

Sustainability committee in search of members

BY MARK LAYCOCK
Courier Staff

The Sustainability Committee is looking for a few good men and women to help spearhead some significant changes to the town.

The committee, which is the byproduct of the Carstairs Sustainability Plan, will be responsible for the implementation of a laundry list of new and innovative ideas that will have long-standing impacts on the community.

The committee will consist of five community members and at least one member of town council who will meet once a month. The committee will be replaced every year with new members.

Members will be responsible for implementing as many projects as possible as outlined in the Sustainability Plan. Projects have already been categorized by the estimated amount of time that would be needed to complete them. For example, curbing

plastic bag use could be accomplished within one year, but the creation of something major such as a youth centre could take 15 years or more.

Jan Thompson, sustainability co-ordinator, says that what projects are tackled and when they are completed is also heavily dependent on the town's budget each year as well as what council feels is a priority each year.

"There's a motion that comes out of the committee and that motion is taken to

council and council has the final say on whether they have the funds to do that or not," says Thompson. "If it's a big ticket item it would get moved to the second or third year."

Although the final say is up to council, and other issues such as infrastructure and maintenance will receive priority, Thompson says that council is well aware of the Sustainability Plan and the importance of tackling some of its suggestions.

"I think that people who

pay taxes will probably be happy to see sidewalks and roads done before we get a (community) billboard, but I think council has always been... open to making Carstairs a viable community and a place where people want to come and visit and come and live and open a business."

Thompson says that the ideal committee member is someone who has a passion for their community and is dedicated to making Carstairs a better place to live.

"Someone who has some

good ideas, that can work well in a committee... they want to meet other people, they want to bring together their ideas and work as a team to accomplish some good things for the town."

There is no deadline for acquiring members, but Thompson says the faster they can have all members in place, the sooner the committee can get started on its plans for the upcoming year.

Anyone interested in joining is asked to contact Jan Thompson at (403)-337-3341.