at capacity.

Is Council's zeal for development really the best thing for Springfield residents at this time? **WE DON'T THINK SO!**

TOPIC 4: QUESTIONABLE GOVERNANCE

HAS SPRINGFIELD MOVED FROM A DEMOCRACY TO A DICTATORSHIP?

Dictatorship: is defined as a form of government characterized by a single leader or a group of leaders that hold government power promised to the people and little or no toleration for political pluralism or independent media.

Democracy: is defined as a system of government by the whole population or all eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives who deliberate and decide legislation.

ON THE MUNICIPALITY'S WEBSITE COUNCIL'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES READ AS FOLLOWS:

"The following principles define the culture, behaviors and actions exemplified by government, administration and community member of Springfield – Accountability, Transparency, Fairness and Integrity, Lead by example, Safety, Public Service and Teamwork."

These principles are definitely not the culture, behavior and actions exemplified by Tiffany Fell, Councillors Glen Fuhl, Howard Bredin, Val Ralke or Peter Williams.

Do you think that this council practices demonstrate ACCOUNTABILITY and TRANSPARENCY?

Council Conduct at Meetings

- Council Meetings (excluding the Planning Meeting) average about 15 minutes, leaving one to think that the serious matters are not being discussed, debated or **decided in public**.
- A new Agenda Item instituted by this council was

"question period" designed to discourage public interaction, scheduled at the beginning of the meeting (prior to any information or explanation of the item) and limited to items appearing on the Agenda. If a citizen wants to be a "delegation" they are subject to the CAO's discretion and must submit any information prior to the Friday Agenda deadline.

- Often questions by the public or requests for information or action are not available at the time and there is frequently no follow-up by council or staff.

Conduct of Planning Matters

Disposal of Municipal Assets as part of a rezoning: Mayor Fell and her council followers sold 12.1 acres of municipal land to **Pine Ridge Hollow**. Land that had been held for years as a future aggregate asset for Springfield taxpayers was sold to a commercial developer for \$218,400. (Approximately \$18,000/acre compared to another local 5 acre lot sale valued land at \$27,500/acre, without the aggregate underneath). The Council **did not have any professional land value appraisals conducted or offer to tender the land for sale. Mayor Fell refused to explain how the land value was determined.** This action went against the municipality's Procurement Policies which they have since revised.

No public hearing process: Mayor Fell and her council followers permitted **Berger Peat Moss Processing Plant** to develop on a quarter section of land zoned as Restricted Agriculture, **without any type of public hearing or consultation**, There can be no mistaking that this is not an agricultural use, it is clearly an industrial development which will store up to 200 million pounds of bulk peat moss in 16 foot high bunkers, covering an area equal to 8 Canadian football fields, then process it for shipment to places in North America. Signs of the impact to local residents can be

seen on Oakwood Road which is already suffering from the heavy truck traffic that will only get worse as the industrial operation increases to full capacity.

Developers Offered Special Accommodations? The \$50 million Parrish and Heimbecker grain elevators on Highway 15 was allowed to develop on the agricultural zoned property but the related business of sales of fertilizer and chemicals which **should have required a Public Conditional Use Hearing** never took place. Mayor Fell and her council followers then agreed that the municipality would survey, acquire land (by expropriations) design, tender, and construct an improved access to the site (at a tendered price of \$1.33 million plus taxes, fees and disbursements).

Note: A request from interested residents for a written accounting for these road works, including any repayment by P&H has not been provided.

"Given all the unknowns, the lack of information and lack of data provided to date on the silica sand mining project proposal near Vivian, the damage that can occur to the two aquifers are irreversible and far outweigh any benefits that may accrue from this project.

The Sandstone aquifer and Carbonate aquifer are the two major bedrock aquifers that supply water to businesses, residents and farmers in southeastern Manitoba, as well as communities along the west shores of Lake Winnipeg. There should be no mining in this ecologically valuable and irreplaceable drinking water source."

**Glen Koroluk, Executive Director
Manitoba Eco-Network**

FAIRNESS and INTEGRITY?

EMPLOYEE TURN OVER TELLS A STORY

Over the past 4 years, under the leadership of Mayor Fell and her council followers, at least **9 senior staff**, including the CAO, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Director of Water and Waste, etc. have left Springfield. Salaries seem to be consistent with the market, so is it because the municipality does not provide a good work environment? Do you wonder what the cost of this has been to the municipality in productivity, consistency, and financially?

GAG ORDER ON EMPLOYEES

We have been told more than once that municipal employees can risk losing their job by speaking out publicly. Employees have expressed frustration and low employee moral but “off the record”.

EMPLOYEE STRIKE ACTION

Public Works and Water and Waste Departments after a year without a Contract, went out on Strike in early June. The strike went on for almost two months before the action was moved to binding arbitration.

Council via news releases has painted their position as being open and willing to negotiate but under anonymity members of the Union says that isn't true. Springfield's employees have never been on strike for more than a couple of weeks and never during the summer when much of their work gets done.

Union demands have not been made public BUT there are rumors circulating which appear to be fairly reliable. The unionized staff asked for a contract that focused on parity with other similar municipalities. The salary increase requested was and in the area of 3% for the first year and 1% for the following two years.

COUNCIL'S REMUNERATION SINCE THE 2018 ELECTION

Remember in 2019 just 3 months after Mayor Fell took office council unilaterally gave themselves a **20% increase**, plus future cost of living increments. (Note: as of May 2022, cost of living was 8.7%) Also, after the municipal staff had negotiated a 2% increase in 2020, council also took the same 2% raise. That means 22% since elected.

During their election campaigns, not one candidate indicated that the compensation for being on council was inadequate. **This self-serving council action could not be opposed by the taxpayers at the time, but it should be remembered now, because at least 4 of the same individuals seek again to run for office and may do it again.**

The inconsistency of these two applications should not be ignored:

1. One made by a local farmer: the other by a political figure,
2. One was to allow his family members to build on the property, while the other was to make a significant profit through development. *Note: a land developer using a team of professional engineers etc. has calculated a profit of between \$3 to \$5 million dollars for Ted Falk, depending on the number of lots.*
3. One development would not significantly impact the ground water, while the other which is considered over a ground water sensitive area would require many wells or a local shared water treatment and supply and septic disposal system.

Conflict of Interests? Springfield residents should also be made aware that:

- Councillor Bredin's son worked as Ted Falk's Executive Assistant when he became MP; and prior to her election to council, Tiffany Fell worked for Ted Falk when he was chairman of the Steinbach Credit Union Board;
- Both through personal ties to the owner of the property could be suspected of being influenced by their personal relationship with the applicant, especially when they seemingly ignored Springfield's Development Plan by-law and the Province's recommendations that included the

Council also receives other benefits such as full health coverage including vision and dental, a mileage allowance at Government of Canada rates (which includes driving to the municipal office for meetings), and a \$250 personal protective equipment allowance.

WARD REPRESENTATION

In August 2021, the councillor for Ward 3, Rick Wilson, resigned and a by-election was expected to be held. The Municipal Act requires that a by-election must be held if the vacancy occurs before 12 months before the next general election (October 26, 2022). Without explanation, Mayor Fell and council held off calling a by-election. In mid-September, 6 weeks after Rick Wilson's resignation, a unique Order in Council was passed under the Emergency Measures Act. The special Order overruled the requirement for a municipal by-election in that 3 month period. The Minister responsible for Emergency Measures at the time was Springfield MLA Ron Schuler, is a close associate of Mayor Fell. This unprecedented and questionable “Order” took place at the same time the Federal Government's general election was underway. Councillor Wilson often seemed to be the sole opposition to a number of council decisions. **Ward 3 has been without representation since August 2021.**

Note: *Filling the vacancy on council also seemed to fit into Mayor Fell's plans to have a smaller council to control. In the spring, council succeeded in eliminating a seat on council by reducing the number of Wards to 4, not to mention the irregular shape of the boundaries of the Wards they chose.*

Conclusion: The fewer number of councillors, the easier it is to reach consensus and the bigger the allotment for their wards.

Note: *At the July 26th Council Meeting Councillor Williams submitted his letter of resignation, leaving Ward 5 also without representation until the end of October. Council who also gives themselves annual Ward Allotments of ___ (funds to spend in their Ward on unbudgeted items) agreed to take the remainder of Ward 5 funds and split them among the*

remaining 4 members of Council. Now Ward 5 is without a Councillor and without the balance of its allotment.

INCONSISTENT DECISIONS ON PLANNING MATTERS?

WHITE SHEPHERD HOLDINGS:

Property primarily owned by Ted Falk, MP

A Development Plan Amendment to facilitate a new residential development for 35 lots which was to be developed on land that land, currently under agricultural production, and designated as Agricultural Preserve was recently approved by Mayor Fell and Councillors Fuhl, Bredin and Ralke despite the objections filed by 75 local residents and the Provincial Planning Branch.

BRIEF HISTORY –The land in question was denied re-designation by the previous council during the Development Plan Public Hearings, In November 2018 just after the election the current council at their first meeting after being elected, tried to submit a late amendment to the New Development Plan while it was pending approval from the minister. The minister denied the amendment.

In May of 2021, Ted Falk's agents for White Shepherd Holdings, applied again for an amendment to the Development Plan to re-designate the land from aggregate and agricultural preserve to rural residential.

The decision by council, to approve the application, **went against the recommendations of Provincial Planning Department, against Provincial Land Use Practices and against the Springfield Development Plan Land Use by-law**, which requires that agricultural land be protected for future needs and also from any premature development of agricultural land.

Ironically, at almost the same time as the White Shepherd Holdings application was brought forward, another application to re-designate land to rural residential located about a mile away was made by a local farmer. The comparison is as follows:

COMPARISON	WHITE SHEPHERD HOLDINGS	SOKOL FARM
Agricultural land involved	198 acres	50 acres
Agricultural Preserve Designation	Yes	Yes
Location access	Lornehill Road	PR #207
Number of lots created	25+ / 5 acre lots	3 / 25 acre lots
Proposed use and benefits (after costs)	Profit (between \$3.7 to \$5 million)	For family
Risk to aquifer	High over designated at risk area	Minimal
COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION	APPROVED	DENIED

requirement to protect agricultural land.

- Elected members of council hold a position of trust and are expected to **act in the best interests of the municipality**. They are expected to make decisions objectively and without influence or without benefit from the outcome of a decision;
- In the Oath of Office they are required to take – they swear **“That they will act faithfully, without fear, favour or affection, and will truly, faithfully, and impartially execute the duties of their elected office”**.

This decision of council which went against:

- Provincial Planning recommendations;
- Provincial Land Use Planning Legislation;
- Prior council's decision on the land use change;
- Springfield's Development Plan By-law; and
- The interests of local residents.

It cannot be said that the decision made by Mayor Fell, Councillor Howard Bredin, Councillor Glen Fuhl, and Councillor Valerie Ralke was based on “What is best for Springfield” nor can it be said that it was made impartially.

One could easily say that the interests served in this instance was Ted Falk's not Springfield's.

Poor Land Use Planning by approving Leap Frog Development (Development that is not adjacent to existing municipal infrastructure)

Mayor Fell and Councillors Bredin, Fuhl and Ralke voted in favour of a by-law that allows new development on lands in the Oakbank and Pine Ridge Secondary areas that are not contiguous with existing infrastructure services or roads. This decision by council is not only a departure from good land use planning practices; it appears once again to set aside the interests of Springfield in order to accommodate a particular developer.

Kothari Group is proposing a development of 153 residential units and commercial, light industry along PR 206. The proposed development is 1/2 mile south of Springfield road. How this development would connect to existing roads, sewer and water is not revealed, nor who will be responsible for the design and installation costs. Past experience, has frequently left unplanned-for developmental costs fall onto the shoulders of the taxpayers, because the developer often is not required to foot the bill.

**** This by-law and decision by Mayor Fell and her council followers (excepting Councillor Williams in this case) is under challenge by the Province at a recent Municipal Board Hearing.**

THE FOLLOWING EXCERPTS ARE FROM A UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA STUDY USING LARGE SCALE MODELING TITLED:

“Sustainability of the Bedrock Aquifer Systems in South Central Manitoba: Implications for Large-Scale Modelling.” By Paula L Kennedy and Dr. Allan D. Woodbury

Three Dimensional Density Dependent Flow and Transport Model for the Carbonate and Sandstone Aquifers in a 60,000 square-kilometer area of south-Central Manitoba.

Some of the conclusions of the modelling were as follows:

The sustainability over 20 years with 1999 constant pumping rates was examined. Within both aquifers, hydraulic heads declined in some regions and on average a decline in head was predicted..

The model was run for a 50 year period to observe long term effects. The solute transport results show a concentration increase in the region south of the City of Winnipeg after one month, indicating a decline in water quality.

Drought simulations were incorporated by reducing recharge rates to the aquifers. The hydraulic heads within the Carbonate Aquifer decline within the Interlake region with a maximum decline within the Sandilands region southeast of the city of Winnipeg.

For increased development, the domestic pumping rates were increased 2% every 5 years for a model run time of 20 years. The predicted decrease in hydraulic head east of the City of Winnipeg was greater (6.0 m).

Allan Akins

GRAVEL EXTRACTION NIGHTMARE IN SPRINGFIELD

Gravel extraction operations are allowed to continue without any municipal restrictions or enforcement of the existing aggregate by-law # 73-22. Dredging continues deeper and deeper below the water table. Mining of gravel continues in controlled areas. There is no requirement for rehabilitation of exhausted pits. Securing the perimeter of the gravel operations by berms, fencing and locked entrance is lax.

- In August, last year, Council quashed the new gravel by-law (#20-22) at final reading and abandoned the Aggregate Task Force that had been appointed by the previous council. After years of consultation, this by-law would have replaced the former outdated aggregate by-law and included protection measures from gravel operations.
- The Moosenose Aquifer, in particular, has been identified

as “at RISK” due to the highly permeable nature of the sands and gravels deposited in the Birds Hill Glacio Fluvial Complex from the expansive gravel extraction operations, and provides the source of water for Oakbank and many nearby residences.

- Contamination risk applies to all gravel operations in Springfield, as these zones are vital recharge areas for our ground water. The unrestricted depletion/dredging, the lack of controls/enforcement and improper rehabilitation/ closure has resulted in ‘festering sores’ that directly impact our ground water.

The RM Aggregate Task Force and the Proposed Aggregate By-law that contained serious environmental controls have been canceled by our current council seemingly to pacify the gravel industry.

“I have made many appeals to this council to allocate funds for ground water protection with particular attention to the gravel zone aquifers. I’ve been ‘blown off’ by Mayor Fell with “council has other priorities”. One such ‘priority’ has been the recent unbudgeted expenditure approval of \$97,500, to provide a well supply for ornamental purposes for the Aspen Lakes retention ponds. Further wells committed to, will do the same for the Crystal Lakes and Ventura Developments. Water source and use protection should be seen as a priority and council could have found the money in their budget if they wanted to.”

Darryl Speer, Former member of the Springfield Aggregate Task Force



YOU CAN'T COMPLAIN IF YOU DON'T VOTE

MUNICIPAL ELECTION 2022

Election Day: Tuesday October 26, 2022 8 am to 8 pm

POLLING STATIONS

Ward 1 – Lyncrest Airport, Dugald Community Club, Oakbank Arena

Ward 2 – Oakbank Baptist Church, Church at Pine Ridge

Ward 3 – Church at Pine Ridge, Cooks Creek Community Club, Oakbank Arena, Anola Community Club

Ward 4 – Anola Community Club, Dugald Community Club, Oakbank Arena, Cooks Creek Community Club

ADVANCE VOTING

October 15, 2022 – 8:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Municipal Office

VOTE BY MAIL IN BALLOT

Request must be filed between September 28, and October 15.



SPRINGFIELD RATEPAYERS QUIZ	Yes	No
Do you think this council has acted in the best interests of Springfield taxpayers when making decisions about Springfield's future?		
Has council lived up to their “Guiding Principles” of accountability, transparency, fairness and integrity?		
Do you think that a 22% increase for members of council is justified?		
Are you satisfied with the manner Mayor Fell and her council followers have dealt with protecting Springfield's ground water?		
With regards to the proposed development of SIO SILICA in the Anola/Vivian area, do you think Mayor Fell and council have acted accountably and in Springfield's best interests?		
Do you know enough about council's proposed long-term borrowing plans and the resulting tax implications?		
Elected representatives must follow the municipal by-laws and policies, when making decisions about taxation, planning matters, health and safety concerns, etc., would you say that this council has done a good job in these areas?		
Do you think that council conducts their council meetings appropriately and in an open and transparent manner?		
Total your ratings and if there are more NOs than YESs, take the only action you can and do not re-elect them to council for another 4 years.		

During my last 4 years as Reeve, our council made a concerted effort to improve communication with both residents and businesses by engaging and encouraging open discussions at council meetings. We installed a question & answer period during the meetings. Comments/concerns were brought forward from the gallery as each agenda item was introduced. We also held a number of open houses to bring forward information on various subjects, such as the Development Plan, Master Recreation Plan & the Strategic Plan for the municipality.

Just one term with this current council has destroyed every step of progress that was achieved. Question & answer period has now been moved to the forefront of the agenda, prior to the items being brought forward. No one is allowed to ask a question that is not directly related to an agenda item. Some residents are treated with disrespect and their questions are ignored. There is little discussion by council members on any subject. One has to assume that

they have discussed the items on the agenda previous to the council meeting & have predetermined the outcome.

This council has also become a member of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce. This could lead to a serious Conflict of Interest. An example of this would be the sale of land owned by the R.M. of Springfield sold to another Chamber of Commerce member rather than using the Tender process and reviewing bids on the property. Any municipal land should be tendered to ensure that the best possible benefit is achieved by the municipality.

We have heard from the Mayor that decisions on some items such as the silica sand debate are the responsibility of the provincial government when it is quite clear that the municipal act clearly states that council may make decisions that are more astringent than the province.

Bob Bodnaruk, Former Reeve and Councillor R.M. of Springfield

OUR SUGGESTED ACTION PLAN FOR THE NEW COUNCIL

1. Slow down economic development and growth in Springfield to a level that can be sustainable and not add a tax burden onto existing properties
2. End the Tax Incentive Policy: that gives new commercial or industrial development a municipal tax holiday for 5 years. They will still come if our community is in a healthy financial condition.
3. Reinstate the Aggregate Task Force and revive the Gravel By-law #20-22 and start protecting the aquifer.
4. Revise the Procedures By-law to allow for public interaction – as it was before – and where citizens can be properly heard and receive fair treatment and get prompt answers.
5. Pass a Residents' First Right to Water By-law.
6. Develop a municipal ground water resource department that would include a system of regular monitoring of municipal owned wells and tracing the ground water levels in real time.
7. End extravagant deficit spending and incurring unmanageable long-term debt.
8. Shelve By-law #21-25, the proposed new Zoning By-law and revisit the terms and conditions that promote development without protecting existing properties.
9. To have a new council requires citizens to get out and vote on October 26th but vote for a candidate that will work for the best interests for all Springfield.

“As a former councillor and as an industrial park developer I have been on both sides of planning issues and I have always tried to listen to and respect the voice of the people who were most affected by proposed changes in land use. I am very concerned about this council allowing what is an obvious industrial business to locate in an agricultural-zoned area without any regard to the local taxpayers or to other industries that were restricted by where they could develop. The message I read is land use by-laws are now discretionary.”

Don Matheson, Former councillor for Springfield