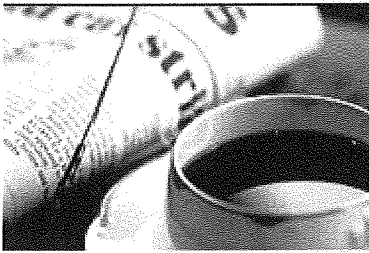


Mountain View Publishing



# Carstairs Courier

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## Carlinton may land Carstairs on the map

*Mark Laycock and Lea Smaldon, Carstairs Courier*

Carstairs will become one of the first rural communities in Alberta to provide fibre optic high-speed internet service once development of the upcoming Carlinton Estates subdivision begins, possibly this summer.

Last week, council approved with conditions the subdivision of 14.384 hectares (35.54 acres) for the first phase of the Carlinton neighbourhood.

The subdivision allows for 75 residential lots and three commercial lots.

The approval paves the way for the town to enter into a development agreement with Integrity Wealth and, once conditions, including approval from Alberta Environment for a Water Act application, are met, Integrity can begin its development.

Carlinton Estates developer Integrity Wealth Group is working with Calgary based company Naeco Communications to introduce the ultra high-speed internet exclusively to Carlinton as a way to stay competitive with big city internet service.

"We've been trying to bring a more city level project to Carstairs. And seeing as Carstairs has a pretty tremendous opportunity for growth, I think the delivery of entertainment services ... through the internet is an increasing trend throughout the world," says Integrity Wealth director Owen Shaw.

Fibre optic internet allows for speeds of 10 times what existing cable and phone line based internet services can offer. This can allow for unique online services such as television, surveillance systems and video-on-demand.

Shaw says that along with the fibre optic connection, a wireless "mesh" network will also be available to Carlinton residents anywhere within the subdivision.

Shaw says introducing the service to Carlinton will further entice new homeowners and businesses to the town and keep the town at the forefront of technology.

The fibre optic lines will be installed as other underground services are put in once development begins, possibly by this summer, said Shaw.

Planners say there have been a number of hurdles that needed to be cleared prior

to the subdivision being able to go forward.

Town CAO Carl McDonnell said water issues, including the disturbance of an existing wetland and concerns over flooding onto neighbouring properties were paramount.

"I think we came up with a solution that benefits everybody," said McDonnell.

The town, the golf course, and the developer entered an agreement to expand the capacity of the golf course's storm ponds to accommodate an extra 83,000 cubic metres, the potential runoff from the loss of wetlands in Carlinton.

Earth material excavated from the ponds will be used in the Carlinton development, while the golf course potentially will have more water for irrigation.

And to suffice the Alberta Environment requirement that compensation be paid for the loss of wetlands, proponents are pitching the money go to Olds College to help with wetland research which is a top project at the college right now.

The details of such an arrangement haven't been defined yet as Ducks Unlimited is currently the only recipient of such funding approved for by the province, said McDonnell.

"With what the college is doing right now in researching wetlands, this could help them and then it could help us in the long run," he said.

With a number of low lying areas on undeveloped lands now slated for future development, McDonnell said the town should be aiming to use best practices when it comes to dealing with them.

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## *The Mountain View Publishing Group*

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