
news release

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FOR RELEASE
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CARMAN FLOOD PROTECTION DIVERSION OFFICIALLY OPENED

CARMAN, Manitoba -- Today at an official opening ceremony in Carman, Federal Western Economic Diversification Minister Charles Mayer, Manitoba Minister of Natural Resources Harry J. Enns and Carman Mayor R.S. (Bob) McKenzie, announced the official opening of the Carman Flood Protection Diversion.

The \$4.5 million diversion, built to alleviate flooding in the area, was constructed pursuant to a letter of understanding signed on July 8, 1988 by the Governments of Canada and Manitoba and the Town of Carman. Under the cost sharing arrangement, the Government of Canada has contributed 70% of the funds and the Province of Manitoba 25%. The Town of Carman has contributed the remaining 5%. The Federal-Provincial funding is provided through the Canada-Manitoba Sub-Agreement on Agri-Food Development.

"The official opening of the diversion today is the result of the cooperative efforts of all three levels of government", Mr. Mayer said. "In addition to affording a greater level of protection and safety to the Town of Carman and its residents, the diversion resolves what had been a serious constraint to continued growth and development of the community".

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Canada  Manitoba 

The 9.8 km diversion, on the north side of the community, is designed to safely handle flood flows of the Boyne River, which in 1979 alone caused over \$3 million in damage and affected over 400 buildings in Carman. The town also experienced similar floods in 1893, 1923, 1970 and 1974.

"The Town of Carman will enjoy protection from future floods and further its essential role as an important service centre for agriculture", said Mr. Enns.

"The Diversion removes the threat of future floods and has already made possible major new development within our Town", said Mr. McKenzie.

Project management was provided by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA).

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BACKGROUND: TOWN OF CARMAN

Located approximately 80 km southwest of Winnipeg with a population of 2600, Carman is a major agricultural service centre situated in one of the most productive farming areas in the province.

The Boyne River meanders through the heart of the town and has historically been the source of severe flooding. Major floods occurred in Carman in 1893, 1923, 1970, 1974 and 1979 with damages from the 1979 flood alone totalling over \$3 million and affecting over 400 buildings including the hospital and the senior citizens home.

In the early 1980's, the Boyne River floodplain in Carman was mapped under the Canada-Manitoba Flood Damage Reduction Agreement. The 1:100 floodway and floodway fringe were officially designated on June 13, 1984, resulting in a moratorium on federal and provincial financial support for flood susceptible development in these areas. With the construction of the Carman Floodway, the floodplain designation has been put in abeyance and the floodplain boundaries are currently being revised taking into account the effects of the Carman Floodway.

On July 8, 1988, the Governments of Canada and Manitoba and the Town of Carman signed an agreement to construct a diversion channel around the town in order to minimize the threat of flooding posed by the Boyne River. Under the cost-sharing arrangement, the Government of Canada undertook to contribute up to \$4 million, the Government of Manitoba up to \$1.75 million and the Town of Carman up to \$350,000. The project was completed at a cost of \$4.5 million, which was considerably less than expected. Through the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA), the Government of Canada has also provided project management services. The Federal-Provincial funding is provided through the Canada-Manitoba Sub-Agreement on Agri-Food Development.

Construction of the 9.8 km diversion, which originates on the Boyne River west of the Town and enters an existing floodway system to the northeast of the Town, has involved the awarding of 15 construction contracts. The diversion is designed to safely handle flooding of the Boyne River and has entailed the excavation of some 1.5 million cubic metres of material.