

## AMM Meets with Water Stewardship Minister

**T**he AMM met with the Honourable Steve Ashton, Minister of Water Stewardship, on October 20, 2005. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the AMM's "Flooding and Wet Conditions in Manitoba" report and the various recommendations contained in the report, as well as water quality management zones.

Regarding the AMM Flood Report, Minister Ashton agreed to discuss the Disaster Financial Assistance recommendations with his Cabinet colleagues and with his counterpart in Ottawa. He indicated that his department is reviewing flood protection and drainage throughout the province and that would be the next departmental priority, once drinking water issues are dealt with. He did express concern about illegal drainage and

agreed that more needs to be done to deal with this.

On the subject of water, registering wells and allowing free testing on registered wells was discussed. On the recommendations around the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, he asked for specific examples of the issues raised within the report.

On the topic of water quality management zones (WQMZ) proposed in the Water Protection Act, Minister Ashton heard the AMM's concerns and indicated that consultation with specific groups would be taking place.

The AMM had earlier sent a letter to Minister Ashton outlining our concerns with the water quality management zones, including:

- The WQMZ mapped out in the regulation report do not appear to be based on sound science;
- The onus for detailed mapping is on the developer;
- The mapping completely omits urban centres, and;
- The maps are not adequate to meet the planning needs of Manitoba municipalities.

**Note:** The AMM has also discussed the AMM Flood Report findings with officials from the Emergency Measures Organization (October 6), and with Ray Simard, MP for St. Boniface (October 11).

## AMM talks infrastructure with Feds

**P**resident Bell presented the AMM's Budget Submission to the Federal Finance Sub-Committee on October 21. The AMM's submission was almost entirely devoted to issues involving municipal infrastructure.

"As municipalities, infrastructure drives virtually everything we do," explains Bell. "Local service delivery is highly dependent on physical infrastructure, which makes infrastructure investment a significant priority for municipalities across the country. Unfortunately, Manitoba municipalities have not been equipped to increase infrastructure investment to keep pace with these growing responsibilities. Our infrastructure assets are aging rapidly and require targeted, sustained investment."

The submission also dealt with the issues around Disaster Financial Assistance. "We need better disaster response in Manitoba, period," says Bell. "Over 130 municipalities are requesting disaster assistance this year because of the extensive flooding. The current compensation rates aren't adequate and actually penalize municipalities for doing their own work in a disaster situation. This is something that our members brought up repeatedly at the consultative meetings we held with affected municipalities, and it's also something the AMM has lobbied on for several years. We'd like to see this rectified before another disaster occurs."

The AMM's submission is available on the AMM website at [www.amm.mb.ca/pol\\_budgets.html](http://www.amm.mb.ca/pol_budgets.html).

## Throne Speech Highlights

*President Bell attended the Throne Speech at the Manitoba Legislature on October 27, 2005. Highlights for municipalities included:*

- A focus on improved emergency and disaster planning;
- Development of clean energy initiatives and the aim to locate production facilities around the province;
- A focus on recruitment and training of doctors and nurses;
- The aim to close gaps and improve fairness and equity across RHAs;
- A further 10 per cent reduction on farmland education property taxes;
- Introduction of a comprehensive crystal meth strategy;
- Soil survey teams to establish work plans and help with site-specific proposals;
- Improving the Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) process.

## Tools for Change

### New "Municipal Success Stories" on AMM Website

The Tools for Change Program is a tool for municipalities to use to help determine the state of their communities. The program is available for download on the AMM website at [www.amm.mb.ca](http://www.amm.mb.ca). The website also includes examples of municipal success stories.

The AMM is pleased to add seven new Tools for Change examples to our website. We encourage you to view all of the examples at:

[www.amm.mb.ca/res\\_tools.html](http://www.amm.mb.ca/res_tools.html)

## Update

### Land Title Insurance and the amended Planning Act

Since the last AMM bulletin was issued, it has come to our attention that the Land Title Insurance issue is not entirely resolved. The revised Planning Act allows municipalities to adopt a zoning by-law, that allows for the application and issuance of zoning memoranda. The procedure for applying is usually set out in more detail under individual zoning by-laws. Zoning memoranda are used to state the existing zoning on a particular site and whether (given the information provided) the buildings and site conform to local by-laws. Lending institutions sometimes require zoning memoranda to ensure a site or buildings are "legal". However, they are not required in law. The use of title insurance has begun to erode the use of local zoning memoranda.

There has been consideration about making a zoning memorandum a requirement whenever a title is transferred, but this requirement may be best located under the Real Property Act and not the Planning Act. AMM and others have raised this concern with the Provincial Government. The AMM will continue to lobby on this issue to see the system changed.

## Reminder

### Power Smart Municipal LED Holiday Lighting Program

Just a reminder to all participants of the **Power Smart Municipal LED Holiday Lighting Program**, please fax your completed "Holiday Lighting Period" form to Kelly Epp at (204) 474-3017 by **November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005**. If you have misplaced your form or have any questions, please contact Kelly by telephone or email:

Telephone: **(204) 474-4051**  
Email: [kepp@hydro.mb.ca](mailto:kepp@hydro.mb.ca)

Also, remember that your incandescent strings are to be returned prior to turning on your new LED lighting. Please drop off your packaged incandescent strings and bulbs at your nearest Manitoba Hydro District Office, as indicated in the program instruction sheet provided with your shipment of LED lights.

We look forward to seeing your energy efficient holiday modules!



## Coming Events

### Manitoba Conservation Districts Association (MCDA) 30th Convention

*"Celebrating Watershed Successes - Thirty Years and More"*

**December 5 & 6th, 2005**  
**Keystone Centre**  
**Brandon Manitoba**

For further information go to

[www.mcda.ca](http://www.mcda.ca)  
and click on convention  
Telephone: 204-571-1097  
Email: [mcda@mts.net](mailto:mcda@mts.net)

## Job Postings

### Chief Administrative Officer Town of Minnedosa

The Town of Minnedosa is seeking candidates for the position of Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

Reporting to the Council of the Town of Minnedosa, the CAO recommends corporate goals, objectives and programs to Council, co-ordinates the development of long term strategic planning for the Town, supervises all departmental activities including staff, and directs the development of budget and financial controls. The CAO provides advice to the Council and its committees on all matters pertaining to the Town and will work in co-operation with existing committees and Boards in the promotion and furtherance of economic and population growth within the area.

Candidates should submit their resume by November 4, 2005, to:

Selection Committee  
Town of Minnedosa  
Box 426,  
Minnedosa, MB, R0J 1E0

## Announcements

### Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board Report available on-line

The Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board's "Report on Public Discussion" (July, 2005) is now available. It can be accessed on-line through the "Publications" page of the Board's web site: [www.lakewinnipeg.org](http://www.lakewinnipeg.org).

Copies of the Board Reports are also available for viewing at several public registry locations. These locations are listed at: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/library/pr-list.html>

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