

MUNICIPAL EXCELLENCE FINALISTS FOR 2012

Municipal Partnership - RM's of Albert, Arthur, Brenda, Cameron, Edward, Whitewater, and Winchester; Towns of Deloraine, Hartney, and Melita; and Village of Waskada

Rural municipalities and small towns have been challenged for many years with meeting compliance issues surrounding the Manitoba Emergency Measures Act. At its inaugural meeting in June of 2004, the Southwest Emergency Management Group was formed. This group of towns and RM's in the southwestern corner of the province met with the vision of delivering a regionalized concept for Emergency Preparedness. The group now has 11 members and has found a cooperative approach to meet all legislated responsibilities and commitments to the people they serve.

Secondary Plan - RM of St. Francois Xavier

Following the adoption of their development plan in April 2010, Council recognized the need to produce a secondary plan directing the responsible development of the settlement centre of St. Francois Xavier. A consultation and public engagement process followed and the plan was approved by Council in February, 2011. The secondary plan provides clear direction to developers with respect to land planning, environmental requirements, roads, and so forth, and will create complete neighbourhoods with thoughtfully planned roads and paths integrated into the natural environment.

Edie Creek Flood Retention Basins - RM of Springfield

During spring run-off events and large summer storms numerous locations become inundated with water and ultimately wash out roadways and flood homes and outbuildings. Over the past 15 years, the RM of Springfield has purchased marginal land to form the Edie Creek Watershed and in 2010 constructed the first Flood Retention Basin encompassing almost a 1/2 section of land. In 2011 the second basin was constructed encompassing approximately 1/4 section of land. The basins are constructed with a perimeter containment dike and outflow structure to permit the temporary impoundment and storage of runoff, releasing the stored volume at a slower discharge rate over an extended period of time, thereby easing the flood peak. A third Flood Retention Basin is scheduled for construction in 2012.

Class 1 Waste Disposal Ground - City of Steinbach

In 2011, the City of Steinbach expanded the Steinbach Waste Disposal Ground (WDG) to comply with all Manitoba Conservation environmental standards as well as some additional innovations to further improve environment controls at the site. The regional facility provides the community with a place to dispose of their waste materials in an environmentally responsible manner, with segregated areas for the collection of a wide variety of recyclable materials. As a result, even though Steinbach and surrounding area are the fastest growing areas in Manitoba, there continues to be a drop in overall tonnage entering the facility five years in a row. Statistics show Steinbach and area to consistently be one of the best recycling areas in Manitoba.

Drainage and Community Collaboration - RM of Whitemouth

The RM of Whitemouth recognized that the municipality's drainage management procedures were leaving agricultural producers, rural residents and communities at risk. They also needed an innovative strategy to address the multi-year backlog for public drainage petition projects. Thus the Whitemouth Drainage Committee, consisting of residents, agricultural producers and local government with hands-on knowledge of the area's drainage requirements, was formed. The initiative has generated benefits through cost-sharing of drainage projects between the Municipality and rate payers, and reduced the time allocation required by municipal employees to research, map and process drainage projects.

Development Plan - City of Winnipeg

Our Winnipeg is Winnipeg's newly adopted development plan - the plan that will guide growth and promote sustainable change over the next 25 years. It has also been the impetus behind the most creative, collaborative planning process ever undertaken in Winnipeg's history; one that has set a new standard for inclusion in this city and perhaps any Canadian city. An 18-month open conversation with City, stakeholder, industry, community and regional participation was created from the ground up. 42,000 Winnipeggers were reached through the innovative SpeakUpWinnipeg initiative.

AND THE WINNER IS...