

Lac du Bonnet to utilize CodeRED emergency system

By Mark T. Buss

The Town of Lac du Bonnet now has a system in place to alert area residents of pertinent community information or in the case of an emergency.

The town has contracted with Emergency Communications Network to license its CodeRED high-speed notification system, which will provide town officials with the ability to quickly deliver messages to targeted areas or the entire town covering everything from a home phone to the latest high tech gadgetry.

Since 1998, the Florida-based CodeRED has been a high-speed web-based emergency and mass notification system used by more than 3,000 local government entities across Canada and the U.S. The system gives authorized users the ability to send phone calls, text messages, e-mails, social media messages including Facebook and Twitter, RSS and others.

"We felt the old way things had been done for years was not adequate," Lac du Bonnet Mayor Gordon Peters said. "This covers a broad range of technology that will allow us to better communicate with the constituency."

Peters said the town's previous system was basic at best. He said last year when the town needed to notify area residents that they were going to be working on the water system, the process involved going door to door with paperwork and notifications.

"It was very inefficient and it took a lot of time," Peters said.

Peters said CodeRED was identified by public works manager Geoff Blacklin as a possible solution to the issue and a system that has received positive feedback from those who have used it.

"CodeRED allows geographically based delivery, which means street addresses are required to ensure emergency notification calls are received by the proper individuals in a given situation," Peters said. "If we need to only contact a portion

of Lake Avenue as an example, we will be able to do that."

The CodeRED telephone communication service also provides an emergency management coordinator the means to quickly issue an alert to citizens about emergency situations, such as tornados and storm events, water contamination, sewage problems and flooding.

Although CodeRED has its own database system of accumulated public e-mail addresses and phone numbers at hand, one of the reasons the system was selected is it gives individuals and businesses the ability to add their own phone numbers directly into the system's database – an extremely important feature as Peters cautioned that such systems are only as good as the telephone number database supporting them.

Peters said all businesses should register, as well as all individuals who have unlisted phone numbers, who have changed their phone number or address within the past year, and those who use a cellular phone as their primary number.

"No one should automatically assume his or her phone number is included," Peters said. "If your phone number is not in the database, you will not be called."

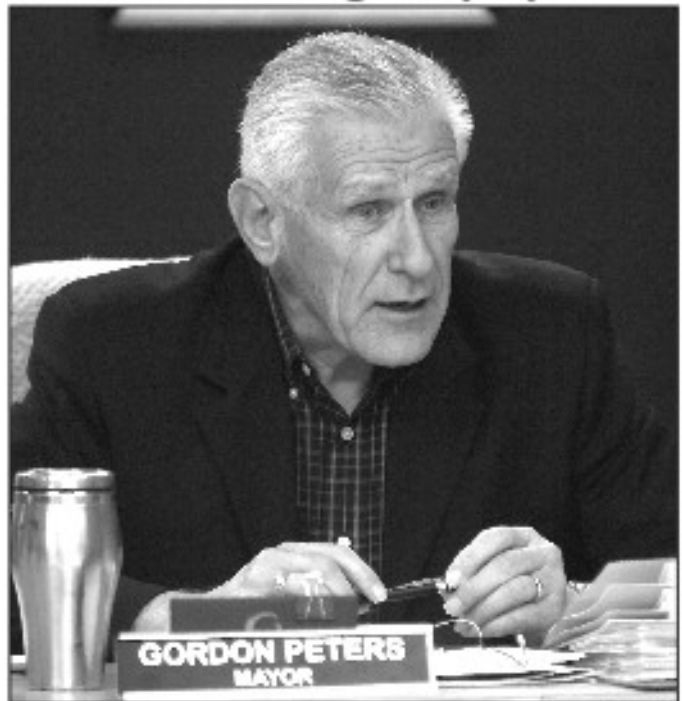
The system can also integrate with any IP-based devices. CodeRED is a Software as a Service (SaaS) solution, and does not require individual agencies to purchase or lease hardware or phone lines to access the system.

Peters said Lac du Bonnet has signed on for a one-year term at a modest rate of \$1,500.

"It's not a long term agreement by any means," Peters said. "If it doesn't prove to be effective we simply won't renew."

Peters added CodeRED gives those who want to be included an easy and secure method for inputting information. The data collected will only be used for emergency notification purposes.

The town will be running a test of the system with an initial test message on Nov. 27. Lac du Bonnet is urging all individuals



File photo

Lac du Bonnet Mayor Gordon Peters said the CodeRED high-speed notification system covers a broad range of technology that will allow for better communication with constituents.

and businesses to log onto the Town of Lac du Bonnet's website and follow the link to the CodeRED Community Notification Enrollment page.

Those without Internet access may call the Town of Lac du Bonnet municipal office (204-345-8693) during working hours to supply their information over the phone.

Required information includes first and last name, street address (no P.O. boxes) and a primary phone number.

Questions should be directed to the Town of Lac du Bonnet Municipal Office. To learn more about Emergency Communications Network, visit www.ecnetwork.com

LdB Foundation thankful for community support



Photo by Arlene Davidson

Foundation president John Barnard extends appreciation to the community for the "outpouring of philanthropic pride."

By Arlene Davidson

John Barnard and fellow board members of the Lac du Bonnet & District Charitable Foundation extend a big thank you to the community for stepping up during the 24-hour challenge to help raise \$15,000.

"In an outpouring of philanthropic pride in their community, citizens of Lac du Bonnet rose to the annual Endow Manitoba Giving Challenge on Saturday, Nov. 14 and donated over \$15,000 to the Lac du Bonnet & District Charitable Foundation," said Barnard. "During the 24-hour challenge the Winnipeg Foundation matches every \$10 donated with an additional \$2, thus giving anything donated on that day an extra boost."

The funds that were raised during the recent campaign have been added to an endowment fund that now stands at well over \$400,000.

"Interest and returns on the investment are used to fund

worthy projects that add to the livability of the Lac du Bonnet region," explained Barnard.

Community foundation grants have helped fund important community projects including the Lions accessible play structure in Leslie Park, the Lac du Bonnet Wildlife Ponds development and the Lac du Bonnet Community Centre outdoor sign.

"Recently established donor directed funds are providing bursaries to assist deserving students in furthering their post-secondary education," Barnard stated. "The foundation wishes to thank the citizens of Lac du Bonnet for their caring and generous spirit and their trust in the foundation to play a role in making Lac du Bonnet a more livable community."

PROFITABLE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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DOLLAR STORE AND POST OFFICE - Turn key business, asking \$72,500

BAKERY WITH LIVING QUARTERS - asking only \$325,000

5800 SQ. FT. MALL - located in Pine Falls, offers, might be surprised.

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