

MUNICIPAL LEADER

The Magazine of the
ASSOCIATION
OF MANITOBA
MUNICIPALITIES

SUMMER 2009

Special
Report:

The **GREENING** *of* Municipalities

REASSESSMENT 2010

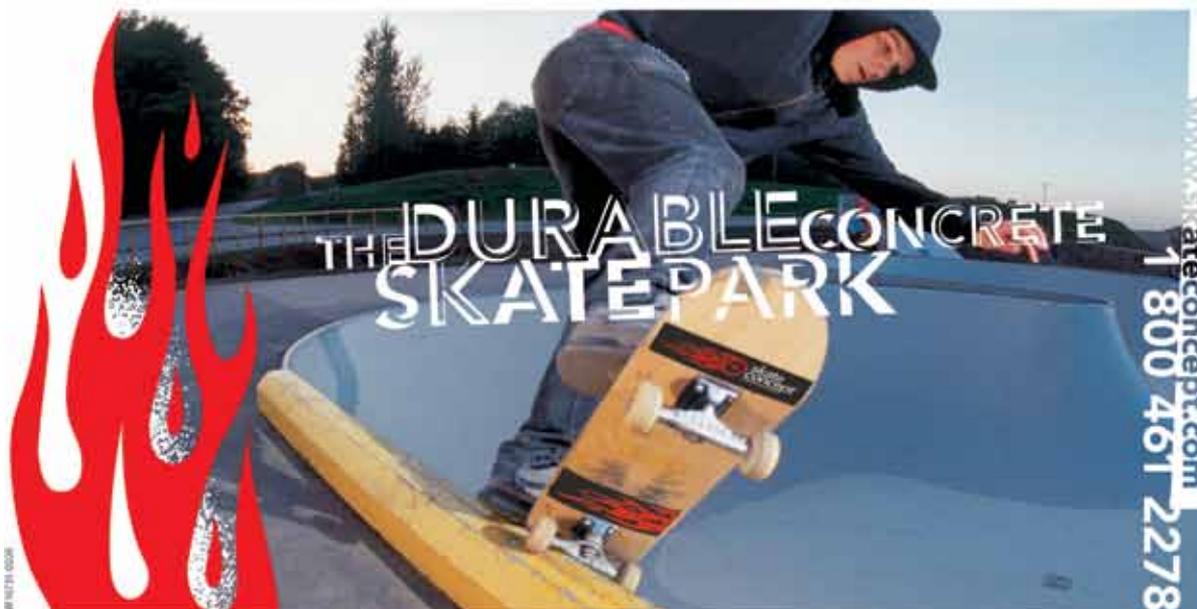
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Manitoba Hydro's new headquarters in downtown Winnipeg offers state-of-the-art GREEN construction.

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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 WELCOME BREAK between busy seasons

I certainly hope as you read this that summer weather has finally arrived in Manitoba, crops are well-established, and AMM members are thinking about taking a well-deserved break after the demands of the past few months. We've seen a provincial budget, come together at MOS, and recently wrapped up June District meetings. Some of us also attended the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Conference in Whistler, BC while carrying on with our council duties and, of course, all the other responsibilities that fill our lives. It is definitely time for a bit of a breather before we head back into our busy fall season and toward Convention.

I would like to thank the membership who attended June Districts for coming out, submitting and voting on resolutions, and for electing your AMM directors. I must also extend a huge 'thank-you' to our hosts – the RMs of East St. Paul, Rhineland, Russell, Shell River, and Hillsburg; the Towns of Altona, Russell, Roblin, and Lynn Lake; the Village of Binscarth; the City of Selkirk; and the Municipality of Killarney-Turtle Mountain – all of whom did an outstanding job of welcoming us into their communities. It is always nice to wrap up a successful series of meetings and this would not be possible without the commitment and hard work of our hosts.

The Manitoba Legislature also had a busy spring session, passing Budget 2009 and introducing 35 bills. A complete recap can be found on page 15. Several bills pertaining to municipalities will be dealt with in the fall sitting, including:

- *Bill 4: The Community Revitalization Tax Increment Financing Act*, a new tool to help stimulate development in communities by allowing properties to be designated as community revitalization properties.
- *Bill 16: The Police Services Act*, which creates new rules for how municipal police forces in the province will be governed.
- *Bill 35: The Municipal Conflict of Interest and Campaign Financing Act*, which includes a number of changes with direct impact on municipal elected officials.

Our practice is to carefully review the bills put before the provincial Legislature to analyze their impact on municipalities. As we will be developing our submissions on these bills throughout the summer, please let us know if you have any comments.

In closing, I would like to congratulate Councillor Jeff McConnell, Town of Virden, Councillor Bob Bodnaruk, RM of Springfield, and Reeve Don Forfar, RM of St. Andrews for their successful elections in Whistler. These three gentlemen will represent Manitoba on the FCM board of directors, along with Councillor Jenny Gerbasi from the City of Winnipeg and yours truly.

I would also like to bid farewell to outgoing AMM directors – **Robert Misko**, and **Rene Maillard** – whose contributions during their time on our board are greatly appreciated. At the same time, I wish a warm welcome to **Ron Kostyshyn** and **Betty Nykyforak** who join us for the next two years. We look forward to getting to know you. 

Have a relaxing summer!

AMM leading the way



Joe Masi, Executive Director

While municipal elected officials from across Canada gathered at the beginning of June to take part in the FCM Annual Conference, I too had the opportunity to meet with my counterparts from across Canada. The annual gathering of municipal association executive directors took place prior to the FCM event and was an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas and see how we can make our respective associations even better. What I found is that the AMM continues to be one of the leading edge municipal associations across Canada in terms of lobbying, communication, events, and our trading company, including our municipal insurance program.

One of the highlights of the meeting was a session on the review of the FCM international program. The FCM sponsors international activities for its members through the International Centre for Municipal Development (ICMD), and is encouraging more involvement amongst municipal associations. The AMM, of course, is a leader in this regard having taken part in the El Salvador exchange (see our story on page 24 for coverage of our most recent get-together) and we have distinguished ourselves across Canada for this work. We look forward to participating in another exchange in the future.

We also continued our work with Deputy Ministers across Canada and again, this was led and initiated by our association and our province. It

began back in July 2007 when, through Minister **Steve Ashton**, the AMM was invited to speak to Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for Local Government – the first time an association had been offered such an opportunity. Deputy Minister **Linda McFadyen** and Assistant Deputy Minister **Laurie Davidson** are spearheading this initiative which I believe will lead to good collaboration with other provinces and municipal associations. It is rewarding to see Manitoba, through our municipal association and our province, take the lead on this important initiative.

A good working relationship with FCM is very important and my counterparts and I discussed this in depth. We asked ourselves how we can work more closely together in the future, especially since more and more issues in Ottawa affect municipalities.

Overall, this annual meeting of executive directors leaves me feeling very confident that the AMM is doing an excellent job. At the same time, I always come away with new ideas to improve our association. I believe it is important as an organization to continue to move forward, to change with the times, and to strive to become even better at what we do and this meeting is one of the tools that helps our association to focus on those goals. 

See you in the fall!

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FCM RELEASES NEW PUBLICATIONS ON BROWNFIELDS

Two new publications on brownfields were recently released by FCM's Green Municipal Fund (GMF). Brownfields are vacant industrial properties that may be contaminated and threatening public health and safety. However, these properties often have the significant potential for redevelopment.

First in the Sustainability Series is **Brownfields** explaining how GMF helps municipal governments and their partners benefit from undervalued and underused sites. Learn about best practices and sustainable options for remediation and redevelopment in your community. Also reviewed in the series are energy, transportation, waste and water. The second publication is a brochure detailing information on GMF's below-market loans for municipal brownfield remediation projects. For more information go to www.gmf.fcm.ca/home

FCM also recently recognized excellent sustainable practices by announcing the winners of the FCM-CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Awards, including:

Brownfields – Docks Green Phase 1, Victoria, BC	
Energy –	Kilowatt Countdown Challenge, South Stormont, ON
Transportation –	New Hybrid Bus System (ROAM), Banff, AB
Waste –	Journée Normand Maurice, Victoriaville, QC
Water –	Joint Initiative by seven Ontario municipalities

For more information on the award and a complete list of the winners, go to www.gmf.fcm.ca/FCM-CH2M-Awards/.

SDTC ANNOUNCES \$53M IN FUNDING

The Federal Government recently invested in green projects by awarding \$53 million to 16 projects through Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC). Successful projects offer technological solutions to the challenges Canada is currently facing in strengthening the economy while responding to environmental issues. The breadth of technologies and the cross-country representation of this funding round addresses multiple sectors of the Canadian economy. For instance, one project produ-

ces clean energy using a process to facilitate the production of ethanol while reducing the amount of energy required. The process will be integrated into an existing ethanol facility on a pre-commercial, pilot scale using corn cobs as the feedstock.

SDTC is an arm's length foundation which has received \$1.05 billion from the Federal Government as part of its commitment to create a healthy environment and a high quality of life for all Canadians. More information on the 16 projects is available at: www.sdtc.ca.

FUNDING FOR ER STAFF

The busiest emergency rooms are now better able to meet the urgent health care demands of Manitobans with a commitment of \$5.7 million from the Province.

Six new emergency room positions will be created in the City of Winnipeg. Fifteen positions will be created in Selkirk, Portage la Prairie, Boundary Trails, Flin Flon, The Pas, Thompson, Dauphin and Brandon. RHAs will hire staff that best meets the needs of their hospitals and their region.

As well, emergency room doctor training spaces will increase from five to eight. Recent Provincial action to strengthen emergency room care includes the creation of a new emergency medicine department at the U of M; increasing the salary of ER physicians' in 2007; adding physician assistants to front line emergency care; funding for nurse practitioners in emergency rooms and primary care settings.

\$1.2 MILLION FOR TRAINING MANITOBA NURSES

Communities in Manitoba will receive \$1.2 million for the training of 74 additional nurses including:

- 12 seats for LPNs wanting to obtain their registered psychiatric nurse (RPN) designation at Brandon University, with training in Brandon and Winnipeg
- 40 seats for an internationally educated nurses (IEN) bridging program through Red River College
- 15 seat increase for LPN training at the University College of the North, includes two rotating sites with 20 seats each
- 7 seat increase to the graduate nursing program at the University of Manitoba, thus increasing qualified instructors

For more information on the Province's nursing strategy, go to www.gov.mb.ca/health/nurses/strategy.html.

ALMOST \$192M FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Federal and Provincial Governments signed an amendment to the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Program Agreement and an extension to the Canada-Manitoba Housing Renovation Program Agreement that results in almost \$192 million in funding over the next two years.

Canada's Economic Action Plan includes Federal funding of \$79 million over two years, which is part of a one-time investment of over \$2 billion, to build new and renovate existing housing in Canada. The Province will also contribute \$79 million over two years to this initiative.

Two year extensions for new affordable housing and assisting low-income housing renovations also received \$21 billion in Federal funding and \$13 million in Provincial funding.

Projects funded through these initiatives include:

- 3 storey, 42 unit supportive and assisted living complex in Grunthal
- 2 storey, 32 unit fully accessible seniors assisted living building in Winnipeg Beach

Visit www.cmbc.ca/housingactionplan

or call 1-800-OCANADA for more information.

FIRST TO PROCLAIM NEW LABOUR MOBILITY ACT

Manitoba is the first province to proclaim a *Labour Mobility Act* that enables skilled workers to move across the country and addresses the labour shortages in Manitoba. This new act allows workers certified in other provinces to practice their occupations in Manitoba in accordance with Chapter 7 of the Agreement on Internal Trade. The intention is that the Agreement on Internal Trade will ensure full labour mobility within Canada, will offer qualified workers more transparent registration and licensure requirements and provide better access to employment opportunities. Under the national Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT), each province will maintain and monitor regulations through provincial legislation. 

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AMM History Book GIVES BACK

*Editor's note: "And Furthermore" seems to be turning into a regular update on the AMM history book, **With One Voice: A History of Municipal Governance in Manitoba**. We have reported history book 'happenings' in both our Winter, 2009 and Spring, 2009 issues – and here it is again in our Summer, 2009 issue. We have jokingly coined the book "the gift that keeps on giving," and this installment illustrates that nickname perfectly. Read on!*

On Sunday, April 19, 2009, President **Doug Dobrowolski** attended the annual Manitoba Historical Society awards ceremony at Dalnavert Museum in Winnipeg. At the same event in 2006, the AMM accepted its own Centennial Award from the MHS. Who would have guessed that three short years later, the AMM would be the proud publisher of an amazing book on the history of our association, and those that came before us? Even more amazing is the spirit of generosity that has enveloped the book from the onset, when author **Gordon Goldsborough** offered to write it free-of-charge. The AMM has carried on that spirit of generosity, donating the book to

every public library in Manitoba; to every municipal office; and to every elected municipal official. Over 1,500 books have been donated to date. Our most recent donation was a cheque for \$1,300 – profit from retail sales of the history book – to the MHS during their event. "The MHS does excellent work," said President Dobrowolski, "and we hope this donation helps them to further it."

AMA AWARDS WITH ONE VOICE

Also in April, Gordon Goldsborough accepted an award from the Association for Manitoba Archives (AMA), who awarded *With One Voice* the Association's

The spirit of generosity
...has enveloped the
book from the onset.



AMM President Doug Dobrowolski presents a donation to "With One Voice" author Gordon Goldsborough (centre) and Harry Duckworth (right), of the Manitoba Historical Society.

Manitoba Day Award for 2009. The award "recognized users of archives who have completed an original work of excellence which contributes to the understanding and celebration of Manitoba history." Congratulations, Gordon!

RM OF STANLEY RECOGNIZES FORMER COUNCIL MEMBERS

Many AMM members purchased extra copies of the history book to present to former Reeves and mayors, but none went quite so far as the RM of Stanley. Not only did Council decide to purchase enough extra copies to give to all former council members, they held a get-together at the municipal office and formerly presented the books. Guests went around the room and introduced themselves and the years served on council, and some of them provided words of encouragement to the current council members...and expressed gratitude for being remembered. Congratulations to the RM of Stanley for recognizing it is only fitting to present a book of municipal history to those who helped shape that history. 

In our next issue:

11th ANNUAL CONVENTION PREVIEW



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Donna Belbin, AMM Events Coordinator

Education PREVIEW

Session #3 – PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2009 • CLARION INN, WINNIPEG

The final seminar in the 2009 AMM Education Program – **Public Engagement and Participation** – will guide you in building a plan for your municipality to incorporate public engagement as a method for the community’s involvement.

Public engagement is a recently-used term that describes the involvement of authority or decision-making body listening to, developing their understanding of, and interacting with general individuals or groups within the discussion area.

Many see public engagement as participatory democracy in that it puts decision-making powers more directly in the hands of citizens, and it increases the feeling among individual citizens that they belong in their community.

“The public” is a complex entity made up of different sub-groups, including governments, stakeholders, opinion leaders, ordinary citizens and communities; all of whom can and should be engaged for different purposes.

Public engagement can contain a unique mix of people and institutions. A satisfactory approach to public engagement must provide a reliable way of dealing with “the public” by engaging various subgroups through different kinds of dialogue.

During the seminar, you will learn:

- What public engagement is and what your role as a municipal government plays;
- How to identify when there is a need for dialogue and whom you should be having it with; and
- How to determine the right engagement process for the circumstance.

This seminar will highlight approaches and practical tools that can be used to provide citizens with meaningful opportunities for involvement, and to be fair, open and transparent in all aspects of its operations.

Register online today at http://www.amm.mb.ca/events_edu_register.html.

PSAB Implementation PSAB REPORTING MODEL

The final round of PSAB training sessions are here. The 2009 training sessions start in the last week of June and continue on through the summer. The 2009 training sessions are on the reporting requirements for PSAB or “PSAB Reporting Model.”

The goal of the training sessions is to help CAOs and their staff members understand the key differences between the new PSAB financial statements and the statements prepared in the past. This will ensure that they have a sufficient understanding of the statements and can provide financial information and analysis to council and citizens. In conjunction with the reference manual, CAOs and their finance staff will learn:

- What statements and schedules will be required?
- Notes to the financial statements, how will these change and what additional disclosures will be required?
- “Accumulated Surplus”, the net book value of your municipality. What does it include and how will you report it or present it?
- “Net Debt”, what is it and what does it mean to your municipality?
- How will municipalities budget under PSAB?
- How will they convert a budget prepared on a cash basis for presentation in a set of PSAB financial statements?
- How will municipalities prepare the 2008 comparative figures?
- Other issues relating to this major accounting change.

PSAB Training Schedule

on page 11

Visit the AMM Events Calendar at
http://www.amm.mb.ca/events_calendar.asp

PSAB 2009 TRAINING SCHEDULE

BRANDON – Victoria Inn

Wednesday, July 29
Thursday, August 13
Thursday, September 3
Wednesday, September 9

WINNIPEG – Clarion Inn & Suites

Thursday, August 6
Wednesday August 12
Wednesday, August 19
Tuesday, September 1
Thursday, September 10

DAUPHIN - Super 8

Thursday, August 20

RUSSELL - Russell Inn & Conference Centre

Wednesday, August 5
Friday, September 11

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE – Canad Inns

Wednesday, August 26

THOMPSON – Thompson City Hall

Friday, August 28

“AUDITORS ONLY” TRAINING SESSIONS

Thursday, October 1: Winnipeg - Clarion Inn & Suites
Monday, October 5: Russell –
Russell Inn & Conference Centre

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Municipal Leader | Summer 2009





Lynne Bereza, AMM Communications Coordinator

Municipalities + Partnerships = EXCELLENCE

Now in its fifth year, the AMM Municipal Excellence Award continues to evolve, both in terms of the high quality of the entries and the wide variety of projects submitted for consideration. What is becoming even more evident with each passing year is this award is about much more than recognition. Although generally presented to a municipality or municipalities for a specific project or idea, it may be best described as an award that highlights partnership—between communities, individuals, municipalities and their residents, and of course the AMM and its membership. Sometimes, the most significant partnerships are those that occur AFTER the award is presented. Not surprisingly, what makes some of the projects stand out is their potential for use in other communities. In fact, that potential is something the judges look for, along with creativity, cost-effectiveness, sustainability, and overall benefit to the municipality.

So how did this year's entries measure up? While each met the criteria to varying degrees, according to AMM President **Doug Dobrowolski**, it was the uniqueness of the winning projects that stood out. "We had several really great submissions this year, so it was a very tough decision," said Dobrowolski. "What ultimately worked in the winners' favour was the fact that these projects are one of a kind. They both created something new that can now be used as a model in other municipalities." Read on to see why the 2009 co-winners – the Town of Carberry, and the Town of Altona and Town of Plum Coulee – stood out from the crowd.

BRINGING MAIN STREET BACK TO ITS FORMER GLORY

What to do when beautiful, century-old buildings fall into disrepair and end up being covered with modern building materials? The Town of Carberry saw this occurring on Main Street and took the steps necessary to preserve and revitalize its grand old historic buildings, beginning with the establishment of the first commercial heritage conservation district in Manitoba. Through the *Main Street Heritage Conservation District Project*, \$10,000 dollars is annually made available as \$2,000 grants per business to use for upgrades such as new signs or masonry work. And it was town residents themselves who planted the seed for the project, according to Mayor **Wayne Blair**. "We had a lot of citizens say to us, why don't we fix up the buildings and bring them back to where they were originally? That got us thinking."¹

In terms of partnerships, the project required all stakeholders – council, the heritage project, the Main Street building owners, and of course community residents – to work together to see the vision become reality. Ultimately, the project has provided a sense of place for citizens, renewed investment in public areas, created a marketable tourist attraction, and could act as a template for other communities interested in preserving their heritage.

COMMUNITY POLICING... COMMUNITY COOPERATION

The Towns of Altona and Plum Coulee's regional police services agreement

has benefits for both communities. For Altona, it's reduced costs with continued high quality service. For Plum Coulee, it's consistent response, increased visibility and community policing. "We knew that community policing was better for our kids, our schools, and our seniors" explains Plum Coulee Mayor **Archie Heinrichs**. It is also the only agreement of its kind in Manitoba where a police services agreement is endorsed by Manitoba Justice.

Heinrichs believes cooperation between the two municipalities was a key to receiving the award. "Everyone participated—from the councils of Altona and Plum Coulee, the staff, and the RCMP—not to mention the CAOs of both communities who worked very, very well together to make this all happen. It's been very positive for both communities." Altona Mayor **Mel Klassen** also understands why the agreement was chosen for the Municipal Excellence Award. "I think we have a unique situation," he explains, further noting "two communities have said they would like to talk to us"² to discuss how the model could be used elsewhere.

In the end, successful partnerships really are the key to many municipal projects. But a little recognition is always nice, too. When asked how it felt to win the 2009 Municipal Excellence Award, Heinrichs' response was straightforward—"It feels really, really good." 

(Endnotes)

- 1 As quoted in *The Manitoba Co-operator*
- 2 As quoted in *The Manitoba Co-operator*



Mark your calendar: AMM Annual Convention November 23-26, 2009 • Keystone Centre, Brandon, MB



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- A severe case of West Nile virus (WNV) can be life-threatening and may result in long-term disability.
- Most people infected with WNV have no symptoms and do not become ill.
- Some people develop an illness with symptoms such as fever, rash, headache, fatigue and body aches.

WHO IS AT RISK?

- Everyone is at risk of coming into contact with the virus.
- Severe illness most often occurs among older adults or people with chronic health conditions or weakened immune systems. However, severe illness has occurred in all age groups.

WHEN IS THE RISK HIGHEST?

- The risk of WNV infection is highest during late June, July, August and early September.
- The risk varies from year to year based on precipitation, temperature, mosquito population and other factors.

HOW DO I PROTECT AGAINST WNV?

- Reduce the time you spend outside between dusk and dawn.
- Apply an appropriate mosquito repellent.
- Wear light-coloured, loose-fitting, long-sleeved clothing.
- Get rid of standing water around your home.
- Make sure your door and window screens fit tightly and are free of holes.

For more information about WNV risk, visit our website at manitoba.ca. For questions about WNV health concerns, contact your doctor or call Health Links – Info Santé at **788-8200** (in Winnipeg); toll-free **1-888-315-9257**.



“Chronic fatigue and bouts of depression – all from the bite of a mosquito. Please take the time to protect yourself and those you love.”

- Wayne, age 60 (Diagnosed with WNV in 2005)

“Mosquitos infected with West Nile virus can bite anyone – and that ‘anyone’ could be you! Take precautions to cut down the risk.”

- Rachel (Lost her 66-year-old father to WNV in 2007)





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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Gerald Hodge

School of Urban and Regional Planning
Queen's University
Author of *Geography of Aging*



Harry Harker

Town Manager, High River, AB
The Real Cost of Community Services
Red Deer County Community Services Study



Wayne Caldwell

Associate Professor - University of Guelph
Multifunctionality – A Review of
Stewardship Models for Protecting Land

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Tyler MacAfee, AMM Director of Policy & Communications

3rd session of 39th LEGISLATURE RESUMES

It was back to business for MLAs in March as the 3rd session of the 39th Legislature resumed. Before rising on June 11, the Government passed the 2009-2010 Provincial Budget and 27 of 35 bills introduced.

BUDGET 2009 – MUNICIPALITIES STILL WAITING

The AMM had high hopes for Budget 2009 in spite of the global economic slowdown. AMM was hoping to see Manitoba capitalize on its strong economic footing and invest dollars into municipal infrastructure. Unfortunately, Budget 2009 failed to deliver on municipal infrastructure needs, and outside of a few small projects and incentives, Budget 2009 held little for municipalities. Since the Provincial Budget there has been greater investment by the Province to match federal commitments, however Budget Day was a disappointment for AMM.

LEGISLATIVE ‘SLOW DANCE’

This sitting of the Legislature also saw a number of bills introduced (and in one case reintroduced) of interest to municipalities. Unfortunately, none of these bills were passed before the house rose on June 11. The AMM is expecting all of these bills to be reintroduced when the House returns in September.

BILL 4 – THE COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION TAX INCREMENT FINANCING ACT

Carried over from November, this Bill was revamped and reintroduced. This Bill allows municipalities to designate properties as community revitalization properties. Designated property that increase in assessed value are subject to a community revitalization levy that is imposed at the same rate as, but in lieu of, taxation for school purposes. Money raised by the levy is paid into a new Community Revitalization Fund. This fund is to be used to make grants to help revitalize communities and neighbourhoods, to encourage economic, social and cultural development, and to preserve heritage properties. The AMM was pleased to see the municipal oversight strengthened in the bill to make it clear that disbursements from the fund cannot be made without municipal approval of the project. The AMM looks forward to the bill passing in September as this will be another tool available to municipalities for economic development.

BILL 16 – THE POLICE SERVICES ACT

This bill creates new rules for how municipal police forces will be governed and is of great interest to those municipalities with their own police forces. The main theme of the bill is greater civilian oversight of policing in Manitoba. The bill attempts to achieve this through the creation of a new Manitoba Police Commission which is mandated to provide advice on policing issues and make recommendations to the Minister. An Independent Investigation

Unit is also created to provide greater transparency in the investigative process.

The major concern for municipalities is the move to mandatory police boards. While such boards are common across Canada, we are concerned that it removes the responsibility for policing from the elected council and places it into the hands of an appointed board. The AMM presented its concerns with this Bill when it went to the legislative committee June 18 and is hopeful the bill will be amended before being passed.

BILL 35 – THE MUNICIPAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND CAMPAIGN FINANCING ACT

Another Bill that has the AMM’s attention is Bill 35, introduced in early June, which makes a number of changes that will impact municipal officials. Bill 35 will require the annual statements of assets and interests filed by municipal officials under *The Municipal Council Conflict of Interest Act* available for public inspection. It also makes changes to election campaign financing for municipalities, banning unions and corporations from making contributions to candidates. The Bill will set maximum amounts for contributions that individuals can make to candidates, and limits are also applied to contributions that a candidate makes to his or her own campaign. Loans to candidates from anyone other than a financial institution are prohibited. Bill 35 will also require candidates to file election finance statements, and any elected candidate who fails to file a statement within the specified time may be disqualified from remaining on council. In addition, municipalities are required to establish a code of conduct and conflict of interest rules for municipal employees.

The AMM will be following up on these bills when the House returns on September 14. 



5th Annual Lobby Days



DELIVERS SINGULAR MESSAGE

The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) once again blitzed the Manitoba Legislature this spring in an effort to inform MLAs about top issues facing municipalities. The 5th Annual Lobby Days took place on April 22 and 23, 2009. As has become customary, the AMM met with the NDP caucus as a group and with Conservative and Liberal MLAs on an individual basis.

One message was delivered to all MLAs this year and that is the AMM's most critical issue: the need for alternate revenue for infrastructure investment. "We continued

pushing the Province to share one per cent of the Provincial Sales Tax with municipalities for infrastructure, which would provide municipalities with over \$200 million a year," explains President **Doug Dobrowolski**. Since this resolution was carried by AMM members at the 2008 annual convention, the AMM has raised it with each Minister individually. However, "It is important to ensure all MLAs are aware of the needs of our municipalities," according to President Dobrowolski. "It is good for our members, but also good for the MLAs so they are informed when dealing with their constituents."

The AMM also gave credit where credit was due during Lobby Days. "The Province has brought in some good programs for municipalities, and we acknowledged that," noted Dobrowolski. "But municipalities are facing such enormous challenges that much more is needed. I think MLAs from all three parties heard our message loud and clear."

The position paper presented to all MLAs during the 5th annual Lobby Days is available at <http://www.amm.mb.ca/PDF/MinisterMeetings/2009/Lobby%20Days.pdf>. 



MLA for Brandon West Rick Borotsik



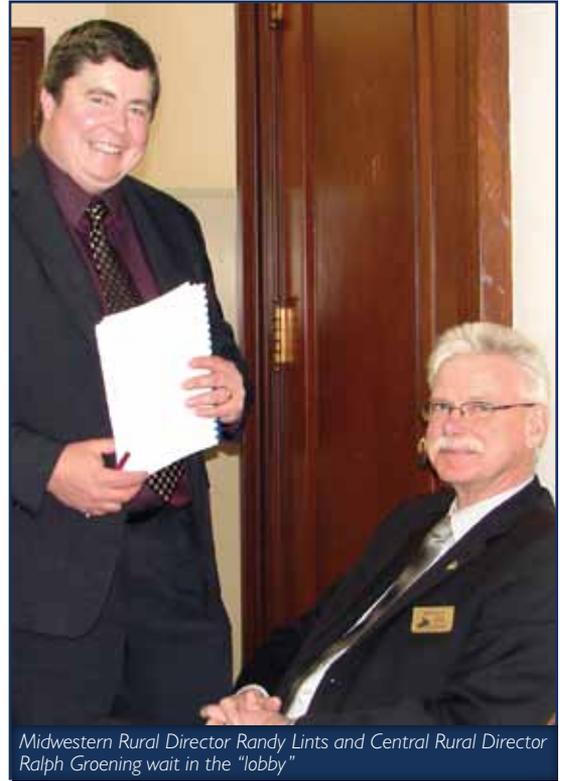
MLA for Ste. Rose Stu Briese makes a point



Alice Bourguin addresses members of the NDP caucus



L to R: Minister of Science, Technology, Energy & Mines, Jim Rondeau; AMM Urban Vice-President Shirley Kalyniuk; MLA for St. Norbert Marilyn Brick; AMM Interlake Rural Director Alice Bourgouin; and AMM Senior Policy Analyst Rachel Philippe



Midwestern Rural Director Randy Lints and Central Rural Director Ralph Groening wait in the "lobby"



Eastern Urban Director Art Rempel and President Doug Dobrowolski present Larry Maguire, MLA for Arthur-Virden with the AMM history book "With One Voice"

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Ernie Epp, President, MMAA

When PUBLIC INFLUENCE is negative

I'm sure most if not all of us have heard a presentation containing the statement "10% of people take up 90% of your time." The numbers might have been 20 and 80, but the message is the same. A great majority of people are pretty easy to get along with. I've had many circumstances where people not happy with a direction of the municipality were still pleasant to deal with. Some of the presentations on this topic suggest leaving the 10% behind, forgetting about them. In local government, that's not so easy to do. After all, they pay taxes, get to vote, and whether we like it or not, are a part of the community.

These 10%, however, at times seem to be having a greater influence than their numbers suggest they should. Last issue I wrote about residents asking municipal employees about work whenever and wherever they were. Recently, a CAO for a municipality approached me. The CAO was resigning and taking a job outside of local government. Why? Only one reason: this person couldn't go anywhere in the community without being approached by residents to talk about municipal business. It wasn't just part of a conversation, it was the entire conversation. This CAO received calls

at home at all hours, including one past 11:00 pm just to vent about a recent Council decision. The topics varied, but never was there an emergency. This person's resignation is a loss of a bright talented individual in local government in Manitoba.

Is this an isolated incident? Maybe, but when I speak with other members of MMAA, as well as Town of Morden staff, many times the number one issue for them is not being able to go out without being approached as a municipal employee. There are lots of municipal employees in Manitoba who have been around long enough to have developed fairly thick skin. Or maybe some are just waiting for retirement. However, what about the next generation? Today's young people aren't nearly as tied to one career. If there's something they don't like about a job, they'll go find another one. This time of recession aside, there are usually lots to choose from.

One of the things we do when an employee leaves the Town of Morden is conduct an exit interview. We want to know why the person is leaving, so if possible we can address the situation. I now know of one CAO who has left because of 10% (and perhaps less) of the municipality the person worked for. It's a situation that shouldn't be tolerated. With the upcoming shortage of people in comparison to jobs, the impact on local government could be dramatic. I encourage Councils to speak with their CAOs about what they don't like about their jobs, and do what they can to address the situation before they too lose good employees. At the very least, by having the discussion, Councils can let their employees know they will be supported should a resident complain about an employee not being approachable while attending an evening hockey game. 





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Reassessment 2010

– an overview

Courtesy Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs

Property reassessment is underway in Manitoba, and comes into effect for the 2010 tax year.

For 2010, the assessment values of all properties province-wide are being updated to reflect April 1, 2008 market values, from 2003 market values. This past spring, all property owners in Manitoba were mailed new assessment notices and municipalities received their 2010 preliminary assessment roll. Meetings have also been held with every municipal council across the province. Provincial assessors have advised councils about how assessments have changed in their municipality and how property taxes will shift as a result of the reassessment.

- Cottage property assessments are increasing very significantly across the province, reflecting an exceptionally strong demand for recreational properties. Within municipalities with large cottage areas, cottage assessments are increasing more than all other types of properties.
- Commercial and industrial property assessments are increasing moderately. Assessments are increasing significantly for oil wells in southwest Manitoba, as well as for railways and pipelines.
- Farm property assessments are increasing. Assessment increases vary among municipalities and even within

assessments increase or decrease relative to the provincial commercial average.

- Special Levy shifts where property assessments increase or decrease relative to the school division average. Municipalities seeing higher than average increases within the school division will be required to raise a bigger share of the school division's special levy.

In 2010, budget decisions by municipalities and school divisions will determine how much revenue comes from property taxes.

Councils need to be able to respond to citizens' questions about their 2010 property taxes when they hold their 2010 financial plan public hearing next March or April. However, councils can't wait until next year to decide about what, if any, steps they will take. The time to think about this is now!

At the tax impact meetings, councils were advised about legislative authorities to mitigate the tax impacts of the reassessment. Councils can consider the options available to them, and tailor them to address the unique situation of their own municipalities.

Property Tax phase-in – Phase-in of municipal and school tax increases and decreases is a key tax mitigation tool that is specifically designed to address local property tax shifting. Phase-in has been used by several municipalities in previous reassessments.

Phase-in is a flexible tool that can be used on an individual property or property class basis. Councils can determine how a phase-in program could work in their municipality, for example phasing-in tax increases or decreases over a certain dollar or percent amount.

Phase-in enables councils to spread tax increases and decreases over a two-year period, reducing the tax impact to property owners. Within a two-year reassessment

“Councils can consider the options available to them, and tailor them to address the unique situation of their own municipalities.”

For 2010, Manitoba is seeing the greatest increases in assessment values since the market value system of assessment was introduced in 1990. Assessment increases vary among municipalities across the province, reflecting different market conditions. However, there are some key province-wide trends:

- Residential property assessments have increased more significantly than all other types of property, reflecting Manitoba's continuing strong housing market. Single family residences in particular are increasing, with strongest increases in Winnipeg's inner city neighbourhoods, and municipalities surrounding Winnipeg, the Brandon area, and some northern municipalities. Increased immigration is creating higher demand for housing, and is impacting property values in some municipalities.

municipalities, given reflecting the very diverse nature of farming in Manitoba. Irrigated farmland, as well as farmland suited for specialty crops, is seeing greater assessment increases. Farmland assessments are also increasing more than farm building assessments.

Starting in 2010, property reassessments will be taking place more often.

Reassessment will occur every two years instead of every four. As a result, we are unlikely to see assessment increases of the magnitude seen in this reassessment. After 2010, the next reassessment will take place in 2012.

In a reassessment, property taxes shift. Some properties see increases, while other properties see decreases:

- Municipal taxes shift where property assessments increase or decrease relative to the municipal average.
- ESL shifts where commercial

cycle, tax increases and decreases are phased-in for 2010 and 2011. Properties will pay their full taxes when the next reassessment takes place in 2012.

Options also exist for how councils can fund a phase-in program. Depending on your municipality's situation, a phase-in program may be funded without increasing your municipal budget. The amount of tax increases to be phased-in can be offset if your municipality also chooses to phase in tax decreases.

Municipal portioning – Another option available to municipalities is to vary the portion of assessment subject to municipal tax, to shift municipal taxes from one property class to another. Municipalities cannot vary portions for school taxes. Provincial approval is required. To date, no municipalities have used this authority.

Alternative ways to pay for municipal services – In most cases, municipalities levy taxes to pay for the cost of municipal services based on the assessed value of property. Property owners that see an increase in taxes as a result of the reassessment may have higher expectations for municipal services. They may question the types of services or the level of services they are receiving. Some property owners may question how the municipality is charging for municipal services, and may raise concerns about fairness.

Municipalities have tools to address these types of property owner concerns:

- **Special Services** - special services can be used to levy for services in various ways: per parcel, by property area, or frontage, as well as by assessment. Special services can be effective when a particular service or services are provided to properties in a particular area of the municipality and not to all properties in the municipality. A broad range of services can be delivered as a special service under The Municipal Act, including waste collection, snow removal and dust control, street lighting, and recreation services.
- **User Fees** – User fees can be also be considered, so that all users of a service, not only property owners, pay for the municipal service.

Intergovernmental Affairs will be pleased to assist your municipality and answer any questions about the options that are available to your municipality. Please contact a Municipal Services Officer. 

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El Salvador



Exchange

By Tyler MacAfee, AMM Director of Policy & Communications

As a municipal official you know the challenges facing your community. And if you have ever attended an AMM event you have a pretty good idea of the challenges facing other communities in Manitoba. You may have even had the opportunity to attend national conferences where you've learned about some of the challenges facing other communities across Canada. At the AMM, we have been lucky enough to take this one step further and learn the challenges facing communities on the international level.

Over the last few years the AMM has been participating in a Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) sponsored exchange with the municipal association from El Salvador – The Corporation of Municipalities of the Republic of El Salvador (COMURES). Located in Central America, El Salvador is the smallest and most densely populated country in the region. In fact, El Salvador is roughly a sixth of the size of Manitoba, yet has six times the population. El Salvador has a national government and is divided into 267 municipal governments.

The exchange began in 2005 when a delegation from El Salvador attended an FCM meeting and became aware of AMM.

COMURES requested an exchange be set up with AMM and, in 2006, a group of elected officials and staff from their association came to Manitoba. This was followed up with a group from AMM visiting El Salvador in 2007 to set up the work plan for the exchange.

From March 30 to April 4 of this year, the technical phase of the exchange began with a group of five COMURES representatives visiting Manitoba. The aim of this phase of the mission was to gain a better understanding of how AMM communicates with our membership as well as with the general public. COMURES was also very interested in how AMM works with government, and was pleased to have the opportunity to spend a day at the Provincial Legislature to meet the Honourable **Steve Ashton**, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and get an overview from the department on how they work with the AMM.

While much of the mission is designed for COMURES to learn about how municipal government works in Canada and Manitoba, there has been plenty of opportunity for AMM to learn, as well. While often we have preconceived notions of what life is like in Central America, it was evident from

the exchange that El Salvador is a thriving country. El Salvador has emerged from the difficult civil war of the 1980s to become a stable multi-party presidential system, evidenced by their recent presidential elections. COMURES is an extremely professional organization, and is a strong national advocate for municipalities. In fact, through recent lobbying efforts COMURES has been successful in getting municipalities 7% of the national budget, and are working on getting to 10%. COMURES also works closely with its members in providing training and educational opportunities.

While municipalities in El Salvador face many challenges, ranging from natural disasters such as hurricanes and earthquakes to rampant crime and the impacts from the global economic slowdown, they continue to work to make their country better. And COMURES, as the umbrella group, is actively trying to find ways to improve how they do business. Much was gained from their week with AMM and the next stage of the exchange will be AMM visiting El Salvador to share some of AMM's best practices with the COMURES membership. No doubt, the AMM will learn much along the way. 



The visitors present a gift to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs Steve Ashton.

Did you know...

For municipal elections in El Salvador the individual running for mayor names his council?

When the nomination period begins, the mayoral candidate publically names and registers who will be on his council. There is no election for individual councilors, only for mayor. If the candidate wins, his whole team becomes the council.

Party politics is a big part of municipal government in El Salvador?

Every mayor running in a municipal election is linked to one of the national political parties. However what is really interesting is that often a mayor will include individuals who are members of other political parties on their team. This helps get a broader coalition of support in an election.

COMURES, in turn, divides its board positions based on the level of support received by each political party in the last legislative election.

El Salvador Facts

Total Area:	21,040 sq km
Population:	7,185,218 (July 2009 est.)
Urbanization:	<i>urban population:</i> 61% of total population (2008) <i>rate of urbanization:</i> 1.9% annual rate of change (2005-10 est.)
Independence:	September 15 th , 1821 from Spain - September 15 th is Independence Day, a national holiday
Constitution:	December 20 th , 1983
Industries:	food processing, beverages, petroleum, chemicals, fertilizer, textiles, furniture, light metals
Agriculture:	coffee, sugar, corn, rice, beans, oilseed, cotton, sorghum, beef, dairy products

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Delegates from COMURES visit the AMM office on April 3, 2009. The Group consisted of Mayor Dany Rodriguez, City of Zaragoza; Mayor Elsa Guevara de Melchor, Municipality of Santa Maria Ostuma, Bessy Torres, Communications Advisor, Margarita Alfaro, Coordinator of Communications and Interinstitutional Relations, Carlos Pinto, Executive Director, and Michelle Caron, Regional Coordinator, Latin America, FCM.

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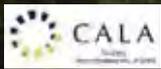
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- Regional Operations
- Conservation Programs
- Environmental Stewardship
- Corporate Services

“Manitoba Conservation’s goal is to protect the environment while sustaining and conserving the province’s abundant natural resources.”

Regional Operations Division

Regional Operations is responsible for delivering environmental and resource programs including:

- wildfire response
- environmental emergency response
- park operations and maintenance
- a range of environmental programs

The Fire Program detects and suppresses wild fires and manages the people and equipment needed to fight wild fires on provincial Crown land. Staff monitors weather patterns, lightning strikes, soil moisture and forest conditions to determine the probability and location of wild fires. Staff works closely with forest fire fighting agencies and jurisdictions including municipalities.

The Environmental Emergency Response Team handles emergency response calls through a 24-hour line. The team, along with regional staff, helps police forces in Manitoba:

- identify, remove and dispose of chemicals
- evaluate site contamination

Natural resource, environment and park patrol officers work across the province. They interact with the public to ensure the safety and security of people and protection of the environment.

Environmental Operations and Environmental Services deliver environmental programs throughout the province. Environmental Operations staff is responsible for program delivery at the regional level, including:

- inspection
- compliance and enforcement
- responding to complaints, inquiries and environmental emergencies

Operations staff is also involved in the administration and enforcement of Environment Act licences.

Environmental Services is responsible for program development and co-ordination, including legislative initiatives, policy development and special services. Program areas include the management of:

- contaminated/affected sites
- hazardous waste
- petroleum storage
- livestock manure and mortalities
- wastewater

Environmental protection is of critical importance to the Department as shown by recent regulatory initiatives and the hiring of new front-line environment officers. Current initiatives include the management of the Department's own environmental liabilities and the enhanced inspection of existing onsite wastewater management systems.

Conservation Programs Division

The Conservation Programs Division is responsible for Manitoba's parks, lands, forests and wildlife.

The Parks and Natural Areas Branch manages provincial parks, ecological

reserves and the Canadian Heritage Rivers program for Manitoba. It also administers vacation homes on leased, permitted and private land in parks and manages relations with private-sector business operators.

Provincial parks are tourist attractions providing economic benefits to municipalities and area residents. Parks and ecological reserves also preserve and protect Manitoba's natural environment. The Department has agreements with many municipalities to provide municipal services including 911 emergency services in parks. In 2009, the Province announced free entry to provincial parks for the next two years. This will help families enjoy Manitoba's outdoors during tough economic times.

The Forestry Branch plans, manages and allocates forest resources for the long-term social, economic and environmental benefit of Manitobans. Crown forests are managed sustainably for all users. Harvest and renewal activities are practised to conserve ecosystem diversity. The branch advises and helps the public and industry with forest health issues on Crown land, private woodlots and urban forests.

The branch:

- protects forests from pest damage
- helps wildfire management
- ensures all harvested Crown lands are renewed to maintain ecosystem integrity

The Dutch Elm Disease (DED) management program helps reduce the effect of DED on urban elm populations. The program manages DED in 37 Manitoba communities through annual cost-share agreements. The communities and province are each responsible for implementing specific DED control measures.

To conserve biological diversity and protect habitat, the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch manages wildlife resources and habitat on Crown and



*The Honourable
Stan Struthers,
Minister of Conservation*

private lands. It also monitors the effects of land use activities on ecosystems. Permits and licences are administered by the branch, which delivers a number of programs including:

- hunting
- wildlife management
- wildlife disease
- big game monitoring
- problem wildlife
- furbearer management

For many years, the province has offered its Problem Beaver Management Program consisting of summer removal of beavers and winter subsidies. The program features workshops to demonstrate non-lethal ways to address problem beavers.

The department remains vigilant in its efforts to prevent chronic wasting disease from spreading into the province and continues to monitor and consult with other jurisdictions. Bovine tuberculosis also continues to be monitored and tested through hunter-submitted samples.

The Lands and Geomatics Branch manages and controls provincial Crown lands and provides mapping and remote sensing services throughout the province. The branch is also responsible for the:

- review, approval and transfer processes for treaty land entitlement and other Aboriginal land programs
- Cottage Lot Program
- Wild Rice Program
- Manitoba Geographical Names Program

Environmental Stewardship Division

The Environmental Stewardship Division is responsible for:

- policy management
- environmental assessment and licensing
- pollution prevention programs
- Aboriginal relations

The Aboriginal Relations Branch helps build relationships between the department and the Aboriginal people of Manitoba. The branch takes a lead role in encouraging discussion about natural resource issues.

The Sustainable Resource and Policy Management Branch co-ordinates department policy, natural resource allocation and Crown land use planning. It also helps municipalities and planning districts prepare development plans and zoning bylaws by providing advice and planning information. Resource-based tourism licenses and permits for outfitters and lodge owners are also issued through this branch. The Protected Areas Initiative, a unit of the branch, ensures the province protects representative samples of our natural regions. It identifies protected areas to conserve ecosystems and maintain biodiversity for each of the 18 natural regions and sub-regions of the province. Protected areas contribute to Manitoba's action on climate change, biodiversity conservation and habitat protection commitments.

The Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch is responsible for minimizing harmful environmental and public health effects of developments through appropriate licences and permits. All new or expanded developments within Manitoba must first apply for, and receive, an Environment Act licence before development begins. The branch conducts thorough public and technical reviews when making licensing decisions, to ensure the sustainability of Manitoba's diverse environment is maintained.

The branch is also responsible for administering the pesticide regulation and issues over 250 permits each year. Each permit has terms and conditions to ensure products are used safely and in accordance with federal and provincial requirements. Included in this area are the permits required for the City of Winnipeg's annual mosquito control program that reduces the risk of public exposure to the West Nile virus. Staff also certifies water and wastewater facility operators and classifies all wastewater and water treatment and distribution facilities across the province. This program is essential in ensuring public

health and the environment is protected.

The Pollution Prevention Branch works co-operatively with municipalities and stakeholders to protect air quality and minimize pollution and waste. The Air Quality Management Section monitors outdoor air quality in select urban areas and industrial locations. Other programs promote producer responsibility, target waste reduction, support improved waste management facility operations and planning, and protect the stratospheric ozone layer. The branch also manages the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (SDIF) which provides grant funding support to innovative environmental sustainability projects developed by community organizations throughout the province.

A new Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship Regulation was approved in December 2008, which targets plastic bags as part of a new multi-material stewardship program. The branch is working with Green Manitoba and Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba (MMSM), to finalize this plan. MMSM is the Industry Organization responsible for developing and funding the new program.

Corporate Services Division

Corporate Services provides essential, internal administrative support to all divisions in the department by co-ordinating finances and human resources. The Division also provides library and public information services, and its Distribution Centre serves the public with mapping and aerial photo products.

Manitoba Conservation is committed to working with municipalities in applying the principles and guidelines of sustainable development to ensure a healthy and prosperous environment for Manitoba's communities today and into the future. For more information about Manitoba Conservation and its programs visit manitoba.ca/conservation; call 945-6784 in Winnipeg; toll-free 1-800-214-6497 or speak with any of the department's staff located in your area of the province. 🌿

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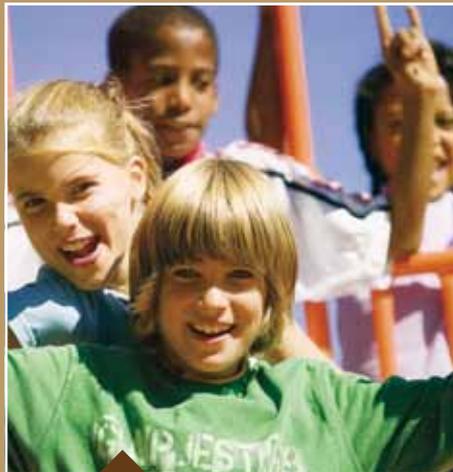
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Green Manitoba

Taking 'reduce, recycle' to the next level

Courtesy of Green Manitoba

Environmental stewardship is everyone's responsibility. It is impossible to argue against the importance of protecting our natural resources, water, air quality and, of course, our farms and communities. Manitoba's municipalities are leaders in environmental responsibility and many have set high standards for sustainable waste management and other green initiatives that reduce the amount of materials destined for landfills.

The Waste Reduction and Recycling Support (WRARS) Levy announced in the provincial budget has gotten people talking about this important issue. The purpose of the new levy is to encourage sustainable waste management and to improve waste diversion in landfills through recycling, composting and other activities. If it continues to be so much cheaper to throw a newspaper in a landfill than to recycle it, there is no incentive for non-recyclers to change their habits.

The \$10 per tonne levy will only be applied in 2009 at Class 1 landfills that accept more than 30,000 tonnes of waste per year. This includes the four largest landfills around Winnipeg and Brandon. The remaining Class 1 landfills have been given additional time to implement and administer the levy and will start in January 2010.

Class 2 and 3 landfills will be subject to the levy beginning January 2011. This will give municipalities time to plan, especially those municipalities that operate multiple landfills and that want to investigate other options such as converting landfills to waste transfer stations. A guidance manual will be developed for Class 2 and 3 landfills that will provide a method to convert waste volumes to weight for reporting purposes avoiding the need for each landfill to install weigh scales.

Amendments to Manitoba's Waste Reduction and Prevention (WRAP) Act establish a dedicated fund, the Waste Reduction and Recycling Support

(WRARS) Fund to hold the WRARS Levy revenue. The WRARS Fund will be managed by Green Manitoba, a special operating agency of the Province of Manitoba.

Eighty percent of the revenue collected from the levy will be paid back to municipalities based on the level of recycling achieved. Municipalities that are able to achieve high rates of recycling and diversion of waste from landfills may be able to receive more back than they paid out. Funding currently provided to municipalities through the Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation and in the near future through Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba will be maintained. Smaller municipalities that operate Class 2 and 3 landfills have more time to increase their recycling numbers before the levy kicks in. The other 20 percent of revenue will go towards the enhanced e-waste and household hazardous waste programs in Manitoba that municipalities and their rate-payers directly benefit from.

Municipalities are not being told how to administer the levy. Some municipalities are already excellent recyclers and may choose to support other programs with the additional revenue they receive from the WRARS program. Other municipalities that do less recycling, will hopefully look at ways to improve their recycling numbers.

Municipalities have the opportunity to continue their leadership in greening Manitoba. Landfills are an important and necessary municipal infrastructure and the levy will help municipalities protect their infrastructure and preserve the environment. 🌱



Green Manitoba's Jim Ferguson presented the new WRARS program during the 2009 Municipal Officials Seminar.

"The WRARS Fund will be managed by Green Manitoba, a special operating agency of the Province of Manitoba."

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For further information please contact Jim Ferguson at Green Manitoba (Phone: 204-945-7042 or Email: jim.ferguson@gov.mb.ca).

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Electronic waste and household hazardous waste collection in Manitoba

Since May, Manitobans eager to do the right thing for the environment have been choosing to take their residential e-waste to one of a growing number of collection locations around the province.

Residential e-waste is that broken down old television set or microwave oven you can't even give away, that outdated dinosaur of a computer nobody wants or one of dozens of other pieces of tired and retired household electronic equipment that have outlived usefulness.

Then there's household hazardous waste (HHW). This list consists of stuff like old paint, left over cleaning materials, dirty solvents, garden chemicals, insecticides and a wide variety of other products we use in and around our homes that, once they outlive their usefulness, need a safe place to go.

Most e-waste contains considerable amounts of recyclable and reusable material that ranges from plastic and glass to aluminum and steel. In many cases there are also trace amounts of other materials that can be valuable, or for that matter, even toxic. The toxic elements found in e-waste include things like mercury, lead, and cadmium. The

valuable materials could be gold, silver or other precious or semi-precious metals used in electronics.

Many household products, like electronics and household cleaners, paints, solvents and pesticides make our lives easier until they outlive their usefulness and we have to find ways to dispose of them.

Green Manitoba is a provincial agency that manages programs to collect residential e-waste and HHW for recycling or disposal in a safe and controlled way. Collecting all the HHW and residential e-waste generated in a province like Manitoba each year is neither simple, nor cheap.

E-waste depot operators are required to supply staff to receive, handle and load e-waste for transport. Additionally, depots must be able to store large quantities of e-waste in a secure place that is out of the elements until the materials are ready for shipment. Despite these barriers, and thanks to the hard-work of depot staff over the last two years, the E-waste Roundup Program has collected over 1 million kgs of residential e-waste for environmentally-responsible recycling at Sims Recycling Solutions. Run-

ning a province-wide E-waste Roundup program for the previous two years alone has amounted to costs of over \$1.2 million.

A cost associated with the safe management of both e-waste and HHW is that of trained staff and suitable facilities where materials can be accumulated and stored. Once enough materials are collected, they are transported economically to a market or to where they can be disposed of safely.

These management costs are outweighed by the real benefit found in keeping these materials out of landfills, out of the environment and out of the food chain.

Revenue from a new landfill levy on waste disposed at Manitoba landfills introduced on July 1, 2009 will help support the cost of rounding up HHW and residential e-waste.

While 80% of the revenue will find its way back to communities as grants based on the tonnage of household materials recycled, the other 20% will go toward enhancing e-waste and HHW collection programs in Manitoba.

Because the demand for HHW collection service continues to grow, Green Manitoba has stepped up the program by inviting more communities to participate and working with established participants to enhance collection and management capabilities. Currently, Green Manitoba contracts HHW collection to Miller Environmental Corporation, who collects HHW at community events located throughout the province. Miller Environmental manages household hazardous waste in an environmentally appropriate manner and processes some materials at their plant located in Letellier. Last year, the HHW program in Manitoba managed more than 650 tonnes of HHW at 30 events throughout the province.

Green Manitoba's website houses an on-line HHW appointment system where residents can book an appointment to drop-off household hazardous waste at Miller's Winnipeg location (1803 Hekla Ave). The Green Manitoba website also identifies the 30 e-waste collection depots throughout the province, and which ten depots will be open to the public year-round. To locate an e-waste depot or HHW collection event near you, its hours of operation, and a list of acceptable materials, please visit www.greenmanitoba.ca or call toll free 1-866-460-3118. 🌱



E-waste depots in Manitoba

Specific times and dates and all the latest information is available at www.greenmanitoba.ca or by calling 1-866-460-3118.

Winnipeg	Computers for Schools,* 170 Wyatt Rd. (until July 31); 75 Terracon Pl. (after Aug. 1)
	Miller Environmental,* 1803 Hekla Ave.
	Syrotech Industries,* 93 Gomez St.
	Powerland Computers,* 170 Marion St.
	Powerland Computers,* 40 Durand St.
	Urbanmine, 72 Rothwell Rd.
	CR Computers, 24 - 2077 Pembina Hwy. (south of Bishop Grandin Boulevard)
Eastman	Pinawa – Pinawa Recycling, north on PR 211 at Lagoon Road
	Steinbach* – Eastman Recycling, 60 Industrial Rd.
Westman	Virde – Salvage Kraft, 411 King St.
	Wawanesa – Village of Wawanesa Waste Transfer Station
	Baldur – Southwest Community Options, 225 Second St.
	Killarney – Killarney Recycling Depot, 610 Williams Ave.
	Dunrea – RM of Riverside Nuisance Grounds
	Ninette* – Southwest Community Options, 210 Queen St.
	Carberry - Carberry Waste Transfer Station, one mile west on PR 351
	Minnedosa, Neepawa* – Evergreen Environmental Technologies, PR 466
	Brandon* – City of Brandon MRF, 3000 Victoria Ave. E
	Shoal Lake – Shoal Lake and District Recycling and Landfill
Parkland	Dauphin – Kinsmen Recycling Site (location to be announced)
	Swan River – Valley Lions Recycling and Landfill Site, one mile south
Interlake	St. Francois Xavier – Transfer Station, corner of Rosser Road and Two Mile Road
	Selkirk* – Responsible Electronic Recycling , 511 Robinson Ave.
North	Flin Flon – Flin Flon Recycling Centre, 9 Timber Lane
	Thompson – Thompson Recycling Centre, 16 Severn Cres.
Central	Pilot Mound/Crystal City – Louise Waste, north of junction of PTH 3 and PTH 34
	Manitou – Pembina/Manitou Recycling Centre, 261 Main St.
	Carman – Carman Waste Transfer Station, one mile south and one mile west
	Morden – Pembina Valley Containers, 160 Grant St.
	Portage la Prairie – Public Works Yard, 495 - 11 St. N. W.

* Year-round depots

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TSM Celebrates one year anniversary

Tire Stewardship Manitoba (TSM) is celebrating its first year operating Manitoba's scrap tire recycling program in partnership with Manitoba municipalities who continue to play a leading role in the efforts to improve the storage, collection and recycling of scrap tires in the province.

TSM is a not-for-profit organization formed as a stewardship agency to represent the tire retailers of Manitoba. TSM has had its tire stewardship program approved

by Manitoba Conservation and is accountable to its stakeholders and the public for the collection, processing and environmentally sound disposal of all scrap tires in accordance with The Tire Stewardship Regulation, 2006. TSM replaced government's Tire Stewardship Board (TSB) in operation from 1995 to 2008.

A major accomplishment of TSM's first year was the smooth transition from government to industry. A few significant

changes have been made in the transition including: new and varying eco fees according to tire type to make the program financially viable and avoid cross-subsidization; TSM collection of eco-fees directly from tire retailers; collection and recycling of all tires and tubes; and governance structure changes to reflect the appointment of a new board representing industry stewards.

Notable initiatives for 2008 saw TSM, with the support of government cost-sharing, conduct a major OTR scrap tire clean-up to collect and process nearly 12,000 OTR tires. These efforts have reduced the OTR scrap tire inventory to a typical yearly flow that will now be managed through the TSM program. TSM also reinstated the 50-cent scrap tire storage incentive to registered municipal landfills, for aggregating and temporarily storing scrap tires in readiness for hauling to processors. The incentive has eliminated tipping fees that crept into the system over the past few years and improved the way tires are stored, further reducing fire, environmental and human health hazards.

TSM and program stakeholders assisted the City of Winnipeg in its efforts to use over 11 tonnes of scrap tires to pave a pedestrian-bicycle path along Bishop Grandin Boulevard. It also supported Green Manitoba's efforts to assist the Village of Dunnottar explore the feasibility of using Manitoba's scrap tire aggregate as a passive filtration technology to improve the quality of Dunnottar's wastewater lagoon effluent. TSM continues to be a proud supporter of the Be Tire Smart Campaign which focuses on educating the motoring public on the benefits of proper tire inflation and maintenance.

There were 10,161 tonnes of scrap tires processed from April to December; and 95% of the scrap tires collected were recycled in Manitoba into products such as aggregate, crumb rubber, blast mats and moulded products. The remainder was exported as a fuel supplement replacing fossil fuel.

To view the complete TSM 2008 Annual Report online visit www.tirestewardshipmb.ca or contact TSM at info@tsmb.ca, by telephone (204) 661-3242, or toll free (866) 724-5002. Municipalities requiring scrap tire collection can call Reliable Tire Recycling at (204) 774-0725 for all scrap tires and tubes or OTR Recycling at (204) 768-3766 for off-the-road (OTR) scrap tires. 🌱



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Reduce, reuse, recycle that building

By the Manitoba Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Sport, Historic Resources Branch

There has been a lot of talk lately about carbon footprints. Buildings are responsible for about half of the greenhouse gas emissions in North America and there is much discussion about how new green or sustainable buildings can reduce a municipality's environmental impact.

However, your community probably already has a lot of green buildings. Some may have been there for 100 years or more. These buildings don't have fashionable features, such as green roofs and high-tech smart climate control, but they have a lot to offer a community looking to soften its footprint on the earth. Saving and reusing old buildings is an excellent investment in a sustainable future.

“Many communities are starting to recognize the value of their heritage buildings as an authentic part of their identity.”

It takes a lot of energy to put up a building. Construction starts with extracting resources by mining or logging, then processing the raw materials and assembling them into a new building. Add in a lot of transportation and huge quantities of other resources used in refining and manufacturing. By-products of these processes include polluted air and water and lots of waste – some of it toxic.

When we tear down an old building, all of the energy that went into its production (called embodied energy) goes to waste, because we don't have that building any more. Even more energy goes into demolishing it before the whole process begins again with a new, green building.

Many modern building materials, such as vinyl, are both energy intensive and toxic in production, impossible to reuse or recycle and poisonous when they burn or break down. To make matters worse, their lifespan is much shorter than that of the traditional materials,

such as wood, brick and stone, they replace. All too often, “maintenance free” means a material can't be maintained or repaired. Right from the start, you can see that you throw away a lot if you decide to replace an old building.

There is a common belief that old buildings consume so much energy, that it makes sense to put up a green building that will use less energy and water. An energy efficient new building can use remarkably few resources, but energy-saving features can be retrofitted into older buildings, too. Features, such as geothermal heating and cooling, green roofs, solar panels, greywater recovery and other technologies can help make an old building very efficient.

Buildings constructed before 1920 were designed with efficient characteristics of their own. As a group, they are more energy efficient than anything built until the current century, yet many of their features are considered new by today's green building movement. Thick masonry walls help keep buildings cool in summer by absorbing the sun's heat during the day and radiating it slowly back overnight. Buildings from the era before cheap electric light and air conditioning typically have lots of natural light, with windows that open and transoms over their interior doors for natural ventilation.

Often these features have been disabled over time. Ceilings have been lowered and windows made smaller and inoperable. More lights are added to compensate for the reduced window openings. The building heats up and air conditioning is needed. Over time, a building that once lit and cooled itself naturally has become an energy hog. The lights are on all day and it goes directly from heating to cooling in spring because the windows don't open. The good news is that these features can be reversed and the building brought back to its original efficiency.

Saving an old building is energy efficient in other ways, too. Pre-World War II buildings typically stand in densely built, walkable town centres, with easy access to businesses, services and amenities.

Compare a 1920s office or industrial building with a modern business park. Everyone has to drive to this new facility, so it needs a big parking lot. In fact, *Environmental Building News* has calculated that employees travelling between home and work to a building like this consume almost one-third more energy than the building itself uses. To build on a new site, it is very likely that green space – farm-



The recent rehabilitation of the Birks Building in Winnipeg, built over a century ago, saved the equivalent of over 1,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide over demolishing and rebuilding. The energy required to operate the renovated building is very similar to the energy use of a new building.



Early Manitoba towns were compact and easy to get around on foot. Typical of main street commercial development, the buildings in the Town of Hartney (pictured above) featured apartments on the second floor. We can maintain density and combat urban sprawl today by making good use of the many commercial buildings that still stand.

land or natural habitat – might be destroyed and expensive infrastructure, such as roads and utilities, must be extended.

The old building is accessible on foot or by bicycle or, in larger communities, by public transportation. Even extensive rehabilitation won't involve cutting down trees or filling in wetlands. Tenants support local businesses when they shop and eat nearby. If the building's original function is obsolete, its flexible spaces can be used for other purposes, such as shopping, community spaces, apartments or condominiums.

Some older buildings also have other special characteristics. They're the ones with heritage value. They lend the community visual qualities that can't be replicated and a unique sense of place that keeps people coming back.

Many communities are starting to recognize the value of their heritage buildings as an authentic part of their identity. They also talk about preserving them, so our children can connect with their history. Preserving these old buildings is now more important than ever before – for our children and the planet we share.

For more information and downloadable publications on the environmental benefits of preserving heritage buildings, visit the Historic Places Initiative website at: www.historicplaces.ca/protect-proteger/pro_.aspx.

Obtain copies of publications such as *Energy and Waste Conservation*, *Climate Change*, and *Durability and Energy Efficiency* by calling the Historic Resources Branch of Manitoba Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Sport at 204-945-2981. 🌿

Wood Windows rule:

Few people know that old wooden windows can be repaired fairly easily. A well-maintained, single-pane wooden window, with a storm window and good weather stripping and sealing, is just as efficient as a new double-glazed sealed unit. Wood windows can also be maintained almost forever, while most new windows need to be replaced every 10 to 20 years – costing thousands of dollars and ending up in the landfill every time. As you can see, there is more than one good reason to save your beautiful old windows.

Just the facts:

- A typical 4,650 sq. metre commercial building contains embodied energy equivalent to over 2.4 million litres of gasoline.
- Demolishing that building would fill 26 boxcars with debris. Used construction material makes up 20% of the material in Canadian landfills.
- Replacing the building with one of equal size would release as much carbon into the atmosphere as driving a car 4.5 million kilometres.

Efficiency plus

It's more efficient to keep an old building than to replace it, even with a green-engineered new one. It would take a new, green, commercial building anywhere from 35 to 65 years to save, through efficient operation, the amount of energy that is wasted in demolishing an old one to make way for it (see http://www.illinoishistory.gov/PS/presentations/Embodied_Energy.htm). Since very few new buildings are intended to last that long, it would have been more beneficial to have kept the old one. It might easily have lasted another century or more. As a bonus, rehabilitating old buildings generates significantly more money for the local economy than new construction does, because it concentrates spending on labour, not on new materials.



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Green Municipal Fund improvements benefit Manitoba municipalities

By Andrew Cowan, Senior Manager of the Knowledge Management Unit at the FCM Centre for Sustainable Community Development.

Over the past year, FCM's Green Municipal Fund™ (GMF) has reaffirmed its commitment to a more client-centred service and adopted a continuous improvement approach. The Fund has made some important changes as a result.

GMF staff has been listening to what municipal governments across Canada have to say, and has heard them loud and clear. Municipalities want to be able to apply for grants and loans at any time of year, and to know well in advance what kinds of applications will be eligible. GMF has made the necessary changes to meet this need.

All deadlines to apply for grants and below-market loans for capital projects have been removed; municipal governments and their partners can now apply whenever it best fits into their project cycle. GMF has also locked in the eligibility requirements until at least March 31, 2010.

Municipalities have also made it clear that they want a streamlined applications process that is easier to navigate and takes less time. GMF is currently redesigning its processes to meet this need. As a first step, new applications are now reviewed on a monthly basis, and GMF is committed to providing a response as quickly as possible.

In addition to these process improvements, the FCM-ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program, supported by GMF, is working with the Province of Manitoba to assist a group of 12 municipalities through PCP's five-milestone process within three years. National tools developed by PCP will be adapted to the provincial context to support their work. Once complete, these municipalities, ranging in population from 500 to 40,000, will provide excellent case study examples for emissions reductions in rural communities.

The PCP program requires municipalities to commit to five milestones: creating a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory and forecast; setting an emissions reduction target; developing a local action plan; implementing the local action plan; and monitoring progress and reporting results.

On average, PCP members have spent \$110,000 to complete milestones One-to-Three for municipal operations and the community together as a package. These costs are often offset by energy savings once reduction measures are implemented. Funding support is available from GMF, which provides a 50% grant up to \$350,000 toward the completion of milestones Two and Three.

GMF recently announced a \$109,000 grant to the City of Portage la Prairie to evaluate strategies to treat its wastewater effluent and reduce the excessive amount of nutrients it currently contributes to Lake Winnipeg. The project team will assess several pre-treatment technologies, especially those related to the removal of phosphorous and management of biosolids, and develop a short list of preferred systems.

"The Green Municipal Fund will assist the City of Portage la Prairie significantly in reviewing various treatment options for

nutrient removal," said **Walter Keryluk**, chair of the City of Portage la Prairie Waterworks Committee. "The results of these studies will enable the city to proceed with the necessary upgrades for nutrient removal and enable the city do its share in reducing the impact on water courses."

The technological and financial analyses of these technologies will lead to an implementation strategy for the chosen system. The resulting capital project is anticipated to reduce nitrogen levels by 71% and phosphorous levels by 95%. This will reduce algae blooms and water pollution in Lake Winnipeg, which currently have a negative impact on fisheries, tourism and recreation.

GMF funds municipal initiatives like these that benefit the environment, local economies and quality of life across Canada. The Fund provides below-market loans and grants, as well as education and training services to support municipal initiatives that improve air, water and soil quality, and protect the climate.

Grants are available for sustainable community plans, feasibility studies and field tests, while a combination of grants and loans are available for capital projects. Funding is allocated in five sectors of municipal activity: brownfields, energy, transportation, waste and water. Details on funding opportunities in each sector are available on the FCM website at www.fcm.ca/gmf.

In 2008–2009, FCM approved over \$3.8 million in GMF funding for 38 sustainable community plans, feasibility studies and field tests. Almost \$52 million in below-market loans and over \$8 million in grants was approved to implement 34 leading capital projects. As municipal governments continue to raise the sustainability bar with innovative, leading-edge studies and projects, GMF continues to evolve to keep pace with municipal leadership, and remains a valuable asset to communities across Canada.

GMF is listening, and is working hard to meet the needs of municipal governments. The lines of communication are always open on ways to simplify and streamline GMF processes and to improve GMF products and services. Comments or suggestions are always welcome, and can be sent to gmf@fcm.ca.



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Manitoba communities take action to reduce GHG emissions and fight climate change

By Brendan Boyd, Management Intern with the Community Led Emissions Reduction Program

The Manitoba Government has made climate change an important priority and is working with Manitobans in their communities to develop solutions to this problem. Even though our province's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are among the lowest in North America, Manitoba has taken significant action to reduce these emissions and fight climate change.

In 2008, the government enacted legislation and committed to meetings its Kyoto target of a 6% reduction in emissions below 1990 levels by 2012. It also launched Beyond Kyoto, a provincial strategy for meetings that target.

“The decisions local governments make about their operations and services have an effect on climate change.”

An important part of the Beyond Kyoto strategy is working with local governments and supporting their actions to develop sustainable communities and reduce GHG emissions. There are initiatives already underway in the areas of:

- land-use planning
- funding for public and alternative transportation
- energy efficiency
- land-fill gas management
- green schools

The province is also supporting not-for-profit organizations such as Resource Conservation Manitoba and Climate Change Connection that provide information, education and other resources to local governments and communities.

Local governments will be affected by climate change in a variety of ways including:

- the economic, social and health consequences of environmental change such as shoreline erosion, loss of natural resources like crops and forests due to pests or droughts, increased severe weather events such as tornadoes, floods and ice storms, and the effect of air quality on human health

- the need to adapt their infrastructure and land use planning since changing weather patterns and more erratic weather may require different infrastructure or planning considerations such as water supply, storm management, road operations and maintenance

Early action to reduce greenhouse gases is wise because the cost of climate change can be significant. Communities and businesses around the province are moving to take advantage of the emerging green economy and are benefiting from the local economic development that follows. Early action has spinoff benefits

such as cost savings for municipal operations and individual households, improved public health and safer, cleaner communities.

Corlie Larsen, Acting CAO for the RM of St. Laurent, describes some of the benefits their community has seen. Larson says, “We are actively pursuing several community projects at the moment. One success story is the recent installation of artificial ice in the local arena and subsequent improvement to the heating and cooling (air conditioning) of the local recreation centre which houses a meeting hall, bowling alleys and government offices. This project proved to be an economic success to the recreation centre by providing these improvements via the installation of a geothermal system to provide the required energy for the heating and cooling of these buildings. It has also proven successful in providing additional play time in the arena for the local children and adults and a much more functional and energy efficient building for all users.”

According to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, up to half of Canada's GHG emissions are under the direct or indirect control or influence of municipal governments. This means the most important contribution we can make as politicians or civil

servants is to provide leadership on this important issue through our own actions and commitment. Municipalities play a critical role in reducing GHG emissions and may have an advantage over senior levels of government in adapting to climate change. Local circumstances and effects will require different local responses.

The decisions local governments make about their operations and services have an effect on climate change. For example:

- policy or regulatory decisions such as green purchasing guidelines, anti-idling bylaws or green building regulations
- management of municipal operations such as fleet choices, energy choices for public buildings and maintenance of public spaces
- services provided to citizens such as recycling, composting or active or alternative transportation

Individual citizens can also play a large role by changing the way they use energy and water, how they dispose of waste and what type of transportation they use. Municipalities can promote more sustainable communities by helping their citizens make choices that limit and reduce their GHG emissions.

The province is supporting community-led initiatives to reduce greenhouse gases. For example, Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs has launched a new, four-year (2008/2012) Community Led Emissions Reduction (CLER) program pilot aimed at helping more Manitobans contribute to the fight against climate change.

Fourteen rural and urban centres, including six neighbourhood organizations, have been selected for funding under this new initiative (see sidebar). Local governments and not-for-profit community organizations are working together with the Manitoba Government and will receive support for local projects and activities that reduce GHG emissions. The experiences gained through this pilot will be shared with any local government that is interested in developing a local climate change action plan for their community.

The CLER program builds on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Partners for Climate Protection Program and is being implemented in two ways:

- in partnership with local governments and aimed at reducing corporate and community emissions
- in partnership with not-for-profit community organizations and aimed at individual behavioural change

The program is being delivered in partnership with the Association of Manitoba Municipalities, Conseil de développement économique des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Manitoba Hydro and local environmental organizations such as Resource Conservation Manitoba and Climate Change Connection.

Participants in the program will work through five stages before 2012:

- creating a baseline inventory and forecast of GHG emissions
- setting targets for GHG reductions
- creating a local action plan with public input
- implementing projects and activities in the local action plan
- monitoring, measuring and reporting on progress

The action plan may include projects and activities in the areas of waste-reduction, water management, transportation, energy measures, green procurement,

green landscaping and lawn care measures and land use measures.

Tom Keep, Community Development Coordinator for Environmental Projects, says “The City of Brandon will continue to be a recognized leader in environmental stewardship as it moves forward in partnering with the Province of Manitoba and the Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation to provide information for its citizens to be aware of opportunities to reduce their greenhouse gas footprint as individuals,

neighbourhoods and as a community.” Recycling, bikeways, reducing electricity consumption, reduction of water consumption, landfill gas recovery are some of the projects currently underway.

CLER is an important part of the province’s strategy on climate change. The program supports and builds on the dedication of individuals and local organizations that are working to reduce their GHG emissions and create more sustainable communities.

Participants

The following local governments, including one planning district, are participating:

- Brandon
- Virden
- Thompson
- De Salaberry
- St. Laurent
- St. Pierre-Jolys
- Notre Dame de Lourdes
- the Morden, Stanley, Thompson Winkler Planning District (which is responsible for planning for the municipalities of Morden, Stanley, Thompson and Winkler)

Not-for-profit community organizations such as schools, community centres and Neighbourhoods Alive! Renewal Corporations are participating in select urban neighbourhoods:

- City of Winnipeg (neighbourhoods of Fort Richmond, Daniel McIntyre, St. Matthews, and River-view)
- West St. Paul (Middlechurch)
- Brandon (city centre)

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MUNICIPAL IDEAS

RM of Morris: On the ground floor with rooftop technology



Rachel Phillippe, AMM Senior Policy Analyst

Not being selected for a major wind farm project didn't stop the RM of Morris from being interested in wind energy. Recognizing the benefits of this alternative energy, the RM's Council simply decided to apply the technology on a much smaller scale – one building. Working with Winnipeg-based Global Wind Group, the RM of Morris public service garage in Rosenort is now the first building in Canada to have multiple roof-mounted wind turbines.

According to Reeve **Herm Martens**, the municipality wanted to explore other new technology since it has a lot of experience with alternative energy from geothermal heat pumps. A number of local buildings, including a school and a seniors housing complex, already use geothermal for heating and cooling so it was an easy decision for council to use geothermal in the new

public service garage. The new building offered a perfect opportunity to take this green outlook one step further and use vertical axis wind turbines to fully power the geothermal system. Each of the three vertical axis wind turbines generates 1.2 kW and is designed to be mounted on the rooftop, eliminating the cost of a pole.

According to Global Wind Group President **Alex Stuart** the primary benefit of such smaller scale projects is minimizing line loss. In larger wind farms, the electricity travels a considerable distance before being consumed, resulting in lost power along the way. Since the energy is used on-site, the energy goes directly into the system. Another benefit is that vertical axis turbines require very little maintenance. Rather than requiring an expert site visit, routine maintenance simply consists of tightening bolts

with a torque wrench every six months. As well, the bearing and brake mechanisms are not as complex as in horizontal turbines so less maintenance is required. To Stuart, these benefits are an excellent fit for any municipality constructing a new building.

Thanks to using energy efficient materials for lighting and insulation, Reeve Martens says the new building has already reduced the RM's electrical bill from \$1600 for a 40x78 sq. ft. building to \$1200 for an 80x220 sq. ft. building. Although the wind turbines won't help reduce those bills just yet, Stuart points out that investing in wind energy is hedging against the increasing cost of energy. The reality is that energy costs rise over time and it won't take long before the RM of Morris' wind energy is cheaper than tapping in to the grid. In fact, right now the premium for wind energy is only \$0.03/kWh.

RM of Morris Reeve Herm Martens speaks to the audience at the unveiling on June 24. MLA Rob Altemeyer (left) looks on with MLA Mavis Taillieu (second from left) and Alex Stuart, President of Global Wind Group Inc.



Three vertical axis wind turbine lined up on roof peak

“People have been using wind power for ages – it’s just this technology that’s new.”



Craning third vertical axis wind turbine to roof

For more information, photos or to view a video of the turbine installation visit the Global Wind Group website at: www.globalwindgroup.com. For more on the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund, visit www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/pollutionprevention/sdif/

Beyond the potential to save energy costs in the future, the RM of Morris is making sure it benefits from every bit of electricity produced. Since the public service garage doesn't need the geothermal unit's cooling capacity, the RM is exploring ways of selling that capacity to neighbouring manufacturing businesses. As well, the RM worked with Manitoba Hydro to install a reversible meter, so that any excess energy is absorbed into the grid.

The RM also benefitted from funding through Manitoba Conservation's Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (SDIF). The Fund encourages the creation of sustainable communities and provides grant funding to projects that demonstrate partnerships between groups and individuals, pride in the community, and concern for the environment. The RM of Morris contributed \$25,000 to the project and the SDIF provided matching funding to cover the total project cost of \$50,000.

For Reeve Martens, it's exciting to be in on the ground floor of this new technology, although he is quick to point out that the concept of using wind energy is certainly not new. "People have been using wind power for ages – it's just this technology that's new." Council is proud to be able to

showcase the technology to their community. Stuart agrees that smaller projects are a great way to demonstrate the engagement of the local capital: "A project like this makes it tangible for residents to see how the technology works," he says. Residents can see how easy it is to install (the installation took less than a day to complete), how quiet and unobtrusive the turbines are, and observe the direct benefit of heating the garage.

The RM of Morris also supports personal wind energy installations and passed a by-law in 2008 to ensure that a variance is not required to install a personal wind turbine. The by-law only requires a permit for safety purposes, such as ensuring the turbine would not harm adjacent buildings or property if it falls down. Although no resident has made use of this so far, Reeve Martens stressed the importance of being prepared and creating a framework that encourages people to consider innovative approaches.

From both the RM and Global Wind Group's perspective, this project is a resounding success. Although the RM doesn't have any other new building construction on the horizon, Reeve Martens says this is certainly technology that Council will consider in the future. 🌱



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Manitoba Hydro Place

360 Portage Avenue and 360° thinking

Courtesy of Manitoba Hydro

360 Portage Avenue is not only the address for Manitoba Hydro's new corporate headquarters in downtown Winnipeg. The 360 metaphor was serendipitously invoked to represent a new way of thinking when it came to the planning, design, and construction of the state-of-the-art building. It meant looking at the whole picture – the full 360° – and perfectly illustrated Manitoba Hydro's desire to develop a new corporate headquarters that is as energy efficient as possible, helping to conserve the clean, renewable energy so abundant in the province.

Deconstruction of the existing buildings at the site in 2005 was undertaken with a commitment to avoid unnecessary waste. The buildings that were removed to make room for the new building were taken down piece-by-piece, with 95% of the materials salvaged for re-use or recycling. Manitoba Hydro Place makes use of many of these materials, including recycled wood.

The operation of individual building systems, including lighting, ventilation, heating and cooling, and solar shading, are coordinated to ensure that the entire structure operates as a single entity, actively responding to changes in weather, environment, and operational requirements.

Solar chimney

One of Manitoba Hydro Place's most recognizable and prominent architectural features is the solar chimney at the building's north end. But like many of the elements at 360 Portage, form follows function. The 115-metre-high column rises above the top of the building and is critical to the passive ventilation system. It relies on the natural "stack effect" of a chimney to create a draw of air out of the building. In winter, exhaust air is drawn to the bottom of the solar chimney by fans. Heat recovered from this exhaust air is used to warm the parkade and to preheat the incoming cold air in the south winter gardens. In summer months, warm air is exhausted directly out the top of the solar chimney.

Sunlight

Taking advantage of Winnipeg's abundant solar energy, the building's striking triangular shape maximizes exposure to the south, while minimizing exposure to cold north winds. The narrow floor plate allows sunlight to penetrate into the heart of the building, providing natural daylight.

Passive versus active

To achieve such a high level of energy efficiency while maintaining occupant comfort, Manitoba Hydro Place maximizes the use of passive energy technologies while it minimizes the use of active energy. Passive systems, such as the south-facing winter gardens and the solar chimney, take advantage of natural processes to reduce energy consumption. In addition, the building's high floor-to-ceiling spaces make good use of Winnipeg's abundant natural daylight. Active systems, such as energy-efficient T5 fluorescent lighting, are only used as required.

Double curtain-wall

The building's windows on the east and west facades consist of a double curtain-wall that creates energy efficient buffer zones between the building interior and the elements. The system is made of a single-glazed inner wall spaced one meter inside a double-glazed outer wall, helping to insulate the building against heat or cold. The windows use low-iron glass – meaning higher visibility – to maximize the advantages of sunlight.

Geothermal system

The building boasts the largest geothermal system ever built in Manitoba and uses the constant temperature underground to heat or cool the structure. A total of 280 geothermal wells carry conducting liquid throughout the building's concrete slabs and 122 metres into the ground. Heat is drawn away from the building in the summer and stored for use in the winter. It's expected that



Construction takes place on a variety of fronts in April, July, August and October 2007

whatever heat energy is extracted from the ground during the winter months will be replaced during the summer making the system fully sustainable over the long term.

Heating, ventilating and cooling

To maintain a productive workspace while achieving maximum energy efficiency, the design of Manitoba Hydro Place splits heating, ventilating, and cooling into two distinct functions: heating and cooling provided primarily by the geothermal system; and ventilating, provided by a combination of the solar chimney, winter gardens and overall building design.

Natural ventilation

Fresh air is drawn into one of three six-storey or the single two-storey atria (winter gardens) on the south side of the building. Water features in each winter garden provide humidification and dehumidification of the fresh air, while waste heat recovered from the exhaust air and natural solar energy warm the fresh air. Two smaller water features in the main floor gallery regulate humidity and feature water cascading down a granite surface, also providing a pleasing and decorative element.

The south winter gardens act as the building's lungs, providing pre-conditioned fresh air via the raised floor system. The air enters workspaces through vents in the raised floors, which supplies the office space with 100% fresh air, 24-hours a day, seven days a week, unlike a conventional building where air is recirculated.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design™

The corporation is seeking the gold level of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) certification. The LEED™ system is the North American standard for assessing green building design and considers all aspects of a structure's design – sustainability, construction, and energy efficiency as part of the rating process.

Working environment

The design of Manitoba Hydro Place is proof that an extremely energy efficient and sustainable building can also be one that provides a pleasing and comfortable work environment for its occupants. State-of-the-art workstations and meeting spaces ensure that employees can work effectively, both individually and collaboratively.

Broad stairwells linking floors together in the winter gardens provide a degree of vertical connectivity, providing “neighbourhoods” of work that contribute to productivity. And the natural synergies of bringing people together from several locations into one reduces travel time for meetings and helps to lower greenhouse gas emissions.

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An aerial view of the new downtown office revealing its dramatic design and shape.

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Submitted by Manitoba Hydro

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“In most businesses, heating, ventilation, and cooling typically accounts for more than 50% of total energy costs,” says **Jan Peters**, Marketing Specialist, Manitoba Hydro. “Any opportunity a building has to reduce heating and cooling loads can result in significant energy savings.”

Proper ventilation ensures improved indoor air quality. During ventilation, buildings bring in “fresh” outdoor air to replace outgoing stale or polluted air. Better indoor air quality is linked to improved health and higher employee productivity. In Manitoba, our extreme winter and summer temperatures often require outside ventilation air to be heated or cooled before it is distributed internally.

“In addition to energy savings, CO₂ sensors help ensure consistent indoor air quality and improve overall comfort.”

According to Peters, HVAC systems often over-ventilate when a building is partially occupied – such as in a school after classes are over for the day. “The building is empty overnight, but ventilation is set for maximum design occupancy. Energy is wasted to heat or cool this unnecessary outside ventilation air. CO₂ sensors eliminate this energy waste by supplying just the right amount of ventilation air that meets occupant needs.”



CO₂ sensors are especially suited for municipal spaces where the numbers of people and/or occupant hours are variable. “Municipal offices, administration buildings, conference rooms, classrooms, gymnasiums and community halls are all ideal settings for this technology,” says Peters. “People exhale CO₂ at predictable rates, so the measurement of CO₂ serves as a useful indicator of a building’s ventilation needs. As people leave a space, such as at the end of a work day or after an event, the sensors detect a decrease in CO₂ levels and reduce ventilation accordingly.”

According to Peters, you can save approximately \$230 off your annual energy bill for every CO₂ sensor you install.

“CO₂ sensors offer good energy savings for a minimal investment,” says Peters. “A school that installs seven CO₂ sensors to control a gymnasium, auditorium, cafeteria and 12 classrooms can save \$1,800 annually on energy costs. It takes an average of about three years to payback the cost of this ventilation upgrade through annual energy savings.”

In addition to energy savings, Peters points out the impact CO₂ sensors have on your building environment. “CO₂ sensors help ensure consistent indoor air quality and improve overall comfort. By eliminating the need to heat or cool unnecessary outside ventilation air, CO₂ sensors also reduce the demand placed on your HVAC system and reduce a building’s total greenhouse gas emissions.

According to Peters, there has never been a better time to install CO₂ sensors. “Manitoba Hydro is offering an incentive of \$200 per sensor installed in existing commercial buildings. Pre-approval is required for the incentive, so it’s important for municipalities to contact Manitoba Hydro before they purchase or install their sensors.” says Peters.

You can apply for pre-approval by contacting the Commercial HVAC Program at 360-3676 in Winnipeg, 1-888-MBHYDRO (1-888-624-9376) toll-free, or at powersmartforbusiness@hydro.mb.ca. Information is also available on the Manitoba Hydro website at www.hydro.mb.ca.

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Municipal assessment in Manitoba: AN UPDATE



By Mark Newman, Fillmore Riley LLP

There have been a number of recent developments in Manitoba relating to property assessment issues.

LEGISLATIVE REVISIONS

In Manitoba the assessment cycle previously was a four-year cycle based upon a date of value or “reference year.”

The legislation has recently been amended to create a two-year cycle. The first year of this new cycle will be 2010 and the date of reference will now be April 1, 2008. For each new general assessment to occur every two years, the date will be April 1 of the first year of the previous assessment cycle. So, for example, for the new assessment to come into effect in

2012, the reference date will be April 1, 2010.

The City of Winnipeg has issued its new assessment roll and the appeal deadline in respect of 2010 assessments will be June 25, 2009.

The Province of Manitoba, which has responsibility for assessments outside of the City of Winnipeg, is in the process of issuing its new assessments. The provincial assessments are not issued at once, but are rolled out over a period of time.

Boards of Revision for both the City of Winnipeg and provincially governed assessments will commence hearings in the fall of 2009.

The City of Winnipeg has seen

unprecedented increases in value with single family residences seeing among the highest levels of increase. There is speculation that measures to mitigate against the extent of the increase in the City of Winnipeg may be adopted. Historically, these measures have included ‘phase ins.’ With the two-year cycle, ‘phase in’ becomes more difficult and one of the measures potentially available would be to ask the Province to amend the portioning legislation so as to reduce the portion of the assessment in respect of residential properties that is taxable, now 45%, to a lesser amount.

EQUITY

The Manitoba Court of Appeal has recently heard a case involving an argument concerning Section 18 of *The Municipal Assessment Act*, which provides as follows:

Presumption of validity of assessment

18. *Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, an assessment is presumed to be properly made and the assessed value to be fixed at a fair and just amount where the assessed value bears a fair and just relation to the assessed values of other assessable property.*

This provision is often referred to as the “equity provision.” A Municipal Board decision had determined that the onus lay upon a property owner to prove an absence of equity in the assessment.

During the course of the hearing before the Manitoba Court of Appeal, the City of Winnipeg conceded that the onus lay upon the City, and not upon the property owner.

The case also raises the question of what classes of property should be compared for purposes of determining equity. Although this issue will not likely be determined in this case, in light of the City’s position on onus the issue will be a live one for future cases.

The Court of Appeal has reserved its decision in *Gardentree Village v. City of Winnipeg*.

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The responsibility for the design, placement, operation, maintenance, and uniformity of traffic control devices rest with the municipality. At TSECMB, we provide free or "at-cost" access to education and resources to assist rural elected officials and administration in making the right decision to install the proper traffic control and signs on their roads.

Our "Manitoba Rural Traffic Control Handbook" provides public work employees and elected officials guidance regarding policies, practices & procedures of installing traffic control devices and signs. The Handbook will also clarify roles and responsibilities and provide information when considering traffic control changes.

Education, authorized signs and proper installation reduce injuries and fatalities and promote positive changes in driver behaviour. Inappropriate or missing signs can often lead to tragic consequences and potential liability issues for municipalities.

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Playground SAFETY AND INSPECTION

Ken Fingler, Director, Risk Management, HED Insurance & Risk Services

Even though summer was slow to arrive, children are now on the playground and having fun on the swings, slides and play structures.

While you may never be able to prevent all accidents, the important thing is to keep your playgrounds and equipment in good condition and as safe as possible. The key to doing so is to know what is expected and what to look for.

With today's litigious society, whenever there is a playground accident the chances are very high that the parents will be looking for someone to blame. That someone would most likely be the municipality that owns and maintains the playground.

Accidents do happen in small towns and rural municipalities, just like in large cities. The question is – "Will you, the municipality, be found negligent if a child is injured while on your playground?"

The *Occupier's Liability Act* imposes a duty on all occupiers (owners, or those responsible) to take reasonable care to ensure that persons entering or using the premises are safe.

The courts have gradually raised the "Standard of Care" required where the safety of children is involved.

Municipal employees try hard to keep equipment in good condition, but often do not have the knowledge to recognize potential problems and what is needed to correct them.

The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) has developed a standard titled *CAN/CSA-Z614-07, Children's Playspaces and Equipment*, which was set out as a guide for the safe installation, inspections and repair of public playgrounds but the courts are viewing this as the standard of care that needs to be followed.

A certification course for playground inspectors has been presented by the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association periodically in various cities across the country. This 2-3 day course covers the CSA manual in-depth and tests the attendee's knowledge of the manual.

Those who have completed the Certified Playground Inspectors course are qualified to conduct playground inspections including the comprehensive annual inspections as described in the manual.

Unfortunately, this course is quite expensive and is only given in Manitoba every few years, making it difficult for many municipal and school staff to access.

To provide municipal and school staff with knowledge of the CSA manual, the Risk Managers from the Manitoba School Boards and HED Insurance and Risk Services have started to present one-day courses in Public Playground Safety Awareness.

While this course is not as in-depth regarding the installation of playground equipment, it focuses on the actual inspection of existing equipment, what hazards to look for, adequacy of safety features and practical ways to reduce hazards.

This course covers detecting playground hazards such as trips, falls, collisions, entanglement hazards, head entrapment hazards and many other hazards.

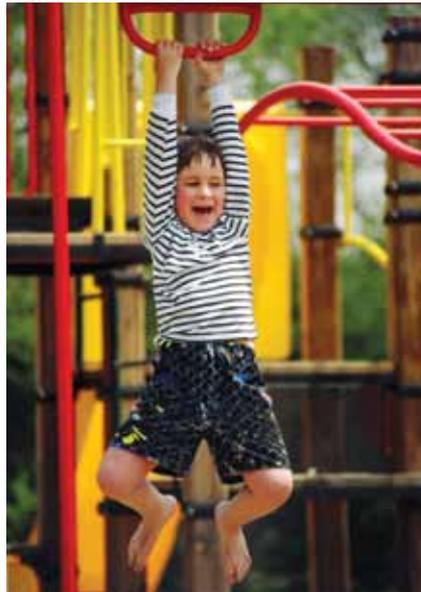
The course focuses on the physical inspection of playgrounds including:

- The type, quality and depth of the protective surfacing material under the equipment, the size and spacing of the "protective surfacing zone" around the equipment;
- Regular inspection and upkeep of the surfacing materials;
- The absence of collision hazards on the "no encroachment zone;"
- Checking and measuring spaces on equipment to ensure that there are no head entrapment spaces - between 3 ½" (90mm) and 9" (225mm);
- Checking for entanglement points on slides, climbers, bolts, "S" hooks etc.;
- Checking adequacy of guardrails and protective barriers;
- Swing spacing, hooks, chains, seats and arrangements;
- Teeter-totters, merry-go-rounds, climbers, etc.; and
- Inspection programs and record keeping.

The classroom sessions are followed with an on-site inspection of a playground to practice the inspection techniques and a discussion of methods to reduce hazards found on the playground.

New play structures are expensive and it is not financially viable to replace all of the older equipment. Thus, it's important to make older playground equipment as safe as possible by fully inspecting it and reducing the hazards where possible.

The key to a safe playground is regular inspections of the equipment and park area with records kept of inspection dates, conditions found, repairs needed and date that repairs were completed. These records are an important asset in substantiating that the "Standard of Care," as required under the *Occupier's Liability Act*, has been met.



INSPECTION PROGRAM:

- **At least weekly** - check for broken or damaged components on the equipment, debris/refuse in and around the play equipment, string or skipping ropes tied to the equipment and adequate loose-fill protective material under all the equipment.
- **Monthly** - a more comprehensive monthly check should include checking each piece of equipment to ensure that all components are in good condition with no rough or sharp edges and no cracked or bent sections. Any rough or sharp edges should be smoothed out and cracked and broken pieces replaced to prevent injuries.
- **Annually** - a comprehensive written report should be completed that includes the results of physically testing the equipment, checking the equipment and supports below grade, checking overhead hardware and structure stability. The report should identify any repairs needed and action taken to form part of the permanent service record for the play ground.

Several more Playground Safety Awareness courses will be scheduled for later this summer and early fall. Watch for course notices sent to municipal offices.

We encourage municipalities to send your public works and/or parks maintenance staff to this concise and very informative course. The information provided in this course will help your staff do a more effective job checking your playgrounds. 

Inspection forms and recommended procedures are available on the HED Insurance & Risk Management link on the AMM web site at www.amm.mb.ca or by contacting Ken Fingler at 1-800-665-8990 ext. 7279.

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ACKLANDS-GRAINGER

- core business values still resonate

These are heady times for MTCML supplier Acklands-Grainger. Not only is the supplier of industrial safety and fasteners celebrating its 120th anniversary (it was started in Winnipeg by Dudley Acklands in 1889), but it was recently selected as the official supplier of industrial safety supplies and material handling equipment to the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic & Paralympic Games.

Sean O'Brien, Vice-President of Sales & Marketing for Acklands-Grainger believes the company's founder would be pleased to see where the operation is today. O'Brien told *The Leader*; "Acklands Grainger keeps Canadian employees safe and Canadian enterprises running. Our success is all about local commitments. Acklands-Grainger has a national infrastructure, but is supported locally. We have 156 branches across Canada and approximately two-thirds of those branches are in rural areas of the country. In Manitoba, you'll find 14 locations in the following centres: Brandon, Dauphin, Flin Flon, Portage la Prairie, Selkirk, Steinbach, Swan River, The Pas, Thompson, Winkler and Winnipeg (4). We employ 110 Manitobans throughout our branch network, 38 at our distribution centre and 60 in our accounting office."

"And the core business values espoused by Dudley Acklands still resonate," adds O'Brien. "We run the company around five basic operating principles that have been around for some time, but have been forgotten by many business enterprises. These principles are:

1. Put the customer FIRST at all times;
2. Ensure that team members are developing through effecting mentorships;
3. A winning attitude drives business and personal values;
4. Do things simply but urgently; and
5. 'Live the values' so everyone can sleep soundly every night."

Acklands-Grainger is a 'people' company, in business as a way of life, not only to turn a profit. According to O'Brien, "Our team members are proud that they work for an organization that they believe in. This pride is reflected in how hard they work when the company gives back to our communities – whether it's working for, and giving to, the United Way; or the Make a Wish Foundation; or any of the other local organizations or events to which they commit."

This pride and commitment was on display when Acklands-Grainger announced it was teaming up with the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver as an official supplier. Over 100 team members submitted a ballot saying why they would like to be one of the 16 lucky employees chosen to volunteer for three-weeks at this global event. Organizers were "blown away" by the overwhelming response to the opportunity.

As an official MTCML supplier, what does this top-notch corporate citizen offer the MTCML member municipalities? Sean O'Brien says, "We will focus on reducing your operating costs by reducing your purchase-to-pay cost. We offer municipal-

ities competitively-priced local products without the municipalities having to store these products – we'll do that for them. Buy your equipment only when needed. No longer will you have to purchase three or four items with the belief that you'll need them down the road at some point. If the item you require isn't at your local Acklands-Grainger branch, we'll get it delivered to you within 24-to-48 hours."

O'Brien concludes, "We offer MTCML members standardized pricing, frequent discounts and a rebate at the end of the year. That is Acklands-Grainger's commitment to YOU – our municipal customer." ■

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A. Clark Roofing & Siding Ltd. has joined the list of quality MTCML suppliers. The company offers a variety of new construction and renovation services to municipalities and their residents including:

- New roofing, re-roofing and flat roofing;
- Shingles, cedar shake, concrete tile and metal roofing;
- Vinyl siding, soffit & fascia, eaves trough, and window capping;
- Insurance claims;
- Condominium re-roofing; and
- Rooftop snow removal.

After starting up in Alberta over 50 years ago, A. Clark Roofing & Siding has spread across that province and now into Manitoba, with an office in Selkirk. **Gord Green** of the Selkirk office, who has over 30 years experience working with municipalities, says the company only uses proven, guaranteed products and materials with warranties ranging from 20 to 50 years. Its wide-range of quality products allows A. Clark Roofing & Siding to meet the needs of even the most discriminate customer.

The firm's workmanship is warranted and its commitment to health and safety is evident by the fact that workers are covered by WCB. A. Clark Roofing & Siding is also a member of the Manitoba Homebuilders Association.

For a free estimate on your municipal project, contact: Darcy Dunlop or Gord Green.

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2009 Municipal Officials SEMINAR & TRADE SHOW

Delegates



Breakout sessions were very well attended.



Portage la Prairie Mayor Ken Brennan addresses fellow attendees at the Manitoba Cities Forum.



Winner of the \$1,000 Mystery Prize Draw was Holly Shurvell, Assistant CAO for the RM of Harrison, pictured here accepting her cheque from President Doug Dobrowski.



Councillors from the RM of Harrison having fun at the Wine & Cheese reception.



The wine & cheese reception is enjoyed by all.



MMAA President Ernie Epp and Vice-President Brent McMillan.



These two gentlemen have just begun getting their "mystery draw" tickets stamped.



The opportunity to ask questions and learn is the main benefit of MOS.



Some presenters sparked many questions from delegates.

Speakers



Donna Smiley of Manitoba Conservation addresses delegates.



Deputy Premier Rosann Wowchuk brings greetings from the Province of Manitoba.



The Department of Water Stewardship's Wayne Hildebrand with Western Rural Director Alan Ransom.



2009 Municipal Officials SEMINAR & TRADE SHOW

Speakers *continued*



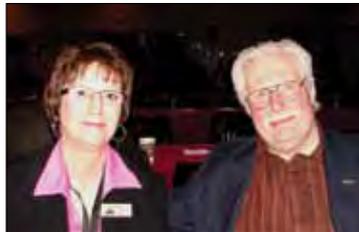
Urban Vice-President Shirley Kalyniuk with Ken Friesen, chair of Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba.



Municipal Services Officers Gail Anderson and Linda Baleja of Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs.



Beth Johnson of Johnson & Elligott presented two excellent professional development plenary sessions.



(L-R) Central Rural Director Ralph Groening with Tracy Braun, who reviewed the Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Regulation; Midwestern Urban Director Eileen Clarke with Conrad Artibise of the Manitoba Library Trustees Association; Michel St. Amant, PSAB-GAAP Project Manager, answers questions.

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2009 Municipal Officials SEMINAR & TRADE SHOW

Trade Show



Ken Anderson, Public Works Foreman from the Municipality of Killarney-Turtle Mountain, tries out the merchandise at the Custom Truck Sales booth.



These delegates don't mind pausing for a photo in front of the Grunthal Emergency Vehicles booth.



Fountain Tire booth.



AMM past-president Ron Bell catches up with Rob Cox of Manitoba Hydro and Ken Fingler of HED.



AMM staffers (l to r) Donna Belbin, Erika Rempel, and Julia Green help President Doug Dobrowolski announce winners.



The Canada Room drew large crowds.



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Mayors, Reeves and CAOs MEETINGS

Note: The Central District Mayors, Reeves and CAOs meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Eastern



Eastern District delegates gather at the Howden Community Centre in St. Adolphe.

Interlake



The Interlake District meeting in Grosse Isle followed a round table format.

Midwestern



Midwestern delegates enjoy a coffee break at the Asessippi Resort.

Parkland



Parkland District delegates in the Cowan Community Centre.

Northern



The AMM Executive, Northern Directors and Rob Cox (Manitoba Hydro) on a snowy Gillam day.

Western



The AMM Executive listen as Reeve Wayne Drummond, RM of Cameron, opens the Western District meeting in Hartney.

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