

Getting the year OFF TO A GREAT START



Joe Masi, Executive Director

By the time you read this we will have wrapped up our annual series of Mayors, Reeves and CAOs meetings which ran from March 16-24, 2009. I tend to think of these meetings as the unofficial start to the AMM events year. While not the *first* event (that would be the excellent AMM Education session of February 27 – see pages 10-11 for a complete recap), Mayors, Reeves and CAOs meetings are certainly the first opportunity for the AMM Executive and your District Directors to address our members.

They give us a chance to provide an update on AMM activities like our events, education sessions, trading company, communications, and special events like the Municipal Excellence Award. They also allow us to explain where we are on cutting-edge issues facing municipalities, issues like creating fiscal balance and the infrastructure deficit, infrastructure funding programs, education tax, disaster financial assistance, green issues, water issues, policing, housing, health care, and more. With almost as many active resolutions on our books as there are AMM members (193 to be exact) there is no shortage of material to present to you. But that is not the most important part of these meetings.

To me, the most important part of Mayors, Reeves and CAOs meetings is giving YOU – the community leaders of Manitoba – an opportunity to ask questions and have open discussion on the things that matter to your communities. Some of these issues are directly tied to current resolutions, some are just emerging, some may affect a broad range of municipalities, and some may affect only your area. Regardless of the issue, you have the opportunity to network with your peers and find areas of common ground. Mayors, Reeves and CAOs meetings are not simply an enjoyable and informative event, but a vital communication tool that promotes idea sharing and support during these difficult times for municipalities.

On a positive note, we were pleased to share details of our favourable insurance renewal with those attending the meetings. After the very challenging year we experienced last year, it is gratifying to have some good news to share in an area so essential to our members. This also emphasizes the fact that our insurance program is indeed one of the best in Canada thanks to the expertise and commitment of HED Insurance.

Thank you to everyone who attended this year's Mayors, Reeves and CAOs meetings, and thank you to this year's hosts – the RM of Mountain (Parkland), RM of Shellmouth-Boulton and RM of Silver Creek (Midwestern), RM of Cameron and Town of Hartney (Western), RM of Ritchot (Eastern), RM of Rosser (Interlake), Town of Lynn Lake (Northern), and RM of Headingley (Central). Your hospitality was outstanding.

We now turn our attention to our next big event, the Municipal Officials Seminar and MTCML Trade Show at the Keystone Centre in Brandon on April 15 and 16. As always, we expect approximately 800 municipal elected officials and staff to attend and take advantage of our wide selection of policy and professional development workshops and plenary sessions. The MTCML Trade Show is THE largest municipal trade show event in Manitoba, and with well over 100 displays this one-day event is not to be missed. From 4:00 to 7:00 pm, come and have some fun at the annual Wine and Cheese reception that caps off the Trade Show. It is always a great time and there are lots of prizes to be won.

We've included a sneak preview of the entire event beginning on page 29. See you there! 🍷

Contact the AMM STAFF

Joe Masi
Executive Director
856-2360
jmasi@amm.mb.ca

Linda Hargest
Director of Administration & Marketing
856-2361
lhargest@amm.mb.ca

Tyler MacAfee
Director of Policy & Communications
856-2362
tmacafee@amm.mb.ca

Julia Green
Administrative Assistant -
Board & Administration
856-2365
jgreen@amm.mb.ca

Lynne Bereza
Communications Coordinator
856-2366
lbereza@amm.mb.ca

Patti De Baets
Finance Coordinator
856-2367
pdebaets@amm.mb.ca

Erika Rempel
Administrative Assistant -
Policy & Communications
856-2369
erempel@amm.mb.ca

Rachel Philippe
Senior Policy Analyst
856-2371
rphilippe@amm.mb.ca

Donna Belbin
Events Coordinator
856-2374
dbelbin@amm.mb.ca

THE AMM FAX NUMBER IS
204-856-2370