

Excellence awarded

2010 WINNER FINDS A WAY TO SUSTAIN ONE-INDUSTRY TOWN

In 2008, the discovery of large gold and zinc deposits along with the planned reopening of the New Britannia Gold Mine resulted in an expected influx of mine workers and their families. The Town of Snow Lake created a *Twenty Year Sustainable Community Plan* to ensure sufficient eco-friendly and cost-efficient residential, commercial and industrial property would be developed. This Sustainable Community Plan will be flexible for any Snow Lake eventuality and could be adapted for any single industry mining town in Manitoba, Canada, or any country.

According to AMM President **Doug Dobrowolski**, it was the uniqueness of Snow Lake's submission that stood out among the entries for the 6th Annual Municipal Excellence Award, handed out during the Municipal Officials Seminar and Trade Show in Brandon on April 15, 2010. "Many communities have development plans," said Dobrowolski, "but what made Snow Lake's plan stand out is the fact that, as a one-industry town, their plan had to accommodate both boom and bust periods. Not only will this plan work in times of increased population influxes, it will sustain the town through tough times, as well. Remote mining towns have unique challenges, and by being proactive, Snow Lake has ensured its own survival."

On hand to accept the award was Snow Lake Mayor **Garry Zamzow**, who noted in his acceptance speech, "We're a very small community, and we have experienced the highs and lows of a single-industry town." Mayor Zamzow was able to perfectly illustrate the challenges facing towns like Snow Lake by using a recent example: "It's rather common for most of you here to have reached this milestone years ago, but on Tuesday night, Snow Lake got cell service!"

He added he thinks it's very important for the AMM to continue its support and leadership in community planning, explaining, "Receiving this award is a way to ensure future planning, because without planning, you're spinning your wheels."

The Town of Snow Lake's sustainable community plan is available at www.snowlake.com.

To view all submissions, visit the AMM website at www.amm.mb.ca/res_award.html.

ONGOING PLAN

Sustainable Plan recommendations that are currently being implemented in Snow Lake include:

- greening the economy through banning plastic bag use and maintaining green space;
- enhancing life for seniors by promoting the Age-Friendly Initiative and the Senior Centre, along with repairing unsafe sidewalks and adding handicap parking signs;
- promoting tourism as an additional economy to offset the mining industry; and
- repairing or replacing aging facilities and using existing infill sites before developing new residential, commercial or industrial lots.



Snow Lake Mayor Garry Zamzow (right) accepts the 2010 Municipal Excellence Award from President Doug Dobrowolski.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL

Congratulations to the other finalists for the 2010 Municipal Excellence Award:

Joint Regional Recreation Facility and Governing Authority

City of Portage la Prairie and RM of Portage la Prairie

The new PCU Centre will house a main arena, secondary arena, fitness centre, aquatic centre, multipurpose room, large atrium, concession and banquet services, offices, retail and meeting space. The entire project meets LEED silver requirements, and the jointly owned, operated and funded facility was designed to move both the City and RM of Portage la Prairie significantly forward. The magnitude of the project would be impossible without the participation of both municipalities, who created the Portage Regional Recreation Authority (PRRA) to ensure dedicated oversight of all recreation in both municipalities. Members of the PRRA Board, charged with governing recreation services inside both municipal boundaries, are council members appointed in equal numbers, ensuring the needs of both City and RM will be addressed.

Industrial Incubator Mall

Town of Morden

Morden’s manufacturing base is largely comprised of family businesses that started small and expanded to become some of the area’s largest employers. With this manufacturing history in mind, Morden Community Development Corporation (MCDC) – owned by the Town of Morden – created an industrial incubator mall. MCDC purchased a 25,185 square foot building in Morden’s Industrial Park and renovated it to create affordable rental units of various sizes that are available for start-up businesses for a period of up to five years. MCDC believes that the solutions to the economic downturn already exist within the community, and the incubator mall is one way of helping individuals achieve their goals by providing a space to start a new business. With leases starting April 1, 2010, 80% of the building is already occupied.

Building a Sustainable Community

Town of Gladstone

In 2007, Gladstone was selected as one of the first ten communities in Manitoba to be designated “Age Friendly.” At the same time, council acknowledged it needed the younger generation to provide services for seniors to enable them to age with dignity in the community. A committee of stakeholders was formed to provide insight into the town’s strengths and weaknesses and initiate the steps required to rebuild the declining community. Within two years, Gladstone has two new multi-unit housing facilities, increased communication of public information, incorporated accessibility upgrades within the Senior Centre, and increased awareness of health services within the community. A new residential housing development is underway, another housing facility is scheduled for construction this spring, the community has experienced eight million dollars of commercial development, and the population has increased by approximately 10%.

North Red Christmas Hamper Drive

City of Selkirk, RM of St. Andrews and RM of St. Clements

The volunteers and staff from the St. Andrews, St. Clements and Selkirk municipalities are dedicated to see that

all needy families are able to celebrate Christmas. The North Red Christmas Hamper Drive ensures this happens. Prior to 2007, the three municipalities each provided Christmas Hampers to families in need in their respective municipalities. A joint effort was born in 2007 with a

streamlined program now operating out of one central location, resulting in a more efficient and cost effective program for everyone involved. Over 500 Christmas hampers are now delivered to area families each year. ■



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Office: 1.204.726.0242
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