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Ernie Epp

President of the Manitoba Municipal Administrators Association



Ron Bell, President

It has been the TIME OF MY LIFE

I know this sounds cliché, but it really *does* seem like just yesterday that I was first elected President of the AMM, and now I find myself writing what can only be described as a “farewell” message. I have served as AMM President for four years and prior to that, for several years as Urban Vice-President. I initially became involved as a director during the last year of the UMM, meaning it has been a part of my life for more than a decade. I suppose then, it should come as no surprise that saying “good-bye” is anything but easy.

During my term, the AMM has tried to focus on some of the larger issues affecting all municipalities. We all have different issues that are unique to our regions and to our communities, and we deal with those in more individual ways. However, there are two or three major issues that certainly affect our membership as a whole – things like infrastructure, finding alternate revenue sources and planning – that, I think, we have made steady progress on. We may not have all of the results that we want yet, but we are moving forward. Identifying two or three “priority” issues, along with all of our other lobbying activities, has helped us start the ball rolling on long-term change for municipalities. We may not see these changes come to fruition this year, or next year, or in five years, but with a steady and focused approach, we will see them happen. That is my belief and one that has driven me through all of the ups and downs of the past four years.

While making the decision to step down has not been an easy one, it is

indeed the right one for me and my family. Making this decision has given me cause to reflect on my time with this association, particularly the last four years as president. There is no way I could have led to the best of my ability without the support and encouragement of my two Vice-Presidents. I’d like to acknowledge **Garry Wasylowski** and **Lorne Boguski** who served with me during my first two years. And especially **Doug Dobrowolski** and **Shirley Kalyniuk**, who have worked

side-by-side with me for the last half of my term as president, and who have become my good friends as well. I also would like to extend my sincere thanks to all the board members, past and present, with whom I have worked.

Another cliché is that time flies when you’re having fun, yet that too is true.

The past four years have passed swiftly, and while not without their trials, I have most definitely had the time of my life. This is an organization that is very important to me and near to my heart in many ways. I will miss it, and you.

If I leave you with a final thought, it is this: I appreciate your support of the AMM, and of me during my term as President; but most of all I appreciate the work that you do every day within your own communities. Collectively, it is *that* work that allows us, from the ground up, to continue to move these important issues forward and make change happen for the betterment of all of Manitoba’s municipalities. **L**

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