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News Release

AMM awards innovation

MUNICIPALITY OF KILLARNEY-TURTLE MOUNTAIN RECOGNIZED AT MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS SEMINAR

February 26, 2007 – Ron Bell, President of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), presented the third annual Municipal Innovation Award this morning at the Municipal Officials Seminar at Brandon's Keystone Centre. This year's recipient is the Municipality of Killarney-Turtle Mountain, who amalgamated from two municipalities into one entity effective January 1, 2007. A panel judged the submissions using established criteria, including the innovation's complexity and creativity, overall impact, level of community support and use of regional cooperation.

"The panel had a difficult task, with a number of excellent entries that all deserve commendation," said Bell. "What ultimately worked in the Municipality of Killarney-Turtle Mountain's favour was the complexity of their project - it involved an actual change to the Municipal Act."

That change means that the Municipal Act now allows different rates of taxation within one municipality, something Killarney-Turtle Mountain residents were concerned with prior to the amalgamation. "We heard over and over again that the rural areas did not want to pay for services in urban areas, and vice versa," explains Chief Administrative Officer Jim Dowsett. "Once that changed we were able to proceed with the full support of our ratepayers."

While the Municipality is pleased to be this year's recipient of the Municipal Innovation Award, officials are quick to point out that their journey is just beginning. "An amalgamation is a work in progress," explains Mayor Brian Moore. "Our council has never felt that the status quo is good enough for our community. If we aren't looking for ways to improve how we deliver services, then we are falling behind."

To view the Municipality of Killarney-Turtle Mountain's complete submission, as well as the submissions from the other finalists, visit the AMM website at http://www.amm.mb.ca/res_tools.html.