



NEWS BULLETIN



APRIL 26, 2007

Lobby Days another success

“With a provincial election on the horizon, we needed to ensure these topics were high on everyone’s radar and I think we achieved that.”

Ron Bell

The AMM met with 29 members of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly during its third annual “Lobby Days” held April 17-18, 2007.

The purpose of the two-day blitz of the Manitoba Legislature was to meet

not only with Cabinet Ministers, but with other MLAs to ensure they were aware of the priorities of Manitoba’s municipalities. The AMM met with MLAs from all three parties represented in the Manitoba Legislature.

During this year’s meetings, the AMM briefed the MLAs on two top municipal priorities: fiscal balance and water issues. AMM President Ron Bell was pleased with this year’s Lobby Days. “With an election on the horizon, we needed to ensure these topics were high on everyone’s radar and I think we achieved that.”

The briefs presented to MLAs during Lobby Days are available on the AMM website at www.amm.mb.ca. ■

Neighbourhoods Alive! Expands

Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Steve Ashton announced on April 19 that the Neighbourhoods Alive! Program will be expanded to Flin Flon, Dauphin, Selkirk, The Pas, and Portage la Prairie. “Since its launch in 2000, Neighbourhoods Alive! has contributed to initiatives to revitalize high-needs neighbourhoods in Winnipeg, Brandon and Thompson that have improved housing, safety and recreation,” said Ashton. “We look forward to working with the five new communities over the next several years and seeing similar successes.”



President Bell speaks at Neighbourhoods Alive! Announcement

AMM President Ron Bell attended the announcement in Portage la Prairie to express the AMM’s appreciation for the program. “We have always stressed that this great program should be expanded to other communities, with new money, and our lobbying has paid off,” he said. “Nothing happens without partnerships and “Neighbourhoods Alive! is a true example of a successful partnership between the Province and our members.” ■

Minister Meeting Update

The AMM met with three Provincial Cabinet Ministers on April 10—Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives Rosann Wowchuk; Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Oscar Lathlin; and Minister of Education Peter Bjornson.

The AMM raised issues in the area of land and water planning, particularly MAFRI’s objections to development plans, with Minister Wowchuk. The Minister promised to send the AMM a copy of an internal review on the TRC process. The AMM also discussed economic development in rural Manitoba with the Minister, and the need

for a change to the Education Tax on Farmland to a method that removes it directly off the tax bill.

The AMM opened the meeting with Minister Lathlin by raising concerns with the Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) process. The Minister promised to respond to the AMM request for financial assistance for municipalities to deal with legal costs of TLE agreements.

The need for stronger rules to be required for rail line abandonment was also raised with Minister Lathlin. The Minister also provided the AMM with an update on Northern Healthy Food Initiative.

The meeting with Minister Bjornson began with a discussion around education taxation. The Minister indicated that the recent budget pledged a move to an 80:20 funding split over 5 years, as well as a commitment to increase the farmland rebate to 80% over 4 years and an immediate increase in the property tax credit to \$525, up from \$400. The Minister noted that on average there would be a 16% decrease in property tax.

The Minister stated he was pleased to see the 80:20 resolution pass at the AMM Convention. He noted that they are still working on what the 80:20 ratio will include, and what will maintain the funding split at 80:20. ■

Notices

AMM History Book

The AMM is preparing to write a book on the history of municipal government in Manitoba, to be distributed on our 10th anniversary in November, 2008. You can help! We require *names* and *contact info* of people who would be willing to share their experiences with the AMM, MAUM, or UMM.

We also need *photos and* municipal events or *records* that we may scan and include in the history book.

For more information please contact Lynne Bereza, AMM Communications Coordinator, at 204-856-2366 or lbereza@amm.mb.ca.

Coming Events

2007 June District Meetings

Please visit the AMM website at <http://www.amm.mb.ca> to register:

Northern District

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Hosted by the Town of Lynn Lake

Interlake District

Friday, June 8, 2007

Hosted by the Town of Arborg

Eastern District

Monday, June 11, 2007

Hosted by the RM of St. Clements

Central District

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Hosted by the Town of Morden

Western District

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Hosted by the RM of Morton and Town of Boissevain

Midwestern District

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Hosted by the RM and Town of Shoal Lake

Parklands District

Friday, June 15, 2007

Hosted by the RM and Town of Grandview

Coming Events

E-Waste Recycling Roundup

A new consumer electronic waste (e-waste) recycling collection project will begin in June, with \$100,000 in funding support being provided through the Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention (WRAPP) Fund.

Items targeted for recycling will be phones, monitors, CPUs/hard drives, laptops, keyboards, printers, scanners, copiers, fax machines, rechargeable batteries and microwaves.

Community partners and collection sites are being confirmed for the first phase of the project. Participating areas include Eastman - Steinbach, Parklands - Dauphin, Westman - Brandon, Virden, Shoal Lake, North - Thompson, South Central - Portage la Prairie, Minnedosa, Neepawa, Carberry, Interlake - Selkirk and Gimli.

Depot locations and updated information on the project will be posted at: <http://www.greenmanitoba.ca>.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events—2007

The province contracts with Miller Environmental to collect and dispose of household hazardous waste. Events for 2007 will be hosted by the municipalities listed below. Material handling, transportation and management is provided by Miller Environmental and funded by Green Manitoba. *Please contact the municipal office hosting the event you wish to attend for hours and location:*



Steinbach—May 12, 2007

Brandon—May 26, 2007

Morden and Winkler—June 16, 2007

Selkirk—June 23, 2007

Portage la Prairie—Sept. 8, 2007

Brandon—October 13, 2007

Dauphin, Thompson, Flin Flon, The Pas, Swan River—TBA*

Lac du Bonnet—year round depot

Winnipeg—year round depot

Coming Events

Encouraging Community Involvement

Volunteer Manitoba invites you to participate in the "**Encouraging Community Involvement**" workshop offered in Dauphin on Wednesday, May 30, 2007 from 9:00am - 4:00pm.

The 4 R's (Recruitment, Retention, Recognition, Risk Management) will be explored within the rural Manitoba context to effectively encourage and support community involvement. To register, please visit our website:

<http://www.volunteermanitoba.ca/>

Partners in Injury Prevention

Safety Services Manitoba, Manitoba Healthy Living, and IMPACT are pleased to announce the first annual provincial Injury Prevention Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba from May 16 - 18, 2007 at the Victoria Inn.

The Conference will provide professionals with opportunities to learn current best practices in safety and injury prevention. Conference topics will include water safety, fall prevention, road safety, and suicide prevention with a special focus on youth and Aboriginal safety.

WHO should attend?

- RHA staff and health care providers
- Road Safety, Workplace Safety and First Responders
- Community agencies and organizations interested in injury prevention
- Law enforcement, police, RCMP
- Aboriginal health and First Nations
- Municipal and provincial policy staff
- Lifeguards, boat safety instructors and water safety personnel
- Insurance providers
- Corporations and business owners

Register now at

[http://](http://www.safetyservicesmanitoba.ca/piip)

www.safetyservicesmanitoba.ca/piip