

# The 6th Annual AMMM Convention



# 2004

# 2004 Convention recap

by Lynne Bereza, AMM Communications Coordinator

**T**he 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the AMM saw 984 delegates attend four very full days of workshops, plenary sessions, and guest speakers. Here is a re-cap:

## Presentations and Speakers

The AMM took delegates suggestions from previous years under advisement and offered three keynote speakers this year – one for each of the first three days of convention. Feedback on all three speakers was extremely positive. **Bob Gray**, Monday’s keynote speaker, shared his amazing memory with the audience and shared tips and tricks on recalling important information. **George Cuff**, Tuesday’s keynote speaker, is an expert on governance and showed why his straightforward, no-nonsense approach to elected life works – with a few jokes thrown in for good measure, of course. Wednesday’s keynote speaker, the inspiring, incredible **Alvin Law**, moved many in the audience to tears with his uplifting story and positive attitude.

At his year’s AMM Annual Banquet, delegates were treated to a top quality stage show by the *Timebenders*. Described as a ‘rock down memory lane,’ this energetic and amazingly talented group entertained almost 1,200 banquet attendees for a full two hours.

Delegates also had the opportunity to attend workshops on various issues of interest to municipalities, including:

- the status of Lake Winnipeg
- the review of the RCMP Policing Model in Manitoba
- an overview of the Manitoba Floodway Expansion Authority
- an introduction to Travel Manitoba, the new Crown Corporation
- the need for healthy communities
- Manitoba’s Ground Search and Rescue system, and
- effective local government leadership.

The AMM again hosted Round Table discussions for large urbans, small urbans, and six groups of RMs. The results of the discussions were presented to the delegate body on Wednesday morning. Not surprisingly, the three main topics raised at the majority of the Round Table Discussions were education taxes, water issues, and a federal New Deal. Physician shortages, costs of policing, by-law enforcement, and the BSE crisis were also raised during these sessions.

Speakers for this year’s Convention included the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs & Trade, **Scott Smith**; Leader of the Manitoba Official Opposition, **Stuart Murray**; President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, **Ann MacLean**; Leader of the Manitoba Liberal Party, **Dr. Jon Gerrard**, and **The Hon. Reg Alcock**, MP Winnipeg South.

The AMM offered two plenary sessions during Convention. The first was an overview of the Federal New Deal and featured **Jack Hayden**, Past-President of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMD&C) along with **Sherman Kreiner**, President and CEO of Crocus Fund. The second plenary session was on Education Funding, and featured **Carolyn Duhamel**, President of the Manitoba Association of School Trustees (MAST), **Stuart Briese**, President of the AMM, and the **Hon. Peter Bjornson**, Minister of Education, Citizenship & Youth.

Intergovernmental Affairs & Trade Minister **Scott Smith** chaired this year’s Ministerial Forum, and was joined by **Premier Gary Doer** and **Ministers Oswald, McGifford, Mackintosh, Chomiak, Bjornson, Struthers, Robinson, Lemieux, Wowchuk, Ashton, Rondeau, and Sale**. The ever-popular ‘Bear Pit’ session did not disappoint as questions fielded by the Ministers were focused on health, transportation, water, education funding and policing issues.

## Elections

Change was in the air this year as **President Stuart Briese** chose to step down after a three year term. The ensuing challenge saw Urban Vice-President, **Ron Bell**, running against Central Rural Director, **Doug Dobrowolski**. A total of 795 ballots were cast with Ron Bell winning the seat.

Running for the position of Urban Vice-President were Parklands Urban Director **Lorne Boguski** and Central Urban Director **Rick Martel**. With 667 ballots cast, Lorne Boguski won the seat.

RM of Tache Reeve **Bill Danylchuk** challenged incumbent **Garry Wasylowski** for the position of Rural Vice-President. A total of 666 ballots were cast with Garry Wasylowski retaining the seat.

**Rene Maillard** of the Town of Ste. Rose du Lac won the by-election for Parklands Urban Director. The by-election took place immediately following Convention adjournment.



## Resolutions

This year’s resolution session was unique in that resolutions began out of order. The first resolution voted on was Resolution #17, Total Removal of Education Taxes from Property. This resolution was carried by the AMM delegate body and, as expected, drew a high number of speakers to the floor.

Vice-Presidents Ron Bell and Garry Wasylowski chaired the resolutions sessions, while the Resolutions Committee rotated reading the resolutions. This year’s Resolutions Committee consisted of:

<b>Central District</b>	Orville Wagner, City of Portage la Prairie
<b>Eastern District</b>	Bill Danylchuk, RM of Tache
<b>Interlake District</b>	Don Pepe, Town of Winnipeg Beach
<b>Mid-Western District</b>	Ron Kostas, RM of Rosburn
<b>Northern District</b>	Dan Davie, RM of Kelsey
<b>Parklands District</b>	Melvin Graves, Town of Grandview
<b>Western District</b>	William Shackel, Village of Glenboro

There were 62 resolutions brought to the floor for debate, including 6 resolutions that were AMM standing policy and were voted on as one, and 2 late resolutions. 56 resolutions were carried, 5 were defeated, and 1 was withdrawn.

### Resolutions Summary

Number of Resolutions	60
Number of Late Resolutions	2
Total Number of Resolutions	62
Number carried	56
Number defeated	5
Number withdrawn	1

## Awards

The Honourary Life Member Award is given out each year in recognition of outstanding and exemplary service to the Association, its member associations and to the community. This year, the AMM

awarded three Honourary Life Members at the Annual Banquet.

The first Honourary Life Member Award went to **R.S. "Bud" Oliver**. First elected to the Council of the City of Selkirk in 1978, Bud was elected Mayor in 1983 and served six consecutive terms until October 2002. He is a Past President of the Manitoba Association of Urban Municipalities and was made a Life member in 1995. Bud was a member of the Selkirk and District Planning Area Board in 1979, and served as its Chairman from 1987-2002. In September 2001, Jean Friesen, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, appointed Bud to the Regional Planning Advisory Committee.

Bud presently serves as a Director on the Boards of Selkirk and District Community Foundation and the Gordon Howard Senior Centre in Selkirk.



The second Honourary Life Member Award went to **R. Wayne Motheral**. In 1993, Wayne was elected UMM director for the Southern District. In 1996 he was elected Vice-President, and in 1998 was elected the last president of UMM, which amalgamated with MAUM the next year. He was a member of the committee that formed the new Association of Manitoba Municipalities, and was elected its first President in 1999, and re-elected in 2000. As

president, he represented the UMM and then the AMM on various other boards, both Provincial and Federal, including Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, Manitoba Product Stewardship Board and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

The third Honourary Life Member Award went to **Ken Carels**. Ken was a Councillor for the town of Melita from 1971-1980 and Mayor from 1980-2002. He has also been active on a number of Government Boards and Committees. Ken was UMM Director for Urban Centres West of PTH #34 from 1982-1998, and AUM Director from 1978-1982. He sat on the Manitoba Hospital Organization (1993-97), Manitoba Surface Rights Board (1983-88), Canada Mortgage & Housing (1989-92), Manitoba Municipal Board, WEDA (1994-96), Wheat Belt Community Futures, MMARC, and the Boundary Trail Commission.



*Editor's note: Ken Carels, past UMM Board Member and recipient of the AMM Honourary Life Award, passed away on January 25, 2005. Our sincere condolences go out to Ken's family.*

Congratulations also go to **Garry Zamzow** of the Town of Snow Lake for winning the Icebreaker grand prize of a Sony Home Theatre System, and to **Doug Baron** of the RM of North Cypress, who won the Convention grand prize of a \$2,000 trip voucher.

## Trade Show

The AMM would like to thank all the delegates who took the time to visit the Display Area. A total of 98 booths were on display showcasing the many products and services available to municipalities. The AMM would also like to thank the following businesses for sponsoring the AMM's Icebreaker Event:

- Aikins, MacAulay & Thorvaldson LLP
- Airmaster Sales
- Armtec Limited
- Brandt Tractor
- Cochrane Engineering Ltd.
- Ducks Unlimited
- Fort Distributors Ltd.
- Manitoba Heavy Construction Association
- Manitoba Pork Council
- Royal Bank of Canada
- Strongco Equipment
- Westman Steel Industries

Overall, this year's convention was a resounding success! Top-quality speakers, opportunities for learning and networking, exciting resolution sessions, and a strong focus on education funding provided delegates with a thought-provoking and focused event. The Throne Speech announcement of an immediate education tax cut on farmland, with a further cut as well as new reductions in 2005, was welcome and timely. The Throne Speech held many key initiatives for municipalities and, combined with 56 resolutions carried by our membership, ensured that the AMM will have much work to do as we begin 2005.

*Thank-you to all delegates who attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual AMM Convention. A special 'thank-you' to all the speakers who took the time to present to the AMM members and to those businesses and organizations that sponsored this event.*

