

## Ottawa cancels planned postal hikes on library books

**T**he AMM is pleased that a plan to hike postal rates for inter-library book loans has been shelved by the federal government. The AMM was initially made aware of this issue during the 2005 June District Meetings.

Under the library book rate, Canada Post lets libraries send out books to other branches at a cost substantially below commercial rates—about 81 cents a book. However, the post office had planned to charge libraries commercial rates starting next April, hiking rates as high as \$14 a book.

Libraries were concerned with this proposed change, as without being able to afford to participate in the inter-library service, their residents would have access to far fewer books. Given that many residents depend on their library for books, losing the inter-library service would have a serious impact.

The Canadian Library Association said the change would be devastating to libraries across the country, and urged Canada Post to continue subsidizing inter-library book exchanges across the country.

In a letter sent to the Association on July 4, 2005, Canada Post stated that it has no intention of acting unilaterally in this issue. The Corporation said that it intends to honour its long-time commitment toward the Canadian Libraries and nothing will be done without the agreement of the government.

On July 22/05, John McCallum, the minister responsible for Canada Post, said that the book rate program will continue beyond next April. He didn't say how much longer the program would stay in place.

Some Manitoba municipalities passed resolutions calling for the AMM and FCM to lobby the federal

government to reinstate the library book rate. These municipalities strongly feel that the removal of the rate would place a huge financial burden on libraries to continue to provide the inter-library loan program.

While the AMM is pleased with the news that the program will continue, it is an issue we will monitor over the coming year. ■



## Flood Damage Meetings Continue

**T**he AMM held the first in a series of *regional meetings* for municipalities recently, to gauge the extent of the damage from this year's spring and summer flooding. Meetings took place on August 12 in Hamiota and Deloraine, and today in Lockport. Mr. David Rolfe from Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) was in attendance to answer questions directly related to farmland damage. The input heard at these meetings will help formulate the AMM's position that it will be taking forward to government.

The remaining two meetings are as follows:

Monday, August 22, 2005

### Elie

*Elie Veteran's Hall  
34 Main Street, Elie, MB  
Meeting will begin at 9:00 am*

Monday, August 22, 2005

### Letellier

*Letellier Community Hall  
6 Railway Street, Letellier, MB  
Meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m.*

**Should you have any questions about the Flood Damage Meetings, please call AMM Executive Director Joe Masi at 204-856-2360.**

## Municipal Library Survey

**L**ater this month, the Provincial Government's Public Library Services Branch will conduct a survey of all municipalities in Manitoba to assess municipal perspectives on existing library services and the potential for improving these services. The Province will also survey library boards and users, as well as First Nations communities to perform a broad review of library services.

The AMM is working on an important resolution asking for more flexible legislation that would allow a portion of a municipality to join an existing library in a neighbouring municipality. *The Public Libraries Act* now requires an entire municipality to join a neighbouring municipality's library, even if only a small proportion of its residents will use the library. This has hindered the accessibility of library services, resulting in residents either traveling greater distances to access their own municipal library or paying non-resident fees to neighbouring municipalities to access a closer library. ■

## Resolutions Deadline

### All Municipal Councils

The deadline for resolutions to be accepted for the 2005 AMM Convention will be Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at 4:00 pm. Resolutions must be passed by Council to be considered by the AMM Convention Resolutions Committee.

Any resolutions received after the September 19<sup>th</sup> deadline will be considered late resolutions. Late resolutions will be reviewed by the Convention Resolutions Committee and will only be considered if they deal with an emerging issue.

Please submit your resolutions to the information below. Please clearly indicate that the resolution is for consideration at the Convention.

Tyler MacAfee,  
Director of Policy & Communications  
AMM

1910 Saskatchewan Avenue W.  
Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 0P1  
Telephone: (204) 856-2362  
Fax: (204) 856-2370

Email: [tmacafee@amm.mb.ca](mailto:tmacafee@amm.mb.ca)

## Announcements

### Heritage Success Stories Needed

Community Heritage Manitoba (CHM) is looking for success stories from across the province to appear in upcoming publications. Any kind of heritage success story is eligible—the preservation or reuse of important local buildings, vibrant local events or interpretive projects, creative partnerships, innovative museum exhibits, or anything else—as long as it had an impact on a Manitoba community.

Contact Cal Martin, Chairperson of CHM for more information or to receive a nomination form.

Telephone: (204) 322-5235  
Mail:

Box 1563, Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0  
Email: [chmanitoba@yahoo.ca](mailto:chmanitoba@yahoo.ca)

## Announcements

### Infrastructure Canada

is pleased to announce the launch of the second call for applications under the Knowledge-building, Outreach and Awareness Program (KOA). KOA is a key element in the department's commitment to foster the knowledge base and networks required to support and inform evidence based policy and decision making on issues related to public infrastructure, cities and communities in Canada.

Under KOA, Infrastructure Canada can provide funding for research activities that, in addition to advancing the department's research priorities, also:

- Increases awareness and understanding about public infrastructure in Canada;
- Stimulates and supports policy research and knowledge in this area;
- Encourages the development and maintenance of a research community in this area; and;
- Fosters exchanges of information amongst various groups.

Proposals are invited from eligible organizations and individuals on or before **September 15, 2005**. An online application form has been added for this second call for proposals. Submissions will be evaluated through a competitive process and funding decisions made on the basis of merit.

Information on how to submit a proposal under KOA, including funding priorities, eligibility and selection criteria, is available on Infrastructure Canada's Research Gateway website at:

[www.infrastructure.gc.ca/research-recherche/rko/koa/index\\_e.shtml](http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/research-recherche/rko/koa/index_e.shtml)

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**Coming soon—  
a NEW and IMPROVED  
AMM website.**

**Watch for it in mid-  
September, 2005!**