



Ron Bell, President

An opportunity to say “thanks”

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to write my first President's Report and to officially thank you for your support at the Convention. I chose to run with the support of my family, my council, and the AMM executive and board, but it is the overwhelming support of the AMM membership that is truly humbling. I plan to dedicate myself to the challenges the position is sure to bring, and I promise you that I will do my very best on your behalf.

This year represents change for the AMM and, while change represents growth, it also has a bittersweet component. Saying “farewell” to **Stu Briese** after three years as leader of this organization was difficult for many of us. Stu was an excellent leader with whom I spent a great deal of time over the past three years, and I will miss him.

I am happy to see you reiterate your confidence in **Garry Wasylowski** by re-electing him Rural Vice-President for his fourth term. Garry and I have worked side-by-side over the past several years and his experience and knowledge will definitely be a great

asset to me and the entire organization in the coming year.

I welcome **Lorne Boguski** to his new role as Urban Vice-President. Lorne is a long time member of his local council and a valued member of the AMM Board of Directors. His breadth of experience in urban issues will play an important role in the coming term.

Welcome also goes out to **Rene Mailard**, who won the by-election for the position of Parklands Urban Director, vacated by Lorne. I look forward to getting to know Rene in the coming months.

While the Convention was a whirlwind of activity, with much accomplished, the real work starts now – working on the issues that you, our members, have identified as important to your communities. We have made progress on the education tax issue, but we're a long way from seeing the reduction of education tax across all property classes. Huge infrastructure needs in our communities, both large and small, require a 'new deal' – but what exactly

will that deal offer us? Local planning is, and will continue to be, a very important and very complicated issue for all levels of government – and we must ensure that municipal interests are heard loud and clear in the discussions.

It is you who must make the decisions that are best for your community, as only you can. The AMM's job is to lobby on your behalf so that you have the tools and framework in place to make those decisions. Our goal is to continue to defend municipal interests while moving forward as a strong and effective municipal association.

Once again, thank you for your vote of confidence in my leadership ability. I will work hard on your behalf. You have shown me your support, and I now pledge my support to you. §

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