

Second Annual Municipal Innovations Award

All municipalities have experienced change since their incorporation. For some, this change has meant growth and prosperity. For others, change has meant new approaches are needed for long-term sustainability. For this reason, the AMM, in consultation with the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade, developed the Tools For Change toolkit to help municipalities assess the health of their municipality and look at ways of improving how they do business.

The Municipal Innovations Award given out for a second year at this year's Municipal Officials Seminar is part of the *Tools For Change* initiative and is designed to recognize excellence in municipal practices that improve governance, administration, service delivery, or inter-municipal cooperation. Evaluation was based on a number of criteria, including complexity and creativity, overall impact, community support, and regional cooperation.

The recipient of this year's award is the RM of Victoria. CAO **Ivan Bruneau** and Councillor **Reginald Marginet** received the award.

"The panel had a difficult task, with a number of excellent entries that all deserve commendation," said **Ron Bell**, President of the AMM. "What ultimately worked in the RM of Victoria's favour is that its project was truly innovative. It involved technology that had never before been used in Manitoba."

"We're very happy to receive this award, especially considering the larger municipalities that were considered," said RM of Victoria Reeve **Allan Steinke**. "Our water treatment system works very well, the citizens of Holland are happy with the results, and the cost was only half of what a conventional system would have been."

Background

For many years, the community of Holland was impacted by poor water quality. Residents were concerned with the unpleasant taste and odor of the water as well as the staining effect, especially in fixtures and when washing clothes. The poor taste was attributed to by-products that are produced when ammonia combines with chlorine used in the disinfection process. Many residents took to

purchasing bottled water, and many visitors, including visiting sports teams, brought water with them, as they would not drink the community's tap water.

Staining was primarily due to manganese levels in the water. Pilot testing was undertaken to see if chlorine dioxide, which is known to be a powerful oxidant, would be effective in oxidizing manganese such that it could be removed by filtration. At the same time, the use of chlorine dioxide as a primary water disinfectant, instead of chlorine, was examined. Based upon successful pilot test results, a plan was developed to use chlorine dioxide as a primary potable water disinfectant.

Initially the hypochlorite dosage was gradually lowered to a level that still met regulatory requirements, while at the same time the dosage of chlorine dioxide was slowly increased. At all times, chlorine dioxide levels were monitored carefully so that legal maximum limits would not be reached. On August 27, 2005, Holland completely terminated the dosing of hypochlorite (chlorine) solution into their drinking water, which effectively changed the primary disinfectant of their water to chlorine dioxide. Hypochlorite feed equipment is now only maintained as a stand-by disinfectant, in case it is ever needed.

The initial goal of decreasing staining from the effects of manganese has largely been accomplished. The end result of the new chlorine dioxide disinfection system also includes much better tasting water for the community. Residents have indicated that the taste and odor of the water have improved significantly, and are pleased with the results.



RM of Victoria CAO Ivan Bruneau (L) and Councillor Reginald Marginet (R) receive the 2nd Annual Municipal Innovations Award from AMM President Ron Bell.

Made in Manitoba solution

The Holland demonstration project was a made-in-Manitoba solution. It was sponsored by Osorno Enterprises Inc. and supervised by J. R. Cousin Consultants Ltd., both Winnipeg-based companies. Winnipeg's Avalon Institution of Applied Science Inc. carried out essential project research, while the Research Council of Canada, IRAP program and the Technology Commercialization Program, Province of Manitoba also contributed.

Tools for Change Applicants

BETTER MUNICIPAL BUSINESS PRACTICES

Rural Municipality of Morris:

Self-Contracted Water Line Installation

In 1998, the RM of Morris proposed to run water lines to all households at a cost of \$8,000 to the ratepayer, but funding from the Federal and Provincial Governments was no longer available after five years. Council decided to self-contract the remaining work while maintaining the initial price per household by purchasing equipment, training staff and hiring new staff to complete the connections. The RM achieved a cost savings of approximately \$2.2 million by developing capacity in-house.

Town of Rivers:

Special Tax – Special Services Proposal

The Town of Rivers was seeking a better way of funding the local police and fire protection services, so council decided to establish a special levy. All ratepayers would pay the same tax based on the services provided, rather than using property assessment as a determinant. In 2003, the Town built on their previous success by implementing an additional special levy on the collection and transportation of waste materials.

SERVICE SHARING AGREEMENTS

Village of Glenboro & Rural Municipality of South Cypress: Shared Municipal Office

Faced with the retirement of their long-time CAO, the Village of Glenboro decided to analyze the potential savings that would result from sharing a municipal office with the RM of South Cypress. The municipalities had already collaborated to provide many services including fire protection, waste management and recreation. The two municipalities are now enjoying improved customer service and looking forward to realizing further cost efficiencies over the long-term.

TAX SHARING AGREEMENTS

Towns of Altona, Gretna, Plum Coulee and Rural Municipality of Rhineland: Sunbelt Development Group

The Towns of Altona, Gretna, Plum Coulee and the RM of Rhineland created the Sunbelt Development Group in order to approach economic expansion in a unified manner. They negotiated a tax sharing agreement that allowed each member to benefit from new business development. The Group hired a consultant to develop a marketing strategy along with a website and promotional materials. Next steps include applying to the Community Investment Support Program to extend marketing efforts internationally.



What is **your** municipality doing? Let us know! Submit your innovative municipal ideas to the AMM Office as part of the Tools for Change program.

Watch for application forms to be sent out in January 2007 for the **Third Annual Municipal Innovations Award**, which will be given out at MOS 2007 in Brandon next year.



Postless Snow Wing



One Way Plow



Mower



Rock Digger Shank



Pull Type Mulcher



Grader Mounted Mulcher

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