Surveys, volunteers expected to be ready by this fall

From P.3

"My biggest concern is we're getting too comfortable with our success. We need to stay sharp in order to be able to develop and maintain what's been grown," he said. "Yes, we are doing well, but at the same time other surrounding communities are becoming more aggressive (economically)."

"This is probably going to be the most important thing we do for the community as a Chamber," Thomas added.

Moving forward

In addition to last month's meeting, the BR+E project leaders have also recently met with the Chamber's board of directors and executive to go over the details of the program.

The next step is to fine-tune the survey's questions, which will focus on things like satisfaction with city/provincial services (roads, highways, zoning, etc.), potential barriers to business expansion, and various other issues.

Training is also set to begin soon for the volunteers who will be visiting local businesses on behalf of the project, said Thomas.

By October, the Chamber hopes to begin sending out volunteers with the survey to a small sample of local businesses, said Siemens.

"We're going to do a relatively small sample in the beginning, just to make sure our survey is serving its purpose," he said.

Ultimately, the goal is to meet with 100 businesses - representing a range of sizes and sectors - in the program's first year, Siemens said.

"We're going to do a cross-section of the business community," he said.

Once the project is completed a few years from now, the Chamber will present its findings to the community, including what steps need to be taken to meet the needs identified by local businesses, said Siemens.

"We're going to (survey) a cross-section of the business community."

– Walter Siemens, program consultant, on the first round of surveys going out

Arrest made in Carman sexual assault investigation

By Heather Baril

RCMP have arrested a suspect in connection to two sexual assaults in Carman in May and June.

Thirty-eight-year-old RM of Dufferin resident David Wesley Stewart has been charged with breaking and entering, sexual assault, theft, uttering threats, choking to overcome resistance, and wearing a disguise in relation to the May 14 assault.

He has also been charged with breaking and entering, sexual assault, assault causing bodily harm, uttering threats, choking to overcome resistance, and breach recognizance in relation to the June 1 incident.

Cst. Mike Nakonechny said Carman RCMP and the RCMP Major Crime Unit from Winnipeg arrested Stewart on July 13 at approximately 9:30 p.m. at his residence.

"He's in custody (in Winnipeg) and the matter is now before the courts," Nakonechny said.

Carman Mayor Bob Mitchell said his reaction to the news of the arrest was mixed.

"I think it's had everybody on edge for quite some time."

– Carman mayor Bob Mitchell

"I think it's great that they've arrested somebody," Mitchell said. "I'm not sure that it's so great that it's somebody from around here whom everybody seems to know."

Still, Mitchell said the arrest will likely come as a "big relief" for residents.

"I think it's had everybody on edge for quite some time," he said.

The first incident occurred on May 14, 2007 when a 75-year-old woman was assaulted in her suite at a Carman housing complex. The second incident occurred on June 1, 2007 when a 53-year-old woman was assaulted in her residence.

Stewart was scheduled to appear in Provincial Court in Winnipeg on July 23, but Nakonechny said that appearance has been remanded to an unknown date as of press time.

EXTERNAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Share Your Views
on Manitoba's Regional Health Authority System

The Manitoba government has established an independent external committee to review the province's regional health authority system. The goal of this review committee is to make recommendations to improve health care services for all Manitobans.

The external review committee consists of the following members:

- Dr. Jerry Gray, dean emeritus and senior scholar at the University of Manitoba's I.H. Asper School of Business
- Ms Shirley Delaquis, a recently retired nurse
- Mr. Tom Closson, the former president and chief executive officer of major hospitals in Ontario and a British Columbia health region

They are expected to achieve the following objectives:

- Examine the overall performance of the RHA system
- Identify areas where regional health authorities (RHAs) have shown innovation in improving patient care
- Recommend how best practices can be extended to all RHAs
- Ensure resources are focused on front-line patient care by reviewing administrative costs, including comparisons to other jurisdictions
- Examine how RHAs can increase their public accountability
- Identify ways to enhance community participation in regional decision making

Send your written submission

The review committee wants to hear what you have to say regarding Manitoba's RHAs and invites you to send a written submission related to topics within its mandate. You can send your submission by either post or e-mail.

Mailing address – RHA Review Committee, P.O. Box 48065 RPO Lakewood, Winnipeg, MB R2J 4A3

E-mail: rhareview@shaw.ca

Please send your written submission by **August 22, 2007.**

For more information

If you would like more information on the review committee's detailed terms of reference, please visit **www.gov.mb.ca/health/rha/review.html**

Any personal information, and personal health information, you provide to the review committee as part of the consultation is subject to *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and *The Personal Health Information Act*. The information you provide will only be used to assist the review committee in carrying out its responsibilities. This will involve disclosure of the information to and between members of the review committee, persons providing administrative support, to other review participants, other interested parties and through various means, during and after the review process, including written reports. **Your personal identity will not be disclosed without your consent.** If you have any questions about the collection, use or disclosure of your personal information or personal health information, please contact the review committee coordinator at P.O. Box 48065 RPO Lakewood, Winnipeg MB R2J 4A3 or (204) 786-7347.

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Meridia is available by prescription and is only recommended for overweight people with a **body mass index** (BMI) of 30 or higher. It may be recommended for overweight people with a BMI of 27 or higher if they have health risks such as high blood pressure, diabetes, or high cholesterol.

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To calculate your BMI multiply your body weight (in pounds) by 703 then divide it by your height (in inches) squared. Or visit this on-line BMI calculator at www.nhlbisupport.com/bmi.

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