

MUNICIPAL EXCELLENCE FINALISTS FOR 2011

Wetlands Tax Credit Program - *RM of Dufferin*

The RM of Dufferin passed a by-law in March, 2010, identifying eligible wetlands for the Dufferin Wetlands Tax Credit Program. Wetlands provide a vital habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife, filter harmful impurities and pollutants from the water we drink, provide flood control, control erosion and provide beautiful settings for outdoor activities. The program provides landowners with \$40 per acre for each eligible acre, with 365 acres currently being preserved.

New Municipal Office Complex - *RM of South Norfolk & Town of Treherne*

The Town of Treherne and RM of South Norfolk decided in 2007 to build a new 3,780 square foot Municipal Complex. Completed in early 2010, the building also benefits the business community as it boasts additional office space for rent. It was already put to the test in the summer of 2010 when the Treherne Pharmacy suffered a fire and temporarily moved into the complex. With geothermal heating, energy efficient lighting, higher insulation levels, parking lot controllers and energy efficient windows, the complex's annual environmental impact is estimated to equal taking 12 cars off the road.

Langford Community Pasture Conservation Easement Agreement - *RM of Langford & RM of Lansdowne*

The Rural Municipalities of Langford and Lansdowne signed the largest conservation easement agreement in Manitoba's history (and the 3rd largest in Canada) protecting in perpetuity 9,822 acres of municipally owned native grassland in the Langford Community Pasture. The agreement will result in increased environmental and economic sustainability, protection of endangered species (the prairie skink), recreation and tourism opportunities, and reduced water treatment costs.

Elimination of Single Use Plastic Shopping Bags - *RM of Coldwell*

The RM of Coldwell passed a by-law eliminating single-use plastic shopping bags in August of 2008, and retailers were advised to have alternate packaging available by October 1, 2008. With funding from the Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention Fund, the RM distributed reusable shopping bags over a four year period to its tax payers. The RM is proud it took the initiative to ban single use plastic bags and believes the community is a better place for doing so.

New Potable Water Treatment Plant - *City of Winkler*

Rapid growth, a Water Treatment Plant (WTP) nearing its life expectancy, the availability of stimulus funding and treatable water from the Winkler Aquifer resulted in the City of Winkler building a new WTP using reverse-osmosis membrane technology. The City can now produce water for half the price it pays to purchase water from a regional water co-op, saving consumers money and offering an incentive to businesses. The City also now has a complete system that can function independently during power outages.

Community Development - *Village of St. Pierre-Jolys*

In January, 2009, St-Pierre en BOOM Inc, the CDC for the municipality of St-Pierre Jolys erected a 4' x 9' full colour LED digital billboard directly on Hwy 59. The billboard, which paid for itself in 26 months, serves as a tool for businesses and the Village to communicate with the public and shows visitors that St-Pierre-Joly is a thriving community at the forefront of technology. It has also contributed to the town's green plan by reducing the amount of paper used.

Paperless Meetings & Amalgamation - *Municipality of Shoal Lake*

The Municipality of Shoal Lake has been working on becoming more efficient, effective and environmentally friendly for a number of years. The RM began using laptop computers in 2008, with the Town adopting their use shortly after. Communication is much faster and the environment benefits from decreased paper usage. The Town and the RM of Shoal Lake amalgamated on January 1, 2011. The resulting reduction in staff requirements and councillor indemnities means extra funding is available to work on community projects.

AND THE WINNER IS...