

2010 ECO CALENDAR

The Honourable **Bill Blaikie**, Minister of Conservation recently announced the 2010 Eco Calendar offering valuable tips for saving money and protecting our environment is now available. It is produced by Green Manitoba, along with Manitoba Hydro, Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth, the City of Winnipeg, Miller Environmental Corporation, Tire Stewardship Manitoba, Manitoba Association for Resource Recovery Corporation and the Manitoba Education for Sustainable Development Working Group.

The 2010 Eco Calendar It is available at a variety of outlets across the province including Safeway, Sobeys, City of Winnipeg libraries and most Manitoba municipal offices.

LEADING THE WAY

The Honourable **Dave Chomiak**, Minister of Innovation, Energy and Mines announced in mid-November Manitoba will lead the country in energy-efficiency standards for replace-

ment furnaces and boilers used in homes and small businesses. Home-owners and small businesses will see a significant reduction in heating bills. Greenhouse-gas emissions will be greatly reduced as required under the *Climate Change and Emissions Reduction Act*.

Under the new standards, furnaces will be required to have a minimum efficiency of 92%, an improvement of 14% from the current federal minimum standard of 78%. Hot water boilers will be required to have a minimum efficiency of 82% and low-pressure boilers a minimum 80%. The federal standard is 80% for hot water boilers and 75% for low pressure steam boilers.

It is estimated the new standards will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 800 tonnes in the first year.

HEADINGLEY DIVIDED HIGHWAY PROJECT

Thanks to provincial and federal funding of approximately \$11.3 million, announced November 6, 2009, the Trans-Canada Highway going through Headingley will receive upgrades to improve safety and traffic flow.

The Headingley Divided Highway Project will also create jobs for the local construction industry.

The 1.7 kilometre section of the Trans-Canada Highway being upgraded is part of the National Highway System route.

This project is part of Canada's 2009 Economic Action Plan and the Province of Manitoba's commitment of \$1.6 billion for infrastructure to stimulate the economy which in turn creates jobs and improves provincial roads.

MANITOBA IMPLEMENTS BIODIESEL MANDATE

Early November saw Premier **Greg Selinger** announce Manitoba is the first province to implement a biodiesel mandate. This mandate supports the 2008 regulation requiring biodiesel manufacturers be licensed and the implementation of fuel quality standards.

Biodiesel is more environmentally friendly as there are fewer emissions than regular diesel, therefore reducing greenhouse-gas emissions by



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an estimated 56,000 tonnes. This is the equivalent of 11,000 fewer vehicles on Manitoba roads. It is a safe, non-toxic, renewable, clean-burning fuel made from different sources including oilseeds, animal fats from rendering facilities and restaurants used oils and greases. Biodiesel



is also biodegradable in water and more odour friendly.

The present fuel tax exemption for Manitoba produced biodiesel will be replaced with a 14 cent-per-litre, five-year production grant. Manitoba Hydro, Winnipeg School Division and Canada Safeway fleet vehicles are currently using biodiesel.

ENHANCED POWER TO DEAL WITH DERELICT VEHICLES

Proposed legislation enhancing problem vacant and derelict vehicles would recognize revitalization of communities as a key municipal priority, according to the Honourable **Ron Lemieux**, Minister of Local Government. The proposed legislation, announced December 2, 2009, would streamline the process the City of Winnipeg must follow, reduce timelines to redevelop and revitalize properties, and give this authority to other municipalities.

The City of Winnipeg's authority to take title of vacant and derelict buildings began in 2002 and is unique in Canada. The City has asked for these changes to improve effectiveness, and the AMM has asked for the same power to deal with vacant and derelict buildings province-wide.

NEIGHBOURHOODS ALIVE! FUNDING FOR BRANDON

Thanks to the *Neighbourhoods Alive!* program, seven community projects in the City of Brandon will receive \$165,700 in funding as recently announced by the Honourable **Kerri Irvin-Ross**, Minister of Housing and Community Development.

Projects receiving funding are:

- \$50,000 for the Small Grants Fund to provide grants up to \$5,000 for local community groups for community revitalization projects.
- \$30,000 to provide grants up to \$1,000 for local homeowners and landlords for exterior home improvements.
- \$22,500 for local businesses in the

Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation (BNRC) for exterior storefront improvements.

- \$22,000 for providing hands-on training in home repair and maintenance for the residents living in Brandon's older neighbourhoods.
- \$8,300 for community gardening in the BNRC district.
- \$17,500 to Brandon Museums Inc. for the development of the Daly Museum Victorian garden.
- \$15,438 for a new Neighbourhoods Alive! Community Youth Recreation program for the children and youth of the City of Brandon.

Neighbourhoods Alive! is a long-term, community-based, social and economic development strategy that supports and encourages community-driven revitalization efforts.

MANITOBA'S POPULATION GROWTH BEST SINCE 1971

According to the Manitoba Bureau of Statistics (MBS), Manitoba's population

stood at 1,226,000 as of October 1. This is 16,900 more people since Oct. 1, 2008, for a 1.4% increase. According to MBS estimates, provincial growth of nearly 17,000 individuals would translate into a 1.4% increase that will likely place Manitoba ahead of the national growth rate and in the top tier among the provinces, the largest 12-month growth rate since at least 1971 when modern-day record keeping began.

Driving this record-breaking growth were people moving to Manitoba from around the world, the minister said. Over the last 12 months, an estimated total of 13,101 immigrants made their new homes in Manitoba. This is well above the 10,902 who arrived in the previous 12-month period. It is also the largest immigrant arrival since at least 1971.

Much of the growth during the last several years can be attributed to the success of the Provincial Nominee Program. Of the more than 13,100 individuals who arrived in Manitoba during the last 12 months, over three-quarters were provincial nominees. **L**

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Pinawa, 45 years	Winkler, 35 years
	
Altona, 20 years	Steinbach, 15 years



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