

# News Release

## **AMM Awards RM of Victoria for Innovation**

### ***Water treatment technology used for the first time in Manitoba***

**March 2, 2006** - The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) presented its second annual Municipal Innovation Award on Monday at the Municipal Officials Seminar at Brandon's Keystone Centre. The recipient of this year's award is the RM of Victoria. CAO Ivan Bruneau and Councillor Reginald Marginet were on hand to receive the award.

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 Ron Bell, President of the AMM. "What ultimately worked in the RM of Victoria's favour is that their project was truly innovative. It involved technology that had never before been used in Manitoba."

The project sprung from a water quality problem occurring in the RM, which encompasses the community of Holland. Bad taste, unpleasant odour, tendency to stain and difficulty removing chemicals were all characteristics of Holland's water. Typical water treatment plan upgrades would have resulted in higher costs. Instead, the RM, assisted by a number of partners, developed a pilot project using a chlorine dioxide disinfection system— the first time this technology was used in Manitoba. The municipality successfully improved the staining, taste and odour issues for Holland's water supply, while using a much lower level of chemicals than other technologies, and at a much lower expense.

"We're very happy to receive this award, especially considering the several larger municipalities who 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."

To view the RM of Victoria's complete submission, as well as the submissions from the other finalists, visit the AMM website at [www.amm.mb.ca](http://www.amm.mb.ca).

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