MUNICIPAL LEADER

The Magazine of the ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES

FALL 2009

AMM 11th Annual Convention

NEW FEATURE:
MEMORABLE
MANITOBA



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Dr. David Foot



The Honourable Roméo Dallaire



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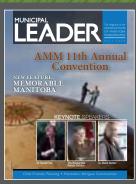
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Send change of address to:
Association of Manitoba Municipalities
1910 Saskatchewan Avenue W.
Portage la Prairie, MB RIN 0PI
Ph: (204) 856-2366 Fax: (204) 856-2370
e-mail: amm@amm.mb.ca

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3rd Floor - 2020 Portage Avenue Winnipeg, MB R3J 0K4 Ph: (204) 985-9780 Fax: (204) 985-9795 e-mail: terry@kelman.ca www.kelman.ca

Editor-in-Chief: Lynne Bereza Managing Editor: Terry Ross Art Design/Production: Theresa Kurjewicz Advertising Manager: Dave Gill Advertising Coordinator: Lauren Campbell

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AMM MISSION STATEMENT

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





PRESIDENT'S Report

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INTO a busy season



Doug Dobrowolski, President

With the lazy days of summer behind us, it is time to look forward to the always busy autumn months. The latter part of summer was especially interesting, with major changes taking place in the provincial political scene. I would be remiss if I did not begin by wishing Premier Gary Doer all the best as he takes his new post as Canadian Ambassador to the United States. The AMM met with Premier Doer many times over the years to discuss municipal issues, and we truly appreciate his dedication to the people of our province. I am certain he will represent our nation with the same dedication.

As I write this message the leadership race is in full-swing and by the time this issue is published Manitoba will have a new Premier. Our 11th Annual Convention really could not come at a better time, as it will very likely be one of the first major events the new cabinet will take part in. AMM priorities have not taken a backseat during this time of change, however, as we raised our number one issue - the need for alternate revenue for infrastructure - with all three leadership candidates. It is an issue the new Premier will hear often, beginning with our annual meeting with Cabinet that typically takes place during Convention.

We also placed the need for alternate revenue at the forefront of our federal budget submission, and it was the topic of a meeting involving Mayor **Sam Katz**, Mayor **Dave Burgess** and myself in late August. Most recently, I met with Manitoba's Intergovernmental Planning Board (made up of deputy ministers from each provincial department) in early October

to discuss the issue of roles and responsibilities – a key piece of the alternate revenue puzzle. This was an excellent opportunity to present the AMM's concerns and served to enhance our dialogue with the Province.

Late summer also brought an unwelcome announcement from Greyhound Canada. The company's intention to terminate passenger bus service in Manitoba and northwestern Ontario on October 2 greatly concerned our members and would have created undue hardships for individuals who rely on bus service to attend medical appointments.

The AMM moved on this issue immediately, first by meeting with the Province and then by taking the issue to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Board of Directors meeting in early September. Our efforts resulted in the Province striking a working group to create a strategy to resolve the issue, and FCM adopting an emergency resolution. A positive outcome resulted on September 16, when it was reported that Minister of Transport Ron Lemieux had a successful meeting with officials from Greyhound Canada. Both parties agreed to continue negotiating with no disruption in passenger bus service. The AMM is very pleased with this decision and with the work done by the Province on this issue.

Convention is approaching quickly, the season is changing, and before we know it winter will be upon us. Life is full of change, but no matter what the season, or who is in government, one thing will not change – our commitment to work on behalf of our members.

See you in Brandon! 🕒









Joe Masi, Executive Director

BIGGEST event of the year

As I pen this message Manitoba is delighting in warm, sunny, July-like temperatures – in mid-September. It is almost enough to lull us into a sense that autumn is not approaching quite as quickly as it is. However, warm weather aside, the AMM office is buzzing with activity as our staff prepare for the biggest event of the year – the 11th Annual Convention.

I am very much looking forward to this year's event, perhaps due in part to its very positive theme – *What If? A world of opportunities*. These words really do bring to mind the vast potential and excitement that is again beginning to build in Manitoba communities. Although we have come through some very trying economic times, things do seem to be on the upswing. It is time to once again look outward and upward, and we have planned a schedule of events throughout Convention that will help you do just that.

To kick things off, we have an exciting and intriguing plenary planned around how to create an "inclusive" community. We've gathered a panel of experts – young and old, able-bodied and people with disabilities, new immigrants, and others – to give us their perspectives on what it takes to make our communities truly one-for-all.

We've also asked **Garth Manness**, President and CEO of Credit Union Central of Manitoba to present his economic outlook. Garth will talk to us not only about the current state of the Canadian economy, but what municipalities in Manitoba can look forward to in 2010.

While the other plenary sessions are still in the works you can rest assured they

will not disappoint. In fact, we've put extra effort into our plenary sessions this year, due to the unavailability of the 2nd floor of the Keystone Centre. Due to renovations, we are unable to access the rooms typically used for breakout sessions. While these sessions only affect one afternoon of the entire event, we want to ensure our plenary sessions and keynote addresses more than make up for this void by not only meeting, but exceeding your expectations. Our keynote speakers this year were chosen to do just that!

You will hear **Dr. David Foot**, world-renowned demographics expert and author of the *Boom, Bust and Echo* bestsellers. You will also hear from 21st Century Arctic Explorer **Dr. David Barber**. This former climate change skeptic is now a convert and he has the research to explain why.

Finally, you will have the once in a lifetime opportunity to hear Lieutenant General, the Honourable **Roméo Dallaire**, Retired, Senator. Senator Dallaire really needs no introduction. The author of *Shake Hands with the Devil* is quite simply a true hero with an unbelievable experience to share with AMM delegates.

Of course, it would not be Convention without some fun events as well. We've got that covered with Monday evening's Icebreaker and Wednesday's Gala featuring hypnotist and magician **Wayne Lee**.

Are you intrigued? I certainly am. I look forward to seeing you all at the 11th Annual Convention!



Contact the **AMM STAFF**

Joe Masi Executive Director 856-2360 jmasi@amm.mb.ca

Linda Hargest
Director of Administration & Marketing
856-2361
Ihargest@amm.mb.ca

Tyler MacAfeeDirector of Policy & Communications 856-2362
tmacafee@amm.mb.ca

Julia Green Administrative Assistant -Board & Administration 856-2365 jgreen@amm.mb.ca

Lynne Bereza Communications Coordinator 856-2366 |bereza@amm.mb.ca

Patti De Baets Finance Coordinator 856-2367 pdebaets@amm.mb.ca

Erika Rempel Administrative Assistant -Policy & Communications 856-2369 erempel@amm.mb.ca

Lynn Ferguson Senior Policy Analyst 856-2371 Iferguson@amm.mb.ca

Donna Belbin Events Coordinator 856-2374 dbelbin@amm.mb.ca

THE AMM FAX NUMBER IS 204-856-2370

IN Brief

CLEAN, SAFE WATER FOR ALL CANADIANS

All Canadians will have access to clean, safe water thanks to new regulations for managing municipal wastewater. The Government of Canada's Action Plan for Clean Water has committed \$96 million for the restoration of Lake Winnipeg, Lake Simcoe and parts of the Great Lakes. The proposed regulations ensure that the release of wastewater effluent does not pose any risk to humans, the environment and fishery resources. The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment made the announcement on August 6, saying that a strong, comprehensive approach will ensure that our water resources are used wisely and ecologically.

Other commitments for the protection of Canada's water resources are:

- Accelerating First Nations' infrastructure projects, focusing on schools and water through \$515 million under Canada's Economic Action Plan;
- Investing in infrastructure through the \$33 billion Building Canada Fund to help municipalities and First Nations communities across Canada upgrade wastewater facilities;
- Regulating specific industries like metal mines and pulp and paper to reduce the toxicity of their effluents; and
- Investing in \$2.5 million over five years to support the United Nations Environment Program's (UNEP) Global Environment Monitoring System GEMS/Water.

The proposed regulations will include national performance standards, timelines and monitoring and reporting requirements and should be published in the *Canada Gazette*, *Part 1*, in December 2009.

The AMM has very real concerns with the cost of these regulations and is working with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to have these addressed.

SIMPLIFIED LICENSING PROCESS FOR MINOR WATER-CONTROL WORK

The approval process for minor watercontrol work on farmland is now faster thanks to a new policy and procedure announced on September 11, 2009 by the Minister of Water Stewardship, the Honourable **Christine Melnick**.

The simplified licensing process comes from recommendations from the Lake

Winnipeg Stewardship Board and the ombudsman. Manitoba Water Stewardship has 23 staff across the province to provide licenses and assistance to landowners thus ensuring the requirements of the *Water Rights Act* are met. In rural Manitoba there are six new offices to meet the needs of landowners.

Water-control work includes the installation of or changes to dikes, dams, drains, culverts and waterways. Once the license has been granted it does not have to be renewed by the current or future landowners to maintain the work. Projects not deemed minor must go through a more formal approval process.

The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), Keystone Agriculture Producers (KAP), Manitoba Cattle Producers Association and members of the Manitoba Conservation Districts Association were part of the consultation process in developing this policy. For more information please go to www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship/licensing/index.html.

MANITOBA FIRST TO IMPLEMENT BIODIESEL MANDATE

Also on September 11, 2009 the Honourable **Jim Rondeau**, Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mines announced that beginning November 1, 2009, Manitoba will require, on average, 2% biodiesel in all diesel fuels sold in a year. This mandate gives fuel supplies the flexibility to deal with the cold weather conditions in Manitoba. It is expected 5% biodiesel blends will be used to meet the mandated requirements. Once a Canadian fuel standard for biodiesel blends above 5% is in place Manitoba will consider raising its mandate.

In the spring of 2010 the current fuel tax exemption will be replaced with a 14 cent per litre, five-year production grant for both on and off-road biodiesel produced in Manitoba. In doing so Manitoba remains competitive with incentives offered in other North American jurisdictions.

There are two biodiesel plants currently under construction in the towns of Arborg and Beausejour.

HEALTHIER FOOD CHOICES FOR MANITOBA SCHOOLS

The Honourable **Peter Bjornson**, Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth

and the Honourable **Kerri Irvin-Ross**, Minister of Health announced amendments to the Public Schools Act banning the sale of foods with high levels of trans fats to students. These amendments took effect September 1, 2009.

Legislation requires that school boards ensure artificial trans fats are not contained in packaged foods or other food products sold or distributed to students. Vegetable oils and spreadable margarines must not exceed two per cent of the product's total fat content. Excluding meat or dairy, the trans fat content of other foods cannot exceed 5% of the total fat content

Exceptions to this include school lunches from home, school bake sales, and hot dog days or pizza lunches if not available in school on a daily basis.

School advisory councils or school committees are required to review the food and nutrition policies annually. Actions implementing the policies will be included in the school's annual plan.

HINI FLU

Has your municipality prepared its municipal emergency plan for a possible H1N1 flu pandemic?

The best defense against the H1N1 flu is to stay home from school or work while ill and limit contact with others. Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Cover coughs or sneezes by coughing or sneezing into elbows or sleeves or using tissue to cover your nose or mouth. Hand sanitizers are effective and available in travel sizes. Should you experience shortness of breath, dehydration, worsening fever, cough or weakness contact your physician or closest health care provider.

For information about H1N1 or pandemic planning you may contact your local regional health authority disaster management officer or EMO Regional Emergency Manager.

H1N1 health information is available for all Manitobans at www.manitoba.ca/flu or on the EMO website at www.manitoba.ca/emo.

GRANDVIEW AND MCCREARY JOIN THE MBTELEHEALTH NETWORK

The Honourable **Theresa Oswald**, Minister of Health announced the expansion of video-conferencing technology







linking health-care providers to patients in rural Manitoba.

Grandview and McCreary are the fifth and sixth communities to join the MBTelehealth Network in the Parkland District. The other locations are Swan River, Ste. Rose, Roblin and Dauphin. This expansion would not be possible without Grandview and McCreary community contributions and support. These sites should be in operation by late fall 2009.

At present 74 communities and 21 Winnipeg locations have MBTelehealth sites. MBTelehealth is part of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority's Manitoba eHealth Program. Included are 16 First Nations communities along with at least one site for each regional health authority in Manitoba. For more information visit www. mbtelehealth.ca.

\$21.2 MILLION FOR WATER-CONTROL IMPROVEMENTS

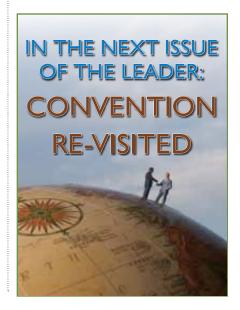
The Honourable **Ron Lemieux**, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation announced the commitment of \$21.2 million for improve-

ments to Manitoba's water-control infrastructure. This includes improving major culverts, dams, drains, dikes and diversions across Manitoba. These improvements will enable water to move more effectively from farmers' fields, roads and residential areas.

In addition, \$3 million, through the highway capital program, has been allocated for bridge crossing upgrades within the water-control network. Safety measures will be improved for workers and the public at dam sites by installing safety rails and fences, work platforms and improving navigational warning signs.

Assessments were done to determine areas in need of improvements. The RMs of Morris, Dufferin, Alexander, Portage la Prairie, St. Andrews, Caldwell, Bifrost, Armstrong, Minitonas, Dauphin, Mountain and Kelsey will receive funding for the reconstruction of drains. The communities of St. Adolphe, St. Jean Baptiste and Emerson will receive funding for improvements to their community dikes. Ralls Island will begin constructing a flood protection dike.

The Province is responsible for the operation of 4,700 kilometres of provincial drains, 125 dam and control structures, 12 diversions, 41 pumping stations, 18 community dikes and associated infrastructure.



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Women in MUNICIPAL POLITICS

June, 2009 marked a milestone in the AMM's history. No, it was not our 10th anniversary (that was last year). Nor was it the 100th anniversary of our predecessor, the Union of Manitoba Municipalities (that was in 2006).

Still not sure? Here is a hint: in June, AMM delegates elected Councillor Betty Nykyforak to the position of Parkland Urban Director. Why is that significant?

It is significant because the election of another woman on the AMM board means it is now comprised of 32% women.

That is right, 6 out of 19 - including the Urban Vice-President, Shirley Kalyniuk - are now female. And that IS significant. It is significant because in Canada, only 23 per cent of municipal councils are made up of women. And the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) wants that number to increase by 30% by 2026. This is important because, as the FCM's report Getting to 30% by 2026 states, "The United Nations defines 30% as the minimal percentage of women required for government to reflect women's concerns."

This is not a new trend. This report is simply the latest in a great deal of laudable work done by FCM over the past decade. The FCM Canadian Women in Municipal Government Committee was formed in 1999 to develop mentoring programs for new women municipal officials. It has also created an annual scholarship and holds a forum at FCM's Annual Conference.



Regional Champions Campaign - a grassroots initiative to build networks throughout Canada to encourage, support and mentor women who are considering running for election to municipal government - kicked off a social media strategy with the launch of its Facebook page. It is hoped that this page (located at bttp:// tinyurl.com/fcmwmg) will function as "a place to meet, ask questions, get advice from peers, and share stories." Judging from the number of "fans" of this page -745 and counting – the strategy is spot-on.

The AMM supports these initiatives at the federal level and has been pushing for more women in municipal politics for some time, too. In Manitoba, only 8% of mayors and 17% of councillors are female1, well below the national averages of 12.9% and 22.9 - and certainly nowhere near the 30% mark that FCM is striving for.

Back in 2005 our Municipal Leader four-part series Diversity in Municipal Politics kicked off with - you guessed it the topic of women in politics. That was leading up to a 2006 municipal election, and here we are again, looking forward one year from now when October 2010 rolls around. What will WE do, in our communities, to encourage more women to run for public office next year?

As AMM members, we should be proud that our provincial association represents a higher percentage of women than the national average. But we also need to strongly advocate for a much higher female representation on municipal councils. To find out more, view FCM's strategy to increase the number of Canadian women in municipal government here: http://www.fcm.ca/english/ View.asp?mp = 1166&x = 1168.

And if you see Betty Nykyforak anytime soon (or any of the other women on the AMM Board of Directors) feel free to congratulate them for bucking the trend.

Endnotes | FCM Municipal Statistics Male-Female Gender Statistics, January 13, 2009 L

The United Nations defines 30% as the minimal percentage of women required for government to reflect women's concerns.

Correction:

There was an omission in an article in the summer 2009 issue of Municipal Leader entitled "Manitoba communities take action to reduce GHG emissions and fight climate change" by Brendan Boyd. The list of participants in the box on p. 41 should also include the RM of Taché. We regret the error.







1991 Dugald Road Winnipeg, MB R2J 0H3 Ph: (204) 663-9037

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AMM Education

Public participation: THE BENEFITS OF CONSULTING



Ruth Marr, President of Marr Consulting Services

The October AMM Education Workshop focused on Public Engagement and Participation. Ruth Marr, President of Marr Consulting Services, led the session. Ruth has been recognized for her abilities in public consultation and in designing processes that facilitate clear decision-making on complex subjects. Using examples from her business experience, Ruth presented on understanding public engagement and participation and the roles, processes and techniques involved. Ruth offered first-hand and practical experience in the planning, designing, coordination, and material preparation for consultations and workshops. She frequently works in rural Manitoba, as well as Winnipeg and other provinces, and clearly understands community consultation processes and rural realities.

In the workshop, Ruth provided an overview of consulting techniques and offered suggestions on when to use which type. Vocabulary was the first topic: what is the difference between consultation, communication, participation, facilitation and engagement? (Answer: it varies with the degree to which participants are involved and contribute, vs. receive information). The most effective processes have clarity of objectives. It is important to know why you want to give or receive information, comments, ideas and feedback, and also what you will do with the answers that you receive. In some situations, a one-way flow of information out to the public or key stakeholders is quite appropriate: just don't call it consultation! By knowing in advance how you will use the information, you can manage expectations, plan an appropriate format, and potential participants can more effectively decide if they wish to get involved or not. You can consult to test a concept, to gather pertinent information that may inform the details of a design or plan, or more rarely, to involve stakeholders in decision-making.

Ruth discussed different participation and engagement techniques. The inten-

tion was not to provide training in how to lead a vision session or organize an open house, but rather to highlight key methodologies, their pros and cons, implications (especially costs in terms of materials but also time) and when each is most appropriate. In addition to more traditional approaches, Ruth touched on the use of social media, the web and other innovative ideas such as "Open Space." Ruth has a strong practical inclination, however, and believes that cutting edge ideas, while interesting, are not always the best approach. One of here favourite quotes is, "Consult broadly - then do the right thing." Expect to sit back, be engaged, and learn the language of consultation.

As the President of Marr Consulting Services and founder of Randonnée Tours, Ruth brings knowledge and passion to consulting assignments. A M.Sc. in Plant Ecology was the impetus for an initial career in environmental consulting. Now with close to 20 years of consulting experience, Ruth has an excellent record of project management in environmental studies, public consultation, active transportation, and in sustainable tourism. Ruth also bas a strong reputation for her ability to understand the big picture, and to provide strategic planning advice using effective communication skills.

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Staffing REQUIREMENTS and abilities for PSAB



Ernie Epp, President, MMAA

The MMAA district meetings

recently took place. At each of these meetings there is a time slot set aside for 'Round Table Discussion.' This gives the opportunity for members to outline the main issues they are dealing with in their municipalities. By far, the biggest topic is PSAB, and what needs to be done in order to be compliant. MMAA members are finding PSAB to be a huge – and I mean HUGE – project. I believe it is important to present municipal elected officials with comments from the discussions.

First and foremost, for a municipality to gain PSAB compliance is time consuming. Whether large or small, the task takes weeks to complete. Coming from Morden, the Town has staff dedicated to doing financial work and can close their doors to concentrate more on the task at hand. Smaller municipalities don't have that abil-

ity. In many cases, the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), who is supposed to do the PSAB work, also answers the phone and looks after those that come into the office. Interruptions are frequent, and it is difficult to work on a complex item when you aren't able to stick to and concentrate on that one item. Remember, this is new for all of us. What we found is those municipalities that are meeting the proposed timelines are those municipalities that have outsourced the PSAB work at least to some extent, Morden included.

Second, yet equally important to recognize, the PSAB process is complex for those of us that don't have an accounting designation. Whether the CAO (or other employee) working on PSAB has been there 30 days or 30 years, many are realizing the PSAB process is more complex than originally thought. In many if not

most cases, MMAA members have advised they don't know how to do it. Does this mean they aren't capable municipal employees? If they are adequately fulfilling the other responsibilities of the position, I suggest they are capable. Is it reasonable for a council to think a CAO should be an expert in every area? I don't know that I've met one yet. I have however met very capable CAOs that recognize when outsourcing required work is in the best interest of the municipality for which they work.

In municipalities where there isn't an employee with an accounting designation, the councils should expect to pay someone from outside the organization to help complete the PSAB process. To think otherwise is to place too high an expectation on municipal employees, and too little on what is in the best interests of the municipality.

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New faces — and voices — FOR PARKLAND

Lynne Bereza, AMM Communications Coordinator

The 2009 June District Meetings resulted in two AMM directors choosing to step down. Coincidentally both represented the Parkland District – Mayor Rene Maillard and Reeve Robert Misko. We sat down with the newly elected directors – Reeve Ron Kostyshyn (Parkland Rural) and Councillor Betty Nykyforak (Parkland Urban) – to get to know them.

Ron Kostyshyn may be a newcomer to the AMM board of directors, but his is a familiar face to many. This Past-Chair of the Manitoba Conservation District Association (MCDA) has long taken an interest in environmental stewardship in both his volunteer activities and on his own farm. He is also a 20-year veteran of the RM of Mossey River council where he is serving his first term as Reeve.

When asked what prompted him to run for council two decades ago, Kostyshyn's answer is similar to many. "My Dad had been a councillor, and some of the ratepayers in my ward asked me to consider running." When it is noted that often people follow their parents into public service, he adds that his grandfather was also on council, "so it's kind of third generation."

So, too is the family farm that Kostyshyn operates with wife Judy, a loans officer for the Ethelbert Credit Union. Kostyshyn admits he enjoys the peace and quiet of his close-knit municipality of Mossey River (located just north of the RM of Dauphin and surrounding the Village of Winnipegosis), along with the willingness of people to help out their neighbours. Although Kostyshyn grew up here, he did step away from his hometown for a time, moving to Saskatoon for 10 years to work for an engineering firm. He returned to the farm when his Dad became ill and could no longer operate it.

While the decision to leave a relatively urban lifestyle was not easy, Kostyshyn remembers one thought that stuck out in his mind. "I felt that I probably would

be sorry if I never went back to farming. So we decided to try it and if we didn't like it, we'd sell the farm and go back to Saskatoon, because we love Saskatoon – it's a beautiful city." Almost 30 years later, they're still farming and Kostyshyn is glad his daughters were raised in the same small community atmosphere he was.

As if farming and serving as Reeve doesn't keep him busy enough, Kostyshyn continues to take a strong interest in the conservation district (CD) movement, currently serving as a sub-district chair for the Inter Mountain Conservation District. He also sits on the Ethelbert & District Veterinarian board. When asked about his decision to run for the AMM board, it is clear that Kostyshyn's dedication is not limited to his own municipal boundaries. "First of all, the AMM is a good organization," he stresses. "I felt that I wanted to continue our voice as a representative for the Parkland district. Because the AMM is such a strong lobby group with both the provincial and federal government, it is another tool to provide that strong voice for the ratepayers of the district."

At the time of this interview, Kostyshyn had experienced just two meetings of the AMM board, making it somewhat difficult to assess what he feels may be the challenges facing the association. While emphasizing his continued interest in Manitoba's conservation districts - "I feel that it is imperative that the AMM continues to assist the MCDA in its movement toward watershed planning for future generations," - he is willing to bide his time in finding out just where he fits. "It's just a matter of seeing what I can assist in." So far, Kostyshyn, who has been appointed to sit on the AMM's Resource Management committee, will represent the AMM on the Aggregate Review Committee as well as the Beaver Control Program Review. (When it is noted that beavers seem to be an issue in the Parkland, he does stress - with tongue firmly in cheek - "We are without a doubt probably the proudest people to say we have the highest population of beavers in Manitoba!")

Ron and Judy have two adult daughters (one in Comox, BC and one in Calgary, AB) and are the proud grandparents of a two-year-old grandson. And while the kids have moved away, and he still sometimes wonders what life would be like had he chosen the city life over farming, it is probably a safe bet that Ron Kostyshyn is not leaving the RM of Mossey River anytime soon.

My dad had been a councillor, (my)
grandfather was also on council,
so it's kind of third generation.

— Ron Kostyshyn



If one word could be used to describe **Betty Nykyforak**, it is probably "trailblazer" – either that or "persistent." It certainly would not be "quitter." As the first woman (ever!) to sit on the Town of Roblin council, including one term as Roblin's first female mayor, Nykyforak knows much about winning – and losing – elections. After 20 nonconsecutive years on council, she is not one to let the odd loss get her down, and in fact comes back stronger the next time.

Her path in municipal politics has not been straight and began three decades ago. She was first elected to council in a by-election and was acclaimed more than once before being challenged and losing her seat. She returned to council three years later and then ran for Mayor. After serving three years, she was again unseated by former AMM Urban Vice-President Lorne Boguski, and defeated once more the following election, again by Boguski. The next time around, Nykyforak took a different route, running successfully for a council seat.

As mentioned earlier, Nykyforak is nothing if not persistent, and she continues to feel fulfilled by her role in municipal politics. To paraphrase the early words of her husband Mervin: "Why in the devil do you want to get involved in all this?" Nykyforak is candid. "I find it interesting and I love to keep learning." (It speaks volumes that during the years she did not serve her council Nykyforak served her community, and family, in other ways. The former teacher, teacher's assistant, and 4-H leader also babysat her grandchildren frequently during her non-political years. She is also a director and life member of the Roblin Ag Society.)

Her decision to re-enter political life resulted in not only a win in the last municipal election, but an interest in the AMM Board of Directors. Two years ago, Nykyforak unsuccessfully ran against then-Parkland Urban Director, Mayor Rene Maillard. This time around, Maillard cleared the path for Nykyforak. "It's a shame nobody else ran," she says. "At the same time I do have the time for it and I am very interested in finding out more about what my role is." Nykyforak, who has been appointed to sit on the AMM's Social & Fiscal Issues Committee, is also somewhat philosophical in her approach. "I see it as wanting to justify my existence here on earth," she states, adding she enjoys meeting people and personal interaction.

While Nykyforak has made the jump to representing her region on the AMM

board, her love of her home community is quickly evident. "Roblin is a great community," she emphasizes. "There are excellent opportunities here. We are at a crossroads of two major highways, we have great recreation, and the Town of Roblin has excellent staff."

Nykyforak is not a Roblin native, but rather married into the community she has grown to love. Mervin is semi-retired and owns the trailer court while still operating a backhoe part-time. They have three grown children and five grandchildren, who have surely benefitted from Grandma's willingness to help out with baby-sitting duties. As they get older though, they don't have to worry about Nykyforak becoming bored – with her keen interest in learning, her seat on council, and her new position as an AMM Director, she will have no problem keeping busy.

I see it as wanting
to justify my
existence here
on earth.

— Betty Nykyforak



New AMM Parkland directors Ron Kostyshyn (Rural) and Betty Nykyforak (Urban)

MEMORABLE Manitoba

NEW!



The channel looking towards the fountain

The Municipal Leader is pleased to introduce a regular feature in our magazine – Memorable Manitoba. Encouraged by the interesting, beautiful and often unique attractions in some of the communities visited during this year's June District Meetings, we felt the Leader is a perfect venue in which to share some of our pictorial impressions with our readers. Our chosen attraction this issue is Altona's "Gallery in the Park."

In 2006, within the south-central Manitoba community of Altona, stood a large, vacated, turn-of-the-century home. The Schwartz House, as it is known locally, was built in 1902 by Mr. Johann Schwartz for his family. Schwartz was an innovative, ambitious businessman who built grain elevators. This stately house served as his family's residence for many years, later functioning as a residence for Elim Bible School students and finally as a Bed & Breakfast before closing its doors in 2004.





When CEO David Friesen and President Curwin Friesen of Friesens Printers approached Mayor Melvin Klassen, AMM Central Urban Director, in late 2005 with their vision for an art gallery and sculpture garden a new dream was formed. Coined as "Gallery in the Park," this project would help mark Friesen's 100th anniversary in business and would leave a lasting legacy of the appreciation for art and culture in this region. Friesens envisioned that this new gallery and outdoor sculpture garden would position Altona as a destination for tourists and art enthusiasts alike.

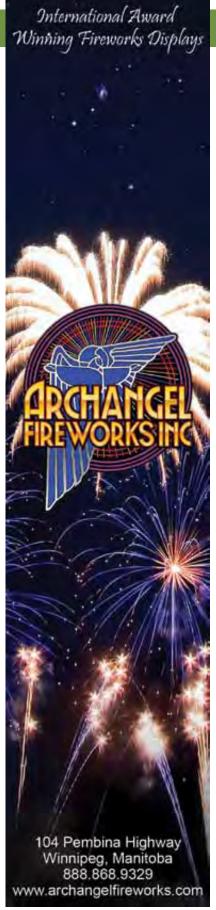
With community commitment and Town Council's approval, the project began. Friesens contributed more than half of the funds towards the \$1,200,000 project, worked hand-in-hand with the Town to bring the plan to fruition, and continue to be involved to this day. In fact, the entire community came together, as private citizens joined alongside artists and corporate citizens to manually lift stones and plant trees. It truly was a communitywide partnership that has given the community an added sense of pride.

Today, the Schwartz Heritage Home displays paintings and smaller three dimensional pieces, while a sculpture garden adjacent to the art gallery enhan-

ces the community's beautiful Centennial Park. The "art gallery in the park" now provides a permanent venue to showcase the immense talent of artists in rural Manitoba and beyond, and has breathed new life into this grand structure.

The gallery is open seasonally. Please call 204-324-9610 or visit www.gallery*inthepark.com* for more information.

> Memorable Manitoba? Let us know! Call Lynne Bereza at 204-856-2366 or email lbereza@amm. mb.ca and perhaps it will be featured in next issue



2009 LONG SERVICE Awards



CENTRAL DISTRICT

5 YEAR PINS	
RM of South Norfolk	Councillor John Bekeris
VILLAGE OF ST. CLAUDE	Councillor David Rheault
RM of North Norfolk	Reeve Neil Christoffersen
RM of South Norfolk	Councillor David Marginet
Town of Altona	Councillor Earl Dick
Town of Plum Coulee	Councillor Wayne Reimer
TOWN OF PLUM COULEE	Councillor Rick Rempel
VILLAGE OF ST. CLAUDE	Councillor Josiane De Smet
VILLAGE OF ST. CLAUDE	Councillor Alan Toupin

VILLAGE OF St. CLAUDE Former Mayor Claude Chappellaz

10 YEAR PINS

Councillor Gilles Lavallee
Reeve Tom Kelly
Councillor Mark Ratzlaff
Councillor Marvin Plett
Councillor Cynthia Bisson
Mayor Melvin Klassen
Former Mayor W.D (Don) Chapman

15 YEAR PIN

RM OF THOMPSON	Councillor Walter McTavish

20 YEAR PINS

RM of Macdonald	Reeve Rodney Burns
TOWN OF PLUM COULEE	Mayor Archie Heinrichs

25 YEAR PIN

RM of Portage la Prairie Councillor William A. Alford









EASTERN DISTRICT

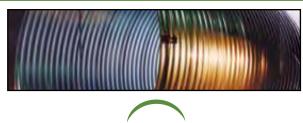
5 YEAR PINS

CITY OF STEINBACH	Mayor Chris Goertzen
RM OF EAST ST. PAUL	Councillor Michael Wasylin
Town of Morris	Councillor Jeanette Bergstresser
Town of Niverville	Councillor Kevin Stott

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Town of Ste. Anne	Councillor Donald Simard
Town of Ste. Anne	Councillor Craig Cumming
Town of Ste. Anne	Mayor Bernard Vermette
RM of Brokenhead	Reeve Glen Dudeck
10 YEAR PINS	
RM of Brokenhead	Councillor Doug Thomasson

RM of Brokenhead	Councillor Doug Thomasson
RM of Reynolds	Councillor John Miscavitch
RM of Reynolds	Councillor Alan Kelly
RM of Whitemouth	Councillor Allan Besel
TOWN OF EMERSON	Councillor Art Klan

15 YEAR PINS

CITY OF STEINBACH	Councillor Art Rempel
RM of Brokenhead	Councillor Ruth Ferens

35 YEAR PIN

RM OF TACHE Mayor William Danylchuk







INTERLAKE DISTRICT

5 YEAR PINS

RM of Armstrong	Councillor David Yablonski
RM of Woodlands	Councillor Gavin Jones

10 YEAR PINS

RM of St. Andrews	Councillor Kurtiss Krasnesky
RM of St. Andrews	Councillor Elmer Keryluk
RM of St. Andrews	Councillor Ralph Boch
RM of St. Andrews	Reeve Don Forfar
Town of Teulon	Mayor Bert Campbell

15 YEAR PINS

RM OF COLDWELL Councillor Jim Dyck

25 YEAR PIN

RM of Coldwell Councillor Ken Olafson

LIFE MEMBERSHIP PIN

RM of Eriksdale Dave McLelland











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MIDWESTERN DISTRICT

5 YEAR PINS

RM of Ellice	Councillor Jean-Marc Lemoine
RM of Birtle	Councillor Charles Bertram
RM of Lakeview	Councillor Wayne Gardiner
RM of Park	Councillor Ron Budiwski
Town of Birtle	Councillor Ronald L. Strynadka
VILLAGE OF ST. LAZARE	Councillor Gail Horning
TOWN OF RUSSELL	Councillor Chris Radford

10 YEAR PINS

Councillor Jim Nylen
Councillor Ray Frey
Councillor Robert Scott
Councillor Michael Porrok
Councillor Barry Kohinski
Reeve Edward Levandoski
Councillor Elizabeth Melnyk
Coucillor Willis Pushka
Councillor Philip Fafard

15 YEAR PINS

RM of Lakeview	Councillor James Rinn
RM of Miniota	Reeve William Clark
RM of Shoal Lake	Councillor Wayne Myhill

20 YEAR PINS

RM of Ellice	Reeve Guy Huberdeau
RM of Minto	Councillor Calvin Jacobson
RM of Park	Councillor Walter Sichewski
RM of Russell	Councillor Darryl Zentner
RM of Shellmouth Boulton	Reeve Alvin Zimmer
RM of Shoal Lake	Councillor Mervin Starzyk
RM of Shoal Lake	Councillor Ernie Kowal
Town of Birtle	Councillor C. Dwight Stewart
Town of Birtle	Mayor Ron Bell
Town of Russell	Mayor Merril Kiliwnik

25 YEAR PINS

VILLAGE OF ST. LAZARE	Mayor Martin Dupont
RM of Glenella	Reeve Tony Kushner









NORTHERN DISTRICT

5 YEAR PINS

Town of Snow Lake	Councillor Brenda Forsyth-Flamand
TOWN OF THE PAS	Councillor Ken Gurba
TOWN OF THE PAS	Mayor Herb Jaques

10 YEAR PINS

CITY OF FLIN FLON	Councillor Cal Huntley
CITY OF FLIN FLON	Councillor Dave Kennedy
CITY OF FLIN FLON	Councillor Bill Hanson
CITY OF FLIN FLON	Mayor Tom Therien
Town of Snow Lake	Councillor Grace Chrapun
Town of Snow Lake	Mayor Garry Zamzow
TOWN OF THE PAS	Councillor Bert Lagimodiere

20 YEAR PIN

TOWN OF THE PAS Councillor Ron Skokun



PARKLAND DISTRICT

5 YEAR PINS

RM of McCreary	Councillor Allan Whyte
RM of Mossey River	Councillor John Tichon
Town of Grandview	Councillor Linda Manweiller
Town of Grandview	Councillor Brad Kempf
Town of Swan River	Councillor Ken Doleman
VILLAGE OF McCreary	Councillor Clayton Kohlman
VILLAGE OF McCreary	Councillor Kelvin Code
VILLAGE OF WINNIPEGOSIS	Councillor Charlene Fleming

10 YEAR PINS

CITY OF DAUPHIN	Councillor Allen J. Dowhan
RM of Grandview	Reeve Cliff Kutzan
RM of Lawrence	Reeve Fred Taylor
RM of Minitonas	Reeve Michael McIntosh
TOWN OF GILBERT PLAINS	Councillor Walter Hyrchuck
TOWN OF GILBERT PLAINS	Mayor Lyle Smith
Town of Grandview	Councillor Tom Bohun
Town of Grandview	Mayor Ernest Gurica
VILLAGE OF WINNIPEGOSIS	Councillor Rob Barbe

20 YEAR PINS

RM of Alonsa	Councillor Edward Waczko
RM of Mossey River	Reeve Ron Kostyshyn

RM of Ste. Rose	Reeve Maurice Maguet
RM of Swan River	Councillor Brian Burick
Town of Roblin	Councillor Betty Nykyforak
VILLAGE OF BENITO	Mayor Bill Schneider

30 YEAR PINS

RM of Grandview	Councillor Nick Fiarchuk
VILLAGE OF BENITO	Councillor Verne Scouten









WESTERN DISTRICT

5 YEAR PINS

CITY OF BRANDON	Councillor James McCrae
MUNIC. OF KILLARNEY-TURTLE MTN.	Mayor Rick Pauls
RM of Archie	Councillor Rob Peters
RM of Strathcona	Reeve Dennis Schram
RM of Wallace	Councillor Keith Wadham
RM of Wallace	Reeve Vince Heaman
RM of Whitehead	Councillor Allan Sutherland
RM of Whitehead	Councillor Kelly Crosson
RM of Whitewater	Councillor Allan Lougheed
Town of Deloraine	Councillor Brad Hall
Town of Deloraine	Councillor Roy Hathaway
Town of Virden	Councillor Herb Warkentin
VILLAGE OF CARTWRIGHT	Mayor Bruce Leadbeater
VILLAGE OF ELKHORN	Councillor Keith Roblin
VILLAGE OF WAWANESA	Councillor Ron Seafoot
VILLAGE OF ELKHORN	Councillor William Massier

10 YEAR PINS

CITY OF BRANDON	Councillor Errol Black
CITY OF BRANDON	Councillor Doug Paterson
CITY OF BRANDON	Mayor Dave Burgess
Munic. of Killarney-	Councillor Gwen Tripp
TURTLE MTN.	
RM of Pipestone	Councillor Myles VanDamme
RM of Sifton	Councillor Cyril Druwe
RM of Sifton	Reeve George Harrison
RM of Strathcona	Councillor Darrell Vrooman
RM of Wallace	Councillor Herb Manser



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RM of Whitewater	Councillor Bev Robertson
Town of Deloraine	Councillor Cliff Kirkwood
Town of Hartney	Councillor Barbara Anne-Lee
VILLAGE OF CARTWRIGHT	Councillor Brent Pawich
VILLAGE OF ELKHORN	Mayor Roland Gagnon
RM of Pipestone	Councillor Kevin Martin
15 YEAR PINS	
RM of Cameron	Councillor Gord White
Town of Deloraine	Mayor Brian Franklin
20 YEAR PINS	
MUNIC. OF KILLARNEY-TURTLE MTN.	Councillor Gerry Blixhavn
RM of Albert	Reeve Tom Campbell
RM of Elton	Councillo Art Penner
RM of Elton	Reeve Jon Burton
RM of Glenwood	Councillor Darcy Gerow
CITY OF BRANDON	Councillor Margo Campbell
RM of Cameron	Councillor Claude Martin
RM of Whitewater	Reeve S. Blair Woods
25 YEAR PIN	
RM of Whitehead	Councillor Gord Hansen











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UPDATE from the Policy Dept.

Infrastructure - WHAT ELSE COULD IT BE?



By Tyler MacAfee, AMM Director of Policy & Communications

From time to time in the Leader we give you updates on some of the big ticket issues we have been working on here at AMM. It was pretty easy to pick the topic this time – infrastructure. In reality, what else could it be?

Greater funding for municipal infrastructure certainly isn't a new issue and has been at the top of the list since the AMM was created almost 11 years ago. Actually, I am willing to bet municipal infrastructure challenges have been around ever since there were municipalities. What makes the challenges of today more pressing than any other time in history is the scope of the problem.

We only need to take a look around our communities to see the deteriorating state of our infrastructure. Roads nearly impassable due to potholes and heaving, drafty libraries with crippling heating bills, recreation complexes with leaking roofs and water and sewer treatment plants running beyond capacity. These are the very foundation of a community, yet their current state leaves communities with little hope for prosperity. In Canada the municipal infrastructure deficit is in excess of \$123 billion for current needs. Most alarming is how quickly the deficit has been compounding, as it has doubled over the last 5 years. Equally alarming, the \$123 billion is only for the upgrade and repair of current municipal infrastructure, with another \$115 billion required for new infrastructure.

These national trends hold true for Manitoba as well. The City of Winnipeg recently calculated its infrastructure deficit at \$3.8 billion for existing infrastructure and \$3.6 billion for new strategic infrastructure. Historically the municipal infrastructure deficit outside of Winnipeg has been double that within Winnipeg so it is fair to extrapolate that the deficit outside Winnipeg is over \$7.5 billion, putting the total municipal infrastructure deficit in Manitoba in excess of \$11 billion.

An \$11 billion municipal infrastructure deficit for the Province of Manitoba is staggering. To put it into perspective, this is over \$10,000 per Manitoban, as the population of the province is just



UPDATE from the Policy Dept.

over one million. It is certainly an insurmountable amount for municipalities to tackle on their own since the total municipal taxes levied in 2007 were only \$731,635,227. The Province of Manitoba has certainly supported municipalities over the years, however with a total provincial budget of just over \$10 billion, the Province cannot fix the problem alone. For Canada's communities to prosper it is going to take a coordinated approach from all three orders of government. This is the only way we can start to meet the challenges head on.

Through the work of AMM and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), we have seen some success. Manitoba communities have benefited greatly from the measures taken by the federal government over the last few years including the GST rebate, the Gas Tax Agreement and the Building Canada Fund. There is no doubt municipal infrastructure funding has seen increases not rivaled since the 1960s. While this renewed investment has helped, when evaluated in comparison to the overall municipal infrastructure deficit we can see that more work needs to be done.

The AMM has taken every opportunity to advocate for infrastructure funding with the provincial and federal governments. Infrastructure challenges were raised with every provincial minister we met with in 2009, and were the cornerstone of our Lobby Days effort in April. Increased investment in municipal infrastructure was also one of the recommendations we made to the Federal Finance Committee's Budget Consultations.

Infrastructure will also be front and centre at the AMM Convention in November. We have a number of resolutions coming to the floor for debate, and no doubt you will make it a central theme of the Ministerial Forum. The AMM has also traditionally met with the Premier and Cabinet during the Convention and will make sure this issue is on the agenda. With a new Premier and likely some new faces at the Ministerial Forum it is critical that they receive the message first-hand in November.

There is no doubt the challenges facing our communities are steep. An \$11 billion municipal infrastructure deficit is rushing toward unfixable. However community leaders have the will to fix these problems. Municipal officials live in their communities, and often have grown up in them. Municipal government is truly the order of government closest to the people and you -Manitoba's mayors, reeves and councillors – know what it will take to make your community strong. It is not the lack of vision at the community level that is holding you back; it is the lack of support. While there is no easy fix to the problem, rest assured the AMM will continue to push government to make greater investments in municipal infrastructure. We will work will all orders of government to develop a long-term strategy to give you the support you need to fix these challenges and build the strong, healthy and vibrant communities Manitobans deserve.



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Upcoming **EVENTS**

October, 2009

PSAB Training – Winnipeg (Auditors only)
 PSAB Training – Russell (Auditors only)

13-14 AMM Municipal Visits – Midwestern District

14-15 AMM Municipal Visits – Parkland

AMM Education Session #3 – Public
Participation and Engagement – Winnipeg

19-21 AMM Municipal Visits – Central

23-30 Manitoba Planning Conference – Brandon

November, 2009

23-26 AMM 11th Annual Convention – Brandon

December, 2009

7-9 Manitoba Conservation Districts Association 34th Convention & Tradeshow – Brandon

AMM IIth Annual Convention Brandon, MB November 23-26

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WAKE UP CALL: The National Vision and Voice we Need for Rural Canada

Rural Canada helps fuel our national economy and define our national character. But the towns and villages that make up rural Canada are fighting for their lives, struggling against growing odds to secure a future for themselves in a country they helped build.

The natural resources, energy, agricultural products and raw materials extracted from rural areas now make up 50% of Canada's exports. These industries are driving corporate profits, paying billions of dollars in taxes every year, and crating spin-off jobs and new growth in Canada's urban regions.

Yet rural communities aren't enjoying the success of the industries they help to build or growing with the economy they do so much to support. Instead, rural Canada is in crisis. It is quiet crisis but one that, if left unattended, will leave rural Canada increasingly weakened and less able to play its essential role in Canada's economy and national life.

That the crisis has been building for decades makes it no less a crisis. Urbanization, international trade, immigration, environmental stress and past political agendas have damaged the organization of rural society, creating hardship and anxiety as livelihoods disappear and traditional support networks weaken.

The recent global economic collapse has exacerbated long-term trends, highlighted in 1996 by the Canadian Rural Restructuring Foundation: "Rural Canada has dying villages and towns, is losing population, and has substandard social services including a chronic shortage of doctors." The 2006 Census showed that rural Canada's share of the national population fell below 20% for the first time in our history, furthering a long decline.

With shrinking tax bases, limited revenue sources and rapidly aging infrastructure, rural municipalities are struggling to provide the basic services and community facilities their communities need to attract and retain residents and businesses.

It's hard to get attention for a quiet crisis, apart from occasional news stories when the last mill closes in a one-industry town. Events like the mountain pine beetle infestation, the devastation of the beef industry by mad cow disease or the closing of fisheries on both coasts are treated as discrete stories that slowly fade from public awareness. The rural element in these events is often overlooked, although of course most of the people affected live in rural Canada.

Those who live in rural Canada and those who study in agree that the long decline that began in the 1920s has not abated, and that without effective intervention by governments it will continue and accelerate. This report takes the pulse of

> rural Canada and of the federal government's role in promoting rural sustainability. It asks and answers the question: "Why should

rural Canada matter to Canadians and their governments?"

Some believe that rural Canada is a drag on the national economy and on urban areas, and that the market forces and outmigration should be allowed to solve the problem. Commenting on the 2006 Census results, a national newspaper columnist wrote that the data demonstrate that rural Canada has become "so irrelevant demographically that it increasingly exists only in myth."

This report argues that, despite growing urbanization, rural communities remain critical to the economic, social and environmental fabric of Canada. A strong national economy needs all regions functioning well to operate efficiently. And although rural Canada will not disappear, as long as natural resources remain important to our national economy, and chronically weak and under performing rural Canada is not good for those who live there or for the national economy and urban Canada. Balance is needed in economic development, which calls for public policies that can accommodate both rural and urban areas.

This is a national challenge requiring a national response. Rural Canada is well represented in the House of Commons, and the federal government has initiated numerous policies and spending programs over the year to address rural issue. But the federal role in rural communities has been hamstrung by a lack of co-ordination across federal departments, the absence of longterm strategies and funding commitments, and inadequate rural representation oat the federal cabinet table. The report looks at possible changes to the federal machinery of government to strengthen its role in dealing with rural issues. The recent launch of two regional development agencies makes this particularly relevant. If designed well, they will provide an opportunity to engage and embrace rural Canada in federal decision-making. If designed poorly, they will further compartmentalize and complicate federal rural policy and programs.

The economic base is the determining factor in the viability of most rural municipalities. Promoting economic development





and diversification in these communities would make them less dependent on single industries and natural resources and would lessen the strains of a boom-and-bust local economy. The provision of adequate public infrastructure is even more critical for rural, remote and northern economies, which must overcome or compensate for limited accessibility and economies of scale to compete effectively.

For the most part, each order of government has its own visions and strategies for rural development. An effective response to the challenges must integrate the rural development policies and programs of all orders of government. Effort must be made to avoid a one-size-fits-all all solution by recognizing the unique challenges and opportunities that exist in rural, remote and northern communities.

Dealing appropriately with rural issues can generate significant benefits for urban areas. Urban economies continue to rely on rural areas for natural resources, food, ,water, waste management, carbon sequestration and recreation. This report argues that it makes sense to consider new rural initiatives as urban investments as much as rural ones.

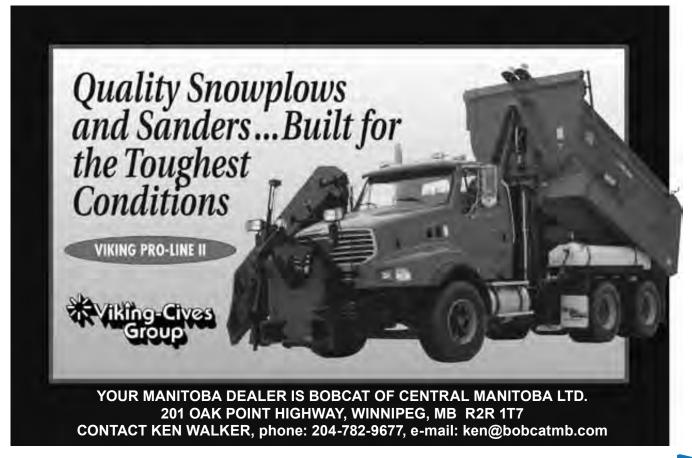
The report sets out the following recommendations for the Government of Canada that will help equip rural Canada to meet its economic, social and environmental challenges.

- Rural Canada needs a champion at the federal cabinet and to integrate and coordinate the actions of various federal departments
- Rural communities need enduring commitments a long-term plan –from the Government of Canada to ensure that rural priorities receive the sustained resources and attention required to tackle problems with deep roots and to implement strategies with long time horizons.
- A one-size-fits-all approach to rural policy-making will not work; solutions must be tailored for a responsive to the diversity of rural Canada.
- The Government of Canada must ensure it provides the appropriate departmental structures, mandates and resources to support an enduring, horizontal, collab-

- orative and well-resourced commitment to building and sustaining rural Canada, now and in the future.
- The vision and strategy for rural sustainability must be developed across departmental silos and in partnership with all three orders of government, industry and community groups.

The global economic meltdown has hit Canada's cities and communities hard. This has highlighted the outdated fiscal, institutional and political framework in which all of Canada's municipal governments operate. It has also created the opportunity for those with vision to rethink the way governments work together in Canada.

If we want the post-recession world to include a stronger and more competitive Canada, it must also include stronger and more competitive communities—rural and urban. When it comes to building a strong national economy and healthy communities, there is no rural-urban divide. There are only Canadian communities, ready to work but needing the tools to compete. It's time to make sure they have those tools.





We're tripping over our history here

"Those who came before you began writing the story of your life," says Todd Burnell, acting economic development officer for the Rural Municipality of De Salaberry. "If you choose to take an interest in that, you will understand your life in greater detail. People's lives are enriched when they understand who wrote the foreword in the novel of their life."

To investigate the foreword in their novel, De Salaberry and the Village of St. Pierre-Jolys took advantage of a Heritage Matters grant, available through the provincial Historic Resources Branch (HRB) and the federal Historic Places Initiative (HPI), to create an inventory of significant heritage sites.

Little research on heritage resources had been done in the southeast quadrant of Manitoba, so HRB and HPI suggested the project to De Salaberry. The municipality's economic development officer, Lesley Gaudry, made a presentation to council. Despite some skepticism, council passed a resolution to proceed after hearing the logistical and financial details and the benefits of the project..

"Besides the built heritage, we wanted to investigate our social heritage too," says Gaudry. "That means meeting places, religious places, prominent families and intangible heritage, such as community spirit and identity. Once the \$5,000 Heritage Matters grant was approved, we hired a research consultant, Lorne Thompson, to carry out the inventory."

Gaudry and Thompson contacted some local people with an interest in history. The community was extremely helpful, enthusiastically sharing their stories. After a month of touring the municipality, Thompson found about 65 potential heritage sites, ranging from wooden silos to churches to houses in various architectural styles. From that, he distilled a short list of 30 representative sites. Although

the area is known as a French community, the inventory uncovered Metis, Hutterite, British and Ukrainian contributions as well. Says Thompson, "I hope the inventory will provide the community with local knowledge of heritage sites which can be used in planning and tourism."

Gaudry is optimistic the inventory will spark enough local interest to result in the formation of a Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee and, subsequently, more sites receiving municipal heritage designation.

"The goal of the project is to bring our history alive using the heritage inventory. It would be great to have our four public schools and Providence College in Otterburne incorporate the findings into their curriculum at some level," she adds. "We want to create heritage walking and driving tours, present the findings at seniors clubs, fairs and festivals, as well as use the results to promote tourism in the municipal region."

Inventories are the first step in developing heritage initiatives. Burnell says, "The inventory gives us an excellent



"Deople's lives are enriched when they understand who wrote the foreword in the novel of theiz life."

baseline to build on. It'll help us package and market the heritage aspects of the area. It's a valuable resource to have."

Gaudry is effusive about the assistance provided through heritage programs: "Besides the Heritage Matters grant, HRB and HPI supported us with administration, heritage guidance such as the Benchmark Worksheet and the human resources systems to carry out the inventory."

To other municipalities considering a heritage inventory, Gaudry offers this advice. "Go for it. People love grants. An inventory provides an excellent framework for future heritage initiatives. Carry it out in a sincere manner, respecting property and privacy, and be sure to pick the brains of the extremely knowledgeable folks at HPI."

Moving north to another historic Manitoba region, Louise Lawrie, Churchill town councillor and vice-chairwoman of the Churchill Ladies Club (CLC), reports, "We are tripping over our history here and we really need to stop and make sure that, locally, we are aware of it so we can share it with visitors."

Since 1947, the Churchill Ladies Club has created and supported numerous community initiatives. According to Lawrie, one of the things the CLC recognizes is "the historic uniqueness of Churchill relative to the opening up of Canada, aboriginal peoples, the Hudson's Bay Company, our incredible geographical location with attractive wildlife. We are one-of-a-kind on the planet."

Churchill's varied and colourful past provides plenty of material with which to work. "Our vision is to create mini outdoor museum areas," says Lawrie. "Where the military base was, we're planning a historical display with text, photographs and perhaps a military aircraft. We have the rocket range; closer to town, there's the railway and its construction with a cairn dedicated to workers who built the rail line. We have the elevators and port and their construc-



Built by the CNR in 1929 and Via Rail's most northerly station, Churchill's railway station is listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places.



Described by Todd Burnell as "our little Eiffel Towers," this is one of three wooden silos that De Salaberry's inventory turned up

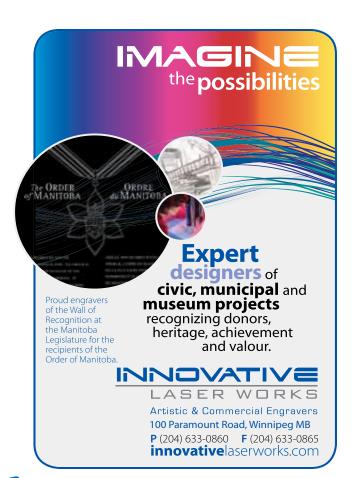
"Inventories are the first step in developing heritage initiatives."

tion. We want to create a driving tour so visitors can get a sense of how life was and is lived here."

Due to the heritage initiatives of the club, Lawrie was thrilled to discover Heritage Matters grants available through HRB and HPI that support the creation of heritage inventories. The CLC received a \$5,000 grant and is planning the next step – a community awareness meeting with the HRB and HPI people to explain the project's purpose and answer questions.

"HRB and HPI have been absolutely wonderful working with us," says Lawrie. "It's Phase One of a large undertaking, documenting the sites in words and pictures, so we appreciate their on-going help. All the information gathered will be included in a heritage binder for easy reference. Already, as a direct result of the inventory, a draft walking tour of the townsite is in the works."

When asked why bother saving your heritage, Lawrie, the granddaughter of one of Churchill's earliest residents, replied,





The Turenne House features a gambrel roof, typical of the style of house built by early French settlers. It was built in 1905.

"It's exciting to know these things. I'm fascinated by the stories like the poems my father wrote on the trap line when he was mushing dogs. It's hard to imagine that kind of life. There is a strength that develops from knowing these things, whether it is knowing your own personal and family background or the backgrounds of your friends and community. You are who you are but you are also where your family came from."

According to the activities in the four Manitoba communities covered in these articles, memory matters because it links us directly with our past and guides us into the future. Memory matters because it creates a shared identity that strengthens and motivates communities, inspires visitors and educates everyone. Memory matters because it is our responsibility to honour both our ancestors and our descendents by preserving our heritage today.

For information on heritage services offered by the Manitoba government, contact Historic Resources Branch Manitoba Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Sport Main Floor, 213 Notre Dame Avenue Winnipeg, MB R3B 1N3 204-945-2981 or 1-800-282-8069 ext. 2981 www.manitoba.ca/heritage ▶

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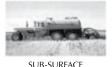
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Child and Youth

FRIENDLY LAND-USE AND Transportation Planning Guidelines

Making our communities safer, healthier and better for children

Submitted by Jackie Avent, Active & Safe Routes to School Program, Resource Conservation Manitoba

Like a canary in the coal mine, children can be considered an indicator species for the health of a city. If there are no children to be seen on the streets, the community is not meeting the needs of its residents.

"If we can build a successful city for children we will have a successful city for all people."

- Enrique Peñalosa, former mayor of Bogotá, Colombia

How is this the case? Youth are particularly affected by transportation's impacts and land-use arrangements that are oriented to the automobile rather than active ways of getting around and public transit. More time spent in cars and less time spent walking or cycling is coinciding with low levels of physical activity and dramatically increasing rates of childhood obesity and related illnesses. Reduced academic performance and compromised emotional and intellectual development are other effects that may be associated with the loss of physical activity due to increased car travel. In addition, children are especially vulnerable to the effects of poor air quality inside vehicles and arising from the overall level of motorized traffic in a community.

The transportation needs of children and youth differ from those of adults, partly because their destinations are different and partly because they travel differently. On school days, for example, the majority of walking and cycling trips are still made by young people. This means facilities for non-motorized modes of transportation are even more important for young people's travel than they are for adults.

The Child and Youth Friendly Land-Use and Transportation Planning Guidelines were developed to help municipal transportation and land-use planners make their communities more child and youth friendly, and in doing so create conditions that are more agreeable for residents of all ages, as well as more sustainable. Initiated by the Centre for Sustainable Transportation in 2005, with the development of guidelines for Ontario called "Kids on the Move," the project is now focussed on creating sets of guidelines for each of Canada's 10 provinces. Led by **Richard Gilbert** and **Catherine O'Brien**, research associates of the Centre, the project has involved consultations in each province, including Manitoba.

Resource Conservation Manitoba (RCM), a non-profit, non-governmental organization in Winnipeg that is focused on promoting sustainable living, will be disseminating the guidelines in our province. RCM delivers the Active & Safe Routes to school Program in Manitoba, and was involved in the develop-

"There is a lot that is possible to reduce motorized road traffic, such as expanding public transit, providing infrastructure for the alternatives, especially for rural youth who may see driving as the only way of getting where they need to go." – Kieran, Show Us Your Moves participant



Students from Balmoral Hall School in Winnipeg enjoy fresh air, exercise and friends as they participate in their school's Walking School Bus. Since less than 10% of their school population lives close enough to walk to school, they arrange for the option of dropping students off at a designated off-site location from where they walk the rest of the way as a group. The 20-minute walk from the drop-off point proves to be an excellent way to start the day. As one grade 2 student commented, "I feel so invigorated!"





Altona youth from WC Miller Collegiate participated in the Show Us Your Moves project. As teacher Laura Thiessen explains, "We discussed how the three main modes of youth transportation (bus, walking, and driving) have different costs and benefits. For example, by the time youth get to high school age, they usually hate riding the bus because of long trips weaving around the countryside as all the other kids get picked up. Lots of kids walk to school and most of them seem to like this as they often walk with friends. In summer, many bike, and in winter some use snowmobiles. Driving is the most popular way to get around, and getting a car is important mostly just because they can have freedom to travel to Winnipeg or other communities. With no public transit, and no bus or van between Altona and the city, students without cars can, at times, feel quite stuck. At the same time, we don't think it's good that so many have cars; in Altona we learn to rely on cars too much."

ment of the guidelines in Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, as well as the youth consultation process in Manitoba.

The guidelines for Manitoba are presently in their second draft form and are undergoing a process of editing and polishing. To the extent possible, each province will have the same set of guidelines. However, each document will differ to reflect provincial circumstances, legislation, language, and practices.

The 21 guidelines are grouped into six categories concerning putting young people first in land-use and transportation planning; providing for them as pedestrians, as cyclists, and as transit users; providing for journeys to and from school; and reducing the impacts of all transportation activity on young people. Several barriers to addressing these concerns are noted, and how they might be overcome. Opportunities for including young people in decision-making are also noted, and other pointers towards application of the guidelines are elaborated.

Factors specific to children and youth in rural communities are discussed, as they are even more likely to be car-dependent, travelling longer distances for most travel including getting to school. Young rural residents are less likely to walk or bike to school than their urban or suburban counterparts. Transit services are generally unavailable in rural areas. Nevertheless, most of the 21 guidelines could be helpful in refashioning rural communities to be more child and youth friendly.

Feedback from children and youth has been inspiring and instrumental in the guidelines development process. Led by the Manitoba Youth Environmental Network, a number of young people took photos of their transportation options, needs and wants in a program called *Show Us Your Moves*, which were shared at two different workshops with other youth from across Manitoba and discussed in the context of the draft guidelines.

Manitoba joins BC and Nova Scotia as the next provinces after Ontario to disseminate the guidelines. Local Manitoba municipalities are encouraged to see how the guidelines fit with their existing policies and practices, and to consider adopting them as part of their municipal planning tools.

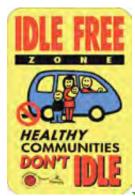
Some examples from the Ontario dissemination of the guidelines include the endorsement of a "Children First Charter" in Greater Sudbury; intentions by the City of Vaughan to include the guidelines and broad consultation with children and youth in developing a new Official Plan; and the initiation of public consultations on the guidelines in Guelph along with increased municipal commitment to the Active & Safe Routes to School Program. The Ontario Professional Planners Institute,

which officially endorsed the guidelines, is educating its members through newsletter articles and webinars, and launched a widespread media campaign to spread the word around that province.

Resource Conservation Manitoba is building on the process of dissemination from Ontario, and offering presentations and workshops for interested parties.

Municipalities in Manitoba and other stakeholders interested in hearing a presentation on the Child and Youth Friendly Land-Use and Transportation Planning Guidelines, and discussing how they could fit with their existing policies and practices are invited to contact Jackie Avent, Active & Safe Routes to School Program Coordinator, Resource Conservation Manitoba, at (204) 925-3773 or asrts@resourceconservation.mb.ca.

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There are 19 in-person Service Canada Centres in Manitoba. In addition, a major component of Service Canada involves outreach to the community and increasing its presence in rural areas.

Scheduled Outreach Services bring government services and information to people living in remote, rural and northern communities that were previously underserved. Service Canada representatives travel to communities on a scheduled or periodic basis to assist where there is a need.

In Manitoba, Service Canada brings its services on the road to 27 rural communities. Scheduled Outreach Services visit communities on a regular part-time basis, for example every second Tuesday of each month.

In addition to the Scheduled Outreach initiative are Mobile Services. Mobile Services bring Service Canada employees to communities on an as-needed basis - for instance, to provide information sessions on specific topics, and/or during local emergencies such as plant closures and floods.

Manitoba also has 11 Service Canada Centres for Youth (SCCYs) that operate during the summer months, from May until August. Service Canada Centres for Youth target young people, mostly secondary and post-secondary students. The primary mandate of an SCCY is to assist students in their search for summer employment by connecting them with local employers and helping them prepare their résumés. Two of the SCCYs located in Winnipeg and Brandon are open year-round to provide services to students and youth.





"May I help you?" Lise Pescitelli is one of the Citizen Services Officers that visit Beausejour, Manitoba.

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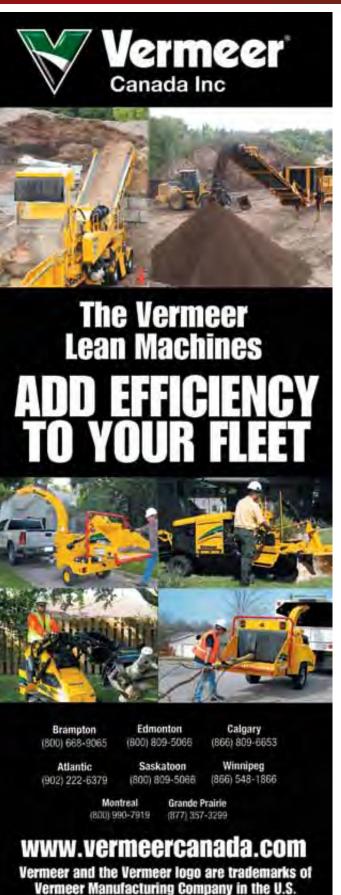
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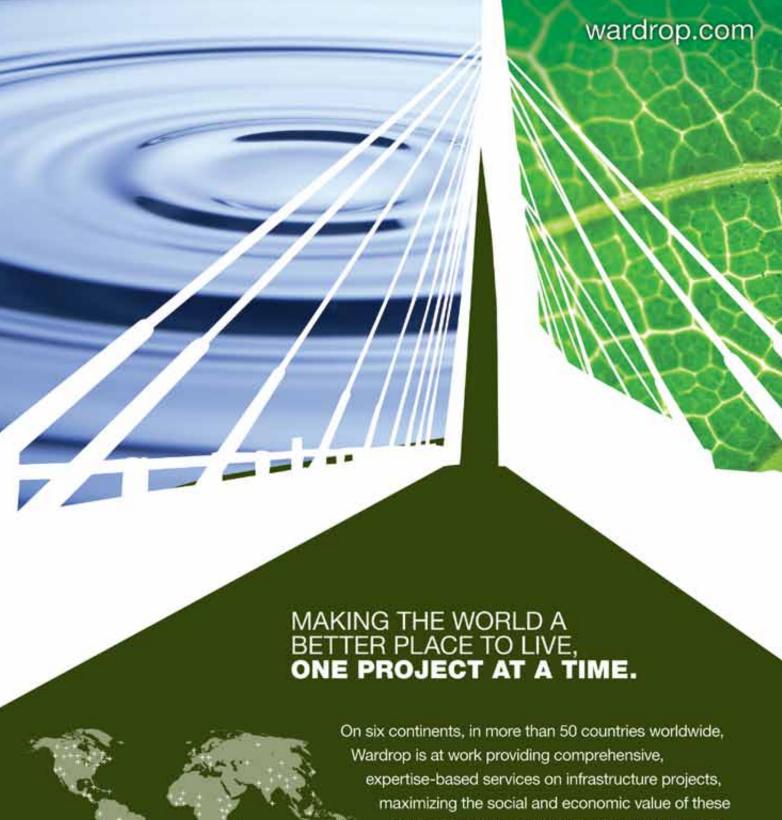
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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Dr. David Foot

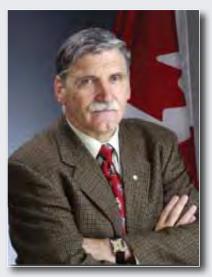
DR. DAVID FOOT WORLD-RENOWNED DEMOGRAPHICS EXPERT

Dr. David Foot is an outspoken and controversial demographics expert who can bring to life demographic statistics and make the aging of society relevant to any group. He explores how changing demographics, especially the aging of the massive boomer generation, and the entry of their children - the echo generation, into the market and workplace, will redefine society's needs.

Co-author of the best-selling books Boom, Bust & Echo: How to Profit from the Coming Demographic Shift and Boom, Bust & Echo: Profiting from the Demographic Shift in the 21st Century, Dr. Foot contends that

demographics explains two-thirds of everything - whether the subject is business planning, marketing, human resources, career planning, corporate organization, the stock market, housing, education, health, recreation, leisure, or social and global trends. With an understanding of demographics, a business, an individual or a government has a strong foundation upon which to build an understanding of the past and a vision for the future.

Dr. Foot will speak to the AMM Convention delegates on Monday, November 23. Don't miss this fascinating session!



The Honourable Roméo Dallaire

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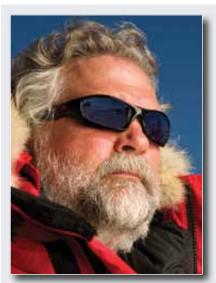
The AMM is honoured and thrilled to bring Lieutenant General, The Honourable Roméo Dallaire, Retired, Senator, to the 11th Annual Convention. Senator Dallaire is a true hero, an outspoken leader for the 21st century and has a spellbinding and unbelievable experience to share.

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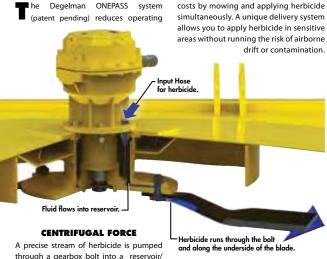




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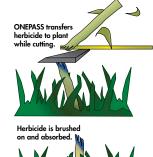






A precise stream of herbicide is pumped through a gearbox bolt into a reservoir/ blade carrier assembly. Chemical is centrifugally directed through a pre-drilled blade bolt head that coats the bottom of a standard blade as it spins. Practical and durable.





APPLICATION

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Showing cut and herbicide application.

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One month after mowing and herbicide treatmen

RESULTS

The plant absorbs the herbicide down into the vascular system before scabbing over. The plant dies and will not re-sprout.



Cut with Degelman ONEPASS system.



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CONVENTION AGENDA

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2009

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Manitoba Room

Convention Registration

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Manitoba Room

AMM Display Area

Lunch Break

1:00 pm

Annual Business Meeting

1:30 pm

* * Invited Guest Speaker

2:00 pm

Keynote Speaker - Dr. David Foot

3:15 pm

PLENARY - TBA

4:30 pm

End of Day Announcements

7:30 pm - 12:00 am

Optimist Arena

Icebreaker Reception

Featuring 'The Heartbreakers'

* Subject to change

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2009

9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Manitoba Room

AMM Display Area

9:00 am

Opening Ceremonies

9:45 am

Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Manitoba Room

Convention Registration

10:15 am

Nominations for AMM President Open

10.25 am

Keynote Speaker - Lt. General, the Honourable Roméo Dallaire (Retired), Senator

11:45 am

Lunch Break

1:00 pm

PLENARY - TBA

1:45 pm

Refreshment Break

2:15 pm

PLENARY - TBA

3:15 pm

Nominations for AMM President Close & Candidate Speeches

3:30 pm

Resolutions Session-1

5:15 pm

End of Day Announcements

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2009

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Main Street Hallway Convention Registration

9:00 am

Keynote Speaker - Dr. David Barber

10:00 am

Leader of the Official Opposition - Hugh McFadyen, MLA Fort Whyte

10:15 am

Leader of the Liberal Party of MB - Dr. Jon Gerrard, MLA River Heights

10:30 am

Resolutions Session-2

11:45 am

Elections for AMM President Nominations for AMM Vice-Presidents Open

12:00 pm

Lunch Break

1:00 pm

AMM Presidential Election Results

Nominations for AMM Vice-Presidents Close & Candidate Speeches

1:05 pm

** Invited Guest Speaker

1:30 pm

Resolutions Session-3

2:15 pm

Elections for AMM Vice-Presidents

2:30 pm

Resolutions Session-Final AMM Vice-Presidential Election Results End of Day Announcements

6:00 pm

Manitoba Room

Doors open to AMM Gala Evening

7:00 pm

Manitoba Room AMM Gala Evening

* Subject to change

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2009

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Main Street Hallway Convention Registration

9:00 am

Garth Manness, President & CEO, Credit Union Central of Manitoba

10:00 am

Ministerial Forum

12:00 am

Grand Prize Draw & Adjournment



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PLENARY SESSIONS



Creating the Ideal community – four perspectives MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23 - AFTERNOON

Every community is made up of many different types of people, each with specific needs to make their community ideal for them. The goal of this plenary session is to answer the question – what does an ideal community look like? Four groups that are in every community – seniors, youth, immigrants and people with disabilities – will share their points of view.

A representative from each group will present their thoughts to the delegate body. We've asked each to include at least five principles an ideal community should have from his or her point of view, including an explanation of why this principle is important to the group.

The goal of this session is to provide municipal officials with a broader understanding of the needs of each of these groups in the community. After hearing from each presenter, we will present a recap and analysis of all of the principles suggested. Hopefully, this recap will provide a short list of things AMM delegates can take back to their community. The session will include ample opportunity for the audience to ask the groups questions and seek further information on certain principles.

This session aims to stimulate ideas, provide better understanding, and promote the idea of a healthy, inclusive community—something each and every one of us strives for. Join us!





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Update from Province on Bill 35

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs will be at the AMM Annual Convention on Tuesday to update elected officials and CAOs on Bill 35: The Municipal Conflict of Interest and Campaign Financing Act. Bill 35 contains changes to election rules for municipal officials as well as changes to conflict of interest rules.

Garth Manness, CEO, Credit Union Central of Manitoba

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26 - MORNING

Credit Union Central of Manitoba is the trade association and primary service provider for the province's 45 credit unions. Chief Executive Officer Garth Manness will discuss some issues in the financial services industry and the economy that have the potential to impact communities and municipalities, as well as the role credit unions and co-operatives play in Manitoba's success.



NOTE: THIS IS JUST A PREVIEW OF OUR PLENARY SESSIONS AS SOME ARE STILL IN THE PLANNING STAGE.

Manitoba Good Roads Association

The executive was elected at the Annual General Meeting on April 14, 2009. Jacques Trudeau, RM of Tache was elected President and Marlene Cook, City of Selkirk was elected Vice President. Lawrence Morris, RM of East St. Paul is Past President. The Urban Directors are Greg Mandzuk, Town of Winnipeg Beach and Bob Koop, RM of Tache. The Rural Directors are Bob Bruneau, RM of Lac du Bonnet, Bob Thiessen, RM of St. Francois Xavier, Kurtiss Krasnesky, RM of St. Andrews and Jerry Drobot, RM of St. Clements. The Chairman of the Judges Committee is Rob Cox from Manitoba Hydro and the Corporate Representative is Bob Omeniuk from Canada Culvert. The Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation representative is Prokopis Papadimitropoulos in Portage la Prairie.

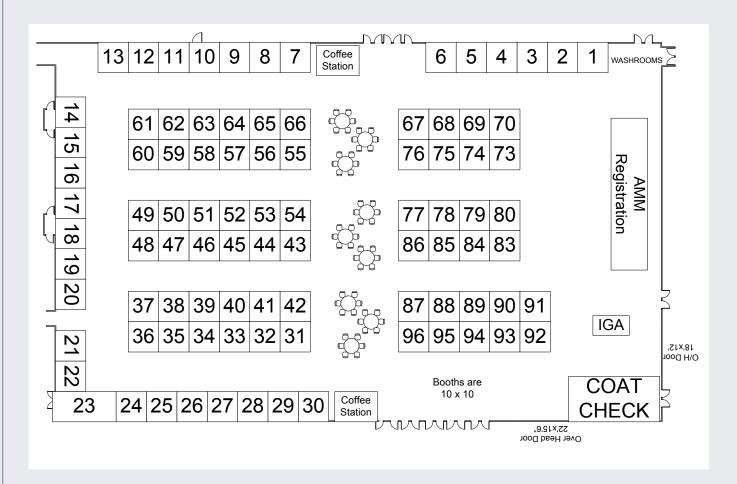
The two day Gravel Road Design and Maintenance course is NOT being offered this year but will be continued next year! A half day seminar on Asphalt Patching and Crack Sealing was offered October 1, 2009 in the RM of St. Andrews. MGRA members receive a substantial discount to all courses and if your municipality would like more information on becoming a member please feel free to contact Terra.

The judging is complete for another year! I would like to thank all municipalities who submitted entries and hope to see you at the AGM and the Annual Banquet and Awards Presentation on April 13, 2010 at the Royal Oak in Brandon! This will mark MGRA's 100th Annual Awards Banquet so we hope a representative from each member municipality is able to attend this memorable event!

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	Prairie Fuel Advisor's
8	EMCO/Sandale
9	Ducks Unlimited Canada
10	Modular Housing Association
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11	Grandeur Housing Ltd.
12	Grandeur Housing Ltd.
13	ATLIS Geomatics
14	Shippam & Associates
15	Red River Basin Commission
16	Municipal Information Network
17	Bird Studies Canada
18	Clarion Hotel / Radison Hecla
	Resort
19	Archangel Fireworks
20	Tiger Calcium Services Inc.
21	Alfa Products Inc.
22	
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27	Western Road Management
28	Forsyth Plastics
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32	EMB Mfg Inc.
33	Park-Line Solutions Ltd.
34	Direct Traffic Ltd.
35	PAT Inc.
36	Lewis Instruments
37	Neptune Northern Inc.
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40	Workplace Education Manitoba
41	Workplace Education Manitoba
42	Hotsy Central
43	Traffic Safety Education &
	Come Island CMD

44	Resource Conservation Manitoba
45	Fort Distributors
46	Fort Distributors
47	
48	Scatliff & Miller & Murray
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52	Deer Country Equipment
53	Deer Country Equipment
54	Schulte Industries
55	Guardian Traffic Services MB
56	CVC Mobile
57	Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives
58	
59	Manitoba Communities in Bloom
60	Wolseley Waterworks Group
61	Dust Free Road Maintenance
62	Materials Distributions Agency
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76	HED Insurance
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79	Ackland's Grainger Inc.
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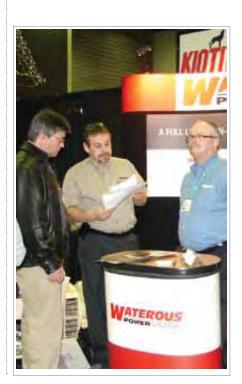
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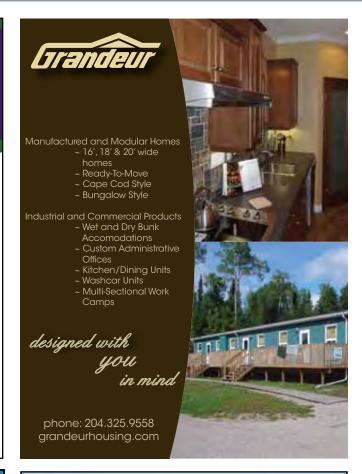
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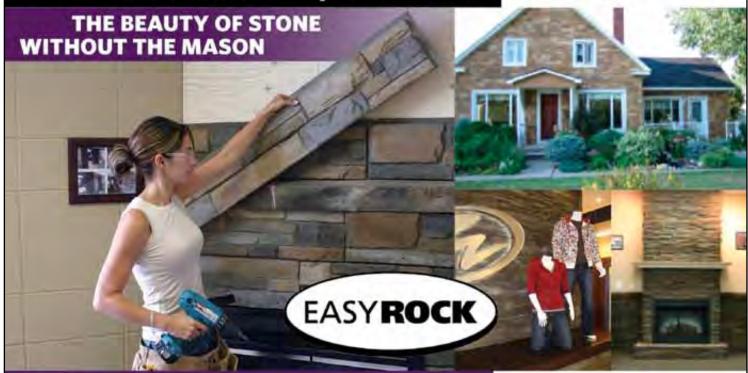
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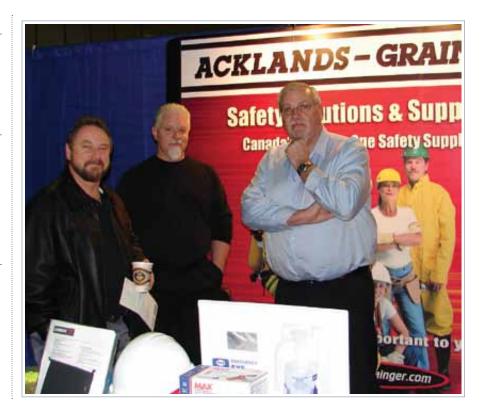
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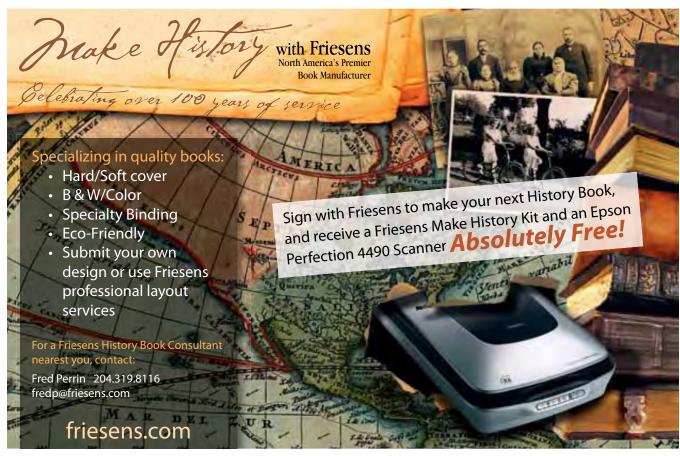
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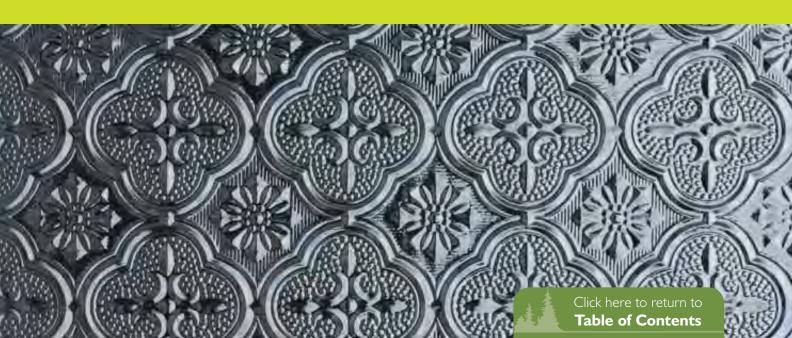
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Additional information is available on the AMM website at www.amm.mb.ca or you may contact Tyler MacAfee, Director of Policy & Communications at tmacafee@amm.mb.ca or 1-204-856-2362.

THE APPLICATION DEADLINE: 4:30 PM ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2010.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2009 FINALISTS!

- RM of Langford's Municipal Strategic Plan
- Town of Carman and RM of Dufferin's Commercial and Industrial Development Agreement
- RM of Alexander's Regional Library
- Town of Gladstone's Age-Friendly Community
- Town of Carberry's Main Street Heritage Conservation District Project (winner)
- Town of Altona and Town of Plum Coulee's Regional Police Services
 Agreement (winner)

PREVIOUS WINNERS:

2008	Town of Carman and RM of Dufferin
2007	Municipality of Killarney-Turtle Mountain
2006	PM of Victoria

2005 City of Portage la Prairie and RM of Portage la Prairie



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PUBLIC LIBRARIES

-a resource for Manitobans Submitted by Manitoba Libraries Branch Municipal Leader | Fall 2009

Municipalities are constantly juggling priorities and budgets to provide the best services to the most people. The list of demands in municipalities is often challenging and includes topics as varied as:

- · education
- business development
- immigration
- maintaining/increasing population numbers
- infrastructure

Partnering with the province's public library system can provide affordable resources to help your council, community groups, local organizations and agencies better manage policies and projects in these areas. The provincial public library system provides books, newspapers, videos, magazines, DVDs and CDs in a variety of languages and formats. It also provides programs for all ages, provincial and national book sharing, high-speed Internet, residential access to e-books, audio books and training through how-to manuals.

ESTABLISHING LIBRARY SERVICES

By joining an existing library service in a region, municipalities provide opportunities for lifelong learning, literacy partnerships, support for the local school system, recreation, business development, immigration groups and more. Libraries are about sustainable community development.

In order to formally establish public library service, municipalities pass bylaws, sign agreements, and appoint council and citizen representatives to the regional library board. Following provincial approval of the municipal documents, libraries become eligible for provincial establishment, operating and technology grants to complement funding provided through municipalities.

"Partnering with the province's public library system can provide affordable resources to help your council, community groups, local organizations and agencies better manage policies and projects."

RECIPROCAL BORROWING AGREEMENTS

In addition to directly establishing library services, municipalities can offer enhanced services to their citizens by entering into reciprocal agreements with existing systems. Regional library systems can add value to the service by providing remote communities (or wards) with access to neighbouring public libraries through reciprocal borrowing agreements.

These agreements are signed between local public library boards across the province. They allow their members free, in-person access to neighbouring public library systems, greatly expanding their information options and enhancing the value of the library's resources.

Some reciprocal borrowing agreements include the exchange of financial resources between library systems. For example, Flin Flon and The Pas' agreement states that The Pas Regional Library shares the municipal and provincial library funds they receive from the RM of Kelsey with the Flin Flon Public Library. Minnedosa and Rapid City libraries have had a reciprocal borrowing agreement since 1974. In exchange for free, in-person access for members, the two libraries share their new and unique materials to expand the service they provide their users.

Disparities in municipal funding can affect access to library services. Open negotiations between library boards and municipalities can usually result in mutually beneficial solutions.

For more information about setting up or expanding your local library services, contact:

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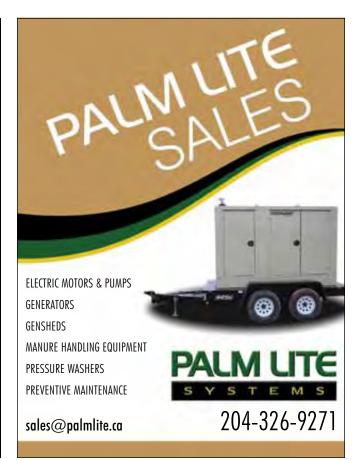
Our Manitoba Rural Traffic Control Handbook along with our Workshops and Seminars on Traffic Control and Temporary Traffic Control in Work Zones provides guidance to properly install traffic devices and signs. Traffic Safety Audits ensure your signs meet current standards and are an cessential asset to public safety as much as well maintained roads.

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Manitoba's Bilingual municipalities:

A new era of regionalization begins

By Jean Beaumont, Executive Director of the AMBM

Jean Beaumont has been the executive director of Association des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba (AMBM) for the past seven years. In addition to his duties as director, he is also actively involved in the community that he serves as a member of several committees for community-based organizations. He currently represents AMBM on the board of directors of AMM. He also participated in the creation of several organizations that contribute to the economic growth of Manitoba, including Conseil provincial de santé, Agence nationale et internationale du Manitoba (ANIM) as well as Voyageur Communications Co-op Ltd., to name just a few. He has recently authored this article, which presents a new flagship project of the AMBM that will mark a turning point in the developmental framework of Manitoba's bilingual municipalities.

Striving to unite our efforts in matters of community, social and economic development ... overcoming regional disparities in a significant way ... using public resources more efficiently to obtain better results.

This is the new philosophy at the heart of the new pilot project being spearheaded by the Association des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba (AMBM). The following article describes the beginning of a new era of development in Manitoba's bilingual municipalities.

"In 2007, our strategic plan clearly indicated that it would be in our municipalities' best interests to adopt a regional vision for their development in order to better perform," says **Marc Marion**, President of the AMBM's board of directors.

At that time, the need for a more consensus-based regional development that integrated several sectors of activity (including the economy, tourism, youth, rural areas, culture and skill development)

was increasingly being felt in the bilingual communities. Municipal authorities were seeking more support for the implementation of regional initiatives that would have a greater impact on all the municipalities. In moving toward a more global vision of development, the AMBM and its members also wanted to provide the community development corporations (CDCs) with more skilled human resources to ensure successful project completion while working closely with the Economic Development Council for Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities (CDEM). The goal was to attract and retain new businesses, tourists and residents by highlighting various regional assets.

The foregoing was a major turning point in the developmental framework of Manitoba's bilingual municipalities and it was deemed important to adopt a step-by-step approach. To this end, the AMBM secured funding totaling nearly half a million dollars from both the federal and provincial governments to launch the pilot project *Regionalization of Development* in nine municipalities located in southeastern Manitoba, including Powerview/Pine Falls, the newest member municipality of the AMBM.





"This is a win-win project. We had access to a whole new range of services in addition to offering our marketing services at the regional level."

- Réal Curé, Mayor of St.Pierre-Jolys



Oliver Boulette, MMF Executive Director and Jean Desrosiers, Chair of MMF Agriculture committee, with Louis Tétrault, AMBM Regionalization Project Coordinator



Réal Curé, Mayor of St. Pierre-Jolys



Diane Bazin, municipal elected official for the Village of Notre-Damede-Lourdes

Coordinated by Louis Tétrault at the AMBM, the pilot project quickly garnered the support of several partners, including the Regional Employment Centre, the Eastman Regional Development Corporation, the Eastman Tourism Association (EMTA), the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) and the Société franco-manitobaine's Réseau communautaire. The Economic Development Council for Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities (CDEM), which has acted as a driving force of economic development in Manitoba's bilingual municipalities since 1996, also became involved in the project through its support via secondments, work space and other material resources. Above all, however, the various partners helped to solve the problem of hiring qualified individuals for local positions that offered only part-time work. The involvement of several stakeholders in the project led to the creation of quality, full-time jobs which in turn allowed the project to be deployed over a larger territory. After one year, each dollar invested in the project by the government generated additional investment of \$5.19 from the various partners.

Partnerships – the key to success

For example, the Manitoba Metis Federation along with Competitiveness Training and Trade department ensured the essential funding for the implementation of tourism projects. In doing so, the partners contributed to the creation of **Camille Fisette-Mulaire**'s position, who acts as project coordinator for the South-East region. Her office is located at the Maison-Chapelle in St. Malo. Thanks to the vision of regionalization supported by the AMBM, Mrs. **Fisette-Mulaire** also coordinates tourism initiatives across the entire southeast region of Manitoba.

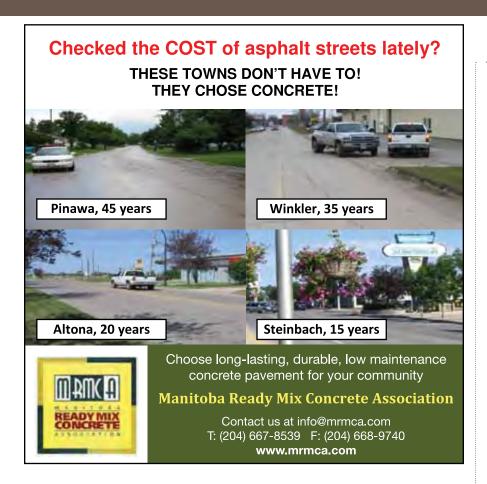
"The Regionalization project is the ideal vehicle for us to promote and integrate Métis culture in all areas of community life. We will endeavour to accomplish this as part of an ongoing partnership with the AMBM", affirms **Jean Desrosiers**, vice-president of the Manitoba Metis Federation.

As part of the project, the AMBM also encourages the sharing of skills across the region. For example, in St. Pierre-Jolys, the

local development officer is a marketing expert who makes her services available to other CDCs. The sharing of such a skilled and informed resource when it comes to the issues that involve a larger territory can lead to multiple joint ventures and create a new dynamic across an entire region.

Says **Réal Curé**, Mayor of St. Pierre-Jolys, "This is a win-win project. We had access to a whole new range of services in addition to offering our marketing services at the regional level."

The creation of a partnership between the SFM's *Réseau communautaire* and the DSFM led to the creation of an adult learning centre in St. Pierre-Jolys as well as the hiring of a regional youth officer. According to Louis Tétrault, "The strength of the project comes from the fact that it is focused on real needs and local priorities while taking into account results in the short, medium and long terms. Above all else, the goal of the project is to make sure that the population has access to infrastructures and community services."







"The strength of the project comes from the fact that it is focused on real needs and local priorities while taking into account results in the short, medium and long terms."

Taking the next step

One year later, it is clear that a structure based on regional development should be implemented in all the province's bilingual municipalities. During the next year, the AMBM plans to develop a new structure of regional action in the organization's 17-member municipalities, consolidate existing partnerships, establish new long-term relationships as well as secure funding for the realization of collaborative projects which are the outcome of a regional vision of economic and community-based development.

"I look forward to the arrival of the Regionalization project in the Mountain region. The project is in accordance with our vision for the future of our town," says Diane Bazin, elected municipal official for Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes.

The AMBM also has plans to hold a provincial forum of the bilingual municipalities on the theme of regional development. Within the next two years, the bilingual municipalities, the AMBM and the CDEM would also like to create a federation of the CDCs to increase the impact of the project and arrive at a completely new developmental structure.

"To guarantee the prosperity of Manitoba with the help of its bilingual municipalities, short term solutions to the many challenges we face will not suffice. We must look beyond that and build a dynamic economic and community-based structure that offers possibilities to future generations," concludes Marc Marion.

Les municipalités bilingues du Manitoba à l'ére de la régionalisation

Par Jean Beaumont, Directeur général de l'AMBM

Jean Beaumont oeuvre depuis plus de sept ans en tant que directeur général de l'Association des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba. En parallèle avec sa fonction de directeur, M. Beaumont est très engagé dans la collectivité. Il participe notamment à de nombreux comités à vocation communautaire. Il représente notamment l'AMBM au sein du conseil d'administration de l'AMM. Il a aussi participé activement à la création de plusieurs organisations contribuant au développement du Manitoba, dont le Conseil provincial de santé, l'Agence nationale et internationale du Manitoba et la Coopérative Voyageur Communications, pour ne nommer que celles-ci. Récemment, il a accepté de signer le présent article présentant un projet phare de l'AMBM qui marquera un tournant dans la façon de développer les municipalités bilingues du Manitoba.

Unir nos efforts de développement communautaire, social et économique. Réduire les disparités régionales de façon significative. Utiliser les ressources publiques de façon plus efficace avec de meilleurs résultats. Voilà la philosophie à la base du nouveau projet pilote mené par l'Association des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba (AMBM). Récit des débuts d'une nouvelle ère de développement chez les municipalités bilingues du Manitoba.

« En 2007, notre planification stratégique démontrait clairement que nos municipalités avaient intérêt à adopter une vision régionale de leur développement pour mieux performer », indique Marc Marion, président du conseil d'administration de l'AMBM.

À ce moment, le besoin d'un développement régional concerté intégrant les dimensions de l'économie, du tourisme, de la jeunesse, du rural, de la culture et du développement des compétences se

faisait de plus en plus sentir au sein des collectivités bilingues. Les autorités municipales visaient à obtenir un appui plus intense pour la mise en place d'initiatives régionales ayant un effet de rayonnement sur un ensemble de municipalités. Par l'adoption d'une vision de développement plus élargie, l'AMBM et ses membres souhaitent aussi pourvoir les corporations de développement communautaire (CDC) des meilleures ressources humaines pour mener à bien ces projets et oeuvrer en étroite collaboration avec le Conseil de développement économique des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba (CDEM). Les retombées globales attendues : attirer et retenir des entreprises, des touristes et des résidents par la valorisation des atouts régionaux.

Il s'agissait là d'un revirement important dans la structure de développement des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba et il était opportun de procéder par étapes. Pour ce faire, l'AMBM a réuni un financement de près d'un demi-million de dollars provenant des gouvernements fédéral et provincial pour le lancement du projet pilote *Régionalisation des efforts de*

« C'est un projet où tout le monde est gagnant. Nous avons eu accès à une nouvelle gamme de services professionnels en plus d'offrir à une échelle régionale notre expertise en marketing »

- Réal Curé, maire de Saint-Pierre-Jolys



Oliver Boulette, Directeur exécutif de la MMF et Jean Desrosiers, président du comité sur l'agriculture de la MMF avec Louis Tétrault, coordonnateur du projet Régionalisation de l'AMBM



Réal Curé, maire de Saint-Pierre-Jolys



Diane Bazin, élue municipale au Village de Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes

développement chez neuf municipalités du sud-est du Manitoba, y inclus Powerview/ Pine Falls, la plus récente municipalité bilingue à avoir joint l'AMBM.

Coordonné par M. Louis Tétrault de l'AMBM, ce projet pilote a rapidement bénéficié de l'appui appréciable de nombreux partenaires, dont le Centre d'emploi régional, Eastman Regional Development Corporation, Eastman Tourism Association (EMTA), Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) et le Réseau communautaire de la Société franco-manitobaine. Sans oublier le CDEM, moteur du développement économique dans les municipalités bilingues du Manitoba depuis 1996. Cet appui revêtait principalement la forme de prêts de services, de locaux et d'autres ressources matérielles. Mais par-dessus tout, ces partenaires venaient aider à régler la difficulté d'embaucher des personnes qualifiées pour des postes locaux offrant du travail à temps partiel seulement. Avec la réunion de plusieurs partenaires autour du projet, on a permis de créer des emplois de qualité à temps complet pour œuvrer sur un territoire plus vaste. Après un an, chaque dollar investi par le gouvernement dans le projet a généré un investissement supplémentaire de 5,19\$ par les divers partenaires.

Les partenariats : clé de la réussite

Par exemple, le partenariat conclu avec la Manitoba Metis Federation et le Ministère de la Compétitivité, de la Formation professionnelle et du Commerce du Manitoba a permis le lancement de projets touristiques. Ce faisant, les partenaires contribuent à financer le poste de Camille Fisette-Mulaire qui agit en tant que coordonnatrice de projets pour toute la région du sud-est et qui a pignon sur rue à la Maison-Chapelle de Saint-Malo. Grâce à cette vision de régionalisation soutenue par l'AMBM, Madame Fisette-Mulaire coordonne par le fait même les initiatives touristiques sur tout le territoire du sudest du Manitoba.

« Le projet Régionalisation est pour nous un moyen parfait de promouvoir et faire rayonner la culture métisse dans tous les secteurs de la vie communautaire. Nous espérons continuer ce partenariat à long terme avec l'AMBM », soutient Jean Desrosiers, vice-président de la Manitoba Metis Federation.

À l'intérieur du projet, l'AMBM encourage aussi le partage des compétences sur le territoire. Par exemple, à Saint-Pierre-Jolys, l'agente de développement local s'avère

une spécialiste en marketing et celle-ci se rend aussi disponible aux autres corporations de développement communautaire (CDC). Le partage d'une telle ressource compétente et informée sur les enjeux d'un plus grand territoire peut engendrer de multiples projets communs, dynamisant ainsi tout une région.

« C'est un projet où tout le monde est gagnant. Nous avons eu accès à une nouvelle gamme de services professionnels en plus d'offrir à une échelle régionale notre expertise en marketing », confirme Réal Curé, maire de Saint-Pierre-Jolys.

L'établissement d'une collaboration avec le Réseau communautaire de la SFM et la Division scolaire franco-manitobaine a aussi permis le développement d'un centre d'apprentissage pour adultes à Saint-Pierre-Jolys, ainsi que l'embauche d'un agent jeunesse régional. De l'avis de Louis Tétrault, « la force de ce projet réside dans le fait qu'il est focalisé sur des besoins concrets et des priorités locales, tout en valorisant des résultats à court, moyen et long terme. Le projet vise avant tout à assurer à la population des infrastructures et services communautaires. »

« la force de ce projet réside dans le fait qu'il est focalisé sur des besoins concrets et des priorités locales, tout en valorisant des résultats à court, moyen et long terme. »

Un pas plus loin

Force est de constater aujourd'hui qu'une structure axée sur le développement régional mérite d'être rendue accessible à l'ensemble des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba. Au cours de la prochaine année, l'AMBM prévoit ainsi développer une nouvelle structure d'action régionale au sein des 17 membres de l'AMBM, consolider les partenariats existants et bâtir de nouvelles collaborations à long terme, ainsi que faire des représentations visant l'obtention de financement pour la réalisation de projets collectifs découlant d'une vision régionale de développement économique et communautaire.

De l'avis de Diane Bazin, élue au Village de Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes, le projet sera aussi valable pour la population de son territoire. « J'ai hâte d'accueillir le projet *Régionalisation* dans la région de la Montagne! Le projet concorde avec notre vision d'avenir du village. »

La tenue d'un forum provincial des municipalités bilingues sur la thématique du développement régional fait également partie des plans de l'AMBM. D'ici deux ans, les municipalités bilingues, l'AMBM et le CDEM souhaitent aussi créer une fédération des CDC dans le but d'approfondir les impacts du projet et se doter d'une structure de développement entièrement renouvelée.

« Pour assurer la prospérité du Manitoba à travers ses municipalités bilingues, il ne suffit pas d'apporter des solutions à court terme aux défis qui se présentent. Il faut voir plus loin et bâtir une structure économique et communautaire dynamique, offrant des perspectives aux futures générations. », conclut Marc Marion.



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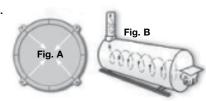
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Insurance



Facility RENTAL LIABILITY

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

Municipalities that rent their facilities to outside users are exposed to potential risks associated with the actions and/or operations of the outside users mainly because the municipality/facility operator has limited control over what the outside user does in the facility during the rental period.

Firstly, damages could occur to the facility and/or the equipment resulting from the actions of the outside user or their guests. Municipal facilities that do not use a formal rental agreement with a damage responsibility clause find it difficult to get the outside user to pay for the damages.

Secondly, liability for an accident/injury resulting from the outside user's activity would first fall on the outside user but would also draw the municipality into the claim should the outside user fail to have adequate insurance or assets to cover the claim.

As a Risk Management measure to reduce the municipality's and the facility operator's exposures and to transfer the risk to the user (where it belongs) HED recommends that municipalities use a formal rental agreement and require confirmation of liability insurance from outside users.

A formal rental permit form allows the municipality to state the terms and conditions for the use of the facility. Completion of this form by the user group also provides the mechanism to formally make the user group responsible for damages arising out of the use of the property by them.

Without a formal agreement there may be little recourse to recover for damages that occur at an outside user event. It also provides the means to make liability insurance available to the user, if they don't already have their own coverage. Following recent incidents at Manitoba community halls where patrons were injured at the events, it was discovered that some rental agreements did not contain hold harmless clauses or requirements for renter's proof of insurance. Often renters do not have liability coverage for the event and should they be found liable for an incident, the facility's liability coverage may be called upon to respond.

All groups that are not directly controlled by the municipality or named on their policy and are using municipal property or equipment should be required to complete a "Permit for Use of Municipal Facilities" form.

If the outside user does not carry adequate liability insurance, coverage can be provided quickly and easily by adding the appropriate premium on the rate sheet for the specific event. This is simply added to the rental fees and a copy forwarded to the Municipal office and HED Insurance.

Copies of the Outside User Policy, application / rental permit form and the guidelines are posted on the AMM Extranet site at http://www.hedinc.com/amm/ pdf/OutsideUserPolicy.pdf

The following are several questions from community hall / arena committees regarding the Outside User Policy:

WHY DO WE NEED A FORMAL RENTAL AGREEMENT WITH A DAMAGE CLAUSE WHEN WE KNOW THE PEOPLE RENTING THE HALL?

The primary focus of the rental agreement is to make the outside user group responsible for damages to the facility and/or equipment by the implementation of a formal rental permit where the renter agrees to pay for any damages. This form also allows for a full description of the

period of use and itemizes any other terms of the rental including the rental charge, use of equipment, services to be provided and caretaking costs. It should also be kept in mind that even if the facility is insured under the municipal property/fire insurance program, there is a deductible of under the program that the facility would be responsible for.

WHY DO OUR RENTERS NEED LIABILITY INSURANCE WHEN THE MUNICIPALITY HAS INSURANCE?

Confirmation of liability insurance coverage is a Risk Management tool to ensure that the responsibility for event liability for injury or damage is covered by the renter (where responsibility belongs) rather than the municipality/facility assuming the responsibility for the renter. In the event of liability claims related to the event,





the renter could be held personally responsible for the damages. If they do not have adequate liability insurance (or assets to cover the loss) the hall's insurance would likely end up paying for the remainder of the damages, even though the municipality/facility may not be directly responsible. Confirming liability coverage would also protect the renter from having to personally pay for damages.

WOULD THE MUNICIPALITY'S LIABILITY INSURANCE COVER THE OUTSIDE USER FOR AN ACCIDENT RESULTING FROM THE OUTSIDE USER'S EVENT?

No, if the outside user is not part of the municipal operations named on their policy, the outside user would not be covered by the municipality's liability insurance policy. If the outside user does not have their own liability insurance the

principals or organizers of the group could be held personally responsible for damages. Buying liability insurance for the event or activity is an inexpensive and easy way to protect both the individual organizer's and the municipality's assets.

DO WE HAVE TO REQUIRE RENTERS TO PROVIDE LIABILITY INSURANCE?

Some community hall committees are afraid that if they require the renters to buy insurance they will not rent the hall. While there may be a few renters that will decline to rent a hall because of the requirements, there are more that will be appreciative to have the insurance coverage made available to them that will protect them and their assets should someone get injured at their event and they are found liable.

HOW MUCH LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE SHOULD OUTSIDE USERS CARRY?

We highly recommend that all user groups have a Commercial General Liability insurance policy in the minimum amount of \$2,000,000. If the user group does not already have liability insurance coverage of their own, it can be applied for quickly and easily by checking the premium on the sheet attached to the rental form and adding the premium to the rental cost.

DO WE HAVE TO CHARGE EVERY FACILITY RENTER FOR LIABILITY INSURANCE?

No, not every group or person renting a public facility needs to purchase additional liability insurance for all events. Many groups and individuals already have their own liability insurance. They simply have to confirm that by checking off the box "Applicant has and will provide confirmation of liability insurance."

WHAT GROUPS ARE LIKELY TO HAVE LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE?

- A) Most organized groups and associations (Scouts, Guides, Lions, and Kiwanis etc) already have their own liability insurance that would cover them for the rental of a facility for one of their activities.
- B) Most organized sports associations have their own liability insurance to cover them for sanctioned events in facilities that they rent. This would not apply to Ad Hoc adult recreation sports groups like the Tuesday night men's hockey league or for a fund raising social event.

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- These ad hoc groups should apply for liability coverage for their group. Coverage is available for the season.
- C) Community groups that fall under municipal operations <u>and</u> are named on the municipality's liability insurance policy are insured under the municipality's policy.

WOULD MY HOMEOWNER'S INSURANCE POLICY COVER ME FOR RENTING A HALL FOR MY CHILD'S WEDDING?

Your homeowner's personal liability insurance <u>may</u> cover the homeowner for facilities rented for weddings, anniversaries, family gatherings and other personal events. Many policies will not cover such events, especially where liquor is served. Confirmation that your policy would extend to cover your event should be obtained in writing from your insurance broker and a copy provided to the facility operator.

Your homeowner's policy would not extend to cover a group you are a member of, for their activity even if you personally rented the hall.

The primary objective of the Outside User Policy is the use of a formal rental agreement that includes a responsibility for damages clause and a hold harmless / indemnity clause where the renter agrees to pay for any damages and to indemnify the Municipality for all claims for damages arising from their use of the facility.

IF THE USER DECLINES
THE LIABILITY INSURANCE
OFFERED, THEY MUST AGREE
TO OBTAIN OR PROVIDE
THEIR OWN INSURANCE FOR
THE EVENT AND PROVIDE
PROOF OF INSURANCE BEFORE
THE DAY OF THE EVENT.

MEASURES TO PREVENT LOSSES:

- Require renters to provide proof of liability insurance or purchase insurance to cover the rental event. Coverage is available through HED by simply faxing in the request.
- 2. Include a hold harmless clause in your rental permit.
- Include a Damage Responsibility agreement in your rental permit to ensure that renter accepts the responsibility to fix or pay for any damages incurred during the rental event.
- Require all bartenders working the event have a current "It's Good Business" certificate issued by the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission.

- 5. Require security guards to be employed at all events where liquor is served (i.e., two security guards for up to 200 people, three security guards for up to 300 people and one for every 100 people thereafter.)
- 6. All personnel working as security must now be provincially licensed Security Guards. We strongly recommend that a licensed and bonded security guard company with at least \$5,000,000 liability insurance be con-

tracted for this service. This will help transfer liability for security-related incidents away from the renter and the municipality / facility.

Please pass this article onto your facility committees for their information.

If you or your facility manager / operator / committee have any further questions please contact **Ken Fingler** (Ext 7279) or **Linda Baker** (Ext 7220) at HED Insurance at 1-800-665-8990 for further information.



LET IT ALL HANG OUT: Freedom of Information and municipalities



By John D. Stefaniuk, Partner, Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP

In 1967, The Hombres, a one-hit-wonder Memphis band, encouraged the world in song to "let it all hang out." On April 3, 2000, the date on which *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA) began to apply to municipal governments, the Province of Manitoba sent the same message to municipalities, planning districts and conservation districts.

FIPPA grants all persons (not just residents or ratepayers of a municipality) a right of access to **all** information and records (paper, digital or otherwise) that are in the custody or control of any of these public bodies. The right of access is subject only to the specific, limited restric-

tions on disclosure set out in FIPPA.

FIPPA's structure is consistent with modern access to information legislation in other provinces and with comparable federal legislation. It provides for a *prima facie* entitlement to information. To quote Madam Justice Steele, as she then was, in the 1999 decision in *Kattenburg* v. *Manitoba*:

[FIPPA] promotes the general principle that information held by government should be available to the public, except where other considerations legitimately require denial of such access. Disclosure is the rule rather than the exception . . .

FIPPA also deals with the protection of an individual's personal information. This article only deals with access to information rights.

Access to information is not something entirely new to municipalities and planning bodies. In a previous article the author discussed the obligation on municipal councils to hold public meetings and the limitations on *in camera* discussions. *The Municipal Act* (the Act) identifies specific municipal records to which any person must be given access, along with a right to obtain copies. The records include assessment rolls, financial plans, financial statements, auditor's reports, minutes of council and committee meetings, by-laws and resolutions of council and its committees. FIPPA rights are over and above the rights under the Act.





Most municipalities will respond voluntarily to reasonable requests for information and will provide copies of documents without the necessity of a formal, written FIPPA request. It is sometimes surprising, however, as to the frequency with which the most innocuous requests for access to records are resisted or refused, even where there is a clear entitlement to the information.

FIPPA requires that each public body designate a person or group of persons as the "head". The head is responsible for all decisions relating to FIPPA requests. The head may delegate responsibility to a person who will act as the body's "Access and Privacy Officer." (Who is this person in your municipality/district?)

Once a request for information has been received, there is an obligation to act. Every reasonable effort must be made to respond to a request within thirty days after its receipt. The head also has a positive legal obligation to assist every person who is seeking information and to respond to such persons in a manner that is open, accurate, complete and without delay. There is no room for stonewalling.

An information request response must state:

- Whether the access to the record will be granted;
- How will the access be granted (e.g., inspection of the records, paper copies, digital copies);
- If access is refused, why it is refused, quoting the specific sections of FIPPA that justify the refusal and providing the name and telephone number of an employee who can answer the person's questions about the refusal; and
- If the information is refused, a statement that the applicant may make a complaint to the Provincial Ombudsman.

All of this necessitates the dedication of sufficient resources to respond to such requests in a timely manner. There is the ability to extend the thirty day deadline, but reasons must be given for the extension.

What *must* a public body refuse to disclose? Some of the mandatory exceptions to disclosure are:

 Personal information on an individual such as health information, financial

- circumstances, character references, social assistance eligibility, ethnic origin, etc.
- Information which, if released, would be harmful to the information provider's business interests (such as trade secrets or commercial, financial or other information) provided that it was supplied to the public body on a confidential basis;
- Information provided in confidence by another level of government.

A public body may choose to withhold:

- Draft resolutions or by-laws (unless put before council or committee);
- Substance of an in camera meeting (but remember, the Act strictly limits the ability to have in camera meetings);
- Information which may harm a law enforcement matter;
- Information subject to solicitor-client privilege; and
- Information harmful to the financial interests of the public body.

There are other exceptions too numerous to list in this brief article.

Public bodies are under a further duty to persons who have supplied the information in the first place. Where it has been

decided that access to information will be given, but the access may result in an unreasonable invasion of privacy or affect the information provider's business interests, the head must, where practicable and as soon as practicable, give written notice to the information provider that there is an intent to disclose the information. The provider then has the right to object to disclosure. If the public body decides to grant access, notwithstanding the objection, the provider has a right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman and have that determined before the information is disclosed. Parties can appeal a decision of the Ombudsman to the courts.

The fee that a municipality or other public body may charge for providing information is limited to the amounts set out in the *Access and Privacy Regulation*. In any case, it may not exceed the actual cost of providing the information.

When dealing with a FIPPA request, be careful with confidential third party and personal information and information that may impact the economic interests of others, including your body. Otherwise, as the song said, "Keep an open mind – let it all hang out."



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The company has a pair of locations in Manitoba (846 Marion Street in Winnipeg and 200 Hayes Road in Thompson) as well as a location in Creighton, Saskatchewan. For MTCML member municipalities interested in purchasing equipment from the many product categories supplied by ABC Fire & Safety are invited to e-mail Sales Manager Neal Foy at sales2@abcfireandsafety.com or call 204-233-6083 (outside of Winnipeg call 1-800-665-1250).



NEW PRESIDENT FOR ACKLANDS-GRAINGER

In the last issue of the Leader, we profiled Acklands-Grainger on these pages. In that profile Sean O'Brien, then Vice-President of Sales & Marketing was quoted extensively. Since then, parent company Grainger International has promoted O'Brien to the position of President of Acklands-Grainger Inc.

Upon naming O'Brien to his new post, Grainger International VP Court Carruthers said, "Sean's energy and experience

will help drive continued success in the Canadian maintenance, repair and operating supplies (MRO) market."

The new President said, "I look forward to building upon our momentum in Canada and leveraging our scale in industrial, safety and fastener products to continue our lead within the Canadian MRO market. Getting our customers the products they need while saving them time and money is essential to how we add value."

GRAND & TOY: THERE'S NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO STREAMLINE

Time - there never seems to be enough of it. Between juggling priorities, balancing staff wants with organizational needs, and the constant pressure to do more with less, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. No wonder procurement teams across the country are in search of new ways to control operating costs beyond the limited and exhaustive price-per-item battle. With a legacy of evolving to meet the changing needs of Canadian organizations, Grand & Toy has once again answered an important call as the AMM has chosen to partner with Grand & Toy in a new solution.

The solution: streamline - Grand & Toy's Streamline program generates tremendous value to AMM members by offering solutions to assist in streamlining procurement. Every day, Grand & Toy helps organizations manage the hidden costs of procurement - ensuring that the ordering, receiving and payment process occurs in the most efficient and cost effective manner.

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Streamline for efficiency - Leverage a leading e-commerce platform and customize your ordering, invoicing and payment requirements the smart, paperless way. Only at Grand & Toy can you leverage an e-invoicing tool that allows you to manage your invoices online - reducing paper consumption, data entry errors and lost or duplicated invoices.

Streamline for savings - On top of highly competitive rates negotiated specifically for AMM members, the more you streamline office purchases with Grand & Toy - the more you save overall. AMM members also receive an annual 5% rebate on their overall purchases - savings that can be re-invested back into your office.

Streamline for control & consistent support - Has obtaining a clear snapshot into your total office spend been a challenge? AMM has chosen to partner with Grand & Toy not only for their robust reporting capabilities, but for the insight and consultative expertise provided by a dedicated G&T Account Manager and regular business reviews.

Streamline for sustainability - There is a false perception in the marketplace that "buying green" comes at a premium. With Grand & Toy's streamlined approach to procurement – you are not only reducing costs and boosting efficiencies, vou're being conscious of the environment in the process.

Streamline for success - In a time where organizations are forced to do more with less - Grand & Toy is the businesssmart choice. Look at your options. Consider the solutions. Leverage AMM's partnership with Grand & Toy today.

For more information, please contact: Henry Sylvia Account Manager, Grand & Toy Tel: 800 432 1903 x3922 E-mail: henrysylvia@grandandtoy.com www.grandandtoy.com



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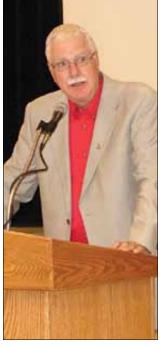
Central



Central District delegates vote on a resolution.



Door Prize draws are an enjoyable part of any district meeting.



Earl Dick, Deputy Mayor for the Town of Altona, brings greetings.



Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Steve Ashton addresses delegates.



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Canadä





Eastern



President Dobrowolski presents Eliza Bell with flowers after her rendition of O' Canada.



Eastern resolutions committee: Mayor Bob Stefaniuk, Councillor Jacques Trudeau (Chair), and Councillor Diane Dube



The head table



MAFRI's Maurice Bouvier presents the Manitoba Connects Report



Interlake



Reeve Don Forfar speaks to a resolution.



These delegates didn't mind posing for the camera.



Reeve Garnet Thieven, RM of Rockwood, and President Dobrowolski.



Kristine Schwanke and Gerry Gaudreau of the Manitoba Public Utilities Board

Midwestern



Midwestern delegates all received a bottle of canola oil courtesy of Bunge



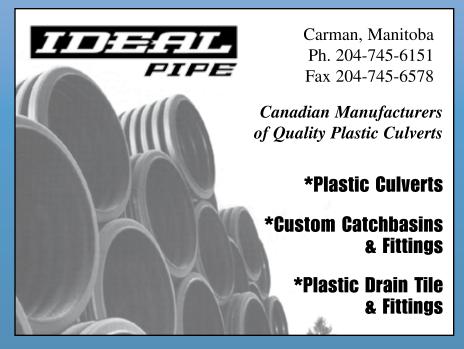
MLA for Brandon East Drew Caldwell visits with delegates.



MLA for Ste. Rose and former AMM President Stu Briese, President Doug Dobrowolski, and Past-President Ron Bell re-connect.



Midwestern Directors Reeve Randy Lints (Rural) and Mayor Eileen Clarke (Urban)



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Northern



Members of the West Lynn Heights Choir line up to perform O' Canada.



Mayor of Lynn Lake Audie Dulewich brings greetings.



AMM Northern Director Karen McKinnon addresses delegates.



Attendees listen closely to a presentation.

Parkland



Close to 100 delegates attended the Parkland meeting.



Minister of Conservation Stan Struthers speaks to delegates.



Parkland continued



Reeve Robert Misko and Mayor Rene Maillard share a farewell "hug" before stepping down as AMM Directors.



HED's Art Elias (foreground) and Bert Walker are regular attendees and participants at district meetings.

Western



The Western meeting had the highest number of delegates—139.



Resolutions Chair Bill Shackel is assisted by Reeve Denis Carter and Reeve Dunc Stewart.



L to R: Western Urban Director Maxine Chacun, President Dobrowolski, Western Rural Director Alan Ransom, Urban Vice-President Shirley Kalyniuk, and Rural Vice-President Roger Wilson



Dr. Derry Decter speaks to delegates about a proposed medical school at Brandon University.

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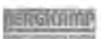








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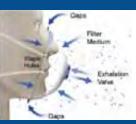
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James Dube Spraggs Adjusters	78	204-985-1200	kenjames@jdsadj.ca





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Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs	11		www.manitoba.ca/ia
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SM Industries/KSD Cage	52	204-222-5171	www.ksdcage.com
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