



6th Annual Municipal Excellence Award Submission Form

PART 1

Name of Municipality: Town of Snow Lake
Date of Implementation: November 2009
Type of Municipal Project: Sustainable Development Plan

PART 2

Snow Lake has experienced the booms and busts of a remote mining town, and the resultant population fluctuations and declines. During 2008 HudBay Minerals Inc. discovered large gold and zinc deposits at Lalor with projected 25 year mining operations, plus the New Britannia Gold Mine plans to reopen.

Innovation: With an expected large influx of mine workers and their families, the Town of Snow Lake took the innovative step of creating a Twenty Year Sustainable Community Plan to ensure sufficient ecofriendly and cost efficient residential, commercial and industrial property would be developed. The plan is accessible on the Snow Lake web site <http://www.snowlake.ca> Home Page.

Beneficial to the community: MMM Group, Winnipeg, was contracted to create the long term sustainable plan. An Advisory Committee was formed with local representatives from mining, business, education, government, health care and service organizations. Three open community meetings were held to create transparency and to gather information. Two mining companies projected three growth scenarios based on the number of new employees hired. A medium growth scenario was selected to determine the amount of development needed, and how community demands could be met to maintain a viable economy, maintain culture and recreation, preserve the natural environment, replace and develop the infrastructure, maintain community services and facilities, and continue sustainable governance.

Sustainable Plan recommendations that are currently being implemented are:

- using current infill sites before developing new residential, commercial or industrial lots
- upgrading or replacing the outdated wastewater treatment plant
- repairing unsafe sidewalks
- helping create a greener economy by banning plastic bag use as of January 1, 2010

- promoting the partnership between the Age Friendly Initiative and the Senior Centre
- promoting tourism as an additional economy to offset the mining industry
- maintaining green space
- currently in negotiations for increased affordable seniors housing
- replacing or repairing aging facilities and a crumbling infrastructure
- accommodating senior or challenged residents with handicap parking signs

Cost effective: The plan outlines using the most cost efficient method of development such as encouraging development of the senior residence on a current infill sites rather than untouched areas. The potential for growth is also attracting developers who will assume the costs of creating new infrastructure in new areas.

Wider Implications: This Sustainable Community Plan has been created to be flexible for any Snow Lake eventuality. The plan could also be adapted for any of the single industry mining towns in Manitoba, Canada, or virtually any country, as the problems they must deal have been addressed.

Respectfully submitted by:

Beverley Atkinson, Community Development Officer
Town of Snow Lake
Box 40, Snow Lake, Manitoba R0B 1M0

Contact information:

Telephone: (204)358-7630 Fax: (204) 358-2112

Email: snowlake_cedo@mts.net

Web site: www.snowlake.ca

Attachment

Snow Lake Sustainable Community Plan