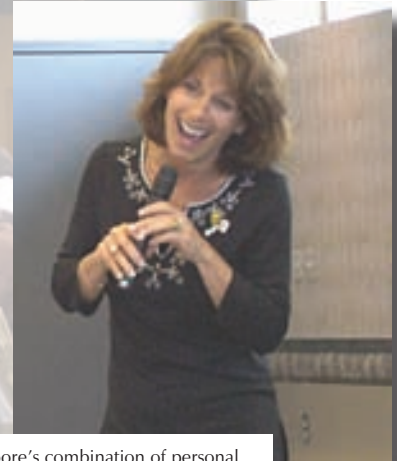


A sold-out crowd of 109 participants attended Greg Tramley's March 18 session *Decision-Making for Councils and Boards*.



Sue Hershkowitz-Coore's combination of personal stories, group exercises, and tried-and-true communication techniques engaged her audience from start to finish.

## Recap of the AMM's 2005 Education Series

This year was the third year that the AMM offered municipal officials a selection of high quality educational sessions throughout the year. As we are currently planning the 2006 Education Series, this is an opportune time to review the excellent sessions that were offered in 2005.

January started off with **Alex Wray**, President of the Wray Group, who unfortunately had to be cancelled due to lack of registrants. Alex's session *Help! I'm in a Meeting and I Can't Get Out!* promised to be dynamic, hands-on and thought-provoking. After weighing the pros and cons of the low interest in the session, the AMM felt it was in the best interest of its members and the presenter to cancel the session, to avoid any further financial commitments to the seminar. We are sure many factors contributed to the lack of response to this session, including the date, the logistics of winter travel, and other commitments of municipal officials.

Fortunately, the next session in the series, presented by **Greg Tramley** of McCandless Tramley, suffered no lack of interest! A sold-out crowd of 109 participants attended *Decision-Making for Councils and Boards* in Portage la Prairie on March 18, 2005. Through the use of presentations, case studies and group exercises, Greg Tramley helped participants consider the duties and responsibilities of council and board members as formal decision-makers.

The next session in the series was the much-awaited world-class motivational speaker **Sue Hershkowitz-Coore**, who did not disappoint. May 6, 2005 saw over 100 municipal officials come together at the Clarion Hotel in Winnipeg to learn how to communicate better, in order to get the results, respect and recognition they deserve. Hershkowitz-Coore presented a lively, dynamic, full-day session on the topic of communication, which was very well received by the entire audience.

Finally, **Len Wood** will present *Who's Guarding the Municipal Chequebook?* on October 7, 2005 in Winnipeg. Len is the author of

*Local Government Dollars & Sense* and is a renowned speaker on the topic of simplifying the potentially intimidating topic of budgets, capital plans and financial reports. If you want to solve the mystery of local government accounting, learn the why's, what's and how's of the annual financial report and understand its key elements, you won't want to miss this session. ☛

In order to plan for the 2006 education series, AMM surveyed members to obtain feedback on the 2005 series and obtain suggestions for 2006. Thank you to all 76 municipalities who responded to the Education Survey. For complete survey results visit the AMM website at [www.amm.mb.ca](http://www.amm.mb.ca).

Review of survey results:

- Councils would like to have three sessions offered each year.
- Top four months in which councils indicated that they would be able to attend sessions: January, February, March & October .
- 70% of the surveys indicated that the preference is for 1-day session.
- 70% of surveys indicated that councils were in fact interested in the 2005 AMM Education Program.

Topics suggested included Council Training; Legal Matters; Financial Management/Budgeting; review/update of Municipal Act; Rural Economic Development; Environment; and Grants/Funding. Other suggestions? Let us know!

**THE 2006 AMM EDUCATION PROGRAM WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION!**