

5TH ANNUAL

MUNICIPAL



AWARD

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN
MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE

April 16, 2009
Keystone Centre
Brandon MB



MUNICIPAL EXCELLENCE SUBMISSIONS FOR 2009

Municipal Strategic Plan as First Step to Regional Plan

Rural Municipality of Langford

In 2006 the Rural Municipality of Langford council began to ask themselves difficult questions, like “what do we want to accomplish over the next four years?”, “what are our goals and objectives?”, and “how do we improve communications with our ratepayers?” Council had never undertaken a strategic planning process or engaged citizens in a public discussion of goals. Due to shared service agreements with several neighbouring municipal governments, the RM realized that a regional plan was needed. A public visioning process was initiated and specific goals, strategies and an action plan were defined and posted on the RM’s website. A public meeting in February, 2009 allowed residents to hear the progress of the plan, while neighbouring municipal councils were invited to “listen and learn” to encourage regional participation.

Overall, the successful process resulted in Council recognizing the value of planning to all aspects of municipal governance. They are confident that regional planning essential to the future success of the area will soon follow.

Main Street Heritage Conservation District Project

Town of Carberry

In early 2006, the Town of Carberry Council voted to explore the possibility of establishing a Heritage Conservation District on Main Street. Council recognized the irreplaceable nature of its century-old buildings, yet the predominantly brick buildings had fallen into disrepair and were being covered with modern building materials. Council wished to explore the implications of a downtown revitalization project to one day bring these buildings back to their former glory.

The project entailed researching the pros and cons of establishing a Commercial Heritage Conservation District (the first of its kind in Manitoba), discussing the project with Main Street building owners, hiring a consultant to lead the visioning process with stakeholders, and passing the necessary by-law to proceed with the Historic Conservation District. This project has been a success for Carberry and could act as a template for other communities looking to preserve their heritage, provide a sense of place for citizens, renew investment in public areas, and provide a marketable tourist attraction.

Commercial and Industrial Development Agreement

Town of Carman and Rural Municipality of Dufferin

The Town of Carman and the RM of Dufferin are always striving to find new ways to cooperate, and in 2008, the Town and RM signed a comprehensive commercial and industrial development agreement. The agreement is growth-based for fairness to both municipalities—as growth occurs even on a small scale, each municipality will benefit. The agreement establishes where joint funds are to be spent and in the future some of the jointly funded areas (such as fire protection, library and recreation) may receive their funding entirely from this area. Through a meticulous process undertaken by both councils, definitions in the agreement were strengthened to ensure clarity for future councils and to account for changes.

Overall, the agreement ensures that each municipality gets economic benefits from developments that are fair, encourages growth in both municipalities, and ensures development can move forward quickly.

Regional Library

Rural Municipality of Alexander

The construction of Bibliotheque Allard Regional Library has brought the RM of Alexander’s library into the 21st century. The original library operated out of the St. Georges School and had served the community well for 25 years, but the membership had outgrown the facility.

The new library is on the former site of “Bouvier’s Store”, the community meeting place during the Great Depression and later operating as a grocery store/gas station. After tearing down the existing structure and remediating the soil, the new library was built and is once again a meeting place and park where family and friends can gather to read, picnic and relax.

MUNICIPAL EXCELLENCE SUBMISSIONS FOR 2009

Regional Police Services Agreement

Town of Altona and Town of Plum Coulee

The Town of Plum Coulee is growing, and with this growth (to a population of 770) came the requirement for the Town to arrange their own police services. Plum Coulee approached the Town of Altona about the possibility of having the Altona Police Service (APS) provide policing and a Memorandum of Understanding followed. Under the terms of the three-year agreement, the APS provides Plum Coulee with a level of policing consistent with The Provincial Police Act.

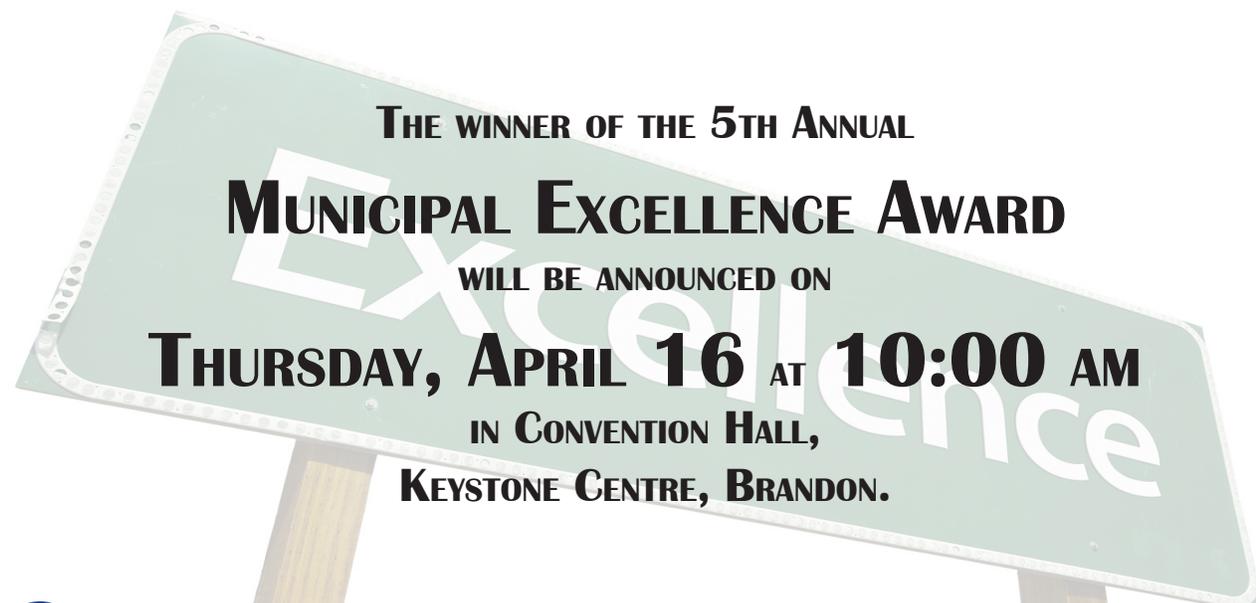
There are benefits to both communities. For the Town of Altona, the agreement has allowed them to reduce some of their current costs while continuing to provide the high standard of service to their residents. Plum Coulee is able to provide a more consistent response to emergencies and provide the residents with increased visibility and community policing, with minimal subsidization by the ratepayers. Both communities take great pride in the uniqueness of the agreement, the only one of its kind currently in place in Manitoba where a police services agreement is endorsed by Manitoba Justice.

Creating an Age-Friendly Community

Town of Gladstone

The Town of Gladstone, like so many rural Manitoba municipalities, had declined in population, lost several major businesses, and was experiencing diminishing health services. Residents had lost faith in the community, and people were moving to larger centres. Council recognized that one of Gladstone's greatest assets was its senior population, while at the same time acknowledging innovative ways to retain youth needed to be found. In early 2008, Gladstone became one of the first communities in Manitoba to be designated "Age-Friendly". The Manitoba Age-Friendly Initiative supports seniors in leading active, socially engaged, independent lives that contribute to healthy aging. A committee was formed to provide insight into the Town's strengths and weaknesses and take steps required to help rebuild the community.

Since then, there has been an improved effort within many groups and organizations to incorporate intergenerational activities. Grants have funded televisions, gaming systems and laptop computers in facilities within the community to bring seniors, youth groups, children and grandchildren together. Family dances, youth visits to seniors' complexes and school programs are just a few of the initiatives since developed in Gladstone. Overall, the positive changes brought about stemmed from a desire to make the community the best it could be, with benefits enjoyed by all ages and abilities.



GOOD LUCK TO ALL FINALISTS!

OUR PREVIOUS WINNERS...



- **Town of Carman & Rural Municipality of Dufferin (2008)**
- **Municipality of Killarney-Turtle Mountain (2007)**
- **RM of Victoria (2006)**
- **City of Portage la Prairie and Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie (2005)**

ABOUT THE MUNICIPAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Municipal Excellence Award allows municipalities to share best practice ideas with other municipalities. What better way to showcase your municipality!

Finalists will be highlighted in the Summer, 2009 issue of *The Municipal Leader*. The winning municipality or municipalities will also receive a framed print by local Manitoba artist Jack Gantzel.

We encourage municipalities to collaborate with the economic development officer and/or community members to recognize your local best practice and work together on your submission for next year.

Watch for information in early 2010. Additional information is available on the AMM website at www.amm.mb.ca.

Your municipality could be next year's winner!

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jack Gantzel was born and raised in Cypress River, Manitoba. Since 1972 he has lived in Winnipeg and has never forgotten his love and respect for nature and the beauty of the land. His photographs have been published in Canadian Geographic, Photo Digest, National Geographic Traveller and Teldon Calenders. He received an honorable award in the Kodak Kinsa Competition with the winning photo being displayed in EPCOT Center, Walt Disney World.



1910 Saskatchewan Avenue W.
Portage la Prairie, Manitoba R1N 0P1
Phone: 204-857-8666
Fax: 204-856-2370
Email: amm@amm.mb.ca
WWW.AMM.MB.CA

