

## **Dunrea Water Treatment Plant**

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On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, Dunrea held a barbeque and hosted a tour of the new upgraded water treatment plant. The R.M of Riverside is the first -south-western Manitoba municipality to get a non-chemical water treatment system. For many years, residents of Dunrea had water problems, and as time went by, the problem became worse. The water had ammonia, manganese and extreme iron in it.

The new biofiltration system has been up and running just over a month and took two weeks to complete. Results were seen almost immediately, and there have been a few changes in the water supply with one improvement being the amount of chlorine that the town has used. They were using a 5 gallon pail every two weeks, and the town has now been on the same pail since July 20th. Chlorine is regulated and used as a third barrier against coliforms.

The system was installed by Mainstream Water Solutions Inc., a Saskatchewan based company. Mainstream's biological water treatment systems are based on European slow sand filtration technologies. The systems use naturally occurring micro-organisms to absorb and remove contaminants. This organic treatment eliminates the need for using chemicals.

Mainstream now has systems from B.C to Manitoba. They have other municipalities in Manitoba considering installing the systems. Councillor Dan Labossiere says Dunrea has 39 residential and 7 businesses connected to the treatment plant. Labossiere says that every council meeting people were dropping off water, some was looking like ice tea or coffee. He said there was a problem, we fixed the problem, and that is what it boils down too. Many residents are echoing their praises for the new water and are glad to be doing laundry at home.

Labossiere says this system has less waste and it saves water. He says they thought the maintenance on the old system was going to be too much with the cost of backwash and the chemicals.

There was no infrastructure money to help cover the cost, but the municipality thought it was a project that they could use some of their gas tax money towards a third of the cost was covered by the Manitoba Water Board, and the town covered the rest.

The system was up and running by July ninth, but they had to wait for final approval from the government and they ran into problems with engineers not meeting deadlines.

Labossiere says the hardest part was dealing with all the government regulations and engineering reports. He says there were multiple reports and many of them overlapped each other. He says most of the headaches were with dealing with late engineering reports and they were hard to keep on the time line.

There were close to 30 people who turned out for the lunch and cake at noon.