

News Release

AMM awards Honourary Life memberships

November 29, 2011 – Each year, the Association of Manitoba Municipalities bestows honorary life memberships on individuals chosen by the AMM Board of Directors. The awards are presented at the AMM Gala evening during the Association’s annual convention.

This year, three recipients received honorary life memberships before approximately 1,200 Gala attendees on November 23, 2011:

Margaret Hodgson – Former Mayor of the Town of Birtle, Hodgson served on the Manitoba Association of Urban Municipalities (MAUM) from 1987-1994, then served as President for one year. A key player in merger discussions between MAUM and the Union of Municipalities of Manitoba (UMM) into the present-day AMM, Hodgson describes her twelve years in politics as “a whirlwind of extensive commitment to the municipal experience.”

Peter Heide – Former councillor and Reeve of the RM of Riverside, serving 24 years in total, and later Councillor for the Municipality of Killarney-Turtle Mountain, Heide served on the UMM and later was Rural Western District Director for the AMM. He retired from politics in 2009. “It is a great privilege to receive this in front of my peers,” said Heide in his acceptance speech. “My thinking would be if I can leave this position having made a positive contribution to municipal government in Manitoba then I feel fulfilled.”

George Harbottle – Harbottle’s 25 year municipal career began with a position of administrator for the Village of Powerview, Harbottle later served as Mayor from 1968 to 1971. He then served as the Reeve of the RM of Alexander until 2010, during which he also served two terms as the AMM Eastern Rural Director. Harbottle recognized provincial cancer care organizations in both Winnipeg and Pinawa, saying “it is to their credit that I stand before you tonight.”

In order to receive an Honourary Life Membership award nominees must have served for not less than nine years as an elected municipal official; be recognized as having made an outstanding contribution toward the community in which he/she served; and be recognized as having made an outstanding contribution towards municipal government in Manitoba through his/her work with the AMM or its predecessors, the UMM and MAUM.

Biographies for the recipients are available at http://www.amm.mb.ca/events_convention.html.