

## Minister Meetings Continue

The AMM met with Minister of Conservation Stan Struthers on January 26, 2005, and with Minister of Labour and Immigration Nancy Allan on February 7, 2005.

### *Minister Struthers Meeting Highlights:*

**Household hazardous waste**—The AMM opened the meeting with Minister Struthers by raising the need for a permanent program for the proper and safe disposal of household hazardous waste and electronic equipment. The Minister indicated that this will work with the new Efficiency Manitoba agency that is being developed. The AMM also expressed hope that the successes of the Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation would not be lost if it is rolled into this new agency, and that the needed resources would be made available to the program so that it can remain sustainable in the future. The Minister indicated that he would like to see recycling grow in Manitoba but noted there are financial problems with both the MPSC and the tire recycling program, and a long term solution is needed.

**Contaminated sites**—The Minister indicated that cleaning up these sites

requires a great deal of money, and noted that the Province is looking to a polluter pay system and its benefits.

**Manitoba Municipal Efficiency Program**—The AMM asked the Province to provide financial assistance for this program. The Minister agreed that small communities have difficulty operating arenas and community centres, and noted things like geothermal heating would reduce the costs, however the upfront costs are prohibitive.

**Adequate number of environment officers for enforcement**—The AMM raised this issue and expressed the need for public input into the environmental process. The Minister acknowledged that there is a shortage of these officers in Manitoba, and agreed with the need to have public input into the environmental process.

### *Minister Allan Meeting Highlights:*

**Provincial water bomber policy**—The AMM opened the meeting with Minister Allan by raising the need to adjust the Provincial water bomber policy. The Minister indicated that there will be changes to the policy, and these will be announced very soon.

*The AMM also took the opportunity to raise two additional issues, Education Funding and Land Use and Water Resource Planning, with each Minister.*

**Traffic control and compensation for motor vehicle accidents**—The AMM indicated the need to provide compensation to municipalities that have emergency staff providing traffic control at accident scenes. The Minister urged the AMM to raise this issue at its upcoming meeting with the Minister responsible for MPIC.

**Workers compensation benefits for volunteer firefighters**—The Minister indicated that a review document has been completed and public input is now being sought. She noted that medical scientific proof was available linking firefighting with certain diseases, which resulted in the coverage for these situations for full-time firefighters. The Province is now doing a three-year study on volunteer and part-time firefighters, to see whether similar scientific evidence exists.

**Costs of fires originating on crown land**—The Minister committed to looking into this issue. ■

## 1st Annual Municipal Innovation Award

The AMM presented its first annual Municipal Innovation Award on February 28 at the recent MOS in Brandon. The City and R.M. of Portage la Prairie were the co-recipients of the inaugural award.

"The panel had a difficult task, with a number of excellent entries that all deserve commendation," said AMM President Ron Bell. "What ultimately worked in the City and RM of Portage's favour was the larger, lasting impact this type of innovation will have on Manitoba communities, not just now but well into the future."

The project involved a tax sharing agreement between the City and the RM which essentially made the boundary between the two disappear in relation to economic development. Together, the two municipalities were able to join forces in attracting new industry to the area. The impacts of this innovation to the economic development of the area were seen when the partners announced the establishment the 120 million dollar JR Simplot potato processing plant, creating over 230 jobs.

Bell added, "this agreement changed the way these two municipalities do business, and now stands as a model for others to follow. By joining forces, they strengthened the foundation for economic expansion in the area, resulting in a strong and vibrant economy for those in the Portage la Prairie region."

RM of Portage la Prairie Reeve Jim Knight and City of Portage la Prairie Mayor Ian Mackenzie accepted the award. ■



## AMM Coming Events

### Mayors, Reeves & CAO's Meetings

Monday, March 14/05—Parklands  
*Alonsa Community Centre*

Tuesday, March 15/05—Central  
*Creekside Hideaway Motel, Treherne*

Wednesday, March 16/05—Western  
*Elks Lodge – Virden*

Thursday, March 17/05—Mid-Western  
*Club Fort Ellice Leisure Centre, St. Lazare*

Monday, March 21/05—Northern  
*Grand Rapids Curling Rink Lounge*

Tuesday, March 22/05—Interlake  
*Teulon-Rockwood Centennial Centre, Teulon*

Wednesday, March 23/05—Eastern La  
*Broquerie Hotel – La Broquerie*

For more information, visit

[www.amm.mb.ca/events](http://www.amm.mb.ca/events)



### Next Seminar— Decision-Making for Councils and Boards—March 18, 2005

Knights of Columbus Hall  
Portage la Prairie, Manitoba

### REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 9!

For more information, please call:

Donna Belbin, Events Coordinator

Phone: 204-856-2374 or

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

## Notices

### Survey Monument Restoration Program

The funds available for reimbursement for the current fiscal have been exhausted. Projects in progress will be carried forward and subject to the approval of the budget will be paid out of the next year's budget. This may cause a delay in payment, but there are no provisions for exceeding the budget of \$82,500.00.

## Notices

### 2005 Attorney General Safer Communities Awards

Nominations are open for the Manitoba Attorney General Safer Communities Awards recognizing individuals and organisations that have made outstanding contributions to crime prevention in the province in the past year.

Manitobans who have put their energy, time, talent, resources or support into crime prevention activities can qualify for the awards.

Nomination forms can be obtained by calling the Manitoba Justice Awards Steering Committee at 204-945-1549 or toll free at 1-800-282-8069, ext. 1549. Completed forms must be sent to Manitoba Attorney General Safer Communities Awards, 1410-405 Broadway, Winnipeg, MB R3C 3L6 or faxed to 204 948-2740.

*Nominations must be received by March 31.*

## For Sale

### RM of Rosser—Misc. Equipment

- 20' tag along Sokal trailer with 2' removable sides, pintle hitch. \$3,200.00 O.B.O.
- 45B Cruz Air Drott backhoe, wrist-a-twist, 60 inch ditching bucket, 2,419 hours. \$45,000.00 O.B.O.
- 2000 Ford F750 single axle truck with 12' Midland gravel box & hoist, 5.9 L Cummins, 6 speed standard transmission, hyd. brakes, 18,000 km. New Safety. \$42,000.00 O.B.O.

For more information contact:

Randy Slatcher, RM of Rosser

Phone: (204) 467-5711 Fax : (204) 467-5958

Email: [rmrosser@mts.net](mailto:rmrosser@mts.net)

### Town of Rivers—Sand Spreader

Used Monroe Performer V—Box Spreader 4.7 Yd capacity, 45 degree sloped sides, 10 ga hopper shell, 2 front load binders, 10 ga inverted v, chain oiler. Purchased in 1996.

For more information contact:

Town of Rivers Municipal Office

Ph: (204) 3285250 or

Public Works Foreman Randy King at  
(204) 328-7862.

## Coming Events

### Beef Processing Seminar

Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) is hosting a one-day session on "Beef Processing in Manitoba: Options & Opportunities" in Portage la Prairie in early March. Farmers and other interested Manitobans will hear from four different groups and have the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about each proposal.

Please pre-register with the KAP office by calling 697-1140 or emailing [kap@kap.mb.ca](mailto:kap@kap.mb.ca). Registration is free.

### Compost Site Operator's Course

April 5-7, 2005—Brandon, MB

*If Composting is an important KEY to your operation, this is your course!*

**First time ever in Manitoba:** hands-on practical training in all aspects of compost site management, from incoming feedstock ingredients to handling the final product.

**Process AND End Product:** Whether you are currently composting and looking for ways to improve your operation, or are interested learning how to effectively divert organics from your municipal waste stream to produce a high-quality marketable product, this concentrated course will take you through the essential principles and equip you to customize your approach to your own site. Environmental protection, worker safety, community relationships—all of the pieces you know you need to deliver a successful municipal program.

[www.resourceconservation.mb.ca/cap/operator.html](http://www.resourceconservation.mb.ca/cap/operator.html)

or call Resource Conservation Manitoba  
toll-free 1 (866) 394-8880.

## Job Postings

City of Portage la Prairie  
Transportation Operator "A"  
Deadline: March 11, 2005

Town of Plum Coulee  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Deadline: April 1, 2005

Complete job postings are available on the AMM website at:  
[www.amm.mb.ca/jobposting.htm](http://www.amm.mb.ca/jobposting.htm)