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Carson-Pegasus expansion plans in the works

Jim Rennie, Mayor

I believe that we live in one of the most beautiful areas in the world and that this beauty is often heightened at many of our wonderful parks – one of them being Carson-Pegasus Provincial Park, which has become one of the most popular tourism destinations in our municipality.



I am very excited to announce that Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation has agreed to upgrade the campground and facilities at the provincial park to accommodate the increasing demand for recreational opportunities in the region. This project is a success story that began with the former president of the Whitecourt and District Chamber of Commerce, Leo Zelinski, pushing for the expansion. With a strategy planned by Whitecourt – Ste. Anne MLA George VanderBurg, which involved myself, Whitecourt Mayor Trevor Thain and Zelinski, we were relentless on the Minister of Tourism, and the plan became a reality.

The project holds many benefits in both tourism and industry sectors. With the economic downturn, we expect many Albertans will stick closer to home, rather than traveling out of province, and what better place for them to holiday than at Carson-Pegasus Provincial Park. As well, many contractors have experienced slowing activity in recent months, and this large project will keep local industry working.

My own family camps at the provincial park whenever we have a chance, and my children will be excited to see potential upgrades such as a new playground! Other project proposals include creating an additional 100 campsites to accommodate large RV units and, where possible, include power, water and sewer hook-ups. Improving three boat launches, replacing certain docks, and enhancing parking and signage are also being proposed, as well as creating a day-use area at Little McLeod Lake and expanding the current trail network. A final decision on the proposed plans will be made this spring.

First on the agenda of upgrades will be the construction of the new campground, which is set to begin in the summer of 2010; however, some initial site preparation may begin this summer. Upgrades on other facilities will begin after the completion of the new campground.

I am truly excited to see these changes take shape over the next couple of years, and I am confident that the final expansion plans will be sure to please both tourists and local residents alike for many years to come.

For more information about expansion plans at Carson-Pegasus Provincial Park, or any other County matters, feel free to call me at (780) 778-8400 or email me at jim.rennie@woodlands.ab.ca.