

Education tax update

As the issue of education tax on property continues to gain momentum for AMM members, the need to communicate that issue to Manitoba citizens is also increasing. To that end the AMM Board of Directors drafted a letter explaining the education tax issue. AMM encouraged member municipalities to send this letter to their citizens, either on its own or in this year's tax bill. The goal is to inform and educate Manitobans about the issue, as well as suggest ways they too can lobby the Provincial Government to work toward a solution.

Along with the letter, the AMM prepared a template to help members illustrate the percentage of education tax their residents are paying on their property tax bill. AMM explained that showing the tax breakdown visually in this way

is likely to be more easily understood by residents and will help them to better understand the significance of the education tax portion of their tax bill.

We are pleased that many of our members were able to use these materials to communicate the education tax issue to their residents. To increase the reach of this message even further, the AMM also ran the letter as an advertisement in both the Winnipeg Free Press (*July 16/05*) and the Brandon Sun (*July 15/05*).

Thank you to those AMM members that took advantage of the opportunity to explain the education tax issue to your residents. As this is an issue that will only increase in importance, it is imperative that your citizens are informed and able to support and assist in our lobbying efforts. ■



AMM Education Tax Ad,
Winnipeg Free Press, July 16, 2005

AMM to host flood damage meetings

Unusual spring weather events and related damages from flooding and winds have resulted in 133 municipalities, eight First Nations and one conservation district passing resolutions for disaster financial assistance to be made available. The Province has been very helpful in working with the affected municipalities and the AMM would like to express sincere appreciation to the Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) for its handling of these matters to date.

The AMM will be holding a series of *regional meetings* for municipalities to gauge the extent of the damage from this year's spring and summer flooding. The wet conditions have had a very serious impact on many communities in the province and the aim of these meetings is to hear first hand the scope of this damage and what programs may be needed to fully recover from the wet conditions. These programs could include additional support for municipalities, individuals, businesses and producers. The input heard at these meetings will help formulate the AMM's position that it will be taking forward to government. The tentative schedule for the meetings is as follows:



August 12, 9:00 a.m.
August 12, 2:00 p.m.
August 18, 2:00 a.m.
August 22, 9:00 a.m.
August 22, 2:00 p.m.

Hamiota, MB
Deloraine, MB
Lockport, MB
Elie, MB
Letellier, MB

Should you have any questions, please call AMM Executive Director *Joe Masi* at 204-856-2360. Further information will be emailed to AMM members as details are finalized. Dates and locations will also be posted on the AMM website at www.amm.mb.ca.

Annual Convention

All Municipal Councils

Please be advised that the deadline for resolutions to be accepted for the 2005 AMM Convention will be *Monday, September 19, 2005 at 4:00 pm.* Resolutions must be passed by council to be considered by the AMM Convention Resolutions Committee.



AMM Education Program Survey

Thank you to all 76 Municipalities who responded to the Education Survey. For complete survey results visit the AMM website at www.amm.mb.ca.

Review of Survey Results

- Councils would like to have three sessions offered each year.
- Top four months that councils indicated that they would be able to attend sessions in: January, March, October & February.
- 70% of the surveys indicated that the preference is for 1-day session.
- 70% of surveys indicated that councils were in fact interested in the 2005 AMM Education Program.

Topics suggested included Council Training; Legal Matters; Financial Management/Budgeting; review/update of Municipal Act; Rural Economic Development; Environment; Grants/ Funding.

Your suggestions will help us to develop the 2006 AMM Education Program, which will be presented at the 7th Annual Convention.

Congratulations



...to AMM Administrative Assistant **Julia Green** and her husband Ryan, who welcomed the early arrival of their son, **Lucas Tanner** on July 13, 2005.

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Coming Events

Emergency Response Planning Seminar—A seminar for Water and Wastewater Utilities

August 24-25/05—Norwood Hotel
Winnipeg, Manitoba

AWWA Members—Save \$100 when you register by August 3, 2005

Once an emergency occurs, it's too late to plan. Utilities must understand the basic components of emergency response planning and being prepared. That's why AWWA is offering a seminar solely devoted to emergency response planning.

This seminar will examine this topic from an "application" perspective. It will focus on how to accomplish the key elements of emergency response planning with the goal of providing water and wastewater utilities with a working knowledge of how this function is developed and implemented.

- Participants are eligible for 1.5 CEUs under the Manitoba operator certification program.
- Special rates available for small systems (<17,500)

For complete information and to register, visit www.awwa.org or call 1-800-926-7337 or 303-794-7711 and mention code PRT.

Job Postings

Field Sup. of Public Works R.M. of Wallace

The R.M. of Wallace is currently seeking applications for the position of Field Supervisor of Public Works.

The applicant, reporting to the Supervisor of Public Works, will be responsible to supervise the transportation system, and occasionally assist with the water treatment and distribution system.

Post-Secondary education with Certified Engineer Technologist (CET) designation is preferred

Water Plant Operator R.M. of Wallace

The R.M. of Wallace is currently seeking applications for the position of Water Plant Operator.

The applicant, reporting to the Supervisor of Public Works, will be responsible to operate and maintain the water treatment and distribution system.

Post-Secondary education with Certified Engineer Technologist (CET) designation is preferred, and the applicant must be prepared to obtain Level 2 Water Treatment and Distribution Certification within one year of employment, as per the Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Regulation.

Applicants interested in either of the above positions should contact Angela Ostroman at the R.M. of Wallace Office (204) 748-1239.

Applications will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 12, 2005.

Welcome

...to **Erika Rempel** who will be the AMM's Administrative Assistant until July, 2006. Erika can be reached at 204-856-2365 or by emailing erempel@amm.mb.ca