



On your mark get set

by Val Turner, CMMA – President of MMAA

Some might think that taking over as President of the Manitoba Municipal Administrators Association is like starting a race. Someone says “On your mark ... get set ... go!”. The reality is that the race began many years ago, but this race is a relay.

Hello everyone! My name is **Val Turner**. I was just elected President of the MMAA at our April Conference. I am the Chief Administrative Officer for the RM of Lorne in Somerset, Manitoba. My husband Gordon and I live in the Town of Treherne where we raised our family. All three of our children are grown now, but we like to think that they still consider Treherne as their home.

In the relay I previously referred to, it takes more than just a President to carry the MMAA baton. I'd like to welcome all new and returning Directors who will make up our team this year. A special welcome goes to **Dale Lyle**, City Manager from Portage la Prairie, who was elected Vice President of the Association and **Doug Cavers**, returning Director who has been appointed by the Executive Council to serve on the Executive

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Committee. Dale, Doug and I, along with Executive Director **Mel Nott**, will be working closely in the next 12 months as members of the Executive Committee.

One of the duties of President is to sit as an Ex-Officio on the Board of Directors of the AMM. I have attended my first few meetings of the Board. Many thanks to President **Stu Briese**, the entire Board and all AMM

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“ Many thanks to President **Stu Briese**, the entire Board and all AMM staff members who have made me feel very welcome at the table. ”

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In the months to come, those of us in the municipal field, will be faced with a number of issues that must be addressed. One such issue is the review of the *Local Authorities Election Act*. I am sitting on the Provincial Committee as the representative of the MMAA. Joining us are representatives from MAST, MASBO, AMM, the City of Winnipeg and the Province. I'm confident that with the diversity and quality of the participants, real progress can be made. During the consideration of *Bill 7*, which addressed non-resident property owners and the right to vote, the MMAA made representation to the Legislative Committee in which we voiced a concern that this legislation may create significant difficulties in the administration of the Act. I trust that, in this new review of the entire *Local Authorities Act*, these and other administrative difficulties will be addressed.

Another area of concern for all is an anticipated shortage in qualified Chief Administrative Officers in the near future. Information gathered through the Manitoba Employees Benefits Program suggests that approximately 80 MMAA members will be eligible for retirement in the next five years. With this in mind, a committee has been struck to investigate the problem and possible solutions. The committee is comprised of representatives of the University of Manitoba, the AMM, the Provincial Government, the Association of Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities and the MMAA. Given the stakeholders, I am, once again, confident that significant progress will be made.

As so many have said, we are fortunate to enjoy the relationships that we do among these stakeholders in municipal governance. Like Presidents and MMAA Boards in the past, I'm convinced that the enhancement of these relationships will best serve our members and all those who make Manitoba our home. ●



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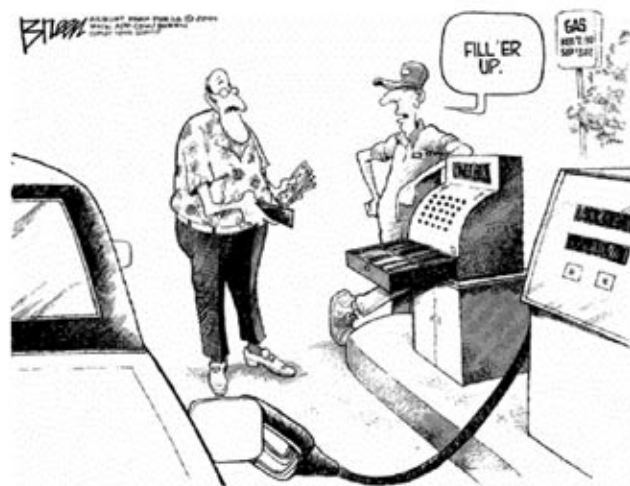
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