MUNICIPAL EADER

The Magazine of the ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES

SPRING 2008

2008 M.O.S and MTCML Trade Show

April 16-17, 2008 | Brandon Keystone Centre

HERITAGE IS A RESOURCE

PART II OF TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE PAST

RURAL CHILDCARE IN MANITOBA

Drug Awareness Education • Watches, Warnings & Severe Weather

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For more information on building a brighter tomorrow, call 416 622-9771, or visit www.croplife.ca

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a resource for

Heritage can be

See Part II of Taking Advantage of the Past.

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AMM MISSION **STATEMENT**

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



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Municipal Leader | Spring 2008

Ron Bell, President

Spring is the time for budgets and as we all know, budgeting is not an easy or painless process within any order of government. That is why we were especially pleased to see the Federal Budget of February 26 deliver positive news for cities and communities. Budget 2008 makes the Gas Tax Fund permanent, representing a

critical move toward addressing the municipal fiscal imbalance and building vibrant cities and communities. The permanent Gas Tax Fund will provide long-term, sustainable funding to Manitoba municipalities. We can now bank on this money into the distant future, and begin building projects we weren't sure we could begin before.

Municipal associations right across the country have been lobbying the Federal Government for a permanent Gas Tax Fund for some time. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) applauded the budget, noting

that, "Coupled with the suite of infrastructure programs announced in last year's Budget, this measure clears the way for the development of a national plan to eliminate the \$123-billion municipal infrastructure deficit." Overall, this announcement is extremely good news for the future of all our municipalities.

As you read this, Provincial Budget 2008 is close to being tabled and we will

be watching to see what it delivers for our members. You can be assured that we will let you know if it, too, delivers good news for cities and communities.

One of the larger issues to be on our radar over late winter/early spring has been the Province's Framework for the Future - Conservation District Program Discussion

Now we turn our attention to our annual Municipal Officials Seminar (MOS) & MTCML Trade Show, which promises to be bigger and better than ever.

Document. The AMM had particular concerns about three general areas of this document: funding, erosion of local authority and the consultation process. We voiced our concerns at each of a series of three consultation meetings held in February, and will continue to monitor the progress of the discussion paper to make sure it meets municipal needs.

My sincere thanks goes out to everyone who attended Mayors, Reeves and CAOs meetings. They are always an informative gathering for the AMM executive and directors. as well as we hope

for you, the membership. Now we turn our attention to our annual Municipal Officials Seminar (MOS) & MTCML Trade Show, which promises to be bigger and better than ever. I look forward to seeing you on April 16 and 17 in Brandon!

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Springtime is

BUDĞET TIME



It's the season for AMM EVENTS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S Report

> I sincerely hope as you read this message that spring is in the air, because as I write it the temperature is hovering at around -31°C! It often seems Manitoba winters are endless, but a sure sign of spring is always our series of Mayors, Reeves and CAOs meetings that ran from March 13-26 this year. These meetings are a great opportunity for the AMM executive members - President Ron Bell and Vice-Presidents Shirley Kalyniuk and Doug Dobrowolski - to update municipal leaders on a wide variety of hot-button topics. Perhaps even more importantly, the meetings give those municipal leaders an opportunity to interact with others in the same region to discuss areas of common concern. Any networking opportunity is

by default a learning opportunity, and Mayors, Reeves and CAOs meetings are definitely a place to learn about the issues that are taking centre stage in your region and throughout the province. Thank you to everyone who attended!

Typically, Mayors, Reeves and CAOs meetings come on the heels of our annual Municipal Officials Seminar (MOS) and Trade Show. This, as you know, has changed. MOS is coming up in mid-April and promises to be a larger and more exciting event than ever before. The move from the traditional February timeline came about due to logistics - there was not enough room for all of our potential displayers to take part in the MTCML Trade Show. This one-day municipal event is the largest of its kind in Manitoba and had simply outgrown the venue. Obtaining additional display space for our valued suppliers necessitated a change in date. The resulting additional display spaces available

Joe Masi, Executive Director

mean the Trade Show could see upwards of 160 booths under one roof!

Another plus to the date change is that our staff now has ample time to plan an even more outstanding event. And outstanding is what it promises to be, not only due to a larger Trade Show and top-notch policy and professional development sessions, but our 10th anniversary calls for some extra-special activities, as well. You will want to be sure to stick around after the Wine & Cheese reception planned for 4:00-7:00 pm on the Wednesday evening of MOS – a very special fireworks display is planned for your enjoyment!

Our 10th anniversary has also given us cause to reflect on our past and look forward to our future as an association, and

we simply can't do that without input from our membership. That is why we have commissioned a member survey that is currently being conducted. Viewpoints Research is contacting heads of council and CAOs in all municipalities

in Manitoba to garner your feedback on the AMM. We want to know, honestly and confidentially, what you think of our events, communications, lobbying efforts, structure – and in what directions you would like to see us move as we enter our second decade of serving our members. We appreciate the time you are donating to assist us in this endeavor, and look forward to taking this opportunity to learn from you.

See you at MOS!

Any networking

opportunity is by default

a learning opportunity

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR MANITOBANS WITH DISABILITIES

Manitobans with disabilities receiving social assistance continue to experience difficulty in securing employment.

The Honourable **Gord Mackintosh**, Minister of Family Services and Housing, Minister Responsible for Persons with Disabilities and The Honourable **Greg Selinger**, Minister of Finance recently announced that \$7 million will be invested in market*Abilities*, a new program under the Rewarding Work strategy.

Dauphin's Almost New Store is the first project to receive funding through marketA*bilities*. The second-hand variety store will provide employment to more than 18 low-income, unemployed disabled individuals including those on income assistance. Other programs receiving funding are:

- The Independent Living Resource Centre will receive \$90,000 for the five-week training program for independent living attendants. This allows up to 150 new graduates each year to support people with disabilities in securing employment and participating in community life.
- The specialized marketAbilities team through community employment programs will provide persons with disabilities with employment.
- The Sara Riel Work Placement Force program will receive \$191,000 to enhance job-search and placement services, work site and job-retention supports, along with counseling and referrals.
- The Income Assistance for Persons with Disabilities benefit will increase \$25 to \$105 per month effective January. This is a \$6 million investment for the 17,300 persons currently receiving income assistance and will help in their cost of living expenses.

ILLIGAN BIO-TECH



• A commitment of the provincial civil service diversity strategy is to increase the qualified persons with disabilities in civil service to 5% by 2012 from the current 2.8%. The long-term goal is 7%.

FOOD PRODUCTS FOR BOOMERS AND ELDERLY

The Honourable **Rosann Wowchuk**, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives recently announced \$80,000 in provincial funding to the Food Development Centre in Portage la Prairie and the University of Manitoba for a two-year research project to design and develop food products for baby boomers and older consumers.

The focus will be to use Manitoba grown crops in the development of these products, providing fortified, enriched and enhanced foods to better meet their nutritional needs.

Slowing the progression of chronic illnesses using functional foods may lead to a decrease in health care costs and an increased quality of life as consumers age.

This research project has the potential to result in healthier adults, increased economic activities and employment and the production of nutritional ingredients such as omega-3 fatty acids and oat/flax varieties leading to higher economic returns for Manitoba farmers.

This project should be completed and the results available by 2009.

FISH HABITAT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT SIGNED

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Fish Habitat Management on February 7. One of the MOU's provisions is to establish a FCM-DFO Working Group on Fish Habitat Management to be co-chaired by a member of the FCM's Rural Forum along with a DFO representative. AMM President **Ron Bell** has been named the FCM co-chair.

The MOU's goal is to build collaboration between the federal government and Canadian municipalities in the application of the fish habitat protection provisions of the *Fisheries Act*. FCM has been lobbying for an improved working relationship between DFO and municipalities on ensuring municipal projects are undertaken with clear criteria from DFO that are reasonable and cost-effective.

PRESERVATION OF MANITOBA'S PUBLISHED HERITAGE

The Honourable **Eric Robinson**, Minister of Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Sport recently announced changes to *The Legislative Library Act* which strengthens the library's mandate to collect and preserve all items published in Manitoba.

Manitoba's first lieutenant governor **A. G. Archibald** established the Legislative Library over 123 years ago. The library is home to the most complete collection of Manitoba publications available for research. Included in the library are government documents, newspapers, magazines and books published in Manitoba. People from across the country along with the students, teachers, historians and businesses of Manitoba make use of the library. Changes to The Act will:

- Establish the Legislative Library as the official library for the deposit of Manitoba Government publications;
- Put into law the requirement for departments and agencies to give the library specified numbers of copies of publications for the purposes of access, preservation and sharing; and
- Clarify the definition of publication to make it clear that it applies to all formats, including electronic.

<u>™</u>Brief

FINES FOR DAMAGING HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE

The Honourable **Ron Lemieux**, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation recently announced a proposed change to the *Highway Traffic Act* that would result in charging drivers or owners of vehicles that collide with bridges and structures.

Under the current *Highway Traffic Act* there is nothing dealing directly with damaging infrastructure. The proposed changes could carry a maximum fine under the act of \$5,000.

Phase two of the plan includes enhanced ability to recover costs along with helping to prevent such collisions with more driver education and awareness, enhanced monitoring and hands-on enforcement.

CHANGES TO MANITOBA'S BUILDING CODE STANDARDS

The Honourable **Nancy Allan**, Minister of Labour and Immigration, recently announced changes to Manitoba's building code regulations under *The Buildings and Mobile Homes Act.* These changes will improve fire safety and energy efficiency in new homes.

New home construction requirements as a result of these changes to the regulations include:

- A heat detector in an attached garage, connected to the home smoke alarm system;
- A fire-resistant rated common wall between the attached garaged and the living space, making Manitoba the first Canadian jurisdiction with this requirement; and
- Increased insulation or "R" values for new home construction.

The AMM is represented on the Manitoba Building Standards Board, which provides advice to government on Manitoba building, fire and plumbing codes.

MORE DOCTORS BEING TRAINED AT U OF M

The Honourable **Theresa Oswald**, Minister of Health and The Honourable **Diane McGifford**, Minister of Advanced Education and Literacy recently announced a \$3 million investment for the University of Manitoba's faculty of medicine. This results in the expansion of 10 more seats starting in September 2008, bringing the total number of students entering into medicine up to 110. Additional doctors graduating will help to address the challenges of the current health care system and will improve patient care across Manitoba.





HEALTHY LIVING update

Healthy living is something all Manitobans are interested in and for that reason. the Summer 2007 issue of the Leader contained a special report entitled "Healthy Living in Manitoba." In that issue, readers were asked, "What's on your plate?" and told about some of the ways municipalities can work towards a sustainable food system. In that same issue we mentioned Services for Seniors and further explored Manitoba's Age Friendly Initiative in our Winter 2008 issue. Here is an update on both of these items.

MANITOBA WELCOMES AGE-FRIENDLY **COMMUNITIES**

On February 11, 2008, Healthy Living Minister Kerri Irvin-Ross, Minister Responsible for Seniors, launched the Age-Friendly Manitoba initiative in Portage la Prairie at the Age-Friendly Manitoba summit that brought

together communities involved in the initiative. According to Irvin-Ross, "By actively engaging and assisting municipalities, the initiative is designed to make Manitoba the most age-friendly province in Canada."

Creating an age-friendly province begins at the local level where the community collectively determines the age-friendliness of their neighbourhoods and the issues and concerns of its older members, the minister said. The Minister added. "It may be mobility issues such as uneven sidewalks, accessibility issues like heavy doors on public buildings or getting community groups to pool resources to create a social centre for seniors. An age-friendly community enables older adults to age actively, but it also benefits people of all ages. Secure neighbourhoods are safe for children, youth, women and older adults. Barrier-free buildings and streets enhance the mobility and

independence of both younger and older people with disabilities."

Ten interested cities and towns across Manitoba have been selected to participate in the first round of the initiative and will each receive \$2,000 in provincial funding to survey their needs and consult with local community groups. Twice a year, additional communities will be selected to join the initiative.

The 1st round communities are the RM of Roblin, the Village of Cartwright, the Town of Morris, the LGD of Pinawa, the RM of Macdonald, the Town of Gladstone. the Town of Arborg, the Town of Gilbert Plains, the Town of The Pas, and the Village of Elkhorn.

More information on the initiative is available from the Seniors and Healthy Aging Secretariat or at www.manitoba.ca/ agefriendly. 🕒

CELEBRATING MANITOBA'S OWN COMMUNITY FOOD CHAMPIONS

The first annual Manitoba Food Charter Golden Carrot Awards were created to recognize Manitoba's own Community Food Champions, and on October 16, 2007, over 100 people attended an awards breakfast at the Manitoba Legislature. The awards ceremony was part of Manitoba's World Food Day events, which included an interfaith service and Right to Food Conference in Winnipeg, and the Northern Harvest Forum in Thompson, that focused on northern food production.

Over 30 nominees were honoured through the Golden Carrot Awards that included individuals or groups working towards a more just, sustainable food system for all Manitobans. The six award categories were Rural, Northern and Urban Community Food Champions, and Media, Business, and Education. The annual awards have been launched to shine the spotlight on community members working towards good food practices in Manitoba.

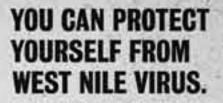
Congratulations to the following communities who were recipients in the Northern and Rural categories:

- Northern: Leaf Rapids Sherridon Community Council, and Leaf Rapids Mayor Nick Benyck, for engaging community families and school children in gardening and food preservation.
- **Rural:** the Agriculture Committee of the Turtle Mountain Community Development Committee, for their Small Farms Challenge and stimulating dialogue around revitalizing agriculture and promoting rural living.

A call for nominations for the 2008 Manitoba Food Charter Golden Carrot Awards will begin in the spring. Please contact the Manitoba Food Charter at 943-0822 (in Winnipeg) or 1-800-731-2638, email info@mbfoodcharter.ca or visit their website at www.manitobafoodsecurity.ca for more information, to receive their quarterly e-newsletter, or to become involved in the Manitoba Food Security network. 🕒







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

Please visit our wobsite at www.gov.mb.ca or call Health Links - info Santé at 788-8200 (in Winnipeg) or toll-free 1-888-315-9257.

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Manitoba



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See you at the MTCML 2008 Trade Show Wednesday April 16/08 11am-7pm Come by our Booth D1-D4 In the Manitoba Room



Phone 204-727-1050

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45	Gear	540	16.8GPM	2654/b/1204kg	ROPSCAB
55	Gear	5401000	14.2GPM	2866/b/1200kg	ROPSCAB
65	Gear	5401000	19.2GPM	4850/b/2200kg	ROPSCAB
90	Gear	5401000	22.1GPM	5290/b/2400kg	CAB

To continued COOPERATION

(AND FUTURE SUCCESS)

With the MMAA Conference

fast approaching, Conference Committee Chair Susan Boyachuk with the able help of Marlene Watson, Ken Jenkins, Mitch Duval and Margie Bonekamp are putting the finishing touches on this year's event, "Exploring the Other Perspective." Keynote speakers include three time Canadian and World Women's Curling Champion Joan McCusker and Gord McIntosh, Municipal Consultant.

Delegates get to choose two workshops on Tuesday morning from the following list:

- A presentation by Public Utilities Board
- "Dress for Success"
- "Managing to Have Fun" (Family Resource Centre)
- "Succession Planning" (Harris Consulting)
- Purchasing requirements under the Agreement on International Trade presented (Syl Perry)
- "Skills for Leaders" (Donna Ghidonni).

Dale Lyle, MMAA President

This year, to allow a little more time to present a more in-depth topic, there is one 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hour workshop in the afternoon. Topics to chose from are:

- The Don & Ron Show
- "Regional Negotiations"
- (Gord McIntosh) and
- E-Mail Writing.

I want to thank President Ron Bell,

Vice-Presidents Shirley Kalyniuk and Doug Dobrowolski, Executive Director Joe Masi along with the entire Board and staff of AMM for the excellent working relationship and cooperation they have shown me. The close working relationship we have, with the MMAA President sitting as an ex-officio member on the AMM Board and the AMM Executive Director sitting as an ex-officio member on the MMAA Board, is unique in Canada and serves to illustrate the spirit of our cooperation.

On behalf of MMAA I want to wish AMM, the Board of Directors and staff many continued successes. L

Upcoming EVENTS

April, 2008

- **10-11** Learning to Think and Act Like a Region workshop - Winnipeg
- 16-17 Municipal Officials Seminar & Tradeshow - Brandon

June, 2008

- 9 AMM June District Meeting – Interlake
- 10 AMM June District Meeting – Central
- AMM June District Meeting – Western
- 12 AMM June District Meeting - Midwestern
- 13 AMM June District Meeting - Parkland
- 16 AMM June District Meeting – Northern
- 17 AMM June District Meeting – Eastern

November, 2008

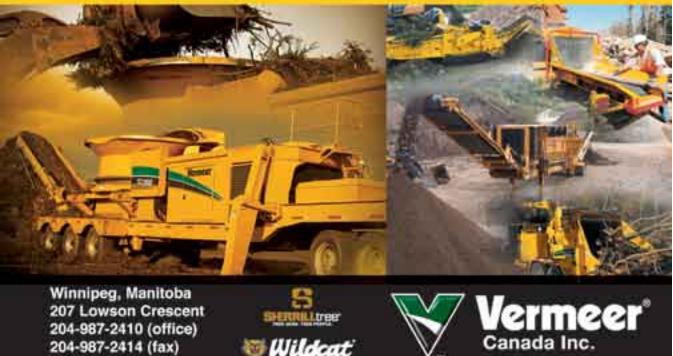
24-27 AMM 10th Annual Convention – Winnipeg







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Communicating FOR RESULTS



MOVING FROM CONFLICT TO COOPERATION

Over the years, AMM Education Workshops have focused on communication in one form or another; from communicating when strangling isn't an option to communicating with the media and your constituents (ratepayers).

The February 8 workshop, *Communicating for Results – Moving from Conflict to Cooperation* allowed participants to gain knowledge and awareness about conflict and learn the processes to move more effectively from conflict to cooperation in various situations.

Priti Shah, of PRAXIS Conflict Consulting, facilitated the workshop and after outlining of objectives for the day, participants were asked to list their perception and underlying beliefs about conflict. From there, the dozen flipcharts around the room filled quickly with the suggested sources of conflict. Finances, personal family issues, habits of response, assumptions, change, semantics and issues in the professional environment were but a few of the items that came up.

"Conflict is the result of difference, not the cause of differences." A study of the conflict cycle, the why and how conflict escalates and how to prevent it was the next segment of the workshop. The assumptions and attitudes that lead to conflict fuel our response where generally unpleasant consequences occur, leading right back to beliefs that fuelled the conflict. Where we can directly break the cycle of conflict is in our responsible reaction. By adjusting our attitude, and being open to other beliefs and not being assumptive, we can also break the cycle of conflict.

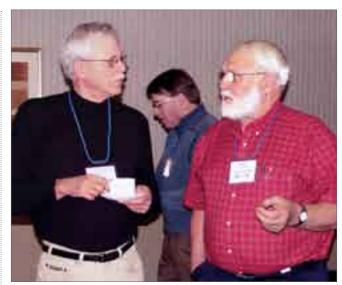
Priti noted, "Managing conflict is something we all do, but may not be aware of. The key to confronting differences and resolving conflict is the process of dealing with differences, rather than the differences themselves. The key to conflict management is the belief that conflict is a natural and inevitable part of life, and the realization that it is our reaction or response to the conflict that makes a conflict situation constructive or destructive."

A lengthy exercise identified participants' conflict management styles; competitor, avoider, collaborator, accommodator and compromiser/negotiator. No one style is necessarily better than another and often, the style you use depends on the conflict situation. Participants were encouraged to define the styles of their environment (colleagues and family).

The workshop concluded with participants completing a personal contract for change which acknowledged their individual levels of communication skills when it comes to conflict. Conflict is normally looked upon as unpleasant; but in reality, conflict is sometimes necessary and even beneficial. By identifying our own reactions to conflict, we can plan on how to react before we are involved in conflict.

The AMM would like to thank those who were able to attend the rescheduled date of the workshop and congratulates the following draw winners:

- Gus Wruk, Councillor, RM of Lac du Bonnet -Complimentary registration for the April 18 workshop plus a \$150 Canad Inns gift card
- **Paul Verrier**, Building Inspector, RM of Ritchot -Complimentary registration for the October 3 workshop plus a \$150 Canad Inns gift card



(L-R) Councillor Ewen Mosby of the RM of Cameron and Councillor Gus Wruck of the RM of Lac du Bonnet compare notes.



Priti Shah of PRAXIS Conflict Consulting facilitated the February 8 workshop.

 Brigitte Doerksen, CAO, Town of Morris - Leather portfolio, presented by Priti Shah

Municipal officials are reminded to take advantage of the date and location of the next AMM Education Workshop. Following the Municipal Officials Seminar at the Keystone Centre, on Friday, April 18, Barbara Bowes of BowesHR will facilitate the leadership component of the Program with *High Integrity Political Tactics for Effective Council Relationships*.

Please visit the AMM website at *www.amm.mb.ca* for workshop information and to register online.

A true **PARTNERSHIP**

By Lynne Bereza, AMM Communications Coordinator

The Western Manitoba

MUNICIPAL Profile

Town of Rivers prides itself on many things, including its friendly and helpful people. Meet two of the friendliest -**AI and Donna Morken**, who also happen to both serve on Town Council.

What would it be like to be married to another council member? According to Al and Donna Morken, it's not much different from being a married couple in any other line of work. However, in Al and Donna's case, coming from the same line of work probably did help to prepare them for their jobs as elected officials. Both retired from the RCMP (with 26 and 25 years respectively), the couple served their last years pre-retirement in Saskatchewan prior to moving to Donna's hometown of Rivers. To hear them tell it, public service is a hard thing to let go of so when the October 2006 municipal election was approaching, both decided that the best way to continue serving a community they love was to run for council. Al was elected Mayor, and Donna was elected one of six councillors.

Al describes the decision by saying, "We just felt that it was good to get as many candidates out there as possible, and let the people decide after hearing what we had to say." The decision to run came easy to both Al and Donna, who both often refer to their RCMP careers as fundamental in paving the path that led them to council. "With the RCMP, when you have a duty, you stay focused and you go out and do it, so we had no hesitation at all."

Donna takes the explanation a step further. "As a married couple in the RCMP, it's the same kind of thing, if you're both working at the same detachment. In fact, you would be surprised how many retired RCMP members are starting to show up on councils. I attribute that to our background and our training," she explains. "Working as a mayor and councillor and running a community is not unlike running a detachment – it's about teamwork and problem solving and communication and budgets and personnel – all similar challenges to running a detachment."

Al continues in the same vein, saying "There are a lot of similarities with our



Al and Donna Morken in the Town of Rivers Council Chambers.

police background and politics, which surprised me. But the first thing that we had to do in police work was to communicate with people and listen to people. When you're working as a community member in police work, you're trying to solve issues and be a problem solver; and that's actually what you're doing as a mayor and a member of council. You're listening to people, you're discussing things with them, and obtaining as much information as you can on an issue before you make your decision and vote. Ultimately, you care about your community."

It is obvious after just a few minutes of speaking with the couple that they have embraced public life enthusiastically. But was there any hesitation in deciding to run at the same time? What about concern from the community?

"Someone did say to us 'won't this be a conflict of interest?" notes Donna, "and we said no, because we are both individuals. Women and men are different, and both bring a different view to things."

Al adds, "During the election, Donna addressed any questions by explaining that men and women think differently, and when it comes to the decision making process Donna is her own person and I am my own person."

"I think this sums it up best," states Donna. "My mother always taught me that, after you get married, the only thing in your life that is totally your own is your vote. So I always brought that up when I thought it needed to be said – and it turned out it wasn't an issue or a concern."

MUNICIPAL Profile

Al describes the effect of their marriage on their council positions as not much different than it would be if they had other jobs. "We're like many couples, in that we leave each other lots of notes because we sit on different committees and we're gone to different meetings. That's what you do in busy households these days – you leave notes for each other! We're both going in different directions because we have different responsibilities to attend different meetings."

The couple has some sage advice for others looking to take on a public position. "I think you have to feel in your heart that you have something to offer, and want to do good things for your area. For us, we were both in our mid 40s when we retired, now we're in our early 50s. We felt it was the right time in our lives, we have the energy, we're healthy, and we have things we want to contribute." Donna expands on that by again referring to their long RCMP careers: "Once you've gone that long in serving the public – for us it was 26 and 25 years – it's pretty tough NOT to want to do that."

The couple is guick to stress that they are two of seven council members, and teamwork is essential to the success of any council. "In October 2006 I got together with not just my wife but with five other people who I knew, but wasn't necessarily close to," explains AI. "All of a sudden, for the next four years, you have to start working with this group of people and you see how personalities and dynamics start to take shape. What is interesting to me is how you start to understand and read each other's personalities. When you are having a discussion about an issue, you may have thought initially about something in one way but then you hear from people who have more information to give you. It's amazing how that type of discussion can impact you because you see an issue through the eyes of six other people who are very passionate also."

Both Al and Donna say they learn from others at every meeting. "Not only from council, but from our CAO who has about 32 years of experience, from our office staff, from our public works and utility staff, from working with the RM of Daly and other municipalities, from going to AMM functions – it's a constant learning curve," explains Al. "You have to keep your mind open because nobody has all the answers – you must keep learning because if you don't, you close your mind to all kinds of possibilities. It's an exciting time because we are making decisions today that will have an impact many years down the road. You want to get it right if you can!"

The Morkens are quick to point out that while it is sometimes convenient to have a partner to discuss municipal issues with, they are, again, part of a team. "We don't try to stay away from discussions relating to council business, probably because we do bounce things off each other. But we don't make decisions because we need the ... the only thing in life that is totally your own is your vote.

Donna Morken

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input from everybody else on the council. We're two of seven – Al has his thoughts, I have mine, and while we do get to bounce ideas off each other, we don't discuss it 24/7 because you don't want it taking over your life," says Donna. And do they ever find themselves on opposing sides of a position? "Oh, sure!" Donna quickly answers. Al adds that "Sometimes we see things differently and sometimes we see things the same. Each is an individual case."

Al also finds, particularly as Mayor, there is benefit to serving the level of government closest to the people. "My belief is that the most accountable level of government is municipal because you're living here full time, and the person who may be against something council is looking at doing for the community could be your next door neighbor," he explains. "You could be out shopping or attending a function and people will come up and start talking to you about something that's happening in your community and want information. That is a constant process that I think any councillor or mayor welcomes because sometimes the coffee-shop talk isn't accurate, and it's a good way to set certain issues straight."

If a love of community is a requirement of the job of a council member, it is apparent that this couple truly passes that test. The Town of Rivers, with a population Donna describes as "1,193 and growing" is indeed a growing, thriving bedroom community close to Brandon, but with many amenities of its own. In fact, according to Donna, the 2006 census listed Manitoba's growth rate at 2.6%, while Rivers' rate was 6.6%. Donna's community pride clearly shows when she describes her feeling about being on council. "Because it's my home community, and now it's our home, it's a chance to assist in moving the community forward, making it progressive, and showing the world what we have. We're a good little community and we have lots on the go. We're both involved with lots of community groups but being on council, it gives us a chance to work within a bigger venue to help move things along."

Al stresses that while the challenges and time commitment of council life are great, so are the rewards. "Just like everything in life, everybody has choices, and if people want to get involved with serving the community in this way it's a great thing to do. It is a four-year term that can go by slowly or really quickly." And how has it been for the Morkens, almost one-and-a-half years into their term? This is one question these individuals answered in unison: "It flew by!"

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Manitoba Good Roads Association

Once again this past summer, the MGRA judging teams traveled around Manitoba judging roads and home grounds for the 2007 competition. Awards will be presented at the Annual Awards Banquet on Tuesday April 15 at the Royal Oak Inn in Brandon.

The AGM will also take place on April 15th at the Royal Oak Inn at 3:00 p.m. Attend and enter a draw for a free year membership to the MGRA! This is your chance to express your municipality's opinions and concerns.

The two-day seminars on **Gravel Road Maintenance & Design** offered in Brandon and the RM of St. Clements in January and March were once again a success! A seminar on **Basic Gravel Road Construction & Reconstruction** will be held in conjunction with the AMM Municipal Officials Seminar on April 16, 2008 at Brandon's Keystone Center.

The MGRA will again have a booth at the AMM Trade Show on April 16. Please stop by to view pictures of the winning home grounds and learn more about the MGRA.

Membership is growing each year and our goal is to have ALL municipalities as members. Remember, all members receive a cost benefit when registering for courses, as well as being entered into the annual Beautification Competition!

Any questions regarding the above events, courses or membership may be directed to Terra at MGRA, Box 1354, Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 3N9; Phone (204) 239-1035; Fax (204) 239-1054; Email: *mgra@mts.net*.



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TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE PAST: Hereitage He

Heritage is part of every community. As more communities appreciate their own history, creative methods of managing and promoting heritage resources have developed. This progressive thinking has led some local governments around Manitoba to formalize incentives for heritage restoration and maintenance, and to create heritage tourism regions with common goals.

Municipal Heritage Advisory Committees (MHACs) have informed and motivated many councils and Brandon is an excellent example. Though the Brandon MHAC has been around since 1987, they took the giant step of recommending to city council in 2001 the creation of a bylaw offering incentives to heritage property owners.

In 2003, Brandon City Council created the Heritage Tax Credit bylaw offering a maximum of \$5,000 credit over 10 years to assist designated municipal heritage properties. In addition, the Renaissance District bylaw gave substantial tax abatements to businesses and residences in a specific downtown area. To help heritage homeowners citywide, Brandon now offers a residential tax assessment freeze on homes. Both incentives only apply to buildings at least 80-years-old.

Heather Ewasiuk, Brandon's heritage resources officer, says, "In the last five years, heritage has blossomed in Manitoba. People are becoming much more aware of what's in their own backyard, more appreciative of the heritage in their communities." Asked why she thinks Brandon strongly supports heritage, Ewasiuk says, "In the early 1980s, a few of Brandon's classic buildings were destroyed. In hindsight, people can't believe they let that happen. We want to prevent it from recurring."

Recently Portage la Prairie's MHAC brought before city council a well-researched proposal with draft

Brandon – One of Brandon's many heritage houses, 1036 Louise Avenue is eligible to benefit from the City's tax incentives. provisions for a local bylaw, based on Brandon's Heritage Tax Credit and with a similar intent. **Barry Bills**, local MHAC chair says, "Council's reaction was generally positive. We presented it as a plus for Portage and, since it was a unanimous recommendation from the committee, council gave it serious consideration and it went right through."

Carberry expanded on the heritage site concept by designating two whole blocks of Main Street as a heritage district with the intent of encouraging storefront restoration. Mayor **Wayne Blair** says, "We want to revitalize Main Street to show our community pride, get some tourism spin-off and maybe even attract a movie or two. We don't expect it'll be done in five years, hopefully 10, but it might take longer than that."

Storeowners in the Carberry heritage district – the only one in Manitoba - can get a \$2,000 50/50 matching grant, renew-

GEOCACHING CATCHING ON

"Geocaching" is a new tourism buzzword. Though your children may beg to differ, it is basically an old-fashioned treasure hunt using high tech gadgets and the Internet. Geocachers find site co-ordinates online then, using their global positioning systems (GPS), attempt to track down the physical cache. Once the cache is found, participants add to or take a token item from it, record the data of their visit in a logbook in the cache and report it online. The contents of the cache can be related directly to the site's heritage. While it may sound easy, geocaching has challenges that result in educational fun and, depending on the design of the hunt, exposure to local history.

Manitoba's Parkland has numerous geocaches. "We hosted a geocaching workshop where the participants created ideas to bring area heritage into the geocaches," says Kathy Swann of Parkland Tourism. "It's a way of getting people to a heritage site they probably wouldn't visit otherwise. It becomes part of their quest. I see it as a trend more than a fad. With the current techno savvy everyone has, we have to think along those lines too."

Penny Burton, Cartwright's economic development officer, agrees. "I see geocaching as very important to future heritage tourism. It is one way to keep a running tabulation of the number of visitors to stand-alone heritage sites where no admission is charged.

"Heritage is used a lot more by visitors than is given credit for. People visit heritage sites, museums and buildings, but we can't record that. Geocaching can account for some of the visitors to heritage sites."

For details on some of Parkland's geocaching sites, visit www.cachingridingmountain.com.

able every three years. Town council puts \$10,000 into the fund every year so five businesses can apply.

"On first mention, council split three to two in favour," says Blair. "After the two town meetings, where residents and businesses recognized the benefits for the whole community, it passed with no dissenters."

Communities taking advantage of their heritage resources need to market their products. The future success of heritage tourism lies in co-operation between communities and municipalities. Recognizing regional strengths and resources, then creatively packaging and promoting them, gives tourists more options for discovery, making promotion cheaper and drawing more visitors.

The co-operative approach is proving successful in Manitoba's Parkland. **Kathy Swann**, executive director of Parkland Tourism, says, "There wasn't as much cooperation between towns and RMs 10 years ago as there is now. Shrinking populations and external changes are forcing people to work together. Towns need to realize that they shouldn't be competing with each other, but rather working together in clusters or regions."

Swann says it is now necessary to form regional heritage partnerships to compete with other provincial and national places, and the entire world, due to the Internet. "The percentage of travelers using the Internet to plan their vacations is very high," she says. "Tourists are looking for varied, authentic heritage experiences with some kind of packaging or theme."

Self-guided driving trails and town walking tours, visitor's guides, events such as Doors Open and re-enactments, educational opportunities for local schools and geocaching (see sidebar) all attract heritage tourism. The economic benefits of tourism are direct and substantial. Swann explains, "Every dollar visitors spend is free money because they come, spend their money and leave. Heritage, family or adventure - whatever their reasons for coming, why wouldn't you want tourists?"

In 2007, Cartwright developed a heritage tour tied in with Ponderosa Days. **Penny Burton**, Cartwright economic development officer (EDO), says, "Most EDOs view heritage tourism as having huge potential. I work with other EDOs in the area to swap information so people know what is available in the region. This exchange is very important."

When managing heritage resources try these three considerations:

- Act locally identify, restore and maintain your local heritage resources,
- Think regionally form regional partnerships that combine and package numerous heritage experiences, attracting more tourists and benefiting everyone,
- Promote globally take advantage of the Internet to promote your interesting activities and attractions and get your share of the huge number of travelers who plan trips online.

Carberry – Carberry's busy Main Street retains many of its original buildings. Restoration begins in earnest this year.



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Compiled by AMM Staff

"D.A.R.E. is a police officer-led series of classroom lessons that teaches children how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug and violence-free lives."

At last year's AMM Convention, Resolution 29/07 was passed calling on the AMM to lobby the Province of Manitoba to include drug awareness education in schools. Two specific programs were mentioned – the D.A.R.E program and the Lions Quest program. Here is an overview of each, as well as contact information for the programs.

D.A.R.E.

Each year millions of school children across the world benefit from D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education), the highly acclaimed program that gives kids the skills they need to avoid involvement in drugs, gangs, and violence. Originally an American program founded in 1983 in Los Angeles though cooperation between communities and local law enforcement, its success has seen it expand exponentially and is now in more than 43 countries around the world, including Canada. D.A.R.E. is a police officer-led series of classroom lessons that teaches children how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug and violencefree lives. Additionally, it establishes positive relationships between students and law enforcement, teachers, parents, and other community leaders.¹

In Manitoba, the RCMP Drug Awareness Service is leading the charge for the D.A.R.E. program. "D" Division had its first officer training session in November 2000 and now has 63 officers trained to teach the D.A.R.E program in Manitoba's elementary schools. Since 2001 "D" Division has visited and educated over 7700 elementary students in St. Adolphe, Beausejour, The Pas, Thompson, Steinbach, Selkirk, Killarney, Gillam, Moose Lake, Shamattawa and Oxford House, just to name a few.²



If you are looking for more information on the D.A.R.E. program, please contact: **Sgt. Stu Evans**, RCMP, NCO i/c "D" Division DOCAS, Winnipeg Drug Section, 1091 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3C 3K2, Office: 204-984-8411, Cel: 204-770-6571, Fax: 204-983-2976; E-mail: *stuart.evans@rcmp-grc.gc.ca*; your local detachment; or *www.dare.com*

Lions Quest

Lions Quest is another drug prevention program. Its programs are school-based, comprehensive, positive youth develop"LionsQuest involves school-based, comprehensive, positive youth development and prevention programs that unite the home, school and community, to cultivate capable and healthy young people of strong character."

ment and prevention programs that unite the home, school and community, to cultivate capable and healthy young people of strong character, through life skills, character education, SEL, civic values, drug prevention, and service-learning education.

Lions Quest programs include: **Skills for Growing** is the elementary school component of Lions Quest programs which reinforces character education, life skills, prevention, and service learning for personal school success. The Skills for Growing program was developed for classroom and/or school-wide implementation, with active participation of students, educators, families, and community members.

Skills for Adolescence is the middle school component of Lions Quest programs designed specifically for the developmental needs of young adolescents, and provides comprehensive life skills and drug prevention curriculum, reinforcing communication skills, problem solving, goal setting, and resisting the use of alcohol and other drugs. The Skills for Adolescence program was developed for classroom and/or school-wide implementation, with active participation of students, educators, families, and community members.

Skills for Action is the high school component of Lions Quest programs and integrates character and life skills education, positive prevention, and service-learning into a unique learning experience in citizenship, civic responsibility, and career preparation for high school youth. Skills for Action can be taught as a separate class or integrated into an existing course. The Skills for Action program was developed for classroom and/ or school-wide implementation, with active participation of students, educators, families, and community members.

Lions Quest programs have reached more than 11 million young people in more than two-dozen countries worldwide, primarily through school-based programs. To date, more than 33,000 educators and other adults have been trained to implement the programs in school and community settings, and program materials have been published in 20 languages.³



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References

- I www.dare.com
- 2 http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/mb/webpages/ ddiv_programs_e.htm

3 www.lions-quest.org

What is your municipality doing to promote drug awareness education in schools?





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By Susan Prentice, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Sociology, University of Manitoba

Rural childcare

NEW ECONOMIC EVIDENCE

In 2007, we "followed the money" to analyze the impact of childcare in Thompson, southwestern Parkland and in St-Pierre-Jolys. We found childcare is both an industry in its own right, as well as being an infrastructure that enables other sectors of the rural economy to function. Our economic approach complements long-standing evidence that confirms the value of childcare on children's development.

In Thompson, we found that the childcare sector is made up of 337 licensed childcare spaces that collectively generate \$2.1 million of direct revenue (through government funding and parent fees). Parkland's 362 licensed spaces are worth \$1.73 million locally, and St-Pierre-Jolys's 76 licensed spaces have total revenues of over \$455,000 per year.

These figures are impressive enough on their own, but their real impact is even larger. Using the economist's technique of input-output analysis, we tracked how dollars raised in the childcare sector "ripple" through the local economy. Every \$1 spent on childcare in Manitoba generates \$1.58 worth of economic activity – meaning Thompson's \$2.1 million childcare sector has economic impacts worth \$3.4 million. In Parkland, the ripple effect of childcare generates \$2.74 million annually, and in St-Pierre-Jolys, the value of childcare grows to over \$700,000. Childcare, with its \$1.58 of activity for every \$1 of immediate spending, is a competitive element in local economic development.

Childcare is a labour-intensive industry, a major contributor to its impressive local impact. In Parkland, the sector employs 76 full and part-time staff; in Thompson, childcare employs 64 early childhood educators full-time, and in St-Pierre-Jolys, the childcare sector creates 16 full and part-time jobs.

In addition to its direct job-creating impact, childcare has good employment multipliers. The employment multiplier is the estimate of jobs created or supported by a sector through industry spending in other sectors. We found 0.49 jobs are created or supported by every full-time childcare position. Thompson's childcare system, for example, employs 64 full-time early childhood educators. The childcare sector, however, creates a total of 95 full-time equivalent jobs when its employment multiplier is taken into account. In rural areas, where jobs for women

can be in short supply, the direct and indirect job creation effects of childcare are particularly impressive.

These reports are the first childcare economic impact studies in Canada. In the US, by contrast, at least 71 economic studies of childcare have been completed at the state or regional level since 2000. One comprehensive report examined the economic linkage effects of the childcare sector in all 50 states. It showed that childcare has output multipliers that "are higher than most other sectors," and are "equally strong or greater" than retail and tourism and other social infrastructure, such as hospitals, job training, elementary and secondary schools and colleges and universities.

Childcare services are scarce in rural Manitoba. Even though few parents have access to a licensed childcare space, the earning power of childcare-using parents is sizeable. In Parkland, for example, the labour force participation of mothers and fathers whose children are in full-time childcare is worth \$12.4 million/year. In Thompson, the earnings of parents who are full-time users of childcare approach \$19 million/year. In St-Pierre-Jolys, working mothers and fathers using full-time childcare earn \$3.6 million/year.

Other economic and social impacts of childcare are equally extensive.

Background to AMM motion on Childcare

At Rural Forum 2007, the all-day session on Childcare: Your Community's Competitive Advantage caught the imagination of **Ilse Ketelson**, Councillor for the RM of Rossburn. At the workshop. Ketelson heard new research about the economics of childcare, learned about successful rural projects, and found out how childcare had revitalized small communities. Within weeks, the hardworking councillor had crafted a motion supporting rural childcare, and brought it to her RM. By early summer, the Midwestern District had approved the motion, and in late November, support for rural childcare became official AMM policy as Convention Resolution #16/07.

WHEREAS childcare is an essential element of rural infrastructure, helping rural families to combine work and family, enabling parents to earn off-farm income, and thus strengthening the rural economy;

AND WHEREAS childcare services promote farm safety, and can mitigate out migration and population decline;

AND WHEREAS childcare services have significant local economic impacts in the short-term, as every \$1 spent on childcare generates \$1.58 of economic benefits through ripple effects; childcare services create employment for early childhood educators; and the spending from every 2 childcare jobs supports another full-time job, in addition to enabling parents labour force participation; and

AND WHEREAS high quality childcare services also generate significant economic effects in the long-term, by promoting children's development, school-readiness, and helping children who are disadvantaged by poverty;

AND WHEREAS over half of mothers in rural areas are in the paid labour force, and face barriers to paid employment when childcare services are absent;

AND WHEREAS licensed childcare services exist for just 14 per cent of Manitoba children aged 0-12, parent fees are high and subsidies are restrictive, and trained early childhood educators are scarce, due to low wages and benefits; A 2005 case study of immigrants to Parkland found that lack of childcare was one of the negative aspects of living in the community. Childcare services may help mitigate outmigration and rural depopulation. The lack of childcare is a major barrier to northern women who want to return to post-secondary education, and has a disproportionately negative impact on Aboriginal women and their children. Northern cities like Thompson have severe labour shortages that could be remedied by more quality childcare service. In farming communities, Keystone Agricultural Producers is backing a childcare plan out of its concern to improve farm safety and decrease child farm accidents. These examples are among the myriad ways that local economies and thoughtful local leaders can see the impact of childcare.

At its 2007 Convention, the AMM decided to work with the Province of Manitoba to establish more rural childcare services to strengthen the rural economy. Based on the economic evidence about the immediate impact of childcare, we can predict that expanded childcare service will continue to produce impressive input-output results and continued strong employment multipliers. Over the longer-term, in combination with childcare's contributions to healthy child development and greater family support, we can anticipate even stronger economic and social returns.

Sources

- Franco-Manitoban Childcare: Childcare as Economic, Social and Language Development in St-Pierre-Jolys 2007. Child Care Coalition of Manitoba
- Rural Childcare: Childcare as Economic and Social Development in Parkland. 2007. Child Care Coalition of Manitoba
- Northern Childcare: Childcare as Economic and Social Development in Thompson. 2007. Child Care Coalition of Manitoba (www.childcaremanitoba.ca)

Further reading

Jan Wehner, Betty Kelly, Susan Prentice, 2008. Rural and Northern Childcare: A Summary of Economic and Social Evidence from Manitoba. Rural Team Manitoba Women's Group. (http://ruralteammanitoba.cimnet.ca/cim/ 170C416_673T29018T672T29003.dhtm)

About the author

Susan Prentice, Ph.D., is Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Manitoba. She was principal investigator for the Child Care Coalition of Manitoba's research project on the economic and social impact of childcare in Thompson, Parkland and St-Pierre-Jolys. She can be reached at Susan_Prentice@umanitoba.ca



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Therefore Be It Resolved That

the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to provide more capital and operating grants for smaller rural operations to establish local childcare services and through encouraging the provincial government to provide incentives to increase the pool of trained early childhood educators in rural areas.

The workshop on childcare built on years of steady work by providers, parent-child coalitions, Healthy Child Manitoba, and others concerned with the quality of life in rural and northern Manitoba. It reinforced the policy of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. The tipping point may have been the new economic evidence about the impact of childcare as an economic sector. With impressive local employment multipliers and with every \$1 of childcare spending leveraging \$1.58 of regional economic activity, AMM members realized it was time to put their organization solidly behind the development of a childcare system that worked for rural and northern Manitoba.

The AMM recognized that 21st century rural infrastructure must include services to help rural families balance work and family, while supporting the early learning and care of rural children. With Resolution #16/07, the AMM has the tools to move forward on childcare.









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WATCHES, WARNINGS AND

SEVERE WEATHER

MANITOBA SEVERE WEATHER WARNING WORKING GROUP RELEASES FINAL REPORT

BETWEEN JUNE 22-24, 2007, a severe weather system resulted in impacts across a wide area of southern Manitoba. This storm system resulted in tornadoes that destroyed four homes at Elie and one in the RM of Argyle, in addition to causing widespread damage in an area extending from southwestern Manitoba to the Whiteshell region along the Ontario border.

Last summer, the Honourable Steve Ashton, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and the Minister responsible for Emergency Measures, directed the Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) to work with the AMM in exploring ways to increase the reach and effectiveness of Environment Canada's severe weather alerts and to assist other partners in emergency management with their response activities resulting from severe weather warnings.

On February 7, 2008, Minister Ashton released the Manitoba Severe Weather Working Group Final Report, together with AMM President Ron Bell and EMO Executive Director Chuck Sanderson. According to Bell, "One of the key aims of the AMM is strengthening the overall emergency management capacity of municipalities and enhancing the safety of Manitobans, and we were pleased to work with EMO on this report for the minister."

In reviewing events related to recent severe weather emergencies in Manitoba, the Working Group identified three themes as requiring attention in order to improve preparedness for future events of this nature. The themes are:

I. DISSEMINATION OF ALERTS AND SUBSCRIPTION TO EXISTING ALERTING SYSTEMS

The few existing public alerting systems in Manitoba are not widely subscribed to, resulting in the warnings not being widely received. Improving subscription to alerting systems such as Environment Canada's Weatheradio system would significantly improve the response to imminent threats, as would increasing subscription among first response and emergency management agencies and institutions such as schools.

Note: Weatheradio Canada is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting weather and environmental information 24 hours a day in both official languages directly from Environment Canada's storm prediction centres

WATCH OR WARNING?

A tornado **watch** is issued when conditions are favourable for the development of severe thunderstorms with the potential to produce tornadoes.

A tornado **warning** is issued when there is a confirmed sighting of a tornado on the ground, when weather spotters report funnel clouds with a rotating thunderstorm, or a tornado signature is detected on Doppler radar.

Source: Environment Canada



TOWARDS A NATIONAL PUBLIC ALERTING SYSTEM

It is also important to recognize the national context of issues around emergency public alerting. (President Bell noted that in 2005, at the AMM Annual Convention, a resolution was brought to the floor calling for a national alerting system.)

Canada is one of the few industrialized nations that does not have a national system to warn people at imminent risk of being harmed by an emergency or disaster. While there is one province and a small number of municipalities with a public alerting system, this is a critical gap when evaluating the adequacy of severe weather warnings.

In recent years, there has been growing focus on the implementation of such a system, notably including statements from the Premiers at the Council of the Federation, and the Senate Standing Committee on National Security and Defence. Without diminishing the opportunity and importance of immediate measures to improve preparedness for severe weather emergencies, the development of a national system for public alerting is the most critical need in improving the preparedness around severe weather emergencies.

"We look forward to Ottawa taking action on a recent commitment to develop a national public alerting system by 2010," added Minister Ashton. "Manitoba has called for this concept for some time."





L to R: AMM President Ron Bell, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister responsible for Emergency Measures Steve Ashton, and EMO Executive Director Chuck Sanderson

2. PUBLIC EDUCATION

Most severe weather conditions necessitate immediate action to protect life safety, and too often people at risk are found to be watching the weather rather than taking protective action. As President Bell noted, "We saw last summer how important public education is when we saw people rushing toward a tornado, rather than hunkering down and getting away from it."

Many people also seem to misunderstand the language used around severe weather warnings. There are significant differences between a Severe Weather Watch and a Severe Weather Warning (see sidebar on page 31), but these differences do not seem to be reflected in how they are understood by much of the public.

3. EMERGENCY PLANNING

Severe weather is an emerging hazard for Manitoba. Severe weather hazards will evolve and become a more prominent risk in each of the province's regions. Over time, it is likely that emergency managers will develop, through practice and experience, a similar comfort around these hazards as many now have when facing a more common emergency such as an overland flood. Providing greater attention to severe weather events in emergency preparedness is a more appropriate approach to building response capacity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The working group investigated lessons learned from severe weather emergencies in Manitoba and made "eight practical, workable recommendations," according to Minister Ashton. These recommendations should better prepare people and agencies in the event of severe weather emergencies.

DISSEMINATION OF ALERTS AND SUBSCRIPTION TO EXISTING ALERTING SYSTEMS

I. Consider options to improve the subscription to Environment Canada's Weatheradio system. The Working

Group urged particular attention to making Weatheradio available for first response and emergency management organizations, and institutions such as schools and medical facilities. Focusing on these groups will provide an opportunity to spread warnings more widely in their communities and activate response plans in advance of an event.

2. Supplement Environment Canada's weather watcher volunteer numbers

with local emergency managers. Environment Canada has a network of volunteers across Manitoba who report to them on weather, and also confirm local conditions when requested. Encouraging local emergency managers to become supplementary volunteer weather watchers for Environment Canada would add to the overall number of volunteers, while also providing volunteers *trained from an all-hazard perspective*, who can be relied upon to contact Environment Canada and bring those conditions to their attention quickly and accurately.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

3. Build public education campaigns that emphasize the actions required in response to a severe weather threat. "WE WERE PLEASED TO WORK WITH EMO ON THIS REPORT FOR THE MINISTER."

While there seems to be a good understanding around identifying severe weather, providing focus on the appropriate actions is critical to ensuring people are in the safest possible conditions when a threat materializes.

4. Focus on education in schools.

Programs such as fire and life safety have shown the importance of teaching children about what to do during an emergency. This not only results in better actions to protect themselves, but it has also been shown that children bring this information home and educate their parents about the same actions.

5. Provide education on Environment Canada's system for warnings.

At the November 2007 AMM Annual Convention, Environment Canada made a presentation¹ on how they generate alerts and the difference between a Severe Weather Watch and a Severe Weather Warning. Providing this information in all public information materials will re-enforce the difference between these alerts, and explain how each requires different action.

6. Provide severe weather education for first responders and emergency

managers. As severe weather threats evolve in ways that may be unique for each region of the province, first responders and emergency managers will be responsible for dealing with the preparedness, response and recovery from these events. Manitoba EMO's training program provides a good venue to deliver general information on severe weather threats and regionally specific concerns.

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EMERGENCY PLANNING

7. Strengthen the overall level of community emergency planning. The Working Group sought information from a number of states in the U.S. Midwest that have dealt with severe weather such as tornadoes on a fairly routine basis.

They encourage the general improvement of emergency plans from an allhazard perspective. At the community level, improving the level of emergency planning results in an improved response capacity not only for severe weather emergencies, but for a broad range of other emergencies also.

Manitoba has adopted an all-hazard planning approach for municipal emergency planning, and an option to build on these plans is the implementation of a recognized standard for emergency planning as a requirement for local emergency plans.

8. Enhance institutional emergency plans to address severe weather emergencies. Many institutions such as schools, daycares, and personal care homes have developed emergency response plans that deal with specific hazards. Expanding these plans to address

severe weather emergencies has the potential to reduce the most severe impacts of such events, specifically loss of life.

"In Manitoba, because of the great partnership municipalities have had with the province, we've been getting better and better at emergency response and prevention of emergencies. Along with these and other initiatives of Manitoba EMO, municipalities do have more tools," noted President Bell. "Certainly with the increase to the municipal equipment rate (announced at the 2007 AMM Annual Convention) and the talk of a national public warning system, we've got more tools to work with in developing a complete, comprehensive and effective emergency warning system. So we're pleased with the work that is continuing to go on between municipalities, the AMM, and EMO,"

The complete report can be viewed at gov.mb.ca/emo/pubinfo/ mbswwwg-final-report.pdf.

 Severe Weather in Southern Manitoba -Rob Paola, Warning Preparedness Meteorologist, Prairie & Arctic Storm Prediction Centre, Environment Canada http://www.amm.mb.ca/PDF/Presentations/ Convention07/Severe%20Weather%20in% 20Manitoba%20-%20part%201.pdf

MEMBERS OF SEVERE WEATHER WORKING GROUP:

- Joe Masi, Executive Director, Association of Manitoba Municipalities (co-chair)
- Jeremy Angus now replaces Brock Holowachuk, Senior Planning Officer, Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization (co-chair)
- Paul Anderson, Customer Relationship Manager, Science, Technology, Energy and Mines
- John Irwin, Regional Director, Manitoba Conservation
- Rob Paola, Environment Canada
- Anne-Marie Palfreeman, Environment Canada
- Chuck Sanderson, Executive Director, Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization



MUNICIPAL Officials Seminar

Future Dates

(all at Br	andon Reystone Centre)
2009	April 15 and 16
2010	April 21 and 22
2011	April 20 and 21
2012	April 18 and 19

These MANITOBA TOWNS have chosen CONCRETE streets.



AMM Diversions

AMM 10th Anniversary CROSSWORD (SOLUTION ON PAGE 65)

Fax your completed crossword to the AMM office by April 15, 2008 and you could win a prize. The first correct puzzle drawn will win. Fax # is 204-856-2370. Good Luck!.

ACROSS

- I. Trading Company acronym
- 5. Mission -2007 Convention theme
- 10. Healing plant
- 12. Otherwise known as Chief Administrative Officers
- 13. Former rural association
- 14. Astronaut and 2007 Convention speaker
- 16. Baseball score
- 18. Norwegian capital
- 19. Flows counterpart
- 20. Portage ___ Prairie, home of the AMM office
- 23. Gets angry (2 words)
- 27. Month district meetings take place30. Who was President when the two associations became AMM?
- 32. Number of AMM districts
- 32. Number of Al*II*I district
- 34. Top score in many tests35. Canadian antlered animal
- 37. "The One" star, let
- 39. Dot follower, perhaps
- 40. Pack or race preceder?
- 41. It's the loneliest number
- 42. Mr. Sullivan
- 43. <u>Culvert, MTCML</u> Official Supplier with new name (formerly Westman Steel)
- 44. At the back of the boat
- 46. For whom the ____tolls; aka AMM President
- 47. Type of cola
- 49. Road cover
- 50. Month in which MOS is held
- 55. Night-time
- 56. Leave out
- 58. Location of Convention every 2nd year
- 60. Hiking leaders
- 61. Baby babble, when repeated
- 62. The MTCML is this many years old
- 63. AMM anniversary

DOWN

- I. Former urban association
- 2. Goes with corder
- 3. Milliliter
- 4. AMM has a new one of these
- 5. It can be "noir" or "blanc"
- 6. First AMM Education session of the year, led by: ____
- 7. In charge, abbr.

I		2	3	4			5		6		7	8	9	
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55			56	57				58						59
		60										·	61	
62							1	63						

- 8. Cutting remark
- 9. ____ Days; annual blitz of Manitoba legislature
- 11. Which AMM District is the Town of Morris in?
- 15. Polo maker initials
- 17. Exist
- 20. Rent out
- 21. Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
- 22. Naval rank, for short
- 23. Small, abbr.
- 24. Long period
- 25. RM equivalent of mayor
- 26. Vinci or Gama?
- 28. Slippery slider
- 29. ____structure, top concern of municipalities
- 31. Name of AMM magazine
- 33. Passport authorization

- 36. Light, abbr.
- Nickname for Minister's Forum at Convention (2 words)
- 39. "___ Milk?"
- 40. Municipalities receive this some years, depending on MTCML sales
- 43. Manitoba Women Entrepreneur of the Year in 1998; AMM board member
- 45. Federal voice of municipalities
- 48. Number of women on the AMM board of directors
- 49. Neat
- 51. Sound system, briefly
- 52. Shot giver, perhaps
- 53. Privacy point (abbr.)
- 54. Type of cabin
- 57. Baseball equipment
- 59. Catch some sleep
- 60. "____ Jane" starring Demi Moore



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2008 M.O.S and MTCML Trade Show

April 16-17, 2008 | Brandon Keystone Centre



Municipal Officials Seminar & MTCML Trade Show

Draft Agenda - Wednesday, April 16, 2008

REGISTRATION 8:00 AM TO 3:00 PM -UPPER LEVEL CONCOURSE

9:00 am	Opening Remarks
9:15 am	Minister of Intergovern- mental Affairs <i>Honourable Steve Ashton</i>
9:45 am	Policy Plenary – Regional Health Authority
10:45 am	Refreshment Break
11:00 am	Policy Plenary – Green Fund
11:00 am	MTCML Trade Show opens
l 2:00 pm	Delegate Luncheon
I:05 pm	 Policy Breakout Sessions The Economic Impact to Municipalities of Invasive Species Incident Command for Agency Executives Manitoba COPPs Program Workplace Health & Safety

2:05 pm	Refreshment Break
2:20 pm	Policy Breakout Sessions

- Survey Monument Program & New Guidelines
- Fire Department Operations – Questions & Answers
- Biz Pal
- Municipal Expropriation: The do's, don'ts and maybe's
- **3:15 pm** Policy Plenary Hog Moratorium Information
- 4:15 pm Adjournment
- 4:15 pm Wine & Cheese Reception
- 7:00 pm MTCML Trade Show & Reception ends

DON'T MISS THE FIREWORKS DISPLAY

in celebration of the MTCML's 30th and the AMM's 10th Anniversaries!

9:00 pm in the Keystone Centre Parking lot (south-east side)



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Municipal Officials Seminar Et MTCML Trade Show

Draft Agenda - Thursday, April 17, 2008

REGISTRATION 9:00 AM TO 11:00 AM - UPPER LEVEL CONCOURSE

9:00 am 10:15 am 10:30 am 10:30 am	Profession Development Plenary Powerful Listening, Engaging Conversations, and Authentic Influence 4th Annual Municipal Excellence Award Presented by Mayor Ron Bell, President of the AMM Door Prize Draw Refreshment Break	10:50 am	 Professional Development Breakout Sessions PSAB Implementation Activities in 2008 Meetings, Meetings, and More Meetings How to Make Yoour Meetings More Effective Building Code Inspection Liability Engage! The Leader's Role in Employee Engagement 	1:00 pm	 Professional Development Breakout Sessions PSAB Implementation Activities in 2008 (repeat session) Effective and Efficient Council Meetings (repeat session) Trends & Best Practices for Selecting Consultants Taking Charge of Your Time and Priorities
10.50 am	Nell estiment bleak	I 2:00 pm	Delegate Luncheon	2:00 pm	Refreshment Break
				2:15 pm	Door Prize Draw
	N			2:15 pm	Professional Development Plenary





Adjournment





M.O.S. Sponsors

Delegate Luncheon



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Municipal Leader | Spring 2008



Refreshment Break



Door Prize





Overview of Breakout Et Plenary Sessions

Here is a quick preview of just some of the exciting breakout and plenary sessions we have planned for this year's MOS:

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

The Economic Impact to Municipalities of Invasive Species

– Wayne Digby, Executive Director, Manitoba Forage Council and Chair, Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group

The session will provide an overview of invasive species and their consequences to RMs. In particular, the session will highlight the growing threat of leafy spurge to land assessment values and producer profitability. Presenters will discuss the role of municipalities in containing and controlling invasive species, in such areas as:

- Managing gravel pits to prevent the spread of invasive plants,
- Control of invasive species on right of ways,
- Developing an RM plan for identifying and controlling the spread of invasive species,
- How RMs can contribute to the Invasive Species Database, and
- Developing partnerships in addressing the challenges of invasive species

Incident Command for Agency Executives

- Doug Popowich, Fire Commissioner

Incident Command is becoming the system to be used for managing emergencies in the Province. This seminar will give a brief introduction into Incident Command and describe how and where municipal councils and the EOC fit when Incident Command is used. Also, legislation regarding incident management systems and incident command will be discussed.

Wednesday, April 16, 2008 *continued*

Manitoba Citizens on Patrol Program – Building Safer Communities

– Riel Dion, Program Manager Manitoba COPP Manitoba COPP is a community-based crime prevention initiative that acts as the eyes and ears of law enforcement agencies and the community. Volunteers are proactive in reducing criminal activities by patrolling the streets, and reporting suspicious behaviour to their local police force. Manitoba COPP works closely with Manitoba Justice, the Winnipeg Police Service, and the RCMP in eliminating auto crime, home invasions, and promoting personal safety.

Workplace Health & Safety

– Don Hurst, Assistant Deputy Minister, Workplace Safety and Health Division, Department of Labour and Immigration

The presentation will cover amendments to The Workplace Safety and Health Act (2002) as well as the new workplace safety and health regulations (2007). What does this mean for municipalities?

Municipal Expropriation: the do's, don'ts and maybe's

– Greg Tramley, McCandless Tramley

This presentation will cover expropriation by municipalities, and take a look at the recent RM of Ellice case and its impact on municipalities expropriating for economic development purposes.



Thursday, April 17, 2008



Powerful Listening, Engaging Conversations, and Authentic Influence

– David Zinger

David Zinger's presentation will incorporate humour, examples, research, stories, and interaction to help you develop more powerful listening as you create more engaging conversations and leverage authentic influence to achieve results and build relationships.

PSAB Implementation Activities in 2008

– Michel St. Amant, Project Manager, PSAB GAAP, Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs

Municipalities will soon be moving into the second phase of PSAB implementation. In 2008 this second phase will deal with environmental liabilities, landfill closure and post closure liabilities and the municipal reporting entity (MRE). The MRE refers to the funds, agencies, boards, commissions, and non-profit organizations that should be consolidated in the municipality's financial statements. Examples would include planning districts and weed control boards.

Michel St. Amant from Intergovernmental Affairs will provide an overview of the major PSAB implementation processes to be dealt with in 2008. The presentation will not only review the requirements of PSAB, but will also provide practical recommendations on what municipalities can do to facilitate the implementation of these processes. Michel will also be available for questions in any area of PSAB implementation.

Engage! - The Leader's Role in Employee Engagement

– Getty and Darryl Stewart, Pursuit Communications

Discover the single most important factor for creating a more productive, enjoyable and engaging workplace - You, the Leader. In this session, Getty and Darryl will share key strategies leaders need to implement in order to engage their employees. By sharing their own experiences as a business owner and a business trainer, they'll provide you with real life strategies that you can put into practice immediately.



Take Charge of Your Time and Priorities! – Maureen Kennedy, Eclectic Communications

Do you frequently feel overwhelmed and have the sense that time is out of your control? Do you feel as though you're in a pinball machine, bouncing from one thing to the next? Are your priorities so far on the back burner that they are out of sight and you can't even remember what they are? You're not alone. Everywhere we look these days, people are dealing with the high stress of the ... not enough time syndrome.

This interactive session will give you practical tools that you can begin to use immediately for taking charge of your time and priorities.

Trends & Best Practices for Selecting Consultants

– Peter W. Steblin, P.Eng. City Manager City of Coquitlam

Mr. Peter Steblin will take you through a step-by-step process that was used by the City of London in hiring consultants. Hear about the challenges they came up against and the outcome of those challenges.



Exhibitor Listing

Alphabetical by Company Name (SEE MAP ON PAGE 49 FOR BOOTH LOCATION)

UCT Pavilion & Manitoba Room

Acklands Grainger	78 & 79
Ads Hancor	19
Airmaster Sales	28 & 37
Alfa Products Inc.	B3
AMM	4
Archangel Fireworks Inc.	4
Armtec	23
Assiniboine Injections Ltd.	70
Avonlea	DI-4
Barkman Concrete	72
Bell Canada	50
Brandt Tractor Ltd.t	AI-8
Bush Hog	5
Canada Culvert	11
Canada-Manitoba	
Infrastructure Secretariat	73
Cansel Survey Equipment	12
Cantest	29
CanVid Cam	55
Capital Industries	BI & B2
Century Environmental Service	es 8
Consulting Engineeers of Manit	

-	Corix Water Products		71
	Culture, Heritage, Tourism & Sp	ort	59
	Cummins Western Canada		35
	Denray Tire		58
	Direct Traffic Ltd.		76
-	Dust Free Road Maintenance		68
	Earth Tech Canada Ltd.		77
	EMCO / Sandale		42
	Fleet Vehicles Agency		45
	Fort Distibutors Ltd.	48 &	57
	Fort Garry Fire Trucks	Ι, 2	, 3
	Fountain Tire		13
	Free Form Plastic Products		6
	GENIVAR		27
	Government of Manitoba -		
	Competitiveness, Training &	Trade	
	Grand and Toy		17
	Guardian Traffic Services	52 &	
	HED Insurance & Risk Services		47
	Hotsy Central		63
-	Ideal Pipe		9
	Imperial Radio Service Ltd.		20
	Inter Utility Public Awareness		81
ł	Intergovernmental Affairs		65

	15
J.R. Cousin Consultants Ltd	
Joe Johnson Equipment Inc.	D7
Lewis Instruments Ltd.	16
LMS Land Measurement Systems	
Manitoba Good Roads Association	
Manitoba Health & Healthy Living	46
Manitoba Hydro	38
Manitoba Water &	
Wastewater Association	49
Materials Distribution Agency	25
Mazergroup	
Construction Equipment	CI-8
MCW Custom Energy Solutions L	td. 69
Meyers Norris Penny LLP	41
Milligan Bio-Tech	21
Minty's Moving	B4
Munisoft	40
Nelson Environmental Inc.	24
Northwest Digital	82
Office of the Fire Commissioner	34
Osorno Enterprises Inc.	74
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- I Fort Garry Fire Trucks
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- 4 Archangel Fireworks Inc.
- 5 Bush Hog
- 6 Free Form Plastic Products
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- 49 Manitoba Water
 - & Wastewater Association
- 50 Bell Canada
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- 52 Guardian Traffic Services
- 53 Guardian Traffic Services
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- 63 Hotsy Central
- 64 Triple S Industries
- 65 Intergovernmental Affairs
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- 69 MCW Custom Energy Solutions
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- BI Capital I Industries
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- B3 Alfa Products Inc.
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B8 Westcon

CI Mazergroup

C2 Mazergroup

C3 Mazergroup

C4 Mazergroup

C5 Mazergroup

C6 Mazergroup

C7 Mazergroup

C8 Mazergroup

DI Avonlea

D2 Avonlea

D3 Avonlea

D4 Avonlea

D5 Schulte Industries

Construction Equipment



Exhibitor Listing

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- G5 Reliant Safety Equipment Inc.
- G6 Craig Manufacturing Ltd.
- H1 Highline Mfg. Ltd
- H2
- H3 Highline Mfg. Ltd
- H4 Husqvarna Canada Corp
- H5 Yetman's Ltd.
- H6 Husqvarna Canada Corp
- I Datalink Mapping Technologies
- J Modern Earth Web Design
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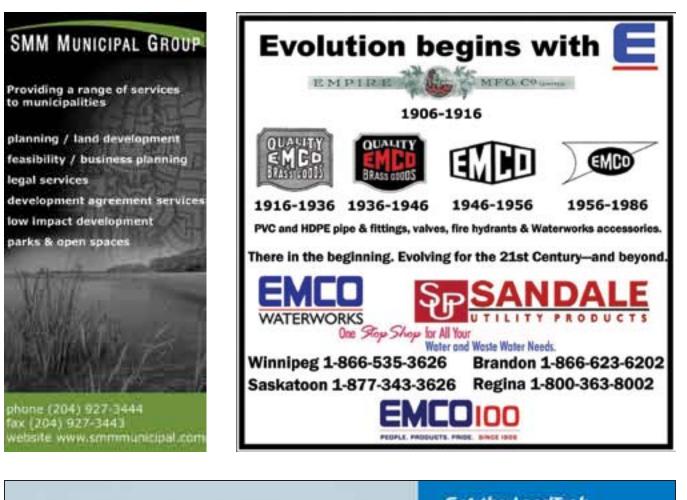
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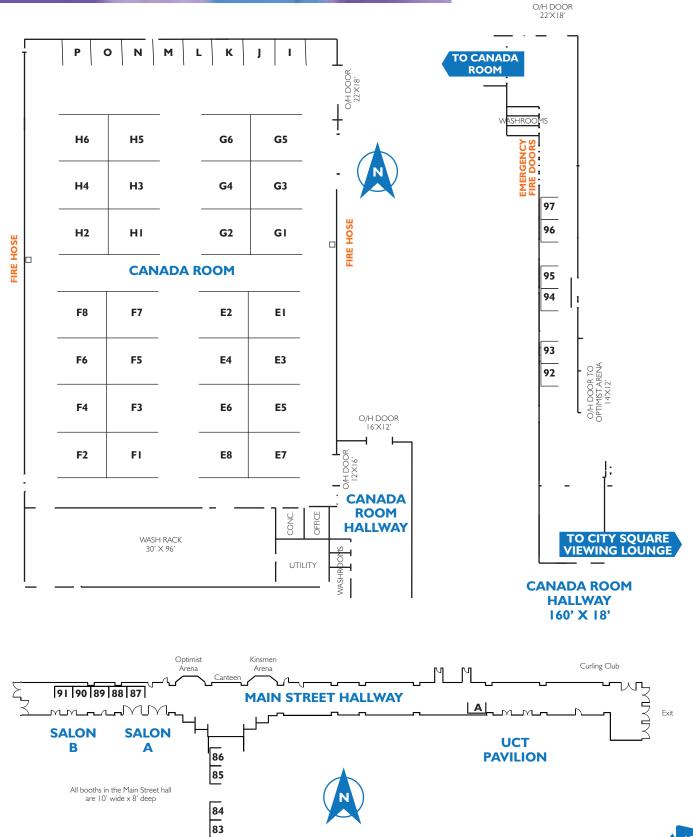




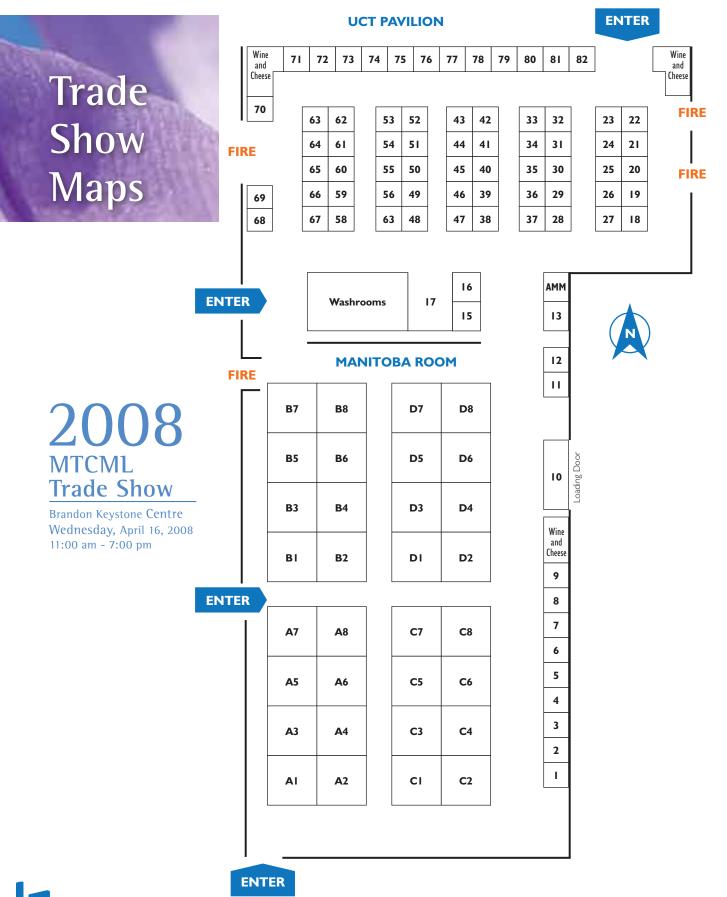




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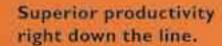
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ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES

New Logo for new Decade

AMM logo reflects Association's reality

As the Association of Manitoba Municipalities celebrates its 10th anniversary, it is entering its second decade of existence with a dynamic new logo that aptly reflects the municipalities it represents.

Unveiled at the AMM's 2007 Annual Convention in November, the organization began officially using the logo on January 9, 2008, coinciding with the kick-off of a year-long anniversary celebration.

According to AMM President **Ron Bell**, "We are celebrating the 10-year anniversary of the amalgamation of the Union of Manitoba Municipalities and the Manitoba Association of Urban Municipalities into the AMM as we exist today. This is indeed a milestone for our organization. We are one of the few municipal organizations in the country that represents all incorporated municipalities, both rural and urban – a fact that we take very seriously and which, I think, makes us a stronger association."

The new logo uses images of water, trees and buildings to depict Manitoba municipalities, both urban and rural, from the largest cities to the smallest villages, province-wide.

Join the AMM in the various anniversary events taking place throughout the year.



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Municipal Excellence Award

Former winners include:



The Municipality of Killarney-Turtle Mountain (2007)



The RM of Victoria (2006)



The City of Portage la Prairie and the RM of Portage la Prairie (2005)

Don't miss the 2008 Municipal Excellence Award!

President Ron Bell will present the award during this year's Municipal Officials Seminar & MTCML Trade Show being held at the Keystone Centre in Brandon from April 16-17, 2008.

This new and improved award is a great way for municipalities to showcase themselves and to share their ideas with others.

The winning municipality or municipalities will receive a framed print or painting featuring a local Manitoba artist. They will also be featured in an upcoming issue of The Municipal Leader.

More information on the AMM Municipal Excellence Award is available at:

http://www.amm.mb.ca/ res_tools.html

In the next:

MUNICIPAL EADER

Special Report: The Greening of Municipalities

10th Anniversary

The AMM is celebrating its 10th Anniversary and we have a number of special events planned for our members throughout the year.

- 1. New logo We launched our new logo on January I and it has been very well received. Our new look is definitely in keeping with our status as a truly unified organization representing the interests of all our members, urban and rural.
- 2. Contests: We've kicked off a series of website contests that will run until October. There are great prizes to be won so check out our 10th Anniversary page on the website often to enter the contests. We also held special **draws**

for prizes at our Mayors, Reeves and CAOs meetings and more are planned for June District Meetings. (See the current list of winners on the next page – it's going to grow quickly!)

- 3. History Book: We have enlisted the help Dr. Gordon Goldsborough to write a history book on the history of AMM as well as that of our predecessors, UMM and MAUM. The working title is With One Voice and the completed book will be our gift to our members at our 10th Annual Convention in Winnipeg November.
- 4. Annual Convention: We are planning an absolutely outstanding 10th Annual Convention for you this year, with an unprecedented lineup of speakers and an amazing Gala Banquet.

Our convention theme is "A Century of Vision, A Decade of Partnership" to reflect on the 100 years of municipal association that came before us, and the 10 years of partnership we are celebrating this year. It is going to be an event you don't want to miss!



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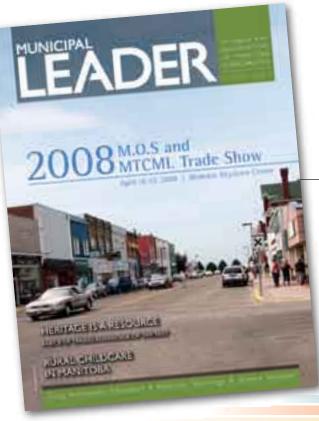
The following is a list of winners of AMM 10th anniversary prizes to date. There are many more to come!

Contest	Date	Name	Prize
Website contest #1 - first municipality to submit history survey	January, 2008	RM of Stuartburn	AMM jacket
Website contest #2 - AMM website hunt quiz	February, 2008	Shelley Glenn, CAO, RM of Strathclair	AMM jacket
Mayors, Reeves and CAOs draw - Interlake	March 13, 2008	Lori Postlethwaite, CAO for Siglunes	Digital camera
Mayors, Reeves and CAOs draw - Eastern	March 14, 2008	Yvette Courcelles, CAO for RM of Ste Anne	Digital camera
Mayors, Reeves and CAOs draw - Parkland	March 17, 2008	Reeve Marvin Kovachik, RM of Mountain	Digital camera
Mayors, Reeves and CAOs draw - Midwestern	March 18, 2008	Reeve Richard Funk, RM of Landsdowne	Digital camera
Mayors, Reeves and CAOs draw - Western	March 19, 2008	Brad Coe, CAO of Cameron	Digital camera
Mayors, Reeves and CAOs draw - Central	March 20, 2008	Reeve Toby Trimble, RM of Portage	Digital camera
Mayors, Reeves and CAOs draw - Northern	March 26, 2008	Mayor Audie Dulewich, Town of Lynn Lake	Digital camera



To commemorate the AMM's 10th anniversary and the MTCML's 30th anniversary, Archangel Fireworks will be providing an awe inspiring fireworks display on Wednesday, April 16 at 9:00 p.m. on the southeast side of the Keystone Centre's parking lot.

Stop by Archangel's booth (#4) at the MTCML Trade Show to learn more about this unique company.



New look LEADER

Readers will have noticed by now that *Municipal Leader* has a new look. We felt it was time for a design update to go along with the AMM's new logo and the Association's 10th anniversary celebrations.

AMM Communications Coordinator **Lynne Bereza** has worked closely with managing editor **Terry Ross** on the ideas put forth by graphic designer **Andrea Ardiles** to come up with the result you see before you. We believe the "new look" Leader is fresh, clean, easy-to-follow and pleasing to the eye. We hope you, the readers, feel the same.

We welcome readers' comments on the magazine's new look. Please share them with us at M.O.S. or contact Lynne Bereza at *lbereza@amm.mb.ca*.

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

Regular fire inspections of your municipal buildings and facilities are an important process needed to identify hazards and exposures that could lead to a variety of problems and potential losses resulting in large direct physical damage or even loss of life.

The importance of regular inspections has never been more apparent than this past year when two Manitoba arenas were totally destroyed by fire.

Fortunately, there wasn't any loss of life in these fires, but perhaps we have just been lucky. During our recent visits to facilities in several municipalities, we discovered that many fire alarms, portable fire extinguishers, emergency lights and automatic extinguishing systems in kitchens have not had regular service checks or maintenance recently.

With a number of facilities being unoccupied for many hours a day, having fire alarms and extinguishing systems that are not working will allow even a small fire to escalate into a heavily involved fire before it is even noticed, giving the fire department very little if any chance of extinguishing the fire before it totally engulfs the structure.

Ensuring that safety equipment such as fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, emergency lights, exit doors and exit lights are working properly will help ensure that patrons can escape in the event of an emergency and will also greatly reduce fire losses by providing early detection and allowing quicker response by fire departments.

In the event of an accident, especially where there are injuries or loss of life, the municipality's actions will be examined to determine if it met the courts' expectation of "due diligence" in taking reasonable care to keep buildings and facilities in safe condition.

There is a public perception that these inspections are being completed regularly and an expectation by your residents and the courts that public buildings will be kept in safe condition for users of the facilities.

Conducting regular inspections, along with documentation of these inspections and



We discovered that many fire alarms, portable fire extinguishers, emergency lights and automatic extinguishing systems in kitchens have not had regular service checks or maintenance recently.



the prompt repair of hazards, are vital to proving "due diligence."

Annual inspections of all public facilities should be completed by the fire department or designated inspectors. Monthly inspections should also be completed for each facility by the facility manager or designate to ensure that all safety equipment is operational and that there are no obvious fire or liability hazards.

Seasonal operations should be visited weekly during shut down period to ensure that there are no problems with the building or services. A small problem such as a water leak that is not discovered until the building is reopened in the spring can result in very extensive damage to the building and contents.

These inspections are not complicated. Simply identifying hazards like loose or broken handrails, torn carpet on stairs, combustibles stored too close to heaters, overloaded electrical outlets or safety equipment that has not been serviced recently can prevent injuries and fires.

A number of "check-off" type inspection forms designed to assist municipalities with this inspection and documentation process have been included in the Municipal Risk Management manual that was sent to all Manitoba municipalities. Visit our web site http://www.hedinc.com/amm/risk/checklists.asp for copies of inspection forms.

A number of municipal fire departments have been providing fire inspection services for some time. Many municipal fire departments are already conducting annual fire safety inspections of elderly persons' housing units, child care centers, personal care homes, residential care facilities and hospitals as required by the Fires Prevention and Emergency Response Act - Regulation 73/2007 of Manitoba. As well, fire inspections should be conducted for community facilities such as arenas, curling rinks, community halls and public works shops. These fire departments find that conducting fire inspections provides a much needed public service and gives them the added benefit of familiarizing the fire department with the buildings, operations and hazards that they may have to face in the event of a fire.

Some fire fighters may resist the idea of conducting fire inspections because they do not feel qualified to do these inspections and/or they worry about being held responsible should they miss hazards during an inspection that lead to a fire or an injury.



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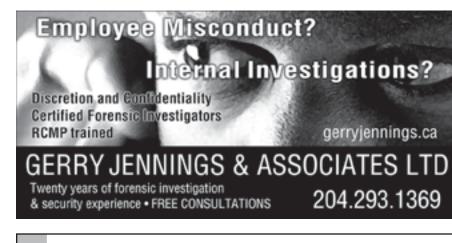
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Both of these concerns can be addressed:

-Insuvance

The Office of the Fire Commissioner will provide free training to members of your fire service through Fire Inspector courses offered at the Manitoba Emergency Services College in Brandon. A copy of the Fire Safety Inspection Report form can be obtained on-line at:

http://www.firecomm.gov.mb.ca/docs/fire_ safety_inspection_report_2007.pdf

Missing a hazard does not automatically result in liability. The courts do not expect perfection, just reasonableness.

The Manitoba Municipal Insurance Program includes \$20,000,000 liability insurance that will protect staff / volunteer fire fighters / inspectors (and of course, the fire department and the municipality as well) in the event of a liability claim involving their fire fighting and inspection duties performed in their capacity as employed or volunteer firefighters.

Missing a hazard does not automatically result in liability. The courts do not expect perfection, just reasonableness.

While there is always a concern that an inspector may miss a hazard, in reality, it is virtually impossible to prevent all fires or injuries even if all the hazards were identified at the time of the inspection. Hazards are constantly changing with every event, every group of people that use the facility or even by weather conditions, for example, by a storm that creates snowy or icy conditions at entrances.

It is much better to inspect and find most of the hazards and prevent accidents than to not inspect at all. Every hazard that is identified and promptly corrected removes the potential for an accident.

HED has added another loss prevention specialist / inspector, **Terry Lee**, who is dedicated to assisting municipalities with inspections and risk management / loss prevention issues. Terry is starting a program to visit Manitoba municipalities with a focus to inspect your facilities with another set of eyes. This is meant as an addition to your own regular inspections.

Should you or your staff require additional assistance with or explanation of these forms please contact Ken Fingler at HED Insurance and Risk Services at 1-800-265-0314 ext. 7279 or by e-mail at *kfingler@hedinc.com* or Terry Lee at ext. 7625 or by e-mail at *tlee@hedinc.com*.

Municipalities and the **CONSTITUTION**

PART II: THE CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

* Editor's Note: Part I: Powers and Paramountcy ran in the Fall issue



In my last article I wrote about the constitutional division of powers in the Canadian federation and its effect on municipal powers. In this article, I deal with something that is probably closer to home for most of us: our rights and liberties.

LEGAL CONNEN

They are some of the things that we, as Canadians, hold as most precious: freedom of conscience; freedom to choose one's religion; freedom of thought and expression; the right to gather peacefully; the right to join associations of our choosing; the right to move to any province and to make a living there; the right to vote and to run for office; the right to life, liberty and security without fear of being arbitrarily imprisoned by the government; freedom from discrimination based on where we or our parents were born, our gender or the colour of our skin. These are the rights and freedoms that generations of Canadians have fought and died for, and for which they continue to fight and die for abroad. Many of our ancestors came to Canada seeking those rights and freedoms and many new Canadians arrive daily for the same reason.

The protection of these rights and freedoms is not new to Canadians. The Diefenbaker Government protected many of the same rights when it enacted Canada's first Bill of Rights. However, this was federal legislation and therefore only applied to areas of federal jurisdiction (remember the division of powers).

The patriation of the Canadian Constitution and the enactment of the Charter in 1982 marked a fundamental shift in Canadian democracy. Canada moved from being a parliamentary democracy to being a constitutional democracy in which these basic rights are protected from unreasonable government interference. In recognition of our collective rights and responsibilities as Canadians, these rights and freedoms are not absolute; they can be limited by our governments by law, so long as those limits are properly shown by government to be reasonable and justified in a free and democratic society.



The Charter is really all about protecting us (and our freedoms) from government. As Canadians in this progressive day and age, we prefer to think of our governments in a positive light. We find it difficult to conceive of circumstances in which the government would try to strip citizens of basic rights. History (even fairly recent history) tells us otherwise. Within the last 100 years we have taxed people based on their country of origin and determined their right to vote by their sex. Within the last 70 years we imprisoned people based on their race. Within the last 50 years we told citizens that they had to give up their homes on Indian Reserves to vote. Within the last 40 years we sterilized the handicapped and arrested and imprisoned people without

charges. Much of this was done with the best of intentions.

Municipalities are created through the legislative authority of the provinces. They are equally responsible for protecting our rights and freedoms by complying with the Charter.

From time to time, municipalities can be 'off-side' when it comes to the Charter. Sometimes this happens despite the best intentions of the municipality and its Council. Other times there is blatant disregard for the rights of citizens. Regardless of the motivation, actions of a municipality that contravene the Charter can be contested. Here are just a few examples.

In 2005, in *Montréal (City) v. 2952-1366 Québec Inc.*, the Supreme Court of Canada, in a split decision, upheld the validity of a city





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Household Hazardous Wastes (HHWs) are materials commonly used in and around residential households that contain toxic substances. These include household cleaning products (drain cleaners, oven cleaners, floor and furniture polish); painting products (paints, stains, finishing products and thinners); automotive products (motor oil, old gasoline, anti-freeze, car batteries, transmission, brake and steering fluids, solvents); garden products (fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides); hobby supplies (solvents, photo chemicals); and pool supplies (chlorine).



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noise by-law directed to controlling loudspeakers along public streets used by hawkers to entice customers into strip clubs.

LEGAL Corner

In 2004, in *Congrégation des témoins de Jéhovah de St-Jérôme-Lafontaine*, the Supreme Court of Canada was asked to consider whether the municipality's failure to deal with a church's rezoning application was contrary to the Charter. The Court decided the case in favour of the congregation, but on other grounds.

In 2003, in Vann Niagara Ltd. v. Oakville (Town), the Supreme Court decided that a by-law that limited the size of signage was good legislation, on the basis that it was a reasonable limit that minimally interfered with rights of freedom of expression.

Municipalities are equally responsible for protecting our rights and freedoms by complying with the Charter.

In 1993, in the case of *Ramsden v. Peterborough (City)*, the same court considered whether a municipal by-law that prohibited the posting of posters in all public places was a reasonable limit on free expression. Even though there were good reasons to prohibit posting on some public property, such as utility poles, for reasons of safety, a blanket prohibition was found to be too broad. The Court found that the municipality did not prove that the prohibition was a justifiable limit.

There are numerous other examples at the lower court levels. Locally, you may have noted the threatened challenge of a municipal curfew by-law (which dispute was ultimately settled when the curfew was withdrawn). In Ontario, the Court of Appeal recently upheld the Ontario Safe Streets Act, which limited the activities of "squeegee kids" in traffic.

James Madison said, "If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary." Until the angels are in charge, the Constitution, the good faith of our municipal governments, the courts and the vigilance of citizens will have to suffice.

AMM Diversions

AMM 10th Anniversary CROSSWORD (SOLUTION)

ACROSS

- I. Trading Company acronym
- 5. Mission _____-2007 Convention theme
- 10. Healing plant
- Otherwise known as Chief Administrative Officers
- 13. Former rural association
- 14. Astronaut and 2007 Convention speaker
- 16. Baseball score
- 18. Norwegian capital
- 19. Flows counterpart
- 20. Portage ___ Prairie, home of the AMM office
- 23. Gets angry (2 words)
- 27. Month district meetings take place30. Who was President when the two associations became AMM?
- 32. Number of AMM districts
- 34. Top score in many tests
- 35. Canadian antlered animal
- 37. "The One" star, let
- 39. Dot follower, perhaps
- 40. Pack or race preceder?
- 41. It's the loneliest number
- 42. Mr. Sullivan
- 43. Culvert, MTCML Official Supplier with new name (formerly Westman Steel)
- 44. At the back of the boat
- 46. For whom the ____tolls; aka AMM President
- 47. Type of cola
- 49. Road cover
- 50. Month in which MOS is held
- 55. Night-time
- 56. Leave out
- 58. Location of Convention every 2nd year
- 60. Hiking leaders
- 61. Baby babble, when repeated
- 62. The MTCML is this many years old
- 63. AMM anniversary

DOWN

- I. Former urban association
- 2. Goes with corder
- 3. Milliliter
- 4. AMM has a new one of these
- 5. It can be "noir" or "blanc"
- 6. First AMM Education session of the year, led by: ____
- 7. In charge, abbr.

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- 8. Cutting remark
- 9. ____ Days; annual blitz of Manitoba legislature
- II. Which AMM District is the Town of Morris in?
- 15. Polo maker initials
- 17. Exist
- 20. Rent out
- 21. Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
- 22. Naval rank, for short
- 23. Small, abbr.
- 24. Long period
- 25. RM equivalent of mayor
- 26. Vinci or Gama?
- 28. Slippery slider
- 29. ____structure, top concern of municipalities
- 31. Name of AMM magazine
- 33. Passport authorization

- 36. Light, abbr.
- Nickname for Minister's Forum at Convention (2 words)
- 39. "___ Milk?"
- 40. Municipalities receive this some years, depending on MTCML sales
- 43. Manitoba Women Entrepreneur of the Year in 1998; AMM board member
- 45. Federal voice of municipalities
- 48. Number of women on the AMM board of directors
- 49. Neat
- 51. Sound system, briefly
- 52. Shot giver, perhaps
- 53. Privacy point (abbr.)
- 54. Type of cabin
- 57. Baseball equipment
- 59. Catch some sleep
- 60. "____ Jane" starring Demi Moore



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Mayors, Reeves and CAOs MEETINGS

Central





AMM Central Urban District Director, Mel Klassen, opens the meeting.

Central region delegates listen attentively.

Eastern



Mayor Steve Strang, RM of St. Clements catches up with Reeve Archie Hunter, RM of Franklin



Reeve Stan Toews, RM of Hanover, chats with Mayor Chris Goertzen, City of Steinbach and President Ron Bell.

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Mayors, Reeves and CAOs MEETINGS (continued)

Interlake



The Waterfront Centre in Gimli was a scenic spot for the Interlake meeting.



AMM Urban Vice-President Shirley Kalyniuk updates members.



AMM Rural Vice-President Doug Dobrowolski and President Ron Bell chat with members.

Midwestern



The Midwestern meeting was well-attended.



The Russell Inn welcomes members.



Manitoba Hydro's Rob Cox updates members.



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Mayors, Reeves and CAOs MEETINGS (continued)



Town of Swan River hosted the Parkland meeting.



Delegates sign in.



Urban Vice-President Shirley Kalyniuk.

Western



Reeve Ralph Wang, RM of Edward, chats with Mayor Bob Walker, Town of Melita, and Reeve Duncan Stewart, RM of Brenda.



The Western meeting boasted the largest number of delegates this year.



Reeve Sandy Sanderson, RM of Glenwood, brings greetings.



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WESTGRO

A 'fuel smart' reminder FROM PFA

Peter Pellatt, President of Prairie Fuel Advisors Inc. (PFA), would like to remind Manitoba municipalities of the advantages inherent with membership in the Petroleum Products Buying Group (PPBG). Prairie Fuel Advisors manages the petroleum product purchases for three municipal associations – the AMM, the AAMD&C (Alberta Association of Municipal Districts & Counties) and SARM (the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities).

Thanks to the concept of "group purchasing" or "bulk buying," municipalities that are members of PPBG not only enjoy lower fuel and lubricant prices; they also receive advance notice of price changes. As well, members have access to instant website rack price checks and analyses. Budgeting is so much easier because of members' ability to track purchases instantly. On top of it all, local agents



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and dealers still provide the fuel and petroleum products so municipal expenses are staying in the local area.

For more information on PPBG, call Peter Pellatt at 780-420-9801 (Toll free: 800-807-3750) or send him an e-mail message at **peter@prairiefueladvisors.ca**.



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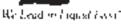


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