

4TH ANNUAL MUNICIPAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

THE 4TH ANNUAL Municipal Excellence Award was presented on April 17, 2008 during the AMM's Municipal Officials Seminar at Brandon Keystone Centre. This year's recipients were the Town of Carman and the RM of Dufferin for their residential development agreement, signed in August of 2007.

The need for an agreement arose due to a residential development occurring in the town that will eventually take in some of the RM, but the developer wanted the land to be annexed into the Town of Carman. The Town agreed that once the land was annexed they would place an amount of money equal to the taxes the RM would have received prior to annexation into a fund for jointly funded project and organizations. Examples of potential recipients were the local library, recreation groups and fire department.

The Town also agreed to match the amount of money it was putting in on behalf of the RM. Once the taxes received by the Town exceeded the original amount being placed in the joint fund, it would then change to 20% of the taxes received,

thus ensuring the money being put in each year would only increase with development.

The two councils hope that the agreement will allow for the RM and Town to maintain or lower taxes while jointly funding future projects. The benefits include a friendlier atmosphere amongst community groups due to their municipal governments working together. The municipalities have made the agreement as simple as possible, while working together towards a solution to a traditionally difficult situation.

In presenting the award, AMM President **Ron Bell** said Carman and Dufferin set an example for turning a traditionally difficult situation into a positive arrangement, noting that annexations in other jurisdictions often become disputes. "Not only does this create funding for important services that both municipalities use, it created goodwill amongst the town and RM," said Bell.

In accepting the award, RM of Dufferin Reeve **Shawn McCutcheon** said their

tax-sharing agreement is a common sense approach building on existing co-operation between the two jurisdictions. "It's really a recognition on the town's part that we needed to look a little more broadly into this issue or we'd end up arguing over nickels and dimes," McCutcheon said.

Town of Carman Mayor **Bob Mitchell** agrees. "Both municipalities are putting a great deal of effort into working together to provide a strong and healthy community," he said. "Tax sharing is one way of providing joint funding opportunities which prove we can work together for the benefit of our citizens."



(L to R) Reeve Shawn McCutcheon, RM of Dufferin; Tyler King, Economic Development Officer; Mayor Robert Mitchell, Town of Carman; and President Ron Bell, AMM.



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SUBMISSIONS FOR THE 4TH ANNUAL MUNICIPAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

PAPERLESS COUNCIL MEETINGS

CITY OF BRANDON - FINALIST

Brandon City Council is not only a firm believer in recycling, but in reducing waste as much as possible. Last year it decided to tackle one area where a great deal of paper was being used - council meetings. Not satisfied to simply reduce the amount of paper that was being used each council meeting, the council took the bold step to go where few councils have gone before – completely paperless.

This has been accomplished primarily by producing the agenda and all supporting documentation electronically through the use of laptop computers. Because not all Council members had personal computers at home, it was agreed to purchase a laptop for each of the 11 members at a cost of \$1,000 each, a considerable savings due to the bulk purchase. This cost has been recouped in just a year through reduced paper usage, delivery costs, and staff hours.

The paperless concept has now been extended to the flow of virtually all internal and external communication. As well, the entire operational process is much quicker, more efficient, environmentally friendly, and money-saving.

INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY

VILLAGE OF CRYSTAL CITY, RM OF LOUISE & TOWN OF PILOT MOUND

In October 2006, the RM of Louise, Town of Pilot Mound and Village of Crystal City opened facility for solid waste management. This facility now reduces household waste by up to 70% and has increased the life of the landfill site from 35 years to 70 years.

SHARED MUNICIPAL OFFICE

TOWN & RM OF GRANDVIEW

In 2004, the Town and RM of Grandview agreed to share office space and purchased a building. The shared office has been instrumental in forming a sense of community, improving communication and building a partnership between the two municipalities.

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

RM OF ERIKSDALE

The RM of Eriksdale completed its first strategic planning workshop for a total cost of less than \$1,000. They have developed a number of best practices including “shop for the right consultant,” “clearly define the process,” “agree on participants,” “create a vision,” and “agree on a workshop agenda.”

EXPROPRIATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

RM OF ELLICE

In 1999 the municipality embarked on an adventure that continues today which is the acquisition of the Fort Ellice Site located in the RM of Ellice. A unified council has been imperative in facing this cost effective yet legally challenging practice.


SOUTH INTERLAKE REGIONAL LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE

RM OF ROSSER

This custom-built library branch on wheels is one of only two bookmobiles in the province, carrying approximately 6,000 books. Many of the people who utilize this unique service would likely not access the library services if not for the bookmobile.

RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

RM OF LAWRENCE

When notified that the local recycling program would cease to operate on December 31, 2003, the municipality became entirely responsible for the program. Improvements made since then, including a comprehensive communications program and the help of several grants, resulted in an increase in recycling volumes by 52.21%. 



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