



TOOLS FOR CHANGE FINALISTS

BETTER MUNICIPAL BUSINESS PRACTICES

Rural Municipality of Wallace: Water Supply Expansion Project

Finding a reliable water supply is a challenge for many rural municipalities. In 2003, the RM of Wallace surveyed their residents and found that approximately 75 per cent were unsatisfied with either their water quality or quantity. This spurred the Council of the RM of Wallace to search for a solution to their water problems in order to secure future economic growth and development. First, the RM partnered with the Federal and Provincial Governments to formulate a plan that would produce long-term results. The project was completed in phases allowing residents to take advantage of the cost-shared approach through Federal and Provincial infrastructure funding programs. Residents were kept informed of the progress of the project, and in August 2003 a secure and reliable water supply was found in a neighbouring rural municipality. With support from the RM of Miniota Council and the Water Services Board, the RM Council proceeded to design and tender the project. Construction on this \$3 M project progressed between 2004 and 2006. This project will reduce costs for residents and will increase opportunities for commercial, industrial and residential developments.

Town of Russell: Tax Increment Financing

In 2005, various groups approached The Town of Russell Council to support a number of projects, including Main Street lighting, Main Street street-scaping, heritage building restoration, museum creation, and development of a multi-use facility. The Council recognized that all the proposed revitalization projects would require financial and human resources and the support of various orders of government. Rather than attempt to contribute to each project individually, the Council encouraged the stakeholders to coordinate their efforts into a long-term vision. This vision evolved into a single revitalization strategy estimated to cost between \$6 M and \$10 M. In order to generate revenue for this project, the Town of Russell Council created a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Zone. The TIF zone was established through regulations in The Municipal Act and revenues will be used to levy funding from private and government sectors. Although the revitalization project is still in its preliminary stages the Town of Russell Council believes that it will result in a number of positive spin-offs including economic benefits and community involvement.

City of Dauphin and Rural Municipality of Dauphin: Energy Efficient Multi-Event Community Arena

Across Canada there is an increasing demand for energy efficient buildings. The City and RM of Dauphin have coordinated their efforts to plan and construct a multi-event community arena facility that focuses on state of the art energy efficient technology. The new facility is connected to the existing recreation complex (which houses a wave pool, banquet facilities and curling rink) and utilizes numerous environmentally friendly innovations such as high efficiency lights, R28 insulation, Arena Shield and water efficient fixtures. The main innovation, however, is a refrigeration and heat reclamation system that collects and recycles the heat energy used to maintain the ice surfaces in the arena and curling rink for heat requirements for the rest of the building. This system decreases the time required to make ice while providing heat throughout the entire complex, removing the need for additional heating systems. By implementing energy efficient technology the City of Dauphin and RM of Dauphin produced a quality facility with a potential reduction of \$75,000 in operating costs annually, as well as a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.



TOOLS FOR CHANGE FINALISTS

SERVICE SHARING AGREEMENTS

Town of Grandview and Rural Municipality of Grandview: Shared Municipal Office

The Town of Grandview and RM of Grandview have faced numerous challenges as a small town and farming community respectively. The Councils of the Town of Grandview and RM of Grandview recognized the importance of being efficient in the delivery of services to local residents. Currently services that are shared on a 50:50 basis include: cemetery, library, recreation services, waste disposal site, recycling depot, physician recruitment initiatives, physician housing incentives, ambulance services, fire protection and emergency measures. These have been coordinated through occasional joint council meetings and formal agreements. In 2004 the Town of Grandview and RM of Grandview agreed to share office space through the purchase of a building. Numerous issues were initially discussed prior to this move including the amount of space required, private and shared space, confidentiality and privacy, noise level, office traffic and public acceptance. These discussions showed that the advantages outweighed the disadvantages, and to this end the quality of service offered by both the Town of Grandview and RM of Grandview have improved.

RESTRUCTURING

Municipality of Killarney-Turtle Mountain: Restructuring

The Town of Killarney and Rural Municipality of Turtle Mountain have, for a considerable time, looked for ways to work together to maintain effective service delivery in a cost efficient manner. A strong relationship between the two led to an exploration of restructuring opportunities. Issues related to financial stability, long-term viability, community development, economic development and operation efficiencies were seen as advantages associated with amalgamation. Council representation and taxation were seen as problem areas that needed to be addressed as priorities before any decisions could be made at the community level. Addressing these priority areas showed the councils that the taxation issue would be difficult to overcome given the current legislation of The Planning Act. With assistance from other orders of government, The Municipal Act s.52(1)ii was modified to ensure that equitable taxation would be possible for urban and rural residents. This change, along with many other decisions regarding representation and services, allowed the Town of Killarney and Rural Municipality of Turtle Mountain to officially become the Municipality of Killarney-Turtle Mountain on January 1 of this year.

**The winner of the 2007 AMM Municipal Innovation Award will
be announced on Tuesday, February 27, 2007 at 10:15 am in
Convention Hall, Brandon Keystone Centre.**

Good luck to all finalists!