

## AMM Board of Directors

### EXECUTIVE

**President**  
Mayor Ron Bell,  
Town of Birtle

**Vice-President, Rural**  
Councillor Doug Dobrowolski,  
RM of Macdonald

**Vice-President, Urban**  
Mayor Shirley Kalyniuk,  
Town of Rossburn

### DIRECTORS

**Councillor Ralph Groening,**  
RM of Morris

**Mayor Melvin Klassen,**  
Town of Altona

**Reeve Alice Bourgouin,**  
RM of Rosser

**Mayor Randy Sigurdson,**  
Town of Arborg

**Reeve George Harbottle,**  
RM of Alexander

**Councillor Art Rempel,**  
City of Steinbach

**Reeve Roger Wilson,**  
RM of Birtle

**Mayor Eileen Clarke,**  
Town of Gladstone

**Reeve Robert Misko,**  
RM of Hillsburg

**Mayor Rene Maillard,**  
Town of Ste. Rose du Lac

**Councillor Alan Ransom,**  
RM of Morton

**Councillor Maxine Chacun,**  
Town of Virden

**Councillor Oswald Sawh,**  
City of Thompson

**Councillor Russ Wyatt,**  
City of Winnipeg

**Dale Lyle,**  
President of the Manitoba Municipal  
Administrators Association



Ron Bell, President

# Time flies when much is being accomplished

Where has the year gone? It seems like only a few short months ago that we were welcoming hundreds of newly elected municipal officials to our Annual Convention. We kicked off that event with a special pre-conference seminar and have offered numerous education sessions throughout the year to help you navigate the waters of municipal government. We hope we have helped you get acquainted with municipal government over the past year, answered some of your questions, and eased your transition into life as an elected official.

I expect that one of the more popular topics of discussion around your council table over the past year (and definitely at any AMM functions you have attended) has been infrastructure – the deficit, the need for more funding, and the difficulty for small communities to cost-share large infrastructure projects. Every one of our communities, large or small, is affected. That is why we received the Federal Budget of last March with mixed feelings. While Budget 2007 failed to provide a long-term plan to eliminate the estimated \$60-billion infrastructure deficit across Canada, the announcement of the \$8.8 billion Building Canada Fund (BCF) sounded promising.

Fast-forward to October and we continue to wait for the BCF to be rolled out and for clear criteria to be provided. From a lobbying perspective, however, there has been some recent progress. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the AMM

undertook a spring advocacy campaign to ensure the BCF included significant, dedicated funds to municipal priorities. In early September, the FCM Board of Directors was informed that federal officials have indicated this will be the case. Further, the AMM met with Treasury Board President Vic Toews in late September, and urged the Minister to finalize this fund so that money can begin flowing to municipalities. My hope is that, as you read this, the announcement has been made! If not, you can rest assured that the AMM is doing everything we can to get this fund moving so that it can begin to benefit our membership.

In the meantime, the AMM 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention is just around the corner and we have planned another top-notch event for our members (for a preview of our very full agenda, turn to page 28). Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for the support you have shown our association over the past year. The work that we do is full of many successes and at times, a few disappointments. We continue to pursue our goals only because of the strength of our membership. Your dedication is what ultimately moves the AMM forward, and it is what inspires our Board and staff to do the best job possible on your behalf.

See you at Convention! \$

“We continue to pursue our goals only because of the strength of our membership. Your dedication is what ultimately moves the AMM forward.”