

2010 POWER SMART MANITOBA WINTER GAMES ANNOUNCEMENT

On March 15, **Premier Gary Doer** announced that Portage la Prairie will be the host city for the 2010 Power Smart Manitoba Winter Games, while also pledging \$160,000 in support of the Games. The 2010 Manitoba Winter Games will be held March 8 to 14, 2010, involving up 3,500 participants and 2,000 volunteers. Sporting events include badminton, male and female curling, male and female hockey, figure skating, five-pin bowling, artistic gymnastics, cross-country skiing, male and female volleyball and Special Olympics five-pin bowling.

Communities submit a formal bid package detailing plans for athlete services, hospitality, volunteers, organization structure, sport legacy and finances. This year, five communities submitted bids: the cities of Thompson, Selkirk and Portage, the Town of Killarney and a joint bid by Minnedosa-Neepawa. The host site selection committee, consisting of members from the Manitoba Games Council and Sport Manitoba, evaluated the bids and also performed on-site facility evaluations. The games take place every two years, alternating between summer and winter events.

PROVINCE ANNOUNCES NEW MANITOBA WATER COUNCIL

The mandate and members of the new Manitoba Water Council – a senior advisory board that will co-ordinate and oversee the work of all provincial advisory bodies on water protection – were announced by the **Hon. Christine Melnick**, Minister of Water Stewardship.

The council will include local government, agricultural and environmental perspectives. Its mandate includes providing advice to government, stakeholders and the public on water-related issues including matters such as drainage, and flood and drought protection policies and standards. The council will also monitor watershed management plans in the province and review regulations related to water quality management zones.

Alice Bourgouin, Reeve of the RM of Rosser and Rural Director for the Interlake District, represents the AMM on the Manitoba Water Council.

NEW INTEGRATED HOUSING COMPLEX OPENS IN DAUPHIN

A new housing complex, with 21 units providing emergency, long-term and transitional shelter apartments for Dauphin area residents, was officially opened by **Inky Mark**, Member of Parliament for Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette on behalf of the **Hon. Monte Solberg**, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, and the **Hon. Stan Struthers**, Minister of Manitoba Conservation, on behalf of the **Hon. Gord Mackintosh**, Minister of Manitoba Family Services and Housing.

The new project, located at 123-1st Avenue SW in Dauphin, with an estimated total cost of \$1.4M, includes one and two bedroom units renting below the median market level. The Swan Valley Branch of the CMHA Parkland sponsored the project, which is providing integrated housing in the Parkland area. The project received \$500,000 in funding under the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Program Agreement, and \$275,000 under the Government of Canada's National Homelessness Initiative (NHI).

LOW-COST BIKE HELMETS STILL AVAILABLE

The **Hon. Kerri Irvin-Ross**, Minister of Healthy Living, announced that the low-cost bike helmet initiative would continue as a result of the success of the 2006 program. Parents and caregivers of Manitoba children are able to purchase



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bicycle helmets at a lower cost. Order forms are available through their local school or child-care facility. Bike, toddler, and multi-sport helmets approved by the Consumer Product Safety Commission are available for thirteen dollars or less, taxes included. Helmets will be delivered to local schools in May. Information and order forms are also available at www.gov.mb.ca/healthyliving/bikehelmet.html

**SMALL CLAIMS COURT
MAXIMUM INCREASED**

Recent new legislation announced by the **Hon. Dave Chomiak**, Minister of Justice, increased the maximum award in small claims court to \$10,000 from \$7,500. General damages in small claims were also increased to \$2,000 from \$1,500.

Small claims court handles only civil justice matters, and has been proven to be very efficient and cost effective for Manitobans resolving legal matters. Manitobans may appear in court on their own or may be accompanied by legal counsel. The \$30 filing fee is among the lowest in the country.

**2006 A BANNER YEAR FOR
MANITOBA'S OIL INDUSTRY**

A well-drilling record set more than 50 years ago was shattered in 2006 as \$400M was invested in oil exploration and production. In 2006, 478 wells were drilled breaking the previous record of 354 established 51 years ago. Manitoba's oil production has doubled to over 20,000 barrels from 10,000 per day since 1999. The **Hon. Jim Rondeau**, Minister of Science, Technology, Energy, and Mines credits the Province's new initiatives to attract the oil industry to Manitoba have proven successful. These include a retail sales tax exemption for drilling and service rigs and other equipment used for oil and gas exploration; a change in the Manitoba Drilling Incentive Program to encourage investment water-flood projects; and public offerings of crown oil and gas rights throughout the year.

**LAKE WINNIPEG STEWARDSHIP
BOARD FINAL REPORT RESULTS**

The **Hon. Christine Melnick**, Minister of Water Stewardship, released the final report of the Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board and the latest steps in reducing nutrients in the lake. The government has worked diligently to ensure Manitoba's waterways and Lake Winnipeg is protected. Initiatives include the creation of Canada's first water stewardship,

the *Water Protection Act*, and investing over \$100M for water-quality projects in Manitoba.

Immediate actions included in the report are:

- A renewed robust commitment to infrastructure investments.
- An expanded mandate for the Board.
- New investments in research and shared science.
- Restrictions on phosphorus.
- A cross government action team.
- Initiation of public education, consultations on cosmetic fertilizers, and other household products.

**MANITOBA PROVIDES FUNDING
FOR WORLD HERITAGE SITE**

The **Hon. Stan Struthers**, Minister of Conservation, announced the province will provide \$130,00 in funding to support efforts to have lands east of Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba and northwestern Ontario recognized as a world heritage site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The approximately 42,000 sq. km. includes Little Grand Rapids, Paunigassi, Pikangikum and Poplar River First Nations. The Atikaki Provincial Park in Manitoba and the Woodland Caribou Provincial Park in Ontario are also included.

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