

MUNICIPAL

The Magazine of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities

Winter 2005/06

Leader

Is there a
GOLDMINE
in your
backyard?

Diversity in Municipal Politics:
Part III –
Visible Minorities

2006
M.O.S. and TRADE SHOW

Convention Re-cap • 2006 Education Series



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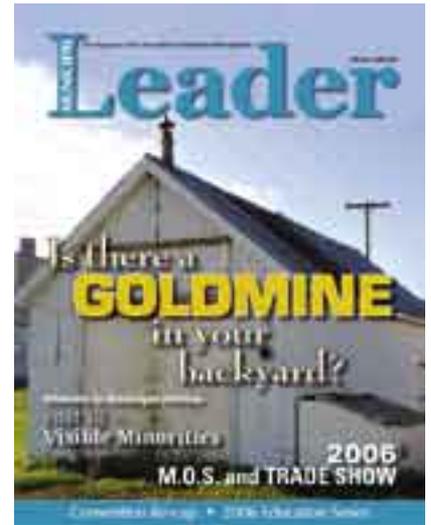
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Cover: A community's heritage can be an untapped resource. The village of St. Claude's first jail is now a museum.

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AMM Mission Statement

The Association of Manitoba Municipalities identifies and addresses the needs and concerns of its members in order to achieve strong and effective municipal government.



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A huge 'thank you' to members

I would be remiss if I didn't begin this message by saying "thank you" to each and every delegate who attended the AMM 7th Annual Convention in November. Thank you, first of all, for your support and vote of confidence in my ability to lead this organization for another year, and for your support of our two vice-presidents, **Lorne Boguski** and **Garry Wasylowski**. Thank you for your voices, your opinions, and your positions on matters of importance to our association. We may not always agree, but the dialogue we have at events like Convention ensure we are all better informed about the issues we collectively face. Finally, thank you for your patience. Achieving a New Deal for Manitoba was not a quick or simple process, and the negotiations certainly tested our organization's unity at times. However, the fortitude shown by our members is a testament to how strong our association truly can be when we stand together.

Since Convention, a New Deal Oversight Committee has been formed, including members of the Provincial and Federal Governments, the AMM, and the City of Winnipeg. This committee is charged with determining how to best implement the New Deal program. From the AMM's perspective, we want to make sure the process is as simple as possible for our members. There will be reporting requirements, of course, and municipalities will be required to sign a funding agreement prior to receiving their funds. However, all parties involved are committed to ensuring these requirements are not too onerous or burdensome, especially for smaller

municipalities. The AMM will continue to actively participate in this committee on your behalf, and we anticipate the first payments will be processed to municipalities very shortly.

The first week in January saw the AMM Board of Directors meet for our annual strategic planning session. This session helped us to determine our internal direction in 2006. Among other things, we reviewed our 2005 strategic plan, set policy priorities for the coming year, discussed the role of AMM directors, and examined member satisfaction. If there was an overriding theme to this year's session, it was how we can best meet all of our members needs, from north to south, from rural to urban, and from large to small. Our work is sometimes a balancing act and we looked at various ways and means of making sure that work is relevant to each of our members.

In closing, MOS is just around the corner and it promises to be an exciting event, as always. The first day is devoted to professional development and the second day to policy issues. In addition to interesting and stimulating speakers, the largest municipal trade show in Manitoba takes place during MOS and we strongly encourage you to visit the many displays. The trade show runs from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm on Monday, February 27 and concludes with the annual Wine & Cheese reception. I look forward to seeing you at MOS! 🍷

“The fortitude shown by our members is a testament to how strong our association truly can be when we stand together.”



Joe Masi, Executive Director

2006 lobbying course set

The AMM 7th Annual Convention has come and gone, and the work of carrying out our lobbying direction as driven by you, our membership, has begun for another year. While further issues will be raised throughout the year at regular regional meetings and municipal visits, it is the resolutions voted on at the Annual Convention that have set the main lobbying course of the AMM for the next 12 months. I'd like to provide you with a short overview of how we will chart this course.

Immediately after Convention, the AMM forwarded all accepted resolutions to the appropriate government departments for their response. This is extremely helpful to the AMM's lobbying efforts as it gives us an indication of where government stands on an issue. This also ensures the issue appears on the government's radar. Once all of the government's responses are received, the AMM will forward them on to our members. We will also keep our members up to date on our communications activities through our news bulletin, *Municipal Leader* magazine, resolutions updates, and at our various events. In addition, position papers for each government department along with a searchable database of active AMM resolutions, are available on the AMM website at www.amm.mb.ca.

Once we know the government's response to the issues, we will then begin to address the active resolutions in a number of different ways. We will highlight the issues through

letters, position papers and at our regular meetings with Provincial Cabinet Ministers. AMM Board and Executive members also sit on a variety of external committees of government, so that we have active input into issues that affect municipalities. Some resolutions are very straightforward and will be resolved at the staff level. Others are more complicated and will require a number of meetings and correspondence before they are resolved. Resolutions may be dropped only when they are completed, (such as the changes to the Workers Compensation Act that now recognizes the needs of volunteer firefighters), or where the outcome sought is not possible. In this situation, the AMM Board of Directors must agree on whether to drop the resolution.

The 63 resolutions passed by the AMM membership at Convention will be incorporated into our active files. Currently, the AMM has 299 active files, including 237 resolutions and 62 policy files. We are certainly looking forward to a busy year ahead. Rest assured that we will work on ALL resolutions to the best of our ability, and continue to keep you up to date on our progress.

Finally, the Municipal Officials Seminar & Trade Show takes place in Brandon on February 27 and 28, 2006. I look forward to seeing you there! ☺

“The 63 resolutions passed by the AMM membership at Convention will be incorporated into our active files.”

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New Rural Development scholarship

Students at Brandon University's Rural Development program will benefit from \$250,000 in scholarship funding provided by Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives and the Rural Economic Development Initiative.

Brandon University is committed to initiatives that enhance rural communities, agriculture and rural development. This scholarship will assist in encouraging individuals to complete undergraduate and graduate degrees through the Department of Rural Development. Graduates from this faculty are making an ongoing contribution toward improving development in rural Manitoba.

Clarifying roles of architects and engineers

After some confusion regarding professional planning of buildings, the Provincial Government has passed Bill 7, legislation that amends *The Manitoba Building Code*, *The Architects Act* and *The Engineering and Geoscientific Professions Act*. These amendments clarify which buildings must be planned by architects and which may be done by architects or engineers, and clarifies the roles of the two professions. For instance, industrial buildings, farm buildings, arenas with fixed seating capacity of less than 1,000 people and residential, office or retail buildings less than 600 square metres will not require an architect. Residential and office buildings and retail outlets over 600 square metres will require an architect, as will hospitals and public assembly buildings such as libraries, community centres and restaurants.

Physician recruitment and retention

Communities across Manitoba are facing physician shortages and need to find new ways of addressing this issue. In response, the Province recently unveiled a \$155 million plan to improve access to quality care and reduce wait times in key areas. The five-point plan to reduce wait times includes funding for more diagnostic testing; more surgeries; more health professionals; system innovation and better wait-list management; and prevention and health promotion. In addition, the Province is streamlining physician recruitment by creating a Physician Resource Coordination Office and

a comprehensive website to help health authorities recruit and retain doctors at www.healthemployment.ca. Medical student spaces are also increasing at the University of Manitoba to encourage local students to pursue careers in medicine.

Building on crime-fighting strategy

Manitoba recently announced a crime-fighting action plan designed to bolster current programs and develop safety initiatives through suppression and prevention. Measures that will be taken to deal with criminal activity include doubling the Gang Prosecutions Unit to 16 staff and increasing the current Public Safety Investigative Unit team from one to three to enforce the *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act* and the *Fortified Buildings Act*.

In addition to the 54 police officer positions announced in Budget 2005, 9 new Aboriginal police officers will be stationed in Northern Manitoba. Originally focused on bringing domestic violence cases to trial sooner, the award-winning Front End Project will expand to all adults in custody over the next year. Headingly Correctional Centre and the Dauphin Correctional Centre will have expanded capacity, and an interdepartmental group is looking at other options to expand capacity. Numerous preventative steps will also be taken, including an increase to this Government's 2003 election commitment to establish additional Lighthouses for youth, bringing the total to 50. In addition, the Citizen on Patrol Program (COPP) will increase from 69 to 76 groups and communities interested in establishing a group will be assisted in doing so.

Highway sign clutter targeted

In an effort to remove safety hazards from provincial roads, Bill 12 intends to streamline the process for removing illegal signs and structures along highways and update penalty provisions under the Highways and Transportation Act. The amendments would update the penalties to be in line with those under the *Highway Traffic Act* and the *Off-Road Vehicles Act* where there are no minimum fines, \$2,000 maximum fines, and imprisonment is removed as a sentencing option. Further, removal of signs and structures would no longer require contact with the owner.

Winter road safety working group

In January 2002, Calvin Wood of Waasagomach died when the snowplow truck he was operating broke through the ice during construction of a winter road. An inquest was called in 2004 and its 11 recommendations were recently released. A working group will oversee the implementation of all the recommendations and will include representatives of the Department of Transportation and Government Services, the Division of Workplace Safety and Health, Manitoba Hydro, the private sector and First Nations. The group will review and update all winter road guidelines with the intention of making recommendations to the government for mandatory regulations. A number of steps have been taken to improve winter road safety, including:

- Moving winter road routes off the ice where feasible;
- Improved evaluation of ice thickness and requiring ice thickness reports;
- Strengthening compliance with safety procedures through the immediate issuing of improvement or stop-work orders if conditions or procedures are not up to standards;
- Providing cold-weather training and ice-failure emergency survival techniques to construction workers; and
- Providing satellite phones for improved emergency communication.

Rewards for responsible land stewards

The Ecological Goods and Services pilot project, a three-year federal-provincial project, supports farmers in maintaining existing wetlands and riparian and natural areas, and provides for permanent cover on fragile cultivated lands. Farmers in the RM of Blanshard will receive a financial incentive to develop and maintain natural environments on their land, integrated with their agricultural lands. The central idea is to help farmers preserve and protect natural and fragile areas of land that have lower agricultural values, but can provide environmental benefits for all Manitobans. Through the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF), up to \$75,000 will be provided this fiscal year for delivery preparations, and additional funding support is available in subsequent years.

Other funding participants include the RM of Blanshard and the Delta Waterfowl Foundation. The Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC)

will administer the project. Lands that have been enrolled under Greencover Canada and Manitoba's Riparian Tax Credit Program are not eligible for this program. The RM of Blanshard lies within the Little Saskatchewan River Conservation District. It was chosen for the pilot project because its landscape is typical of agro-Manitoba, and local landowners and local governments have indicated significant support. The University of Manitoba will evaluate the pilot project.

Environmental Youth Corps projects

The Environmental Youth Corps (EYC) encourages voluntary participation in activities that help improve and protect Manitoba's environment. Projects must relate to environmental protection, enhancement, rehabilitation, conservation and resource management. Projects are eligible for up to \$5,000. Thirteen projects involving 655 young people will be funded \$28,825. Some of the projects that have been funded include:

- Morris School (Morris) - \$5,000 to involve 150 youth in establishing an outdoor classroom;

- Indian Springs School (Swan Lake) - \$4,350 to involve 67 youth in a schoolyard-enhancement project planting a shelterbelt of shrubs and trees and establishing a walking trail and seating area;
- Pine Dock Community Council (Interlake) - \$2,000 to involve eight youth in a waste-minimization project by distributing recycling boxes and helping to collect and sort recyclables;
- The Croatian Community Centre in Lockport - \$3,000 to involve 72 youth in a greening project establishing walking trails, spreading soil and planting trees and shrubs;
- Decker Colony School - \$500 to involve 45 youth in a greening project by constructing birdhouses and assisting in planting a shelterbelt of 1,000 trees and shrubs; and
- Town of Neepawa - \$3,625 to involve 60 youth in an enhancement project planting native trees and shrubs at a community garden, participating in community cleanup and composting initiatives, and constructing birdhouses and feeders from recycled materials. ♻️

UPCOMING EVENTS

February

- 20-21 AMM Municipal Visits (Interlake District)
- 27-28 Municipal Officials Seminar – Brandon Keystone Centre

March

- 1 AMM Education Session – McCandless Tramley & Roger Bouvier – Brandon Keystone Centre
- 13 Mayors, Reeves & CAOs Meeting – Northern District
- 14 Mayors, Reeves & CAOs Meeting – Parklands District
- 20 Mayors, Reeves & CAOs Meeting – Mid-Western District
- 21 Mayors, Reeves & CAOs Meeting – Western District
- 22 Mayors, Reeves & CAOs Meeting – Central District
- 23 Mayors, Reeves & CAOs Meeting – Eastern District
- 24 Mayors, Reeves & CAOs Meeting – Interlake District

April

- 3-5 AMM Municipal Visits (Central District)
- 5-7 AMM Municipal Visits (Western District)

Don't forget to mark these dates on your calendar!

Don't be in the Dark

Be prepared for that Winter Storm.

Winter snow, high winds, and ice buildup can cause power outages. Keep these emergency tips in mind:

- ▶ Have a flashlight, candles and matches handy.
- ▶ Put extra blankets in a convenient place.
- ▶ Keep a portable radio and extra fresh batteries in an accessible spot.
- ▶ Post emergency phone numbers by your telephone.
- ▶ Store a few spare jugs of drinking water.
- ▶ Tell the rest of your family where all the above items are located – don't leave them in the dark.

Manitoba Hydro

Broadway update: fourth session of the Manitoba Legislature begins

By Tyler MacAfee, AMM Director of Policy and Communications

The fourth session of the Manitoba Legislature kicked off in October of 2005 with the Speech from the Throne. The Throne Speech highlighted a number of areas of focus for the upcoming session, including improving emergency preparedness, clean energy development, health care and doctor and nurse recruitment, crime prevention, a further reduction in education tax on farmland, building Northern Manitoba, revitalizing cities and growing Manitoba's economy.

The specifics of this vision started to take shape as the Province introduced 20 Bills. Among a number of Bills of interest to municipal government was Bill 7: *The Architects and Engineers Scope of Practice Dispute Settlement Act*. A recent court ruling in a case involving the City of Winnipeg made it necessary to enact legislation to clarify the roles of the two professions. This Bill was of great interest to the AMM as municipalities use both professions frequently, and the AMM was involved in discussions throughout the process and submitted its comments on the Bill.

A major concern for municipalities was that if both professions needed to be consulted in all building developments, it would drive up project costs. The AMM fully supported any legislation that would clarify the roles of the two professions and ensure that development would continue in Manitoba communities. The AMM felt that the final version of the Bill did, indeed, meet this need. The Bill was passed and received Royal Assent on November 30.

While Bill 7 was the only Bill of interest to municipalities that passed in this sitting, there are a number of other Bills of interest to municipalities that were introduced:

BILL 13:

The Conservation Districts Amendment Act, if passed, will provide for public representation on the board of The Conservation District Commission. The AMM is one of the participants on this board.

BILL 14:

The Water Rights Act would provide for the appointment of officers to enforce the Act and would grant them additional powers, such as the right to conduct inspections and searches.

BILL 15:

The Emergency Measures Amendment Act will allow municipalities to issue emergency prevention orders in advance of disasters. By extending many of the state of emergency powers to municipalities in advance of the disaster's onset, municipalities will have the tools necessary to deal with the impending crisis. The Bill also includes a provision where municipalities would provide greater information to the Province in disaster situations to allow officials to better assess the situation and provide assistance. There is also a commitment to improving communication within government departments.

These three Bills will be brought to the Committee stage for public input in the coming months and the AMM will be submitting its comments at this time. To view any of the new legislation, or to check on the status of these Bills, please visit <http://www.gov.mb.ca/legislature/homepage.html> and follow the links. §

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Our role on the ‘TEAM’

By Val Turner, CMMA – President of Manitoba Municipal Administrators Association

Together Everyone Achieves More – what a great theme for the recent AMM Convention; and from that great theme came the idea that we at the

Manitoba Municipal Administrators’ Association should define our views on the role of administrators on the ‘TEAM.’

You may have noticed that the MMAA

has become increasingly interested in sharing its views on new legislation as it pertains to the operation of municipal government. The MMAA, however, sees itself as an ‘advocacy’ group, not a ‘lobby’ group. The MMAA recognizes that setting policy is the responsibility of our elected officials and that putting policy into practice, in the most efficient manner possible, is the responsibility of administration. We take this responsibility seriously and, therefore, have developed a strategy. We believe that, by coming to the table early, we are able to offer advice that will ultimately provide the best possible systems to institute such policy. The MMAA has, and will continue to, request participation at the earliest point in the process. We are pleased with invitations provided by the Province and with the way in which **President Ron Bell**, along with the Board of Directors and staff at the Association of Manitoba Municipalities, includes our Association in their deliberations.

Members of the MMAA also recognize their role as a research and information resource for council. With this in mind, the Association places emphasis, within its Mandatory Professional Development program, on providing members with the latest information, expert opinions, and a forum in which administrative components of the municipal issues of the day can be discussed. We appreciate the support that councils throughout Manitoba have given to our members in the pursuit of Professional Development and ask that, in recognition of the ‘TEAM,’ councils continue to do so.

This will be my last article for *The Leader* as President of the MMAA. I would like to recognize the significant progress that all members of our municipal family have made in promoting the ‘TEAM.’ I have no doubt that this continues to improve the service that we provide to the citizens of Manitoba. Thank you for the opportunity that you have given me to be a part of it. ♡

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Manitoba Planning Conference 2006

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Harnessing the natural sciences in the service of policy-making and integrated planning - advancing the practice of groundwater protection and flood hazard mitigation. A workshop by Natural Resources in Canada on tapping into geo-science in the service of better planning.

Powers and Obligations Under the Planning Act

W5 – Who, What, When, Where, Why – an examination of the different bodies charged with obligations under The Planning Act, including a review of the increased discretionary organization powers of Planning Districts, the creation of Planning Commissions, and the role of municipal councils and approving authorities.

Creating a Sustainable Energy Plan for Your Municipality - Harnessing Mother Nature for Everyone's Benefit

Learn about how your municipality can plan for and benefit from sustainable energy opportunities (Wind, Solar, Geo-Thermal and Bio-Diesel). A workshop on putting together an energy game plan that will guide your municipality along the path to greater sustainability.

Session Title Topics and Keynote Speakers

- *Integrating GIS and permit processing within the municipality and beyond*
- *Livestock Operations Policies*
- *Non-Farm Uses in Farming Country: Planning for Farmland Preservation*
- *New Object Based Codes – Building, Fire & Plumbing*
- *Green Building and Community Planning: LEED-ing the way*
- *Forging New Paths Together: Making a Difference by Conquering Differences - Dr. Wayne Caldwell*
- *The Honourable Scott Smith, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade*
- *Keep your eye on the horizon, not the prevailing winds Laura Rance, Associate Editor, Farmers' Independent Weekly*

Download registration information from conference website or contact Strauss.

Conference Website: ptgplanningdistrict.ca

NEW PLANNING ACT

IS HERE



Submitted by: Intergovernmental Affairs & Trade

On January 1, 2006, the Provincial Government's new *Planning Act* came into effect. The government passed the new legislation last summer.

The Planning Act provides the legal framework for land use planning in Manitoba (outside of Winnipeg). It allows for the adoption of *The Provincial Land Use Policies* that are currently under review, the adoption of local development plans and zoning by-laws, and the subdivision approval system.

Manitoba has a long history of land use planning, dating back to the first *Planning Act* in Canada, in 1916. This, the province's fourth *Planning Act*, is 123 pages long, consists of 220 Sections in 16 Parts, and replaces an act which came into effect on January 1, 1976 – 30 years ago.

The government worked on redrafting this legislation for more than two years. There was extensive consultation, including:

- Release of a public discussion paper,
- Public workshops,
- Public reports,

- Meetings with a 'stakeholders advisory group' (including representatives from the Manitoba Bar, AMM, MMAA, Planning Districts, the Manitoba Surveyors Association, planning consultants and the Manitoba Professional Planners Institute), and
- Separate discussions with AMM.

A number of goals guided the redrafting of *The Planning Act*:

- Rewriting and restructuring to make the Act more readable and user-friendly;
- Maintaining the balance between provincial interests and local control;
- Making The Act more enabling and less prescriptive;
- Streamlining planning processes;
- Supporting open and accountable decision making; and
- Improving planning for Intensive Livestock Operations.

Many of the changes incorporated in the new Act had been requested by municipalities and the public for years.

Selected highlights of the new *Planning Act*

- Protecting water sources and water bodies is extremely important to all of us. The new *Planning Act* makes a direct connection between land use planning and watershed planning under the new *Water Protection Act*. The new Act also enables the development of regional strategies to address regional issues such as transportation, water issues or infrastructure. These strategies could be linked to Watershed Management Plans under the new *Water Protection Act*.
- There are currently 45 Planning Districts in Manitoba involving 145 municipalities. The new Act provides greater flexibility for operation of Planning Districts by allowing Districts to set their own organizational and procedural by-laws rather than them being set by the Province. The new Act will require all existing Planning Districts to adopt organizational and procedural by-laws by June 1, 2006.

Important new requirements under the new *Planning Act*

- Every Planning District must adopt organizational and procedural by-laws by June 1, 2006.
- Every municipality will be required to have a Development Plan in place by January 1, 2008.
- Every municipality will be required to incorporate a Livestock Operation Policy in its Development Plan and Livestock Operation siting and setback distances in its Zoning by-law by January 1, 2008.
- All Livestock Operation applications of 300+ AUs are now considered 'Conditional Uses' - even if your current zoning has set a higher limit or if you have no zoning in place.

- The new Act now allows busy municipal councils to lessen their workload by appointing a Planning Commission to hear and make decisions on some local planning matters. These locally created Planning Commissions may be made up of councillors, citizens or any combination of the two. Decisions of a Planning Commission can be appealed to the full council. Where a Municipality has a Planning Commission in place, the appeal of zoning by-law decisions will not go beyond council.
- All municipalities will be required to adopt a Development Plan by January 1, 2008, and to adopt a zoning by-law within one year after that. Of 198 municipalities in Manitoba outside of Winnipeg, 155 already have Development Plans in place and 29 are actively in the process of adopting Development Plans. There are about 14 municipalities that do not have a Plan in place and are not in the process of adopting one - these 14 will need to undertake the adoption process. Some government funding is available through Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade's Community Planning Services Branch.
- To ensure better 'up-front planning' and to ensure the public is involved in determining how Livestock Operations (LOs) will be handled in each municipality before applications are received, all municipalities will be required to include LO Policies in their Development Plans by January 1, 2008, stating where:
 - Large LOs might be allowed;
 - They will be limited to a certain number of Animal Units (AUs); and
 - They will be prohibited.
- From now on, all Livestock Operation applications for over 300 AUs will be a 'conditional use' and will be subject to public hearing and technical review by the regional Technical Review Committee

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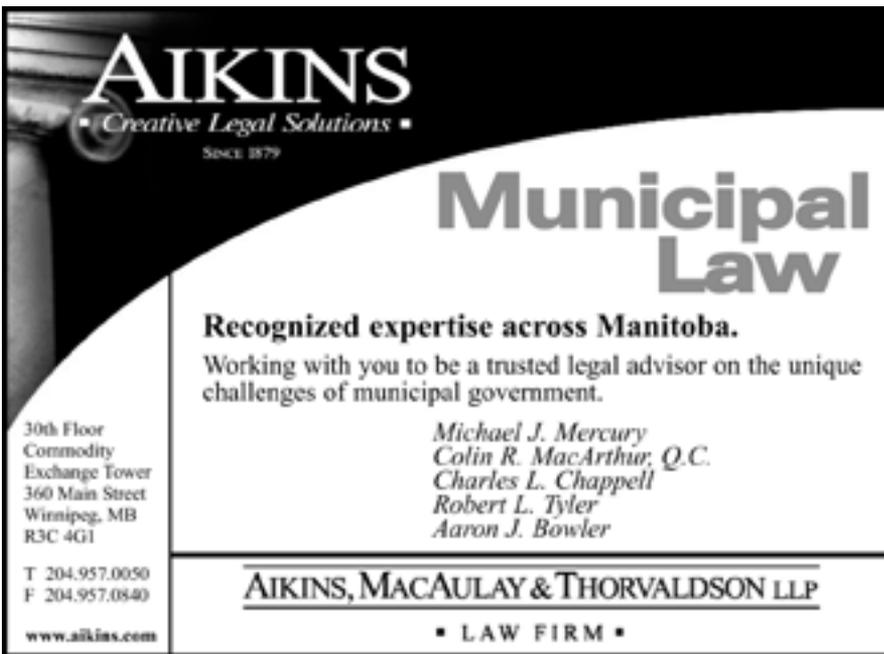


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– whether your current zoning requires it or not, or even if your municipality has no zoning. Municipalities will choose whether to consider operations below 300 AUs as conditional uses, and municipalities will have the final say on the approval of any livestock operation. The new Act narrows the scope of conditions a municipality can impose on LOs, in particular on any conditions relating to manure storage, handling and spreading.

- Minimum siting and setback standards (based upon the *Farm Practices Guidelines*) have been established under *Provincial Land Use Policy #2 - Agriculture*. The new Act requires municipalities to adopt these or higher standards in their zoning by-laws.
- The new Act also allows for a shorter process for approving minor subdivisions. Minor subdivisions are those in which no new lots are created (consolidations), as well as subdivisions where a new single lot in an urban area is being created and the new lot meets all other legal requirements. As well, all subdivisions involving the creation of a new public road require a public hearing prior to approval.
- Municipalities will be able to combine public notices and hearings when multiple approvals for a single development are required. For example, where the rezoning of a property from commercial to residential might currently require separate hearings and notices for a rezoning, a variance and a conditional use, under the new Act it will be possible to accomplish this with one notice and one hearing.
- The new Act will make it easier for Planning Districts and municipalities to enforce their by-laws through new enforcement provisions that allow them to issue stop work and compliance orders.

This article only highlights some of the changes in the new Planning Act. For more information, the new *Planning Act* (Bill 33) is available on the Province's website at: www.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/index

Hard copies of the current Act and the new *Planning Act* are available from the Queen's Printer.

For more information contact any *Community Planning Services* regional office or *Provincial Planning* in Winnipeg.



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Radio frequency remote read water meters

Since 1989, the RM of Macdonald has been extending water pipelines to villages and rural areas across the municipality, and now provides service to virtually the entire municipality with over 1,700 customers. A total of 290 miles of rural water pipeline connects 640 rural and 1,078 urban customers throughout the municipality – a significant expansion from the initial 365 customers in 1989.

With such a rapidly growing and widespread system, the inefficiency of accessing each location to read water meters soon became apparent. Considerable staffing resources were required to obtain meter readings from each location since 37% of customers are located in rural areas. Although the RM of Macdonald had established a system to allow customers to provide meter readings over the telephone, the response rates were insufficient, peaking at approximately 60%. Therefore, this system did not sufficiently alleviate the difficulties of conducting on-site readings. To address this issue, in cases where the customer did not call in a reading for three consecutive quarters, a \$50 charge was established to cover the costs of attending a premise to obtain the meter reading. However, this measure did not reduce the staff time required to obtain meter readings and did not improve the percentage of readings received from one quarter to the next.

A further concern was that water meters are known to decline in accuracy over their lifespan, allowing greater volumes of unre-

corded water to pass through the chamber of the meter. Based on information from the American Water and Wastewater Association, meter accuracy decreases between two and seven per cent over 20 years. Many of the meters in Macdonald were approaching 20 years, with over 900 meters between 11 and 15 years old. The rest of the meters varied in age from the time the water system was established in 1989. The Municipality performed testing on a random sample of the local meters to verify the conclusions of the American Water and Wastewater Association and confirmed that their meters were declining in accuracy.

The growth in the Macdonald Water Distribution System had stabilized, therefore the Municipality began to examine ways of implementing a water management program that would respond to the need to track unaccounted water. Three options were considered:

- 1) *Status Quo* – The loss in revenue from unaccounted water would have to be recovered in order to meet the increasing costs of operating the water utility, resulting in increased rates for all customers.
- 2) *Staged Meter Replacement* – A move towards the ultimate upgrading of all meters over a designated time period would result in an annual increase of approximately \$36.10 to the average customer.
- 3) *Radio Frequency Remote Read Registers* – A complete changeover of the oldest water meters and conversion of newer

water meters would provide an immediate solution to obtaining accurate readings. This option requires some form of financing.

The RM of Macdonald felt they had a responsibility to take the necessary steps to better manage and monitor the water utility. Therefore, Council gave notice of a public hearing regarding a local improvement plan referenced as the Radio Frequency Water Meter project. The proposal was to replace approximately 900 meters installed in the period from 1989 to 1993 that were 11 to 15 years old. The remaining water meters would be converted, allowing all meters in the system to be read remotely. As a result, all meters would be equipped with radio frequency meter interface units that would allow automatic meter reading with a mobile automatic meter reading data collector. The estimated cost of the local improvement and other expenses incidental to the undertaking of the improvement was \$475,000. It was proposed that this amount be financed in part by a contribution of \$100,000 from the existing Water Utility Reserve Fund and the RM of Macdonald would raise the balance by the sale and issuance of a debenture. The initial estimated annual cost to each customer was \$52.30 per year, over a period of five years.

At the public hearing residents expressed opposition to the proposal, including a petition containing 285 signatures. The Council decided that more accurate cost estimates should be pursued in order to fully evaluate



the project impacts. After receiving cost estimates from two major suppliers of water metering equipment, the Municipality found that the overall cost of the project would be \$380,000 – a reduction of \$95,000. Further notice was given to inform residents of the revised estimate to an adjusted amount of \$39 per customer, per year, over a five-year period. A second public hearing was held, with far fewer indications of opposition.

The Municipality decided to move forward with the local improvement project because of the extensive advantages of the radio frequency technology. The system has now been in place for a full year and four meter readings have taken place. With the full year of readings collected the RM of Macdonald now has sufficient data to examine trends and evaluate the water distribution system.

CAO **Tom Raine** says the system is working “flawlessly” with each quarter obtaining readings from all customers. The system is also extremely useful because it provides immediate feedback on meter problems as they arise. Raine estimates that there have been no more than three such problems per quarter, representing a significantly improved reading rate as compared to the previous system. The billing cycle has also been shortened from two weeks to one day from the time the data is input to the printing of water bills. These additional staff hours can now be directed to other municipal priorities; a benefit that is difficult to quantify but greatly appreciated. Overall, the new water meters have been a success and the Municipality is looking forward to the ongoing benefits of the new water meters. §

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- Non-invasive meter reading means no requirement to access customer homes or property.
- Increased meter reading accuracy resulting in increased revenue.
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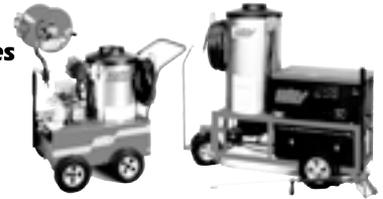
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Wednesday March 1, 2006
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Registration/Cancellation deadline for this session - Monday, February 20, 2006

Education Session #2

Thursday, May 4, 2006
 Presented by:
 George Cuff
 Greenwood Inn, Winnipeg
 9:00 am to 3:00 PM
 Cost - \$125. + GST

Registration/Cancellation deadline for this session - Monday, April 24, 2006

Questions?

Contact Donna Belbin, Events Coordinator
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Education Session #1 – March 1, 2006

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- Enforcement of zoning by-laws and the impact of new Planning Act provisions.

- Municipal roads: consideration for council when opening, maintaining and closing roads.
- The annual municipal financial plan—what councils should be aware of.
- Conflict and bias.

In addition to the topics that will be covered, Greg and Roger would like each person who registers to include one question or problem area that they would like them to consider during their presentation. They will ensure that they have a written response for every question received.

Every registrant will return home with their personal concern addressed, in addition to the information provided at the seminar!

Biography



ROGER A. BOUVIER

Roger Bouvier has conducted training seminars and advised municipal officials for the past 17 years. He has over 35 years of municipal experience as a municipal administrator and municipal services officer.

Roger Bouvier



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Greg Tramley

Education Session #2 – May 4, 2006



GEORGE CUFF - The Keys to Effective Local Governance

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- **Effective Communication**
- **Significance of Trust in Team-Building**
- **Expectations of the Governing Body**
- **Key Managerial Prerogatives & Responsibilities**
- **Best Practices**

Biography

George Cuff knows the value of life long learning and considers himself a student while also being teacher and advisor on the art and principles of governance and the elements of effective organizations. He has worked in these areas since 1974, having held a department head position in local government and later a consulting position with the provincial government.

George has served as Mayor of Spruce Grove, Alberta for four terms, is a Past President of AUMA (Alberta Urban Municipalities Association) and FCM (Federation of Canadian Municipalities). George's firm provides a variety of consulting services to clients, but principally in the areas of board and council governance, organization reviews, trouble-shooting, executive recruitment, staff and elected official training and special projects.

George is the author of the book *Cuff's Guide to Municipal Leaders*.



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Part III – Visible Minorities in Politics

By Kim Spiers, AMM Policy Analyst (Resource Management Issues)

Manitoba's Civil Service Commission defines membership in a visible minority as "persons other than Aboriginal peoples who, because of their race or colour, are a visible minority." An Aboriginal person is defined as a person "of Northern American Aboriginal ancestry including First Nations (status and non-status), Inuit and Metis." For the purposes of this article, the term 'visible minority' will include Aboriginal persons.

This is the third installment in the series on increasing diversity in municipal politics. Past segments explored ways of increasing women's and youth involvement. This third segment looks at the issues around increasing participation of persons of a visible minority in the political realm.

The right to vote is a major component of our democratic rights and affirms both one's freedom of choice and equality among all citizens. It follows then that we have the right to represent and be represented by our government.

Manitoba's history, like that across North America, is founded on the First Nations and immigration. Our diversity, set in historical reality, is what strengthens communities and encourages our growth, both individually and collectively. To effectively represent a constituency, municipalities must engage all citizens both in community discussions as well as in office. The needs of multicultural citizens are potentially unique to that group and Government needs to respect those differences as a positive for the community. Diversity offers fresh perspectives,





experiences, values and ideas. Differences need not be seen as negative, rather they are opportunities to benefit from the skills and talents offered by each individual. Including diverse perspectives may be a challenge, but with potentially great benefits.

Current involvement

It is difficult to give accurate figures for how many of Manitoba's municipal officials identify as belonging to a visible minority, as figures are not maintained. Further hindering our understanding of issues specific to visible minorities in municipal politics is a lack of current research in this area. Outdated assumptions based on research from the 1960s and 1970s focus on stereotypes suggesting that foreign-born residents are less capable of acquiring knowledge about Canada's political norms and values. These notions need to be challenged.

There could be many reasons for an individual to decide to run for political office, however some reasons may be unique to visible minorities. **Councillor Gladys Thorne** from the Town of The Pas observes

that council is a time-consuming endeavour and most councillors are employed outside of their position on council and may have to take time away from work and family. These commitments may impact decisions to run.

Political Science Professor **Jerome Black** suggests that some difficulties may lie in establishing social ties and connections. Additionally, lower socio-economic status, limited knowledge of host country language skills, and the existence of cultural differences may hinder the "transfer of political experiences." He offers many suggestions for why persons of a visible minority may not run, including confronting sitting member, adverse (or lack of) media treatment, the characterization as being able to only answer to 'ethnic issues,' and exclusionary practices of local communities. These may include not recruiting into ethnic communities and the need for higher qualifications to counterbalance discriminating attitudes. As with gender and age, one's heritage should not be used as an indicator of ability to do a job, rather training, education and experience should be.

How to involve everyone

Marlene Cook, Councillor for the City of Selkirk, believes that as long as people are part of the community, they are not seen as belonging to a visible minority. They are members of the community and therefore on equal footing in discussions. To be engaged, there is a need to be interested in the issues around them.

At the federal level, Black suggests legislative changes to increase MP representation, including "incorporating a proportionality dimension into the electoral system" (for more 'balanced' party lists), imposing term limits on incumbents, and "providing incentives for parties to be more proactive in recruiting minority candidates, particularly in more winnable ridings." He adds that those who were active in politics in their home country "exhibited the capacity to 'transfer' those experiences, becoming active in Canadian politics." Regardless of whether someone is running or voting, issues must be relevant to the individual.

On page 24, three elected officials who identify as belonging to a visible minority, share their experiences in municipal politics. 6

Statistically Speaking

Canada's most recent census (2001) highlights that:

- 18.4% of the country's population was born outside the country and 3.3% of the population identify themselves as Aboriginal;
- 7.9% of Manitoba's population identified themselves as belonging to a visible minority, and 14% identified as being of Aboriginal ancestry;
- The trend shows that by 2017, up to 23% of Canada's population will identify as being of a visible minority and over 4% may identify as First Nation;
- Manitoba has a goal of landing 10,000 immigrants in the Province on a yearly basis;
- It is estimated that by 2017, 11% of Manitoba's population will identify as belonging to a visible minority, and 18.4% will identify as being of Aboriginal ancestry.

It is important to recognize that these populations are increasing at a greater rate than the rest of the province's population, and municipalities need to engage this populace. Municipalities are actively recruiting foreign-trained workers, particularly to communities outside large urban centres. Doing so necessitates the need to involve new citizens in our communities at every level.

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Municipal Profile

Three elected officials who identify as belonging to a visible minority shared their experiences in municipal politics: **Oswald Sawh**, Councillor for the City of Thompson; **Gladys Thorne**, Councillor for the Town of The Pas; and **Marlene Cook**, Councillor for the City of Selkirk.



Oswald Sawh – City of Thompson

Councillor Sawh was born in Guyana in South America. At the age of six, Oswald's family was sponsored to Canada and he lived in Winnipeg until work took him to Thompson at the age of 25. After being a member of his community for nearly a decade, Oswald decided he wanted to help his City expand its economic basis by becoming more involved in the community and he successfully ran for council in 2002. Oswald says that he has never felt his skin colour was a barrier to his move into politics, and he has always felt a lot of support in the community. The challenge he has felt has been working in a public arena with a speech impediment. Oswald has overcome this obstacle with his successful tenure as Councillor, and was Deputy Mayor in 2004.

Oswald states that a council should represent the demographics of the people. He is currently the only visible minority on Thompson's council, yet the City has a large First Nations population as well as a large youth population and they all need to be represented. He feels this can be done by showing people the benefits of engaging themselves in the system. Politicians at all levels need to continuously engage the public, and the City of Thompson works to address this through weekly question period sessions. These kinds of events help to keep people informed, as well as provide an opportunity to hear what residents have to say. Throughout it all, there is a need to communicate what and why things are being done, but also remaining open to new ideas.



Gladys Thorne – Town of The Pas

Gladys Thorne was first elected as town Councillor for The Pas in 2002. Currently the only female on council, Gladys is also the first and only First Nation to be elected to the Town's council. As a senior citizen with a physically disabled granddaughter, Gladys recognized that the perspectives of seniors and disabled individuals are often ignored, so she ran on a platform advocating for these two segments of the population. She says that her greatest accomplishment during her term was Live for Life, a program that provided access to the Town's change room and pool area for all citizens by moving the change rooms and putting a lift in the pool.

Gladys says that although her overall experience has been a good one, she acknowledges that, at times, it has been difficult trying to get her view across. She says that this may be because she is the only woman on council, but it may also be because as a new member, she is trying to figure out the process.

The Pas also has a large First Nations population, but this demographic is not equally represented on Council. The Mayor works closely with the First Nations however, and Gladys, who has lived in The Pas her entire life, says that she has seen an improvement over the years in how First Nations are treated and responded to.



Marlene Cook – City of Selkirk

Marlene moved to Selkirk in 1985 with her family at which time she began working and volunteering in her community. Her interest in politics was limited to complaining to family about the way things were running. When challenged by her dad, Marlene took the plunge and ran for City Council.

After losing her first bid, she persisted, and is now completing her second term. As a woman of First Nation ancestry, Marlene acknowledges that Council is not representative of the population of Selkirk, and she says that many people have told her that it means a great deal to them for her to be on Council. Marlene describes herself as being "very fortunate" to have this support from the people, however she notes that she does not believe skin colour is a barrier in her City. Rather, all community members are on equal footing.

Among many of the accomplishments Marlene lists during her tenure on Council are the new lights that have been installed near a school, work on the arena, and current work towards a skateboard park. Proud of her City's development and growth, Marlene adds that Selkirk needs a hotel to continue its expansion and support the use of the recreational centre. Wanting to work to see these tasks to completion, she is intending to run for a third term. Interested in increasing representation among the City's population, Marlene feels it is important to have youth involved and have a youth representative on Council.



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Could heritage be your
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Would you believe someone who told you there was a goldmine in your backyard? What would you do if there was? And, most importantly, would you be ready to make the most of it? Truth is, many Manitoba communities are sitting on untapped resources; historic places which have the potential to be valuable community assets. Consider the benefits of these ‘goldmines’:

- **Economic** research shows that designated heritage buildings appreciate in value and perform better on the real estate market. In urban areas, the conservation of historic places can aid in the revitalization of commercial and residential neighbourhoods and help restore their economic activity, livability and attractiveness. The labour intensive nature of conservation creates local jobs.
- **Cultural** benefits of heritage are harder to quantify, but should not be overlooked. Historic sites are tangible connections to our past, linking generations and

providing venues for education and citizenship, as well as serving as community landmarks and sources of pride. Volunteer activity that goes into maintaining and promoting these sites is a way to keep people, especially seniors and youth, active and involved in their community.

- **Environmental** benefits from heritage conservation are experienced now (every old building reused is less waste going into the landfill) and revitalizing existing buildings (rather than developing unserved areas) uses less municipal infrastructure, delivering longer-term returns. As well, rehabilitation brings proven energy savings; the energy required to build a new building is roughly equivalent to the energy required to operate it for 40 years.

These areas are all pillars of a healthy community, and heritage resources *already exist* in most Manitoba municipalities. Still, for many communities, heritage is a low priority item; something to be dealt with when and

if there is time. At a time when communities are looking for every competitive advantage and every opportunity, could heritage be your community's untapped resource? Could heritage conservation fit with another project (neighbourhood revitalization, waste reduction, centennial celebration, etc.) to leverage additional support and contribute to even more impressive results? If so, what is your municipality's plan for taking advantage of this untapped resource?

If it's time to get started looking for your ‘goldmine’, or if you have a historic resource and you would like to discuss how to make the most of it, **now** is the time to act – your heritage is a non-renewable resource. Once it's gone, it's gone forever. The Historic Resources Branch of Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism offers technical, financial and advisory assistance for heritage projects and municipal heritage sites. Contact the Historic Resources Branch at 1-800-282-8069, ext. 2981 or ihall@gov.mb.ca. 

One municipality's approach:

St. Claude goes straight to jail, still collects \$200

Recently, the Village of St. Claude learned that the small building that was about to be torn down to expand the parking lot for the community fire hall was, in fact, the area's first jail (or 'gaol', to use the Old English spelling). The community realized they had a potential goldmine.

The Village's Tourism and Marketing Committee suggested a new use for the old building – the development of a small tourist information office. Council agreed, and a plan to turn the building into a museum and information centre was developed, with most construction to be completed during the summer of 2005.

John Quayle, project coordinator and president of the municipal tourism and marketing committee, knew people were intrigued by the lurid allure of historical jails, and had no trouble finding volunteers to help rehabilitate the building. Other support came from local community members and businesses that provided in-kind donations of materials, labour, and equipment loans; as well as a Designated Heritage Buildings Grant and technical advice from the Historic Resources Branch.

"Heritage is one more thing helping put St. Claude on the map," John says. He feels the jail museum and tourist centre will be a great community attraction, and why shouldn't he? Even before the building's official opening (scheduled for spring 2006), the St. Claude Gaol has drawn hundreds of curious visitors from both within and outside the community who want to experience St. Claude's heritage. ⚡



Visitors flock to the new/old gaol even before its Official Opening.



The 'work gang' installs a membrane on the roof. From top: Georges Jobin (consultant builder), Pierre Huberdeau, 'Foreman' Raymond Theroux and John Quayle.

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2006 Preliminary Agenda

Monday, FEBRUARY 27, 2006

- 8:00 am to 3:00 pm **Registration**
- 9:00 am **Opening Remarks**
Mayor Ron Bell, AMM President
Mayor Dave Burgess, City of Brandon
Ms. Val Turner, MMAA President
- 9:15 am **Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs & Trade**
Honourable Scott Smith
- 9:45 am **Visioning to Create Superb Results**
Presented by: Wendy Bulloch, Consultant, Building Up
- 10:45 am **Coffee Break**
- 11:00 am **A Rationale for the Delivery of Municipal Leisure Services**
Presented by: Brian Johnston, President Professional Recreation Consultants Ltd.
- 12:00 pm **MTCML Trade Show Opens**
- 12:00 pm **Delegate Luncheon**
- 1:15 pm **Breakout Sessions**
- Municipal Liability Concerns
 - Pre-Retirement Lifestyle Planning
 - The Building Up Social Acton Advantage
 - Effective Email
- 2:15 pm **Coffee Break**
- 2:40 pm **Breakout Sessions**
- Municipal Liability Concerns
 - Pre-Retirement Lifestyle Planning
 - The Future: What Municipalities & Young Children Have in Common
 - IAT Presentation
- 3:45 pm **Presentation by Roger Bouvier, Municipal Solutions**
- 4:45 pm **Adjournment**
- 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm **Wine & Cheese Reception**

Tuesday, FEBRUARY 28, 2006

- 9:00 am to 11:00 am **Registration**
- 9:00 am **How the New Deal Program Can Work for You**
Panel Presentation & Questions from the Floor
- 10:00 am **2nd Annual Municipal Innovation Awards**
- 10:15 am **Door Prize Draw #1**
- 10:15 am **Coffee Break**
- 10:35 am **Breakout Sessions****
- 7 Things Your Community Can Do With Heritage For Under \$1000.
 - TBA
 - TBA
 - TBA
- 11:35 am **Delegate Luncheon**
- 12:45 pm **Breakout Sessions****
- TBA
 - TBA
 - TBA
 - TBA
- 1:45 pm **Coffee Break**
- 2:00 pm **Door Prize Draw #2**
- 2:00 pm **The Building Blocks of Economic Development**
Panel Presentation
- 3:10 pm **Closing Remarks**
- **Please note**
- While the following TBA Breakout Session participants have been confirmed, their placement on the agenda was not confirmed at time of printing. Check the AMM website at www.amm.mb.ca for the latest MOS agenda!
 - Green Manitoba Eco-Solutions
 - Mr. Dan Erickson, Warden Stony Mountain Institute
 - Manitoba Seniors & Healthy Aging Secretariat
 - Manitoba Health, Office of Disaster Management
- Awaiting confirmation of participation (at time of printing)
- Manitoba Justice, By-Law Enforcement MOU

Exhibitor Profiles

Exhibitors listed as of January 27, 2006. Those registering after that date are not included.

Acklands-Grainger Inc., Booth 14

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Airmaster, Booths 30 & 39

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Archangel Fireworks, Booth 2

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Assiniboine Injections, Booth 16

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Atlis Geo, Booth 7

Atom Jet Industries Ltd., Booth 19

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Blue Imp, Booth 64

Brandt Tractor Ltd., Booths D3 & D4

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CAA Manitoba, Booth 55

Call Before You Dig, Booth 81

Information on why Manitobans should call Manitoba Hydro before starting constructions or repair digs.

Canada Manitoba Infrastructure Secretariat, Booth 85

CMIS administers the Canada-Manitoba Infrastructure Programs that are investing in Manitoba's urban, rural and northern infrastructure to improve the quality of life for all Manitobans.

Cantest, Booth 52

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DataLink Mapping Technologies Inc., Booth 65

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Degelman Industries, Booths D1 & D2

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DGH Engineering Ltd., Booth 71

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DJ Media, Booth 61

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Dupont Canada, Booth 58

Dust Free Road Maintenance, Booth 70

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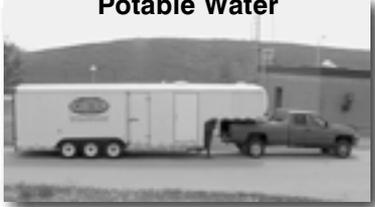




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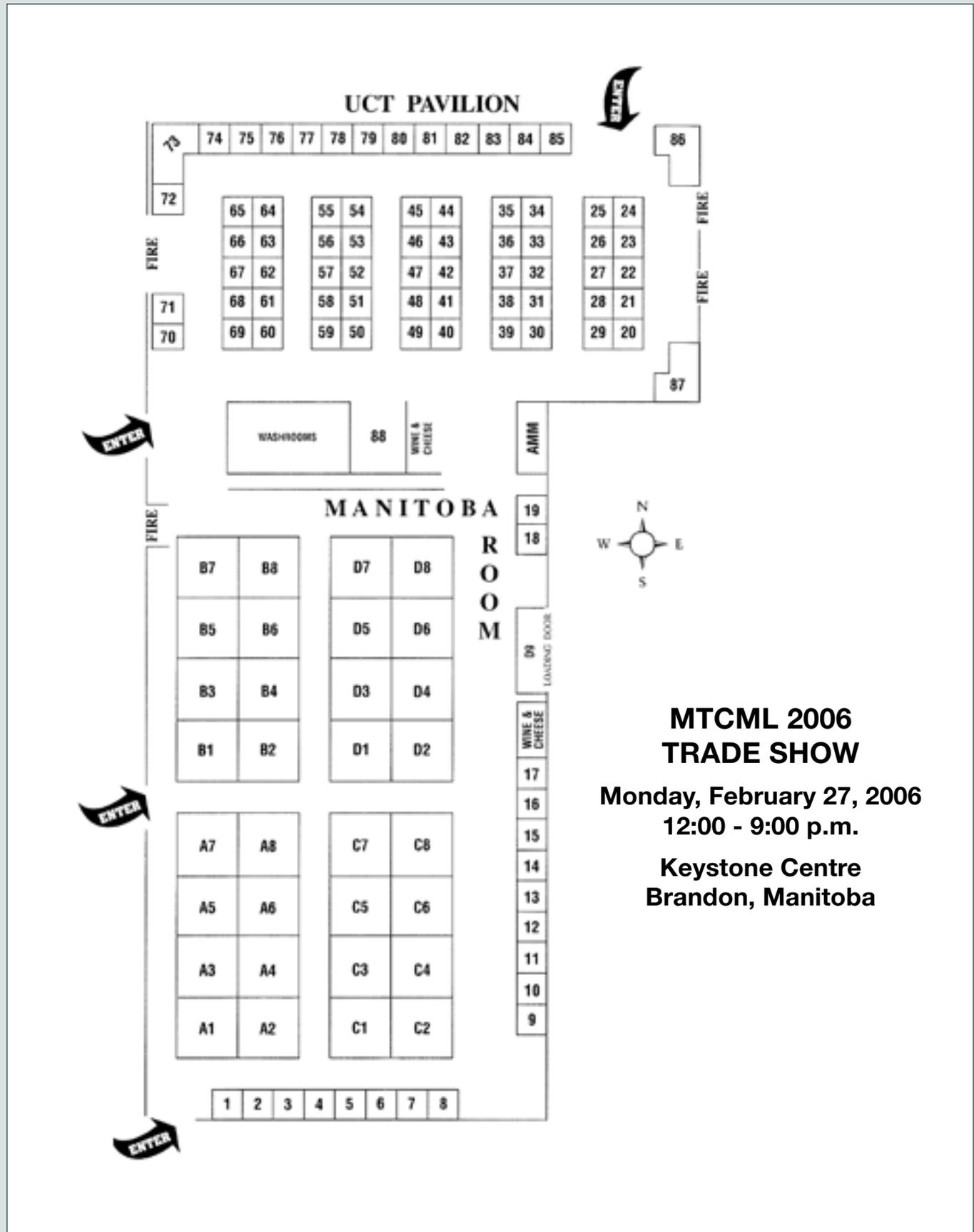
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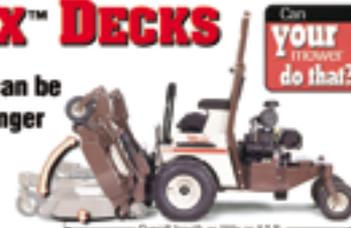


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Manitoba Good Roads Association

Once again this past summer, MGRA judges traveled across the province judging roads and home grounds for the annual competition. Awards will be presented to the winners at the **Annual Banquet** on February 26, 2006 at the Royal Oak Inn in Brandon. If you wish to attend this fun evening, please contact the MGRA. The **MGRA Annual General Meeting** will also take place Sunday, February 26th at the Royal Oak Inn at 3:00 p.m. Come to the meeting and enter the **free draw** for a year membership to the MGRA. This is your opportunity to express the opinions and concerns of your municipality.

A seminar on dust control and geotextiles will be hosted by Manitoba Transportation and Government Services in conjunction with the AMM convention on February 27, 2006 at the Keystone. Contact MGRA if you would like to register for this seminar or if you have any suggestions for future courses.

The MGRA will once again have a booth at the AMM tradeshow on February 27th. Please stop by and look at some of the winning home grounds as well as learn more about the Association.

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Is your community the next Safe Community?

By Wendy French, Regional Coordinator, Safe Communities Foundation



Could Canada become the safest country in the world for people to live, learn, work, and play? The Canadian Safe Communities Foundation (SCF) thinks so. This not-for-profit group is dedicated to making Canada a safe place to live, one community at a time. The SCF helps community groups get organized, focused and enthusiastic about reducing injuries and deaths locally. When a community becomes a designated ‘Safe Community,’ it focuses on needs at the grassroots level, and also joins a national movement with momentum, strength and support. In our country, there are currently 46 Safe Communities covering an estimated 21% of Canadians. Humboldt, Saskatchewan became Canada’s newest Safe Community in November. Brandon and the surrounding area is the first and, so far, the only designated Safe Community in Manitoba.

THE INJURY PROBLEM

Injuries have been referred to as the “hidden epidemic.” Most people do not realize that injuries are the leading cause of death in Manitobans aged 1 – 44 years of age. The report, *Injuries in Manitoba: A 10-year Review (Manitoba Health, 2004)*, shows that from 1992 to 2000, 5702 Manitobans died from injuries and between 1992-2001, a further 120,611 were hospitalized for injuries. The cost to our province is an estimated \$819 million each year, according to *The Economic Burden of Unintentional Injury in Manitoba (Smartrisk, 2004)*.

MOST INJURIES ARE NOT ‘ACCIDENTS’

Injuries are predictable and, therefore, preventable. Every year, injuries occur under similar circumstances as those occurring in previous years. Unless something changes, people will continue to be injured in much the same ways as in the past. The good news is that because research tells us how, where, why and when people are getting injured, we can work together to prevent future injuries.

SAFETY IS EVERYONE’S RESPONSIBILITY.

Everyone has a right to live in a safe environment and a responsibility to create a culture of safety. Communities want to address the issues that are specifically affecting their community, municipality or town. This is where the Safe Communities Foundation can help. It promotes community-based injury prevention where individuals and agencies work together in partnership to promote safety, manage risk and increase the overall well-being of its members. A key to success is an active local coalition, association, committee or network with a diverse range of members (such as health care, police, schools, day cares, local business) that work to address local concerns about injuries, collisions and crime. A national team of regional representatives assists local communities throughout the designation process and provides on-going support. **Wendy French** is the Regional Coordinator for Manitoba.

Community coalitions are well positioned to make real changes that are uniquely suited to their area. The coalition can identify gaps and duplication of effort; resources expertise and ideas are shared. Funding opportunities may be optimized, as ‘funders’ often want to see evidence that agencies are working in partnerships. A dedicated coalition often has a strong sense of mission, cohesiveness, motivation and permanence.

Benefits of joining the Safe Communities Network

COMMUNITY BUILDING

There are many benefits to becoming a designated Safe Community. Communities that went through the designation process reported that the community has a higher profile and receives more attention from the media, that the Safe Communities brand has given their efforts more credibility, and that the community at large has an increased awareness of safety issues and behaviours.

THE NATIONAL NETWORK

The Safe Communities Foundation has much to offer. It can help your community expand outreach and maximize funding opportunities. The Foundation shares information, resources, tools/templates, and best practices; and provides learning and networking opportunities through a listserv, teleworkshops, publications, the website, and an annual conference. The Safe Communities Foundation also grants seed money to help community coalitions get established. Other benefits include recognition, on-going support, partnership opportunities, as well as a connection to the international Safe Communities network. As well, SCF is an affiliate support centre to the World Health Organization’s Collaborating Centre for Safe Communities.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), every dollar spent on Safe Communities saves society \$40.

SAFE COMMUNITIES’ SUCCESSES:

- Last year, traffic enforcement increased by 18%, and Motor Vehicle Collisions (MVC) were reduced by 7% in Brockville, Ontario - a Safe Community that hasn’t had a fatal MVC in six years.
- A bike helmet program in Perth, ON saw an increase from 20% to 95% usage rate.
- In Hamilton, more than 10,000 youth participated in ‘Cyclemania’ and bikes and blades programs – and more than \$28,000 in certificates have been redeemed for new bike helmets.
- Wolfville, NS had a 12.5% increase in the correct use of child car seats.
- In Kingston, the injury rate among young people aged 15-24 dropped by 9% from 1998 to 2000 (Source: Kingston Regional Injury Surveillance Program).
- In 22 Brampton, ON schools, more than 16,500 children learned hands-on about fire safety and injury prevention through the 2003 Risk Watch program.

The first pre- and post- Safe Community Designation Study was conducted by the Safe Community Coalition of Brockville & District Attitudinal Survey in 1996 with follow up in 2002. A five-year comparison survey revealed that:

- 97% of Brockville residents feel 'somewhat or very safe' living in Brockville.
- 32% of residents claim they are more safety conscious than they were one year prior.
- 40% of residents are aware of the Safe Community Coalition; of those aware, 71% feel that the Coalition was doing a very good/good job to improve the level of safety in the Brockville area

Communities are invited to join in making Canada the safest country in the world. For more information about the Foundation and how to become a designated Safe Community, contact:

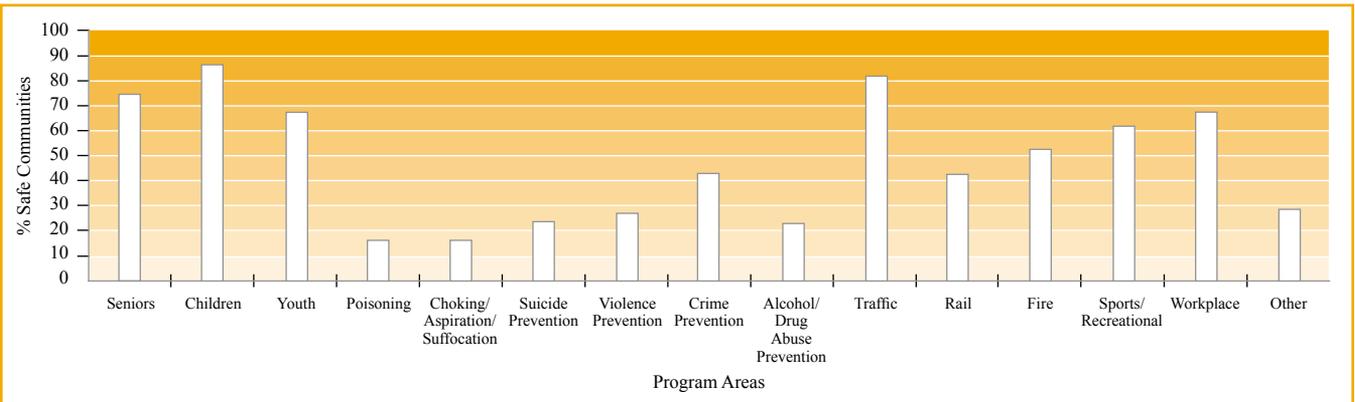
Manitoba Regional Coordinator

Wendy French
C/O IMPACT, the injury prevention centre of Children's Hospital
Phone: 204-787-1907
E-mail: wfrench@exchange.hsc.mb.ca

General Inquiries:

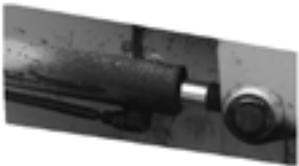
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Manitoba's only Safe Community: Brandon & Area

By Wendy French, Regional Coordinator, Safe Communities Foundation

“I believe that the whole idea of a Safe Community is not to reinvent programs, but to support what is already going on in the community,” says **Sharon Young**, co-chair of Brandon & Area Safe Community Coalition. Sharon has been one of the driving forces in getting local agencies, the City of Brandon, the RMs of Elton, Whitehead and Cornwallis, and local industry to form a coalition and apply to become the first, and so far the only, designated Safe Community in Manitoba.

The Brandon & Area Safe Community Coalition (BASCC) evolved from the Westman Injury Prevention Education Network (WIPEN) that formed in 1998 to address injuries in a collaborative manner. After two members attended a Safe Communities national conference, they thought that the model might be a good fit for Brandon. In 2002, the City of Brandon's City Manager and Mayor endorsed the concept and hosted an event with the support of the Manitoba Safety Council. The Safe Communities concept was brought to light by Safe Communities founder, **Paul Kells** to top management and community leaders from industry, the public sector, business, local agencies and the Regional Health Authority. “There was an amazing show of support from community leaders,” says Sharon, “That was key for us moving forward.”

The next step involved a large community meeting with community stakeholders and a special guest from the Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition. “Co-chair **Doug Langtry** provided us with practical, grass-roots information about his region's start and progress in sustaining a Safe Community. With several years of experience with the Safe Communities model, Doug was a credible advocate for involving the whole community in an injury prevention strategy,” says Sharon. “We needed to see a clear picture of what Safe Communities looked like in action and to start thinking about what that might look like in our situation. Doug gave us a practical framework to do that.”

A subsequent presentation was made to the Chamber of Commerce. “It is so important to include all sectors at the ground level,” advises Sharon. “We brought people

together as a group; people who wanted to see outcomes and wanted to be actively involved in making things happen.” A leadership/steering committee was formed and a business plan was developed. After submitting the plan to the Safe Communities Foundation, Brandon & Area received designation as Canada's 38th Safe Community in November 2003.

“Fortunately, the focus on preventing injury in the province continues to evolve both at a policy level and in the numbers of programs that are available,” says Sharon.



“For example, SAFE Work and Safe Schools now exist and safety promotion and injury prevention are being integrated across many sectors, and not just to those who were in the business of safety. Many organizations now realize that we all are affected by injury and we can save personal and financial costs when we reduce injury. We are attempting to do our part to shift the culture by educating and changing attitudes.”

Brandon & Area identified a need for collecting solid data on injuries and recognized the challenges in getting the ‘true injury picture’ of the community before planning, coordinating, and evaluation could begin. Getting the partners together made a difference in tackling the lack of consistency that often exists. For example, the Playground Injury Prevention Committee saw that schools, daycares and the recreation department reported playground injuries differently and to different sources, but an overall picture of playground injury in the region was not available from any one source. When

partners met to discuss data collection and started sharing what they were doing, they recognized that one standard form would make it easier for everyone in having the ‘whole’ picture for playground injury in the community and for collecting baseline data. After learning to ‘speak a common language,’ the partners began to send the data to a central repository where trends could be tracked over time.

The coalition continues to work on consolidating data and finding consistent ways of reporting so that the area has a clear picture of how people are getting hurt. “Quality information is essential for planning programs and interventions that will meet the specific needs of the region, and for determining if the policy and programs that we develop are making a difference,” states Sharon. “We also did an extensive scan of the safety and injury prevention programs that already exist in the community and often it means connecting what is there. We have no intentions of reinventing the wheel.”

All regional health authorities must include injury prevention as part of their performance deliverables to Manitoba Health. BASCC has used the umbrella concept of Safe Communities to form the basis of their injury plan. The Coalition's priorities include senior fall prevention, playground injury prevention, young worker injury, and motor vehicle injury. The work of the Suicide Prevention Implementation Network (SPIN) has also been incorporated into the overall community injury prevention plan. Solid research and data form the basis of all activities and decisions.

Sharon Young says that part of the success of Brandon & Area is being sensitive to the needs of the committee members and respectful of their time. “These are good people with a real passion for making a difference by reducing injuries,” she says, “The overall goal is to work together, to achieve some real results and to be sustainable over the long haul”.

If you have any questions about the experiences of Brandon & Area Safe Community Coalition, contact Sharon Young at (204) 571-8398 or youngsb@brandonrha.mb.ca



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What you need to know about

West Nile virus



The main carrier of West Nile virus (WNV) is the *Culex* mosquito. Most people who are bitten by an infected mosquito do not become ill and for those who do, the symptoms are usually mild. In some cases, serious illness and death can occur.

Reduce your risk

Manitobans are at greatest risk of being bitten by a WNV-infected mosquito in July, August and September. You can reduce your risk of being bitten by:

- reducing the time you spend outdoors between dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes are most active;
- applying an appropriate insect repellent;
- wearing light-coloured, loose-fitting, long-sleeved shirts and long pants when you are outdoors; and
- checking that your door and window screens fit tightly and are free of holes.



Reduce standing water

Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. To reduce the places around your home where *Culex* mosquitoes may lay their eggs, eliminate unnecessary standing water:

- Regularly clean and empty your eaves troughs, pool covers, etc.
- Clean and empty your bird baths weekly.
- Ensure that openings in rain barrels are covered with screening or tightly sealed around the downspout.
- Make sure your yard is clear of children's toys, pet bowls, old tires or other debris that collect water.

To learn more

Call Health Links-Info Santé toll-free at 1-888-315-9257 (788-8200 in Winnipeg) or visit the Manitoba government website at www.gov.mb.ca.



Crystal meth – what’s Manitoba doing?

By AMM Staff

Crystal methamphetamine comes from a group of methamphetamines that can be inhaled, injected and snorted and are also known as ice, crystal, crank, tweek and fire. Crystal methamphetamine is highly addictive and can cause violent and aggressive behaviour, panic attacks, brain damage and even death. Crystal methamphetamine users may go on binges – during which time they do not eat or sleep but continue taking the drug. Crystal methamphetamine is usually not used in isolation and many users also turn to alcohol and other drugs.

Source: Province of Manitoba

What is ephedra?

It is a natural stimulant found in the shrub-like plant ma huang, which grows naturally in India and China. The dried plant has been used medicinally for centuries. The active ingredient (one per cent) is ephedrine.

What is ephedrine?

Ephedrine is an alkaloid from the leaves of the ma huang plant. Most common product is ephedrine hydrochloride (salt). Used as bronchial decongestant and stimulant. Also found in many weight-loss products. Mimics epinephrine, a hormone in the brain stem that is released in response to threatening or exciting conditions.

What is pseudoephedrine?

This is a synthetic variant of ephedrine, but less potent. Used in many over-the-counter cold medications, such as nasal decongestants Sudafed, Actifed and Contact. Also acts as a central nervous system stimulant. Sometimes abused by athletes before competition to stimulate heart rate and brain activity.

Source: Winnipeg Free Press



Ice Methamphetamine Crystal
Courtesy of US Drug Enforcement Administration

Canada’s battle against crystal methamphetamine is just beginning, but the devastation caused by this highly addictive and potentially lethal drug is widespread across the Prairie Provinces. Most provinces are trying to tackle the problem by restricting the supply of crystal meth’s key ingredient – pseudoephedrine. Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta have all decided to restrict the sale of cold remedies and other drugs that contain pseudoephedrine. Pharmacies across the Prairies must now sell these drugs from behind the counter (in Manitoba, the restriction of 17 single-source pseudoephedrine products came into effect on January 15, 2006).

Ontario and BC are both considering retail restrictions, while Yukon pharmacies are voluntarily moving them behind the counter. The tactic has been successful in curbing the crystal meth supply in the northern US.

Impact on community safety

While meth use affects many areas of community life, a primary concern for municipalities is the impact on community safety. In 2004, the City of Edmonton produced *A Community Stakeholder View of Crystal Meth in Edmonton - Trends, Strategies, Challenges and Needs*. It said:

"The violent, criminal acts associated with crystal meth are expressions of aggression and a means of getting money to buy the drug. They have a negative impact on community safety.

An additional safety concern is the meth labs themselves. Making meth produces odourless toxic fumes which can explode, posing a danger to those who are living in or visiting that abode (socially or professionally), and those within close proximity. Many of the chemicals are flammable and highly reactive. Spending time in an environment where there has been phosphene gas, a byproduct of meth production and a poison gas used as a nerve agent in the First World War, can make people ill."

In addition, the toxic waste produced by the labs winds up in ditches, sewers and dumpsters, posing not only another public safety issue, but an environmental and financial issue as well. Cleaning up meth labs requires a heavy investment of resources. The Partnership for a Drug-Free America’s online article, ‘How Meth Affects Your Community,’ notes the environmental harm of meth labs. It states: “For each pound of meth produced, five to six pounds of hazardous waste are generated, posing immediate and long-term environmental health risks. The chemicals used to make meth are toxic, and the lab operators routinely dump waste into streams, rivers, fields, backyards and sewage systems, which can in turn contaminate water resources for humans and animals. Also, the poisonous vapors produced during cooking permeate the halls and carpets of houses and buildings, often making them uninhabitable.

“Cleaning up these sites requires specialized training and costs an average of \$2,000-\$4,000 per site in funds that come out of the already-strained budgets of state and local police. In addition, property owners are often held liable for the cost of the cleanup, so if a rental landlord finds that his tenant has been operating a meth lab on or in his property, or if a landowner finds that a clandestine lab has property, he could face devastating financial issues.”

Manitoba strategies

Manitoba is investing more than \$6 million over the next three years in new mental health and addictions services providing additional capacity and front-line supports to help deal with mental health and addictions in Manitoba, including the use of meth.

The Manitoba Meth Strategy is a collaborative, two-pronged approach involving provincial, national and international partners to restrict the supply and reduce the demand for crystal meth. The Manitoba Meth Strategy includes:

- Joining with Saskatchewan in restricting the sale of 17 single-source pseudoephedrine products, the preferred ingredient in making meth, so they are only available for sale behind the counter in pharmacies in limited quantities;
- Requiring theft of anhydrous ammonia to be reported;
- Increasing investments in mental-health and addictions programs and providing enhanced training to front-line workers to deal with crystal meth, other addictions and mental-health issues;
- Establishing the Manitoba Meth Task Force comprising government, law enforcement and addictions agencies;
- Developing a public education campaign to increase awareness of the dangers of meth use;
- Providing first-responder training about crystal meth and meth labs;
- Providing and developing prevention and education programs provided by the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba at 60 high schools;
- Formalizing and enhancing a unified takedown protocol for meth labs; and
- Continuing partnerships across the West to develop a phased-in approach restricting the sale of pseudoephedrine products.

Key ingredients: restricting the supply

Despite federal rules restricting its sale, the prime ingredient used to make crystal methamphetamine may still be easily available in Manitoba. On December 11, the *Winnipeg Free Press* reported that black market ephedrine hydrochloride, a stimulant marketed as a nasal decongestant, can be purchased with cash under the counter at health supplement stores or through the Internet.

This came as no surprise to **Cpl. Marc Samson**, RCMP Synthetic Drugs Operations Coordinator. “Everything you need to make meth is available,” said Samson, who recently presented ‘Methamphetamine Awareness and Production Methods’ to delegates at the AMM’s Annual Convention. “There’s no doubt there are operational labs out there. People are producing it for their own consumption and for resale.” (*To read an overview of Cpl. Samson’s presentation, see our Convention Recap on page 61.*)

On its own, ephedrine is more commonly known as a weight loss aid. Combined with common chemicals, however, illegal drug makers can turn ephedrine into one of the most addictive street drugs in North America. One of those common chemicals

is the agricultural fertilizer anhydrous ammonia.

The Province is drafting a regulatory amendment to require theft of anhydrous ammonia to be reported. “This regulation is being amended to strongly encourage cooperation between farmers, agri-retailers, law enforcement officials and other members of the public to protect the well-being of all Manitobans and stop this chemical from being used to produce a highly addictive, dangerous drug,” says Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives Minister **Rosann Wowchuk**. “Restricting the supply of key ingredients to inhibit the production of crystal meth is just one step we can all take to reduce its availability.”

In conjunction with the amendment, the province has prepared a brochure titled *Safeguard Your Supply of Anhydrous Ammonia* that describes how to keep supplies of anhydrous ammonia safe, how to recognize theft and how to report any theft. It also points out the dangers of crystal meth. The brochure is being circulated throughout rural communities and is available at all GO Centres and GO Offices in Manitoba.

What can municipalities do?

As elected officials, it is imperative that you know what is happening in your community and the best way to do that is to be proactive. The RCMP have suggested the following actions for municipal officials:

1. **Work with your local police** – Keep the lines of communication open and take the time to discuss this issue with local police. They are your best resource on

the issue. Determine whether this is a priority in your community and let them know you want to work together.

2. **Educate your first responders** – These people are your eyes and ears. They are the ones responding to calls and making sure they know what to look for will increase your chances of finding clandestine labs and other illegal activities.
3. **Educate yourself** – Make sure you know what is happening in your community and make sure you know the signs to look out for. Visit the links below to learn more about crystal meth and how it can affect your community. ☞

Resources:

Manitoba Meth Strategy: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/healthyliving/meth>

RCMP website: http://www.rcmp.ca/drugenf/drugs_e.htm

The City of Winnipeg has a web page describing how to recognize clandestine drug labs at http://www.winnipeg.ca/police/drug_awareness/clangestinedruglabs.stm

Health Canada has an informative fact sheet on methamphetamine at: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/2005/2005_58bk_e.html

A Community Stakeholder View of Crystal Meth in Edmonton: <http://www.edmonton.ca/CityGov/CommServices/SaferCitiesReportOnCrystalMethFebruary04.pdf>

Partnership for a Drug-Free America – How Meth Affects Your Community: http://www.drugfree.org/Portal/DrugIssue/MethResources/meth_affects_community.html

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A look at **Apples** and **Oranges?** *Urban Size and the Municipal-Provincial Relationship*

By Tyler MacAfee, AMM Director of Policy & Communications

In case you missed it, municipalities are big news these days. Recent announcements like the Federal New Deal for Communities, or ‘Gas Tax Deal,’ not to mention the GST rebate for municipalities, have put municipal governance front and centre in Canada.

One group that has really focused a great deal of its research on municipalities is the Canada West Foundation, whose mission is to be “A leading source of strategic insight, conducting and communicating non-partisan economic and public policy research of importance to the four western provinces, the territories, and all Canadians.”

One of the group’s major undertakings has been the Western Cities Project that strives to understand “the constellation of issues that must be addressed for our cities to reach their potential and compete with the great cities of world.” As part of this focus, reports on water

conservation, development impacts on the environment, municipal property taxes, and infrastructure deficits have been developed. As well, a great deal of attention has been paid to the relationship between the ‘Western Big Cities’ and their respective provincial governments.

Now the Canada West Foundation has taken the discussion a step further with the recent release of *Apples and Oranges? Urban Size and the Municipal-Provincial Relationship*. This report builds on the Foundation’s work on Provincial-Big Cities relationships and tries to extrapolate the conclusions of its big cities research to smaller municipalities.

The report finds that while there are indeed obvious differences between big cities and smaller municipalities, they are outweighed by the similarities. The report concludes that not only are changes needed to the relation-

ship of big cities and provinces, but so too is there a need for change to the relationship between smaller municipalities and provincial governments.

The report indicates that a ‘one-size fits all’ Canada-wide model will not work, but at the same time a completely different approach for both big and small municipalities will not work either. The Foundation proposes “a more nuanced approach that reverses the polarity of current provincial legislation” which often draws a hard line between big cities and the rest. Instead of treating everyone as a small municipality and giving big cities exemptions, Canada West suggests provincial legislation treat all municipalities as big cities and allow for exceptions for small municipalities, so that everyone gains. By extending the need for new relationships between levels of government to all municipalities, it creates a “best-of-both-worlds solution: an opt-in framework that is flexible enough to enable those municipalities that desire greater autonomy or new fiscal tools in certain areas to adopt them, but one that does not require those municipalities that do not possess the capacity to take on the roles sought by the big cities to abandon the security of their current arrangement”

This report and the work of groups like the Canada West Foundation are important to improving the quality of government, and in the end the quality of life, in Canadian communities. Apples and Oranges lays the framework for further research in this area and is a must read for anyone interested in the future of municipal government. ☺

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**AMM members
in the know**

Canada West Foundation Senior Policy Analyst **Casey Vander Ploeg** made a presentation on municipal property taxes at the 2005 AMM Municipal Officials Seminar.

At this year’s AMM Convention, CWF President and CEO **Roger Gibbins** presented the findings of the Apples and Oranges report.

Check out the Canada West Foundation website at www.cwf.ca

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Liability for municipal facilities

By Ken Fingler, Risk Manager, HED Insurance

Liability issues, related to the operation of municipal facilities such as arenas, curling rinks and community halls, have become important concerns for municipalities and operating committees.

Society continues to be more litigious with fewer people taking responsibility for their own actions and more looking for someone else to pay for any injury or accident that may befall them. This could mean anything from a slip and fall on an icy stair to an accident following an event where liquor was served.

We need only look at the newspaper or television to see endless accounts of huge settlements from injury claims and advertising for injury lawyers.

A range of problems can occur as a result of alcohol misuse that affects not only the person or persons misusing, but also other people who use the facility, as well as the facility owners and operators.

Such problems include:

- Alcohol related accidents/injuries
- Slip and fall type injuries
- Vandalism and destruction of property
- Loss of enjoyment by others at the event
- Liability action/lawsuits

What can you do to reduce your exposure to lawsuits?

Start with the basics by looking at your property and operations for potential hazards that could lead to a liability claim. Although a municipality may not be able to eliminate risk entirely, the development of alcohol and rental policies with inspection and maintenance procedures is a reflection that the municipality is taking effective steps to manage and reduce the chances of liability claims.

1. Prevent slip and fall accidents

Keep your premises in good condition with regular inspections and maintenance with prompt repairs whenever a problem is encountered.

- A) Ensure that carpets, stair runners, handrails etc. are in good condition (not loose, torn or broken).
- B) Clean snow, ice and water build up around entrances, exits, sidewalks and ramps.
- C) Sand and/or salt icy areas around entrances and handicapped parking areas.

- D) Check parking areas for potholes, water pooling and adequate lighting.
- E) Document your actions on log sheets, even if it is only an inspection with no action needed.

(Maintenance logs are the evidence you need to prove that you have met the Standard of Care needed to avoid liability for accidents.)

2. Prevent injuries/deaths in the event of a fire

- A) Check exit signs and emergency lights at least monthly and before a big event to ensure proper operation.
- B) Have fire alarms, fire extinguishers and fire suppression systems checked at least annually by a qualified contractor.
- C) Check emergency exit doors regularly and before events. Ensure that they are not locked, they open easily (are not blocked by snow or ice), and there are clear and safe ramps and sidewalks on the exit route.
- D) Ensure that your staff has training in handling an emergency. Your local fire department may be able to assist you.

3. Reduce liability related to the operation of your hall or banquet room by outside users (events where liquor is served)

- A) Ensure that bartenders/servers have the "It's Good Business" server intervention course for all events where liquor is served. Do not allow renters to serve their own liquor.



- B) Supervise all entrances and exits to the event at all times.
- C) Have a minimum of two security guards at liquor events to ensure the safety of event goers. (This requirement may be optional for weddings, anniversaries and family reunions.)
- D) Have a municipal official (or designate) on hand to supervise as well as to help the permit holder follow the policies for the use of the facility.
- E) Ensure that any outside party that is renting the hall has a minimum of \$2,000,000 liability insurance to cover the event.

(If a hall renter does not have insurance the hall owner/operator could be held responsible for an accident that results from the event.)

4. Offer liability insurance coverage to hall renters without coverage

Previously, it was not always easy for hall renters to obtain liability insurance for events with liquor sales. Often, this has placed municipal officials in the awkward position of having to refuse to rent the hall or to allow a local resident to run an event without insurance.

HED Insurance has now been able to arrange a master insurance policy to provide liability insurance for hall renters. Municipalities and hall operators can now access this policy directly from HED to offer it to their hall renters. Hall operators can include this liability insurance coverage as part of the hall rental unless the renter can provide proof that they have other coverage.

For information on this coverage contact your local Manitoba Municipal office or Linda Baker at HED Insurance, 1-800-665-8990 ext. 7220. ☎

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Cummins Inc. has announced that the company is ready to meet the challenge of the Tier 4 Interim off-road diesel emissions rule scheduled to take effect beginning in 2008 continuing through to the end of 2011. Cummins solution will ensure OEMs long-term platform stability in the face of regulation changes for as much as 10 years with the Tier 3 lineup including the new QSB.

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The Municipal Assessment Act - Penalty Provisions

By Mark Newman, Fillmore Riley LLP

Section 16(1) of *The Municipal Assessment Act* (the Act) gives broad discretion to assessors to request information from property owners, occupiers or users, relating to the value of a property. More specifically, the section allows assessors to request information relating to the sale of the property, the cost of any construction on the property, and any income or expense related to the use or operation of the property.

Section 16(2) of the Act states that the information is to be provided within 21 days, and Section 54(3.2) of the Act specifies that where the information not provided relates to the income or expenses related

to the use or operation of a property, any reduction in assessment is to be deferred until the later of the year following the year in which the order is made, or the year to which the application relates.

Boards of Revision of municipal government hear assessment appeals on an ongoing basis and are frequently faced with requests from assessors to impose the penalty provisions of the Act.

The Court of Appeal of Manitoba has recently heard four cases relating to the penalty provisions, and their application.

In *Winnipeg City Assessor et al v. Licharson et al*, (2005) MBCA 95, the court ruled on a variety of issues that had arisen in the

context of the four different cases which the court was hearing.

The conclusions expressed by the court may be summarized as follows:

- a) Service of a request for information on a property manager is not good service upon an owner for purposes of Section 16 in a circumstance where the owner has not held up the property manager as being the party to whom the request should be directed, and as well in the absence of any evidence that the request was in fact received by the property owner;
- b) Actual receipt of the request for information under Section 16 will negate any service issue;

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- c) An assessor is free to raise for the first time at the Municipal Board level, the second level of appeal, an issue of a failure to comply with a request for information, even if this issue was not previously raised at the Board of Revision level;
- d) The deferral of reduction applies only in respect of the deferral granted at each level of appeal, with the result that any reduction granted by the Board of Revision will not apply for multiple years, but will apply for a single year only;
- e) The provision of information prior to the Board of Revision hearing does not cure the default;
- f) The requirement of Section 54(3.2) which uses the expression “shall” is mandatory, and there is no discretion in the Board once the statutory preconditions are met;
- g) The fact that the information requested by the Assessor is not used because a different methodology is used, for example, income and expense information is requested, but a cost approach is used, will not excuse the default and the deferral will still apply.

The court noted that there is bound to be a bureaucratic unevenness in the administration of the system whereby requests for information are made, some are followed up, some are not, and ultimately so long as there is no abuse of authority, then the failure of the Assessor to act consistently will not excuse the default.

There are likely to be more cases to be heard by the Court of Appeal relating to these provisions as different factual circumstances continue to present themselves. §

“Municipal Boards of Revision hear assessment appeals on an ongoing basis and are frequently faced with the penalty provisions of *The Municipal Assessment Act*.”

IN THE SPRING 2006 ISSUE OF *Municipal Leader*

Special report on ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT in MANITOBA



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2005 Convention Recap

Together, Everyone Achieves More

By Lynne Bereza, AMM Communications Coordinator

A grand total of 979 delegates attended the AMM's 7th Annual Convention, held at the Brandon Keystone Centre from November 21 to 24, 2005. Here is a recap of the events of the three-and-a-half day event.



Peter de Jager



Warren Macdonald



Glen Foster

Presentations and Speakers

Again this year, the AMM offered three diverse but equally engaging keynote speakers. Kicking off day one was **Kevin Burns**, who is known as “The World’s Only Instigational™ Keynote Speaker”. Kevin shared his simple principles for leadership, happiness and success in his keynote presentation *Life is Short, But Really, Really Wide!* Tuesday’s keynote speaker, **Peter de Jager**, arrived in Brandon from a three-week schedule of speaking engagements in New Zealand, Australia and the Philippines. Peter did not disappoint delegates with his interactive and enjoyable presentation on the topic of Change. Finally, who will ever forget **Warren Macdonald**? Our Wednesday Keynote’s description of the two days he spent pinned under a rock kept the audience rapt, but it is the determined spirit he demonstrated after his rescue that is truly amazing. After undergoing the amputation of both legs at mid thigh, his doctor told him he’d never walk again. In Warren’s words, “I knew from the start that I had a choice in what the future held. I could choose to be totally defeated by what had happened to me, or I could rise to the challenge and take back control of my life.” Warren’s story was an inspiration to everyone in attendance.

Delegates had the opportunity to attend eight different workshops this year. We’ve summarized them (see page 60) and also posted complete workshop presentations on the AMM website at www.amm.mb.ca.

Immediately prior to the AMM annual banquet on Wednesday evening, the **Hon. Gary Doer** took to the stage to present his annual address to the delegates before being whisked away to attend a First Ministers Conference. We are fortunate that Premier Doer was able to attend and we always appreciate his candid and energetic delivery. Humour was also in evidence during the annual banquet as delegates were treated to a truly funny comedian – That Canadian Guy, otherwise known as **Glen Foster**. Glen kept the audience in stitches for over an hour and provided a refreshing end to a wonderful meal.

Speakers at this year’s convention included the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs & Trade, the **Hon. Scott Smith**; Leader of the Manitoba Liberal Party, **Dr. Jon Gerrard**; Representative from the Manitoba Official Opposition, **Larry McGuire**, MLA for Arthur-

Virden; and **Gloria Kovach**, 1st Vice President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Several plenary sessions were offered this year as well. First and foremost was the special 'New Deal' plenary session that replaced the round table sessions originally scheduled for Monday afternoon. The plenary gave delegates a much-needed opportunity to voice their opinions on the agreement signed just the previous Friday by the Governments of Canada and Manitoba. The session also gave the AMM executive an opportunity to present a detailed account of the negotiation process beginning as far back as 2003. An estimated breakdown of new deal funds was also presented for various population categories.

Other plenary sessions offered to AMM delegates included Pandemic Influenza Preparedness for Municipal Governments, presented by **Gerry Delorme** of Manitoba Health, and a Water & Wastewater Operator Certification Program Update, presented by **Serge Scrafield** of Manitoba Conservation.

This year’s Ministerial Forum saw six ministers take part. The Hon. Scott Smith chaired the forum and was joined by **Ron Lemieux** (Transportation and Government Services), **Steve Ashton** (Water Stewardship), **Tim Sale** (Health), **Rosann Wowchuk** (Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives), and **Stan Struthers** (Conservation). A wide variety of questions were posed to the ministers, including questions about: drainage and flooding concerns, the need for a permanent disaster program, disaster financial assistance levels, subsidization of natural gas, the Floodway Expansion Project, the need for expanded cellular service, water quality and safety, delays in the sale of Crown lands, highways concerns, issues around contaminated sites, funding of conservation districts, water quality management zones (WQMZ), policing, infrastructure funding, and The Planning Act.

Elections

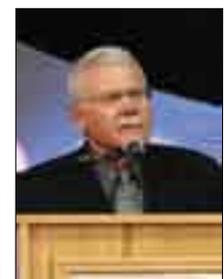
AMM President **Ron Bell** was acclaimed this year and will serve a second term as AMM President. In his acceptance speech, President Bell noted that it has been a difficult year, but he truly believes that what the organization has accomplished during that time has made the AMM a stronger association. Also acclaimed was **Lorne Boguski**, who will serve a second term as urban vice-president. An election took place for the position of rural vice-president. A total of 679 ballots were cast, with incumbent **Garry Wasylowski** receiving 472 votes and AMM central urban director **Doug Dobrowolski** receiving 204 votes.



President Ron Bell



VP Garry Wasylowski



VP Lorne Boguski

Resolutions

Three very full resolutions sessions were scheduled this year, with 70 resolutions submitted. One AMM standing policy resolution was debated and defeated, with an additional six remaining standing policy since the delegate body chose not to bring them to the floor for debate.

Vice President's Garry Wasylowski and Lorne Boguski chaired the resolutions sessions. **Mel Nott**, Executive Director of the Manitoba Municipal Administrators' Association, acted as Parliamentarian. Members of the 2005 Resolutions Committee were:

Interlake District	Mayor Don Pepe, <i>Town of Winnipeg Beach</i>
Western District	Mayor William Shackel, <i>Village of Glenboro</i>
Eastern District	Reeve Art Bergmann, <i>RM of Ste. Anne</i>
Mid-Western District	Councillor Ron Kostecky, <i>RM of Rosburn</i>
Parklands District	Reeve Clifford Kutzan, <i>RM of Grandview</i>
Central District	Councillor Orville Wagner, <i>City of Portage la Prairie</i>
Northern District	Mayor Garry Zamzow, <i>Town of Snow Lake</i>

A number of resolutions carried were on the issues of disaster financial assistance, drainage, and the need for a provincial flood-proofing program, as a result of last year's extremely wet conditions. Plenty of debate also took place on three resolutions regarding education tax on property. Other resolutions garnering much discussion dealt with environmental issues, such as plastic grocery bags (defeated), funding for tire recycling (carried) and a bottle return system (also carried). Another resolution that evoked a great deal of debate and emotion was #50 – Improving the Youth Criminal Justice Act (carried).

Resolutions Summary – 2005

Number of Resolutions	67
Number of Late Resolutions	4
Total Number of Resolutions	71
Number carried	63
Number defeated	5
Number withdrawn	3

Thank you

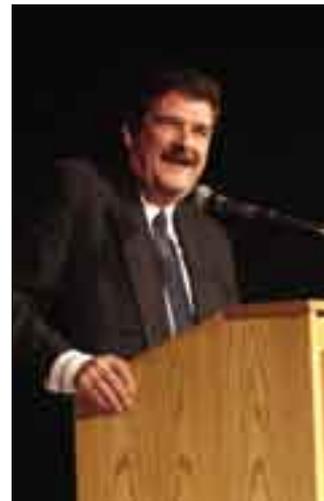
to all delegates who attended the 7th Annual AMM Convention.

A very special Thank you to all of the speakers who took the time to present to our members, and to those businesses and organizations that sponsored our event.

We could not do it without your support!



Bud Birch, with wife Judie, receives award from President Bell



Honourary Life Member Award recipient Rick Borotsik

Awards

The Honourary Life Member Award is given out each year in recognition of outstanding and exemplary service to the Association, its member associations and to the community. This year, the AMM awarded two Honourary Life Members at the AMM Annual Banquet. The first Honourary Life Member Award went to **Arnold (Bud) Birch**, who served on the Board of Directors of the UMM from 1988 until 1992, and again from 1995 until 1998.

The second Honourary Life Member award was presented to **Rick Borotsik**. Rick was a long-time member of MAUM and was a major proponent of the MAUM/UMM amalgamation into the present day AMM.

A special award was also presented at this year's annual banquet. **Marie Elliott**, retiring Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade, was presented with an award in recognition of her dedication to Manitoba municipalities. Marie is well known and respected amongst AMM members and she will be greatly missed.

Display Area

The AMM would like to thank all the delegates who took the time to visit our Display Area. A total of 86 booths were on display showcasing the many products and services available to municipalities. The AMM would also like to thank the following businesses for sponsoring the AMM's Icebreaker Event:

- Aikins MacAulay & Thorvaldson LLP
- Airmaster Sales
- Armtec
- Brandt Tractor
- Cochrane Engineering
- Fort Distributors Ltd.
- Manitoba Heavy Construction Association
- Manitoba Pork Council
- MTCML
- Royal Bank of Canada
- Westman Steel Industries

Overall, this year's AMM convention was a great success. Top-notch speakers, opportunities for learning and networking, exciting and challenging resolutions sessions, and a special plenary session devoted to the timeliest of issues – the New Deal – provided delegates with a thought-provoking and focused event.

Congratulations to our prize winners:

Icebreaker Prize

Digital camera

Winner:

Wayne Serruys, RM of Arthur

Premier Door Prize –

Toshiba TV, stand, and DVD/VCR Combo

Sponsored by Canad Inns Brandon

Winner:

Jim Dowsett, Town of Killarney/
RM of Turtle Mountain

Grand Prize -

\$2,000 trip voucher

sponsored by HED and AMM

Winner:

Eugene Emery, RM of Reynolds



Eugene Emery, Grand Prize winner

Summary of Workshops presented at the 7th Annual AMM Convention

Complete presentations are available on the AMM website at www.amm.mb.ca.

Manitoba Energy Policy & Biodiesel

Presenter: Shaun Loney, Director of Energy Policy, Province of Manitoba

Biodiesel has a very promising future in Manitoba. The renewable biofuel can be used in any diesel engine to replace diesel fuel (which is imported, non-renewable, and hard on the environment). Biodiesel can be made from vegetable oils or animal fats. Off-grade feedstocks can also be used providing a new and important market for Manitoba Farmers.

The Manitoba Government has released a 10-point action plan to encourage the production and consumption of biodiesel in Manitoba which includes tax reductions for biodiesel, a \$1.5 million funding program (in cooperation with Natural Resources Canada), and a biodiesel preference policy for the government fleet. For more information, see the Manitoba Government's Agri-Energy Website at www.manitobaenergy.ca.

Infrastructure Guidelines for Small and Medium Municipalities

Presenter: Bland Brown, P.Eng., InfraGuide Regional Contact – MB & SK

Small cities, towns and rural municipalities often lack the financial and human resources to fully research and evaluate available technology and best practices to guide their infrastructure decisions. In 2001, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities teamed up with Infrastructure Canada and the National Research Council to create InfraGuide, a project to compile and publish best practice guides for municipal decision-making. To date InfraGuide has produced over 50 guides based on contemporary Canadian knowledge and experience in municipal infrastructure.

The economic impact on Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities of the investment of the various levels of government

Presenter: Louis Tétrault, Director – Community-based Economic Development – CDEM

Louis Tétrault shared the results of a study aiming to demonstrate the leveraging effect of investments in the bilingual municipalities of Manitoba during the last five years (1999-2004).

Thanks to the financial support of the francophone economic development network RDÉE Canada, the study allowed CDME to:

- update the statistics pertaining to the impact of the Vision plans in the communities;
- evaluate the number of jobs created in the bilingual municipalities of Manitoba;
- evaluate the investments in terms of cash donations within the bilingual municipalities, in relation to community-based economic development projects.

Managing Risk and Enhancing Public Safety

Presenter: Doug Popowich, Fire Commissioner

Commissioner Popowich provided information to delegates on proposed legislative changes to the Fires Prevention and Emergency Response Act, which will require Municipalities to adopt the Manitoba Fire Code in their jurisdictions and to have fire inspections of certain high hazard occupancies within their municipalities done on an annual basis. The seminar also dealt with the issue of the Province proposing to implement a farm building code to guide construction of large farm building structures. What types of buildings will be required to follow this code was described and input from the participants was encouraged.



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Methamphetamine Awareness and Production Methods

Presenter: Corporal Marc Samson,
RCMP Synthetic Drugs Operations Coordinator

Corporal Samson described methamphetamine as a synthetic nervous system stimulant that can produce a high, lasting anywhere from 2 to 16 hours. He explained that methamphetamine is highly addictive and can produce severe withdrawal symptoms. Some of the signs of meth usage include, euphoria, hyperactivity, irritability/nervousness, lack of sleep, restlessness, increased energy, and decreased appetite. Some of the short-term effects include false sense of well being, increased heart rate, acne/sores, paranoia, aggressive/violent behavior, and bad teeth. Long term effects include malnutrition, liver/brain damage, fatal lung/kidney disorder, respiratory disorder, addiction, stroke, coma, and death.

Methamphetamine is man made and all the ingredients can be purchased from local hardware stores and pharmacies. (For further information on this topic, please read the article in this issue – 'Crystal Meth – What's Manitoba Doing?' on page 50).

SEVEC Community Involvement Program (SCIP)

Presenters: Mel Klassen, Mayor of Altona; Reg Klassen, Principal of W.C. Miller Collegiate; and Cathleen Cogan Bird, SEVEC Director of Programming & Communication

This exciting partnership has enabled the running of two pilot projects in Altona. The pilot projects told the story of Altona youth who are volunteering in their communities

and experiencing how to define and implement a community involvement project with the guidance and support of their school and the help of Mayor and Council.

The knowledge and experience participating youth develop will allow them to become engaged in their school, community, municipal government and Canadian society at large, both during high school and as adults. It is hoped that other Municipalities in Manitoba will be able to enjoy many of the same benefits that Altona has realized from these programs.

Water Quality Management Zones for Nutrients - a Proposed Regulation under the Manitoba Water Protection Act

Presenter: Dwight Williamson, Director, Water Science and Management Branch Manitoba Water Stewardship

The Manitoba Water Protection Act was passed by the Manitoba Legislature on June 16, 2005. The first regulation to be developed under *The Water Protection Act* will define land-based Water Quality Management Zones for Nutrients to protect water systems, including those used for drinking purposes, from excessive run-off of nitrogen and phosphorus. Excessive levels of nutrients fuel the production of algae and aquatic plants which cause changes to aquatic life habitat, reduce levels of oxygen, clog fisher's commercial nets, interfere with drinking water treatment facilities, cause taste and odour problems in drinking water, and some forms of algae produce highly potent toxins.

Manitoba's landscape has been separated into four zones using factors such as climate, moisture limitations, land slope, topography, soil texture, permeability, salinity, stoniness, erosion potential, soil characteristics, land slope, and crop yield potential. Buffer setback distances from water have also been identified.

The Survey Monument Restoration Program

Presenter: Gary Fraser, Examiner of Surveys

The purpose of this program is to assist municipalities with the cost of maintaining survey outline monuments. Survey monuments are important as all land holdings and titles are based on the location of the survey monument that is on the ground. Gary reviewed the definition of an outline monument, the responsibilities of the municipality, the Property Registry and the Land Surveyor, and potential liabilities. Survey monument protection was also explained.

Thank you
to all members who
attended and
participated in
these workshops!



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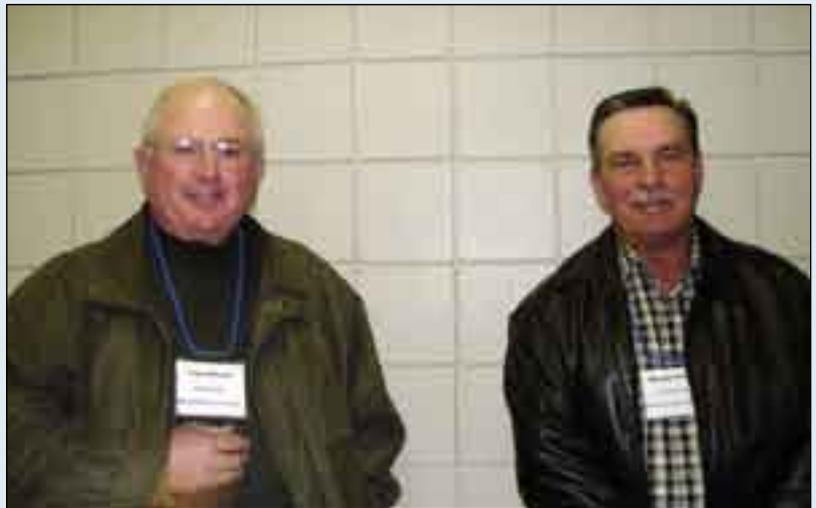
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2005 Convention



AMM Past-President Stu Briese



RM of Portage la Prairie councillors Terry Martin and Bill Alford



MLA for Carman, Denis Rocan (right), chats with AMM delegates



Tom Campbell, RM of Albert and Grant Buchanan, Town of The Pas



Keynote Speaker Warren MacDonald receives a standing ovation

2005 Convention



Delegates filled the eight workshop sessions



...and visited Exhibitor Displays



Delegates wait their turn to address the ministers



Ministers Sale, Wowchuk and Struthers



Ministers Lemieux, Ashton and Smith



There was much to learn

2005 Convention



Keynote Speaker Warren Macdonald



Voting at one of the three resolutions sessions



Vice-President Garry Wasylowski presides over one of the resolutions sessions



Larry McGuire, MLA for Arthur-Virden



Dr. Jon Gerrard, Leader of the Manitoba Liberal Party



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Municipal representatives eager to learn more about insurance programs should call **HED Insurance and Risk Services**. As the AMM's long-term broker and administrator of its Municipal Insurance Programs, it is a comprehensive resource for those seeking information. As Manitoba's largest independent insurance broker and consultant, the company is a specialist in providing cost-effective insurance programs for municipalities, school boards, retail groups, trade associations, and buying groups.

This knowledge has served the AMM well. Over the years, municipalities have paid competitive premiums, received rebates, and earned interest from insurance coverage due to expertise of a dedicated team from HED.

This year HED is charging forward with more programs that benefit the AMM. The latest is a new liability insurance program. HED has made arrangements for \$2,000,000 liability insurance to be available to outside groups. (See page 54 for more on this exciting new program.)

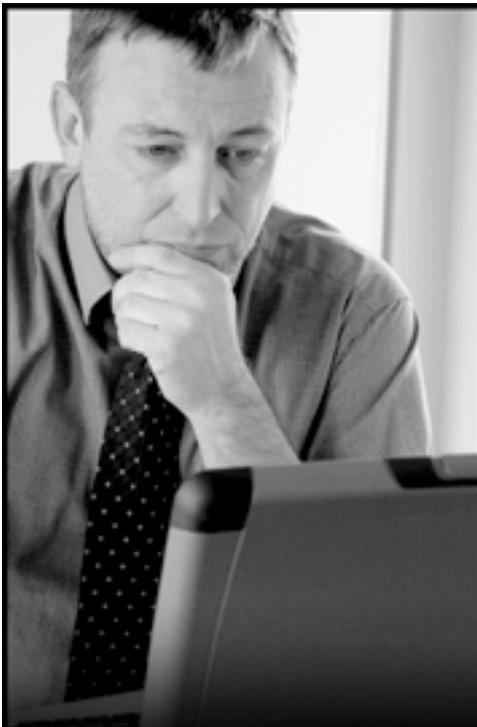
For more information about HED Insurance and Risk Services please contact **Ken Fingler** or **Bert Walker** at 204-943-0331.

Innovative Municipal Products and safe roads

In Manitoba, we take a certain delight in our distinct seasons. Yet, plowing down a road or highway in winter can shatter the sunniest disposition. Icy roads are dangerous and worrisome for drivers. **Innovative Municipal Products Inc.** has the solution to meet the needs of municipalities that are threatened by winter's worst.

In operation since 1986 and based in Ajax, Ontario, the company provides environmentally sound road surface solutions year-round. One of its icy-roadway solutions is *Caliber*, a Magnesium Chloride de-icer. It is added to a spreader truck and is sprayed onto salt or sand. With Caliber, road salt can be used at lower temperatures and for a longer period of time.

For more information about Innovative Municipal Products, Inc. please contact **Jim Keith**, marketing manager at 1-800-387-5777 extension 206.



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HED would like to thank the AMM and all 198 of the municipalities who have helped us make this program such a success. With full participation from all municipalities outside Winnipeg, the "protected self-insurance" structure of the program continues to prove its value, with significant program rebates for the second consecutive year. Participating municipalities enjoy an ideal combination of insurance protection and reduced expenses.

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Acklands-Grainger – part of Manitoba history

Acklands-Grainger has a long history with Manitoba. The company that provides customers with industrial, fleet, and safety supplies across Canada was founded in 1889 in Winnipeg. Originally a blacksmith and wagon parts manufacturer, it is now the largest distributor of maintenance/repair/operations parts in Canada.

The company's success stems from its focused approach to customer service. Municipalities across the nation have benefited from this attention. With exceptional inventories, friendly staff, and 167 branches across Canada to call for products and services, the probability of finding what is needed is excellent.

The Acklands-Grainger catalog is stocked with more than 40,000 items, but that is not all that is available, says **Doug Harrison**, President of Acklands-Grainger. "We stock 110,000 items and have them available online."

With its customer friendly attitude, a plethora of locations, and an easily navigated online site, Acklands-Grainger is a reliable resource for all of your maintenance, repair, and operating supplies needs. For more information, contact your local Acklands-Grainger location or visit www.acklands.ca for e-commerce procurement.

'Gold Star' service at Guertin Equipment

The name of **Guertin Equipment Ltd.**, a John Deere dealership, rides on its promise of exceptional customer service, quality, and value. The dealership has been awarded the Gold Star designation from John Deere. This honour is only available to those dealerships that continuously maintain the highest customer service. "It is a level of service to the customer that is second to none," says **Parker Sutherland**, Sales Manager. "The customer always comes first."

Guertin's Manitoba location is on Melnick Road (off the south perimeter) and there is another location in Saskatoon. Guertin Equipment offers a variety of John Deere products. It has divisions catering to golf and turf, commercial and construction equipment, and commercial mowing products. For more information, contact Parker Sutherland at (204) 255-0260 or visit the website at www.guertinequipment.com.

Fort Distributors client wins award

The RM of St. Andrews has won the best road award from the AMM three out of four years and that is something that **Hans Jehle** takes pride in. Hans and his family own **Fort Distributors Ltd.**, a company dedicated to providing dust control products and services, liquid de-icing and sand pile treatments, and road stabilization to municipalities across Manitoba. The RM of St. Andrews is one of their customers.

Since 1984, Fort Distributors has been a resource for those looking for seasonal road solutions. Its products include Magnesium and Calcium Chloride for dust control, as well as a new product called *Ultra Melt* (it accelerates melting to extreme low temperatures). The company also offers En-One, a road base stabilizer that produces a pavement-like road at a fraction of the cost.

For more information about Fort Distributors Ltd. products or services, contact Hans or Grant Jehle at (204) 785-2180.

Grand & Toy can get your office in shape

Looking for a sticky note? Searching for just the right piece of office furniture? Need office supplies? Turn on the computer and key in www.grandandtoy.com. **Grand & Toy**, the office supply store, offers e-commerce technology to make ordering easy and cost effective, and it has an extensive product line to complement its e-commerce solutions. It stocks over 7,000 recognized brand name products, as well as more than 600 Grand & Toy branded essentials in its 58,000 sq. ft. Winnipeg warehouse. The firm's supplies are produced by name brand manufacturers and offer considerable savings.

In addition to computer supplies and office products, Grand & Toy is your first source for office furniture, carrying name brands such as Global, Teknion, Lacasse and Hon office furniture. With a complete design team located in Winnipeg, no job is too big or too small. For assistance, contact your Grand & Toy account manager. Order online at www.grandandtoy.com or call them to set up your account at 204-487-5571.

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Denray also supplies Michelin and Yokohama, amongst other tire brands, in every application from grass mowers to graders and loaders. Another Denray feature: a company tire representative is in your area every two weeks to answer any questions.

Call Ray with your tire questions. He can be reached in Winnipeg at 204-632-5191.

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