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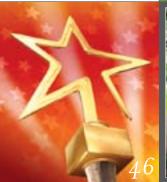
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Tractor WT.	2138lbs	3042lbs	3042lbs	3042lbs	3042/bs	3915lbs	4585lbs	4585/bs	5105/bs	6925/bs	10380lbs
Hyd. Cap.	7.7 GPM	12.9 GPM	12.9 GPM	12.9 GPM	12.9 GPM	15.2 GPM	16.8 GPM	16.8 GPM	14.2 GPM	19.2 GPM	22.1 GPM
Gear Trans.	6F2R	8F BR	BFBR	8F8R	BF BR	12F 12R	12F 12R	12F 12R	12F 12FI	12F 12R	16F 16R
Hydro Trans.	OPT 2 SPD	OPT 3 SPD	-	-	-						
OPT, Lift Cap.	1109	1764	1764	1764	1764	2383	2403	2490	2866	4850	5290
Loader Cap.	1074	1155	1155	1155	1155	1412	2761	2761	2850	3500	3750
Rear Hyd.	1 OPT	2 OPT	2 OPT	2 OPT	2 OPT	1 STD	1 STD	1 STD	2 STD	2 STD	2 STD
Open Platform Rops	STD	STD	STD	-							
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"Greening" is a major issue for all levels of government these days.

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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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President of the Manitoba Municipal Administrators Association

Striving for POSITIVE CHANGES



Ron Bell, President

On June 16, during the Northern District Meeting held in Thompson, delegates elected Karen MacKinnon, Councillor with the City of Flin Flon, to the position of AMM Northern Director. As well, Oswald Sawh was acclaimed to the second Northern Director position. Congratulations Oswald, and welcome

Karen – I am sure you will make a valuable contribution to our board.

The continued growth of our board has me reflecting on the recent Honourary Life/Past Presidents Luncheon hosted by the AMM at the end of May (for a recap, see page 10). This luncheon was a part of our 10th Anniversary Celebrations and we welcomed 16 former officials, most of who served on either UMM or MAUM before the amalgamation into present-day AMM. The recurring theme

during the luncheon was that serving a municipal association creates strong friendships, great memories, and positive changes for municipalities. That sentiment continues to be true today and a stronger, more representative board of directors can only enhance our work.

Speaking of positive changes, our membership passed 79 resolutions at our recent round of June Districts, which will certainly make for a busy, exciting 10th annual convention! The high number of resolutions this year has me convinced that while our issues continue to grow, so does our voice. Your strength and dedication to the

work that you do for your municipalities are what give us the strength needed to lobby effectively on the issues that matter. The stronger your voice, the stronger ours will be.

A strong voice is definitely needed for one of the issues that is pressing municipalities more and more all the time

What we need is access.

to long-term, sustainable

and predictable funding,

and the AMM and FCM

will be pushing both the

Provincial and Federal

Government to this end.

- the need for new growth revenues. We all know there is an infrastructure deficit, and we all know that municipalities are being asked to do more with less all the time. What municipalities need is additional revenues. This is what FCM and AMM have stated time and time again, and what Canadians reported through a cross-Canada survey. Canadians clearly articulated they would have preferred that the Federal Government had left the GST at 6% and used

the funds toward municipal infrastructure needs. Ad hoc transfers from other orders of government simply do not work. What we need is access to long-term, sustainable and predictable funding, and the AMM and FCM will be pushing both the Provincial and Federal Government to this end. And as we move forward, we will be fueled by YOUR voices to give us the strength needed as we continue striving for positive change for all of our municipalities.





Building the foundation OF TRUST AND RESPECT



Joe Masi, Executive Director

Summer is officially here, and another round of June District Meetings has come and gone. A total of 79 resolutions carried, excellent guest speakers, and wonderful hosts made for a busy and rewarding series of meetings. Thank you to everyone who contributed and to our members for attending. If the success of June Districts is dependent on your input and participation, this year's meetings were very successful indeed!

I'd like to share with you another monumental meeting, one that had its beginnings in Manitoba last summer. As you may recall, Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs Minister **Steve Ashton** invited the AMM to address the annual meeting of Provincial-Territorial Ministers

Responsible for Local Government last July. This was a very significant event for the AMM, as the Ministers meet annually and had never invited municipal associations to participate. Minister Ashton called it "an unprecedented

example of working together," and **President Bell** called the opportunity a good first step towards working with provincial-territorial local government Ministers on an ongoing basis for the future health and prosperity of municipalities across Canada.

Fast-forward one year and I am pleased to say that another step has been taken. Firstly, a collaborative relationship between Provincial-Territorial Ministers and Municipal Associations was launched during a forum I attended on May 29 in Quebec City. The relationship will result in a deeper understanding of the issues municipalities face due to shared learning and information exchange; enhanced communication around emerging issues; opportunities for multi-layered collabora-

tions within the organizations; and more influence in the design and funding of future Canada-wide programs for the municipal sector.

Secondly, the AMM involvement at the July, 2007 Manitoba conference of Ministers was welcomed and it was suggested this practice should continue. To that end, the annual conference of Ministers this year took place in July in Halifax, and the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) had the opportunity to participate, as the AMM did last year. Future years will, hopefully, see other municipal associations having the same opportunity when their province hosts the Ministers.

So what does it all mean for municipalities? Well, it certainly opens a door that

The relationship will result in

a deeper understanding of the

issues municipalities face.

until now had been somewhat closed. Let us remember that one of the main focuses of municipal associations like the AMM is to lobby provincial-territorial governments for change! For that reason, it will take time to build

the solid foundation of mutual trust and respect that is needed for strong, sustainable relationships to result. Provincial-territorial government ministries already have a strong communication capacity, including their annual meeting. Allowing municipal associations to participate in this meeting and offer our viewpoint on an ongoing basis, Canada-wide, is a significant step toward building that foundation of trust and respect. The AMM is pleased to have been part of the first step back in July, 2007 and we look forward to a growing relationship in the future.



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MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS IN MANITOBA

New education and job opportunities are now available in Manitoba's medical sector. The Province will increase the number of funded nurse practitioner positions to 76 through the addition of 30 new nurse practitioners announced since February. These positions will be allocated as follows: 13 in the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, three in Brandon and South Eastman, two each in NOR-MAN, Parklands and Burntwood, and one in each of the Assiniboine, Central, Interlake and North Eastman regional health authorities (RHAs). There will also be one nurse practitioner position assigned to the nursing station at Grand Rapids. The Province will also invest an additional \$500,000 in the Nurses Recruitment and Retention Fund to expand access to continuing education, staff development and other opportunities that strengthen nurse retention.

Further opportunities are available as the University of Manitoba and Red River College will each offer an additional 16 nurse training seats this fall, along with eight new seats at the Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface. As well, a new program will be introduced at the U of M in September 2008 with the acceptance of 12 candidates for a twoyear masters program for physician assistants. For medical students, the Province has announced a new incentive to keep graduates practicing locally. Graduates will be offered a guaranteed residency position in the specialty of their choice in Manitoba in return for a minimum of two years of service to a

northern Manitoba community. The new program will begin this fall with up to two positions, expanding to 10 positions per year in 2009-10.

Emergency medical services also received funding of \$2.7 million for RHAs to permanently hire additional full-time and part-time paramedics, and \$553,000 to refurbish 30 ambulances and purchase four new ambulances for the provincial fleet

LAKE FRIENDLY LABEL CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

The Honourable Christine Melnick,

Minister of Water Stewardship recently announced \$25,000 in provincial funding to promote the use of environmentally friendly products. The focus of the campaign is to identify environmentally "lake friendly" products available for sale in local communities. Leading the initiative are the municipal leaders from cities, towns, and rural municipalities of the south basin of Lake Winnipeg. The awareness campaign was one of the recommendations from the Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board's final report.

Students from the local schools in the south basin of the Lake Winnipeg, along with mayors and reeves, will design a label for products such as phosphorous free detergents, lawn fertilizers and other environmentally friendly products. The winning student and his or her school will equally share the \$1,000 prize.

NEW APPRENTICESHIP SPACES AND TAX CREDIT

The Honourable Andrew Swan, Minister of Competitiveness, Training and Trade recently announced \$3.8 million in funding

for 1,100 new apprenticeship training seats along with a new apprenticeship tax credit for businesses. As well, the Province committed to create an additional 4,000 training spaces over the next four years.

The Apprenticeship Tax Credit provides employers hiring a certified journey-person from an apprenticeship program a tax credit of up to \$2,500 a year up to two years for each journeyperson hired. The apprentices are entitled to the province's tuition fee income tax rebate and will receive sixty percent of their tuition should they live and work in Manitoba upon completion.

MOBILE TRAINING LABS

The Honourable Vic Toews, President of the Treasury Board on behalf of The Honourable Rona Ambrose and The Honourable Andrew Swan recently announced \$3.12 million in funding under the Canada-Manitoba Economic Partnership Agreement for two mobile training labs for rural communities through Red River College.

Each lab is contained in a 53-ft. trailer that is transformed into a 950 sq. ft. unit. Diesel generators supply the power to the electrical equipment, lighting, heating and air conditioning. Connecting to the lab are supply trailers, housing materials, training aid, additional tools and equipment increasing the facility to almost 2,000 sq. ft.

The training labs provide students in rural communities the opportunity to obtain training as an automotive service technician, carpenter, electrician, machinist, pipe fitter, plumber, welder or an industrial mechanic. They increase access for training opportunities with community-based projects and emerging industry.



TRANSPORTATION MATTERS

A commitment to building a safe, modern and reliable transportation system is a commitment to a prosperous and competitive economy for all Manitobans.

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RECREATION, WELLNESS AND CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

The Honourable Eric Robinson,

Minister of Culture, Heritage and Tourism recently announced \$4.5 million in funding through the Community Places Program for recreation and wellness infrastructure.

In 2008-2009 the provincial support will result in over \$69 million in community based construction projects to upgrade existing or create new facilities. The funding increase is a result of the commitment to double funding for recreation facilities from the throne speech last fall.

TRUCKING INDUSTRY TRIES TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

The Honourable Vic Toews, President of the Treasury Board, on behalf of

The Honourable Lawrence Cannon recently announced funding under the Freight Technology Demonstration Fund for a Manitoba freight transportation company.

This fund helps test and measure new and underused freight transportation technologies that can reduce emissions when operated in extreme Canadian conditions.

The Freight Technology Demonstration Fund and the Freight Technology Incentives Program together are part of Transport Canada's ecoFREIGHT Program. This program aims to reduce the effects of freight transportation on human health and the environment by promoting environmentally sound technologies and best practices in the industry. "These ecoFREIGHT initiatives help transport companies acquire available technology. The result is lower emission of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants," said Minister Cannon.

Winnipeg-based Bison Transport will receive up to \$500,000 towards a large-scale, fleet-wide demonstration of the operation effectiveness of aerodynamic trailer fairings. These items attach to the undercarriage of a standard van semi-trailer and are designed to reduce fuel consumption by reducing the aerodynamic drag caused by the trailer's wheels and axle components.



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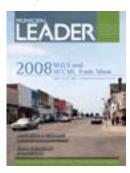


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AND Furthermore

CHILDCARE and INFRASTRUCTURE updates

This issue of "And Furthermore" brings readers up to speed on two topics that may seem somewhat distant from each other — child care and infrastructure. However, both represent healthy growth in our communities. In fact, in the Spring 2008 issue of the Leader Susan Prentice wrote that "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."



UPDATE

On April 28, 2008, the Province announced a five-year, 12-point child-care agenda called Family Choices. Family Choices includes:

- 1. 6,500 more funded child-care spaces
- 2. Nursery school for 1,300 more children
- 3. Family Choices Building Fund, including up to 35 more program sites, capital to convert surplus school space, and a \$22.5-million increase from Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth to create a \$37-million fund.

Also included are a child-care safety charter, a centralized online wait-list, greater inclusion, the lowest fees outside Quebec, and several other improvements.

In the first year of the Family Choices agenda there will be:

- funding for 1,500 more child-care spaces,
- funding for 100 more children in nursery school,
- a 3% overall increase for wages effective
 July 1 plus a low-wage adjustment,
- equalization of tuition for early childhood education students at rural Red River College sites, and
- safety charter implementation assistance for all child-care facilities.

The total new investment for 2008-09 is \$7.75 million. It is estimated that funding for child care will increase to \$201.8 million over the five-year plan, up from \$109.8 million in 2007-08. More information about Family Choices is available at www.manitoba.ca/familychoices.html.

The Winter 2008 Leader featured a special report on infrastructure along with an infrastructure programs directory that referred to the Community Places Program, the rural library establishment grant, and various other recreation programs.



UPDATE

On February 27, 2008, the Province pledged to provide \$707,600 to support the recreation delivery system in Manitoba. This includes \$50,300 for the Recreation Connections annual operating grant in 2007-08 along with \$657,300 through Recreation Opportunities for program and training support for 50 recreation commissions. Established in 1996, Recreation Connections Manitoba is a provincial organization that supports professionals, practitioners and volunteers in the recreation, sport, parks and leisure industries. The Recreation Opportunities program encourages municipal corporations and school divisions to form partnerships aimed at providing a wide range of community recreation opportunities through qualified recreation leadership.

More information on Recreation Connections is available at: www.recconnections.com.

On April 16, 2008 the Province announced a \$9-million investment to

enhance and upgrade recreation facilities. The investment is an extension of the Rural/Northern Municipal Recreation Fund that was announced in 2006 and established as part of the Building Manitoba Fund, with \$7.4 million in provincial funding committed over three years for recreation and library facility projects in rural and northern Manitoba. Through the Building Manitoba Fund, municipalities receive a share of provincial income and fuel taxes - revenues that grow with the economy - to support their infrastructure and servicedelivery needs. This second phase of the Municipal Recreation Fund will maintain the current efficient program delivery mechanisms using existing Community Places and Canada-Manitoba Infrastructure application processes. Eligible projects include construction or improvements to recreation and wellness facilities such as recreation centres, community halls, parks, libraries, arenas and pools.

Finally, on April 23, 2008 the Province announced \$1 million in funding for libraries. Support to libraries will be increased by over \$700,000 in Budget 2008, with over \$300,000 of this including direct, ongoing assistance to rural and northern facilities for new technologies, enhanced services and improved public access.

Also included:

- An increase to the grant available for library establishment to \$10,000 to encourage greater municipal participation.
- \$230,000 toward the establishment of additional libraries in First Nations communities and the Rural Municipality of Springfield;
- A commitment of \$20,000 to enable new strategies in the delivery of library service to unserviced communities; and
- Over \$100,000 to Winnipeg Public Libraries to update collections and technology.

Eric Robinson, Minister of Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Sport noted this new funding addresses several key recommendations of the Public Libraries Review and responds to recommendations of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities.





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10 th Anniversary

Past President & Honourary Life Member Luncheon

May 22, 2008 was a memorable day as the AMM hosted a Past President & Honourary Life Member Luncheon at CanadInns in Portage la Prairie, as part of our 10th Anniversary celebrations. The attendees were all either past-presidents of MAUM or UMM and/or AMM honourary life member recipients.

Each guest had an opportunity to share their favorite memory with those

gathered, and **Alan Beachell** probably summed it up for everyone in his description of his days as UMM President: "I think of the trips that we had, and we had a lot of fun on those trips, but we also met an awful lot of fine people and it was really wonderful to be there and belong to the organization."

AMM President **Ron Bell** hosted the event, and assured our special guests

that while "change does come to municipal associations, don't think that the role you played hasn't been noticed – it has. You laid the foundation for where we are today and where we are going, and we can only hope that our current and future board members can be as effective as you have been. Once again, thank you."



On stairs (L-R) Bill Linden, Stuart Briese, Bud Birch, Jae Eadie, 2nd row: Alan Beachell, Al Ducharme, Manson Moir, Rick Borotsik Front row: Art Dyck, Ed Peltz, Dave Harms, Larry Walker, Margaret Hodgson, Jack Nicol, James Knight, and Ray Sigurdson.



The AMM is celebrating our 10th Anniversary and we have a number of special events planned for our members throughout the year, all culminating with the Annual Convention in November. Leading up to that, we have been running various contests and giving away tons of great prizes! Check out our most recent list of winners.

Contest	Date	Name	Prize
Website contest #3 – council photo	March, 2008	RM of Bifrost	Cooler bags for entire council
Website contest #4 – AMM crossword	April, 2008	Councillor Marlene Cook, City of Selkirk	AMM jacket
Website contest #5 – first person to register for June District Meetings	May, 2008	Mayor Lyle Smith, Town of Gilbert Plains	AMM jacket
June District Meetings – 5 draws per meeting	June, 2008	See below	AMM jacket

Interlake District

Don Vigfusson, RM of Bifrost Jonna Peltz, RM of Rockwood Jack Douglas, RM of Rockwood Carol Lavallee, RM of Armstrong Pat Pruden, City of Selkirk

Central District

Roland Rasmussen, RM of Cartier Robert Poirier, RM of St. Francis Xavier Ken Buchanan, RM of Louise Cynthia Bisson, RM of MacDonald Ted Tkachyk, RM of Grey

Western District

Bill Dekeyser, RM of Brenda Earl Malyon, RM of South Cypress Denis Bauldic, RM of Glenwood Beryl Williams, Town of Oak Lake Stuart Olmstead, Town of Carberry

Midwestern District

Bob English, RM of Hamiota Barb Cumming, RM of Hamiota Peggy Bradshaw, Village of Binscarth Doug Popkes, RM of Landsdowne Don Boxall, RM of Glenella

Parkland District

Carolyn Gordon, Town of Minitonas Joe Senderewich, RM of Shell River Steve Gazdewich, RM of Swan River Phyllis Friesen, Town of Swan River Jack Lenderbeck, RM of Shell River

Northern District

Ashley Johnson, City of Flin Flon Linda McFadyen, IGA Ron Skokun, Town of The Pas Oswald Sawh, City of Thompson Bert Lagimodiere, Town of The Pas

Eastern District

Luc Lahaie, RM of De Salaberry Bill Sawka, IGA Ed Gunning, RM of St. Clements Robert Dobush, RM of Reynolds Art Rempel, City of Steinbach





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Donna Belbin, AMM Events Coordinator

High Integrity POLITICS

FOR EFFECTIVE COUNCIL RELATIONSHIPS

The 2008 AMM Education Program continued with its second workshop on April 18. Barbara Bowes, President of Bowes HR, led the seminar High Integrity Politics for Effective Council Relationships.

The focus of the workshop was to gain understanding of:

- political organizations and politics as an influence strategy
- participants' personal approach to politics
- · power and influence
- general power bases and relationships
- the key elements of influence skills and
- a range of influence tools and tactics

Although a council is working for one common goal, they sometimes have different views of how to achieve that goal. Maintaining your own high ethical values and understanding your motivation can allow you to understand how your colleagues approach a topic, make decisions and see their point of view.

Participants were provided with case studies and examples so that that they could apply the skills they studied.

The Mind Mapping exercise was a powerful brainstorming tool that dem-

onstrated how to be clear as to what you want to talk about. It can help you visualize and stimulate the discussion.

Skills such as the ability to network, using straight talk vocabulary, listening and responding, and your sincerity all play a powerful role in the perception others hold of you. These skills also help you to understand your political style and build power relationships.

From work groups to sharing experiences, the elected officials learned about themselves and others from the point of view of political and influence styles and studied successful high integrity strategies and tactics for managing relationships and getting things done.

According to Bowes, "applying a political strategy that focuses on the good of your organization as community accompanied by high ethical values, creates a powerful instrument to develop win/win situations every time."

The AMM would like to thank those who attended the workshop and congratulates Rhonda Merke, Councillor, RM of Alonsa, winner of complimentary registration for the October 3 workshop plus a \$150 Canad Inns gift card. ▶



(L to R) President Ron Bell, Barbara Bowes, and Midwestern Urban Director Eileen Clarke.

"If you want to be an effective councillor, you need to act like a head coach of a football team. You watch the other players, understand how they play the game and then script a tailored game plan that will give you the wins you are looking for. To do that, you need to develop your political skills."

- Barbara Bowes

Municipal officials are reminded to register for

THE NEXT AMM EDUCATION WORKSHOP

What Happens When the Abacus Meets the Blackberry?

Understanding the New Public Sector Accounting Board's Financial Statements is designed for the elected official and other users of local government financial statements to be implemented AMM Education 2008

for all local governments for years beginning January 1, 2009.

- "The WoW Team" of Ron Well or Wendy Wolfe of Municipal Finance and Advisory Services, Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs.

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





Ernie Epp, President, MMAA

But I prefer "ERNIE"

Since being given the responsibility of representing the Manitoba Municipal Administrators Association in the position of President at the end of April, I've been referred to in all sorts of different ways. Mr. President, our Illustrious Leader, Mr. Chairman and sometimes YOU (as in "What are YOU going to do about it?"). They are all fine, but just to get the record straight, you can all just call me "Ernie."

Though many of you know me to some extent, I considered it worthwhile to give you a little more insight into the person I am by providing this additional background information.

I'm one of the many farm kids that grew up and left for the big city. That life, however, didn't last long. After marrying, my wife Robyn and I moved to Boissevain (my hometown and a lot quieter than Winnipeg) to start a family. This is where I got my start in the field of local government administration. That was almost 24 years ago.

From Boissevain, I moved on to work in municipal offices in Erickson/Clanwil-

liam, Leaf Rapids, Hanover, East St. Paul, and now Morden. Including my time at Boissevain/Morton, I've worked in six different municipal offices. I believe that this broad background will help me better understand all of the diverse issues that

While serving as President, it is my intent to continue developing the great relationship that already exists between AMM and MMAA.

will arise during my tenure. Whether it is a small community, rural, northern, capital region, or urban growth area issue, I've had at least some personal exposure to them all. Being well over 40, we'll hope that the experience thing trumps the

fading memory thing and I will be even better suited to serve.

I truthfully enjoy what I do. Helping mould and create the community that I live in; providing assistance to those that live there; and seeing the successes, no matter how small they are, gives me a great sense of satisfaction and really enhances what I perceive to be my self worth. I can't help but believe this is what all Administrators strive for.

While serving as President, it is my intent to continue developing the great relationship that already exists between AMM and MMAA. In speaking with peers from other provinces, they are envious of our close relationship.

I also feel the MMAA has the opportunity to expand its role in assisting local government to continue to improve. I look forward to seeing further accomplishments in this area.

I look forward to meeting many more of you over the next while, and invite you to say hi when the opportunity arises.

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UPDATE FROM Broadway



Spring Sitting SYNOPSIS

Tyler MacAfee, Director of Policy and Communications

Things were hopping on Broadway again as MLAs returned to session on April 9 with the tabling of Budget 2008. The AMM was hopeful that this year's budget would address two of the biggest areas of need - infrastructure and water. While this year's budget helped municipalities in some ways, it missed delivering on these top two areas.

BUDGET 2008 – "A LITTLE BIT HERE, NOT ENOUGH THERE"

Budget 2008 did introduce new initiatives for community centres and sports groups to purchase equipment and supplies. It also added almost \$1 million to the Community Places Program, plus additional funds for the Neighbourhoods Alive! Program. Since Budget 2008 the Province has committed \$9 million to enhance and upgrade recreation facilities, as an extension of the Rural/Northern Municipal Recreation Fund.

Budget 2008 also increased the Building Manitoba Fund, and municipalities should see on average a 7% increase. Budget 2008 invests an additional \$5 million in child care to provide more spaces, a new training and recruitment fund and higher wages. In the area of healthcare, Budget 2008 provides an additional \$3 million to increase the number of nurses, health-care aides and allied health-care workers for personal-care homes in Manitoba. It also invests in a \$4 million nurse practitioner and doctor recruitment and retention pilot program, and invests another \$7.2 million to educate and hire more doctors. Budget 2008 also provides funding for 20 more police officers and 2 more Crown prosecutors. There is also \$1 million in additional funding for youth corrections.

As mentioned, the budget did fail to deliver any long-term commitment to the growing municipal infrastructure deficit in Manitoba, and failed to meaningfully increase funding for water initiatives. The overall increase of 3% for water steward-

ship initiatives raises the question of whether this is really a priority. Water use licensing received minimal increases and the increase to \$5.3 million for conservation districts is nowhere near enough.

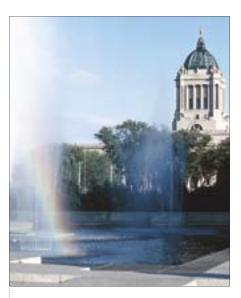
LEGISLATION

This session also saw a number of bills introduced, and while it wasn't heavy on bills that directly impact municipalities, many of the bills will have some indirect implications that we will be tracking.

Perhaps the most obvious bill of interest was the amendment to the Municipal Act - Bill 36. While the bill merely moves the timeframes for the assessment cycles to regulation, what it really means for municipalities is that we will now be moving to a two-year assessment cycle. This benefits municipalities as it will smooth out some of the shocks in the current four-year system and make the primary revenue source for municipalities (property tax) more predictable, something we have asked for in other revenue sources, like the gas tax agreement. The AMM is also pleased to see in Bill 36 the ability for the assessor and taxpayer to come to an agreement on changes to a property's assessment prior to the start of the board of revision process. Finding workable solutions for all parties without having to move into a formal process not only will save time and money, but will benefit community relations.

Other bills of note this session include:

- Bill 8 Phosphorous Reduction Act places greater restrictions on the use of phosphorus, which is good for municipalities since this will help on the front-end, rather than forcing municipalities to undertake expensive infrastructure upgrades.
- Bill 13 The Highway Traffic Amendment Act deals with damage to infrastructure (such as bridges) and provides another avenue for municipalities to be compensated when damage is caused.



- Bill 17 The Environmental Amendment Act places a ban on building or expanding hog facilities in certain designated areas of the province.
- Bill 28 The Strengthening Local Schools Act places a moratorium on school closures and addresses the length of time students should be on buses.
- Bill 37 The Lobbyist Registration Act puts greater restrictions on lobbying groups. This bill will not have any direct impact on municipalities, as by the definition of this act, municipalities and AMM are not considered lobby groups.

The end of this session saw a flurry of committee hearings to move these bills through the process. In the end 36 bills were passed, with another 7 held over for consideration when the Legislature resumes sitting in September. Of the bills highlighted above, Bills 8, 13, 28 and 36 were passed, with Bill 17 and 37 being held over.

As always, the AMM will continue to track those bills left on the table and any new bills introduced by government.

* To view the AMM's submission on these or any bills, go to www.amm.mb.ca/pol_leg.html.







Above: Urban Vice-President Shirley Kalyniuk, President Ron Bell, Rural Vice-President Doug Dobrowolski, and the rest of the AMM Board of Directors took their top issues to the halls of the Manitoba Legislature during Lobby Days in April. Photo by Mike Aporius, Winnipeg Free Press.



(L-R) AMM Midwestern Urban Director Eileen Clarke, Leader of the Official Opposition Hugh McFadyen and AMM Central Rural Director Ralph Groening.



Directors Alice Borgouin (Interlake Rural), Maxine Chacun (Western Urban) and Robert Misko (Parkland Rural) wait for their meeting to start.

The AMM blitzed the Manitoba Legislature once again in an effort to inform MLAs about top issues facing municipalities. During the 4th annual "Lobby Days", held April 22-23, 2008, the AMM met with the NDP caucus as a group, and with Conservative and Liberal MLAs on an individual basis.

Since the first Lobby Days took place in 2005, the event has become a critical part of the AMM's annual lobbying activities. The AMM meets annually with each Provincial Cabinet Minister to advocate municipal issues, but the opportunity to meet with members outside Cabinet is less frequent. As AMM President **Ron Bell** explains, "The government doesn't end at the Provincial Cabinet. Bringing the entire NDP caucus, as well as the Official Opposition, up-to-speed about municipal concerns opens the lines of communication. That can only benefit municipalities."

However, municipalities aren't the only ones to benefit from Lobby Days. MLAs are elected by the people, and it's important that *they* are knowledgeable about municipal issues when interacting with their constituents.

"We needed to ensure these topics continue to be high on everyone's radar and I think we achieved that."

This year, fiscal balance and water protection – the AMM's two most critical issues – were the focus of Lobby Days. It is estimated that Canadian municipalities only directly receive 8 cents of every tax dollar, with 42 cents going to the provinces and the rest to the Federal Government, and that creates a fiscal imbalance. Yet municipalities are being asked to take on a whole gamut of water protection issues, without knowing who is going to pay for these initiatives, or how.

President Bell thinks the message was heard loud and clear. "These two issues have been the highest priority concerns of Manitoba municipalities for two years running. We needed to ensure these topics continue to be high on everyone's radar and I think we achieved that."



INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP yields ground breaking secondary plan

SOUTH BASIN OF LAKE MANITOBA TO BENEFIT

Chris Baker, Master of City Planning Candidate, University of Manitoba

A unique partnership involving the Portage la Prairie Planning District Board, Portage la Prairie RM Council, Department of Intergovernmental Affairs and University of Manitoba City Planning students has resulted in a ground breaking secondary plan in the province. This is the first time any of these groups had entered into such a partnership and the plan is one of the first rural secondary plans under the new Planning Act.

On April 18, 2008 in Portage la Prairie, students presented the first draft of the South Basin Lake Manitoba Planning Area Secondary Plan to a joint gathering of the Portage la Prairie Planning District Board and the RM of Portage la Prairie Council. The plan was the result of a four-month studio project1 that engaged students to create a plan designed to accommodate growth while enhancing environmental conservation. Innovative policy directions include the accommodation of wind farm development, the allowance of secondary on-site industry on agricultural land and high environmental standards for cottage development.

The South Basin is a fragile, complex mix of natural phenomena and human interest. Along with the marsh the area has fertile agricultural land, an interregional community pasture, rural residential properties, a Hutterite colony, and burgeoning cottage areas. It is also attracting interest from wind farm developers. In response to many potential land use conflicts, the recently



MCP class of 2007



Students engaging with stakeholders in Portage la Prairie, February 2008.

adopted Portage la Prairie Planning District Development Plan called for the undertaking of a secondary plan². With "bright green" environmentalism as the underlying principle, plan making began with key informants providing presentations about the area. Following these inputs students conducted additional background research. An innovative stakeholder consultation was designed and carried out in partnership with Dr. Daniel Buckles3 from Carlton University, Ottawa. This first of two community engagements had stakeholders discuss their concerns, which provided an avenue for capacity building. The second engagement, designed by students, allowed the public to show their level of support for draft policies generated from previous work

The residents, stakeholders and the RM council proved to be a progressive group. They were willing to discuss conflicting interests and explore other perspectives. The draft plan has been reviewed by the council and was well received, with most policies standing fast. The project is continuing through a student internship with the planning district. After some minor revisions the plan will be ready for first reading and well on the way to adoption. Additional planning priorities arising from this study

are also being explored through the internship. The project will be presented as a case study at the July Canadian Institute of Planners' Conference in Winnipeg and at a SAS Conference in Ottawa in November.

The experience of this study helps establish rural secondary plans as an integral component to regional planning. It demonstrates that an RM, public sector planners, academics and students could successfully collaborate in this type of process. This project could be the impetus for future joint ventures. The U of M Department of City Planning⁴ encourages live planning projects within the province and is open to playing various roles in these processes.

Questions regarding the project may be sent to *umbake45@cc.umanitoba.ca*.

NOTES:

- 1. Studio Project website: www.regionalplanning.ca.
- Secondary plans are intended to supplement larger scale development plans and/or municipal plans. They address areas or neighbourhoods that require specific attention due to a complex mix of elements that are unique within a city or region.
- Dr. Daniel Buckles is the co-creator of Social Analysis Systems (SAS), an innovative public engagement technique – www.sas2.net.
- 4. U of M, Department of City Planning: www. umanitoba.ca/faculties/architecture/cp.











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ANATOMY OF an Amalgamation — Part III

* Editor's Note: On January 1, 2007, the Town of Killarney and the RM of Turtle Mountain amalgamated into the Municipality of Killarney-Turtle Mountain. While not the first neighbouring municipalities to merge in the province, the practice is not widespread. The Municipal Leader approached the 'new' municipality and asked if they would share their experiences with our readers.

By the RM of Killarney-Turtle Mountain

We introduced you to Killarney-Turtle Mountain's journey to amalgamation in the Winter, 2006/07 issue of the Leader, and checked in again in the Fall, 2007 issue to see how they were making out. In this issue, we offer you the final installment of "Anatomy of an Amalgamation," where we find out what they have learned and what they can teach others.

BACKGROUND

The process was initiated in the spring of 1997, following a request from the Chamber of Commerce to consider the possibility of amalgamating the municipalities. The purpose was to:

- · achieve efficiency and less governance
- preserve and build upon the cooperation between the two; and
- streamline the development and planning processes, to eliminate conflicts and benefit new potential development in the area.

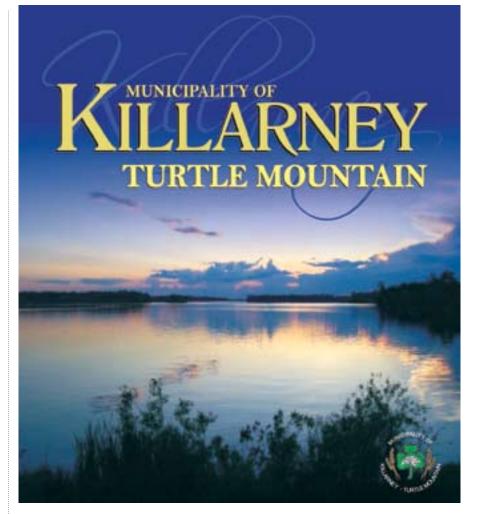
THE STUDY PROCESS

A Steering Committee was struck to examine the issue of amalgamation. The committee contracted external consultants to undertake a feasibility study on their behalf. The outcome of the study was development of a model for amalgamation. The model had the following objectives: to provide a blueprint for implementing amalgamation and to address the concerns regarding amalgamation. The Steering Committee and the two councils endorsed the findings of the report, and agreed to continue examining the issue.

The first of two public meetings was held for the consultants to present the report findings to the public, for the public to ask questions of the consultant and express any concerns, and for the Committee to discuss the next steps of the process.

The general issues/concerns expressed at the public meetings were:

- adequate service delivery
- municipal taxation rates



- rural vs. urban share of existing reserves and debt
- adequate representation on Council
- future economic development
- savings generated by amalgamation, and
- continued cooperation among the councils

The Steering Committee, which was re-struck as the Restructuring Committee, continued with the next steps in the process, which were:

Public education about the proposed amalgamation - Questions and Answers were placed in the Killarney Guide, two brochures were developed and a second public meeting was held.

Addressing the concerns about the amalgamation and quantifying additional benefits - A more detailed examination of administrative and operational aspects of the municipality was undertaken to identify additional efficiencies.



Observation about the process -

Several observations can be made about the activities undertaken by the consultants, the Committee, the councils and the administration:

CONSULTANTS

 Some individuals felt that the consultants were pushing amalgamation and not being neutral on the issue.

THE STEERING/ RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

- Considerable energy was expended by the Committee to address questions and outstanding concerns of Councillors.
- Despite the considerable effort and educational activities undertaken by the Committee the public continued to ask questions and express concerns. Committee members questioned the impact of their public education effort.
- One of the biggest barriers to the amalgamation appeared simply to be a desire to maintain the status quo.

THE COUNCILS

- Council's attempt to be neutral on the issue, rather than being perceived as open-minded, was criticized.
- Because they did not present a unified front at the first public meeting, public skepticism and mistrust about the amalgamation proposal generally resulted.
- Several of the concerns expressed at the public meeting related to issues that had been addressed by the feasibility study.
 The public was clearly dissatisfied with the responses of the consultants and wanted to know Council's positions on the issues
- Most of those who asked questions of the consultant were opposed to the proposed amalgamation. Vocal advocates of the amalgamation at the meeting may have served to balance the general mood.
- The lack of rural Council consensus at the second public meeting further contributed to the belief that the proposed amalgamation would benefit the urban municipality at the expense of the rural municipality.
- Clear public opinion should be obtained for officials to be bound to the wishes of the electorate.

ADMINISTRATION

 Because the identified dollar savings were small, the public perceived that the benefits of amalgamation were mostly non-financial. However, because those

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The Municipality of Killarney-Turtle Mountain has embarked on an aggressive strategy to recruit newcomers to the area. Below is an excerpt from their comprehensive brochure:

Killarney is the perfect place to retire or relocate. It is a community ready to welcome newcomers – the door is wide open! With rapidly improving technology, it is easy to do business globally while choosing a home base locally. The world is at your fingertips while you can enjoy small town life and all the benefits it brings. Affordable cost of living in a safe and growing community top the list



of things attracting new people to Killarney. There is also a growing demand for professionals in a number of fields, including health care and a constant need for skilled trades workers for a variety of local businesses and services.

Maybe you're looking for a community where you can relax and enjoy the retirement phase of life. Affordable bousing in a scenic community makes Killarney a popular place for retirees. Access to excellent medical care and a long list of leisure activities and programs aimed at seniors to stay busy and active along with all the shopping and services you need right down the street make it an easy choice to relocate to Killarney.

To view the complete brochure, or to view their promotional video, visit www.killarneymanitoba.com/pages/promotion.btml.



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MUNICIPAL Profile

benefits were not clearly articulated, some individuals questioned why amalgamation was being discussed.

 If the additional savings had been known earlier, they could have been factored into the feasibility study findings and reported at the first public meeting, making the financial benefits of the proposed amalgamation more attractive.

LESSONS LEARNED

Council consensus at the outset would enhance acceptance of amalgamation. Consensus within and between Council on the amalgamation issue may have demonstrated to the public that there were no "hidden agendas" and may have increased the likelihood of acceptance of committee recommendations. Divisive Council opinion may result in divisive public opinion.

Elected officials are community leaders. While outside facilitators/consultants may enhance perception of neutrality, is important that the public view their elected officials as leading the process. Perhaps the "best" or the most effective champions of the amalgamation need to be the officials themselves.

Do not rush the amalgamation process. The public needs time to be educated about, and feel comfortable that they understand, the impact of amalgamation. Constituents may not appreciate or support feeling rushed even if tighter time frame will result in the savings of the cost of an election or other event.

Capitalize on the knowledge of municipal staff. Municipal staff have a wealth of knowledge about the municipality and can contribute significantly to the identification of efficiencies and savings that could result from an amalgamation. Availability of such information would assist in effectively responding to public concerns and would assure the public that the councils have thoroughly analyzed and understood the issues.

Clear public opinion should be obtained. If you are to be bound by public opinion, a clear expression of public opinion should be obtained. The low response rates to the opinion survey may suggest that the majority of electors may have been unconcerned with, or unaware of, the amalgamation proposal.

Develop an effective communication strategy. Effective communication is essential to 1) educate the public about amalgamation; 2) respond to public concerns; and 3) inform the public about the next steps in the process. While use of various media is important to reach as broad an audience as possible, do not underestimate the impact of one-on-one meetings with stakeholders.

CONCLUSION

So if the amalgamation of the two municipalities has not led to the demise of the community, why was there concern regarding the amalgamation? Our community is not that much different from any other in the province, in that our citizens become worried about the uncertainty of change.

Although some ratepayers had concerns regarding the amalgamation, we have not received any specific complaints that the amalgamation is any longer a concern. We are now into the 18th month of the amalgamation and we believe that we are operating the same as most municipalities in the province, just more efficiently.



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ASSESSMENT LEGISLATION Amendments

Mark Newman, Fillmore Riley LLP

Assessment of properties in Manitoba is governed by *The Municipal Assessment Act* (the "Act"). In its present form, the Act has existed since 1990, and over the years various amendments have been made from time to time.

At present the Act contemplates that a new general reassessment will be issued every four years.

At present the Act contemplates that the reference year, or year of value, is the year following the year of the previous general reassessment.

So, for example, a general reassessment was issued in 2006. This is to be effective for the years 2006 to 2009, inclusive.

It is based upon a year of value of 2003, which is the year following the year in which the previous general reassessment, 2002, took effect.

The four year cycle, which we presently have, results in the year of value being very much out of date. Today, in 2008, we are using a year of value of 2003. Property values have changed significantly over the years and clearly values are out of date.

The amendments to the legislation will introduce a two year cycle, with the result that a new general reassessment will be prepared every two years.

Another amendment of significance relates to the duration of penalty provisions relating to a failure on the part of a property owner to provide income and expense information.

Section 16(1) of the Act allows an assessor to request information of various kinds relating to a property including income and expense information.

Where there is a failure to provide income and expense information the Act provided that any reduction in assessment would be deferred until the year following the year to which the application related, or the year following the year in which the order reducing the assessment was made, whichever was later.

The effect of this legislation was in the context of a four year cycle to potentially

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

impose a penalty as great as the entire four years, with the result that the property owner would not receive the benefit of any reduction in assessment depending on when the appeal was heard and the order finally made by the Municipal Board of Manitoba.

The amendments now specify that the reduction shall take effect in the year following the year in respect of which the application is made. In practical terms, this will have the effect of confining the penalty to a single year.

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- 14 PSB Training Brandon
- 20 PSAB Training Winnipeg
- 21 PSAB Training Dauphin
- 27 PSAB Training Portage la Prairie
- 27 PSAB Training Thompson
- 28 PSAB Training Winnipeg

September, 2008

- 3 PSAB Training Brandon
- 4 PSAB Training Winnipeg
- **5** PSAB Training Russell
- 10 PSAB Training Winnipeg
- PSAB Training Brandon

November, 2008

24-27 AMM 10th Annual Convention — Winnipeg

March, 2009

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THINK SAFETY, WORK SAFELY!





AMM turns green



By Lynne Bereza, AMM Communications Coordinator

The AMM is committed

to recycling and reducing waste wherever possible, and we know our members are too. That is why we are continually searching for ways to become better stewards of the environment. We are pleased to say that over the past year we have implemented a number of waste reduction initiatives that, due to the nature of our organization, have had effects across Manitoba.

Perhaps the biggest change we made was to implement a set of guidelines for recycling and waste reduction at AMM events (see sidebar). We encourage our members to follow these guidelines when hosting AMM meetings (such as June Districts and Mayors, Reeves and CAOs) in their communities. We follow the guidelines ourselves for larger events such as the Municipal Officials Seminar and

the Annual Convention. This has made a huge impact on the amount of waste created and disposed of whenever we gather with our members!

But our events are not the only place where the AMM has tried to act more environmentally responsible – we walk the talk in our office, too. Here's what we've done so far:

- Installed programmable thermostats that automatically adjust the temperature when the office is closed.
- Installed sensor lights in all offices.
- Changed all office lighting to Manitoba
 Hydro-recommended bulbs that use
 less electricity and last up to eight times
 longer than light bulbs previously used.

- Implemented recycling programs for:
 - · Office paper
 - Household recyclables (newspaper, magazines, phone books, cardboard, plastic containers, glass containers, aluminum and metal cans, aseptic containers)
 - · Toner cartridges
- Installed a hand dryer in the ladies restroom – but not just any hand dryer.
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tion by the editors of
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- Purchased a kitchen compost pail. All coffee filters/ grounds, tea bags, and fruit and vegetable scraps are collected and taken home by a staff person who adds the materials to her back yard composter each week.
- Purchased enough reusable plates and cutlery to ensure no paper or plastic need be used, even on busy meeting days.
- Purchased office paper with at least 30% recycled content whenever possible.
- Installed a timer for outdoor signage.
- Printed the 2007 annual report on 100% recycled paper.

As always, we'd like to hear from our members – what are *you* doing in your municipal offices to reduce waste and save energy? Do you have any ideas to share with other AMM members? Let us know and we will print them in the next issue of the Leader!

Recycling & Waste Reduction at AMM Events

Most communities in Manitoba have longstanding, successful community recycling programs. It only makes sense that when an AMM meeting takes place in your community, we practice good 3 R's behavior – by reducing, reusing, *and* recycling.

Following the guidelines below will help us to meet our environmental goals, and result in less waste being sent to your landfill after the meeting:

- 1. Please ensure that no disposable cutlery or plates are used.
- 2. Please do not use Styrofoam.
- 3. Cream should be served in a pitcher, rather than individual creamers.
- 4. Likewise, sugar should be served in a bowl, or in cubes, rather than individual packets.
- 5. Try to avoid disposable napkins and use linen where possible.
- Many recent studies suggest municipally treated water is equal or higher in quality than bottled water. In addition, bottled water containers are made of plastic, which must be recycled. We strongly suggest serving water in pitchers, with glassware rather than plastic glasses.
- If bottled water must be served, please provide adequate recycling bins, clearly marked (one bin per 50 attendees is adequate.)
- If soft drinks are to be served, please provide adequate recycling bins, clearly marked.
- Please provide clear recycling instructions to meeting participants early in the day.

Reducing waste and practicing good recycling behavior is everyone's responsibility.

We appreciate the efforts of our members towards making AMM meetings "GREEN"!



Meet Your Provincial Department

Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy and Mines – Climate and Green Initiatives Branch Submitted by the Province of Manitoba

The province's Climate and Green Initiatives Branch – part of Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy and Mines – co-ordinates the government's strategic framework for a green, prosperous, growing province. Like Green Manitoba, the Green and Growing strategy is the basis of the branch's operations.

Climate and Green Initiatives develops, facilitates and co-ordinates climate change and green initiatives throughout the government. The branch promotes awareness of climate change issues, develops provincial climate change programs and funds opportunities for climate change action. It works with the government and communities to develop green initiatives that have economic, environmental and social benefits. The branch also supports research into climate change mitigation and adaptation.

In 2002, Canada ratified the Kyoto Protocol, which sets a target for achieving a six per cent reduction from 1990 greenhouse gas levels, by 2012. Manitoba has committed to working with citizens, communities and businesses to meet this target. It will make our province the first jurisdiction in Canada to meet a legislated Kyoto target by 2012. Manitoba recently solidified its position by passing *The Climate Change and Emissions Reduction Act*, which commits the province to meeting this target.

The act is supported by Beyond Kyoto, Manitoba's updated climate change action plan, which was released in April 2008. This plan and legislation are supported by more than \$145 million in investments over four years. There are 60 specific actions to reduce greenhouse gases, including:

Introducing a coal-reduction strategy.
 A tax on coal emissions will be in effect. Capital support will be available for coal-reliant industries to convert to cleaner energy and the province

In 2002, Canada ratified the Kyoto Protocol, which sets a target for achieving a six per cent reduction from 1990 greenhouse gas levels, by 2012.

will support development of a coal alternative, biomass.

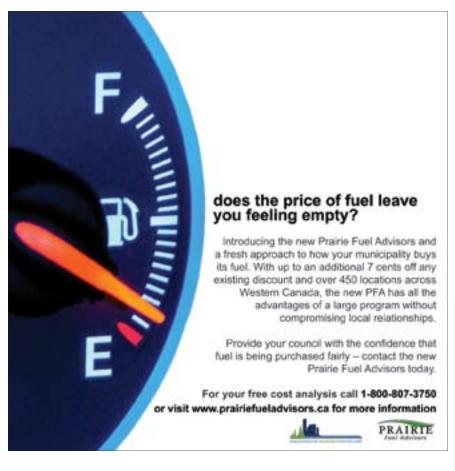
- Investing in public transportation, including continuing to pay half of transit's net operating costs, including rapid transit.
- Taking action on Manitoba's largest greenhouse gas emitters, including capturing methane in large landfills. Manitoba Hydro's coal-fired electricity plant in Brandon will be closed, except to support emergency operations. The province will work with the City of Winnipeg and Manitoba Hydro on a business plan for Brady Landfill.
- Encouraging greener cars and trucks.
 The province will expand the use of low-carbon fuels and establish a Vehicle Standards Advisory Board to make recommendations for a provincial standard for new vehicles.
- Implementing programs to reduce the number of inefficient automobiles on the road, develop "green driving" outreach programs and support new, efficient trucking technologies.
- Providing alternative transportation choices for consumers. Highway traffic laws will be updated to ensure that low-speed electric vehicles can be sold and driven in Manitoba. The province will continue to offer a consumer rebate for the purchase of hybrid and electric vehicles.
- Expanding clean energy actions, including energy efficiency initia-

- tives and the further development of hydro, wind and geothermal energy.
- Supporting agriculture, forestry and community programs, including a new sustainable agriculture program.
 New programs will help municipalities track emissions, reduce waste and conserve energy and water. Also, the province will plant five million trees over the next five years.
- Partnering with other provinces, the United States and other jurisdictions. The province and our partners strive to share best practices, fund new research and innovation opportunities and meet broader, regional targets such as those set by the Western Climate Initiative.

Here are more actions the province is taking on climate change:

Manitoba is working with communities, businesses and Manitoba Hydro to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We are investing in knowledge, promoting technological development and innovation, and encouraging action in all sectors of the provincial economy.

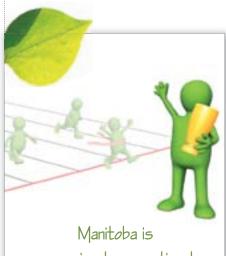
Manitoba is recognized as a national leader in energy efficiency. All new buildings that receive public money will be required to meet the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building rating system. New energy requirements for commercial buildings will be introduced. Also, a dedicated fund is supporting energy



efficiency and related employment and training for low-income and First Nations communities in our province.

Manitoba has become a North American leader on ground source heat pump (geothermal) installations. These pumps provide the lowest-cost heating and cooling systems on the continent to thousands of Manitoba homes and businesses.

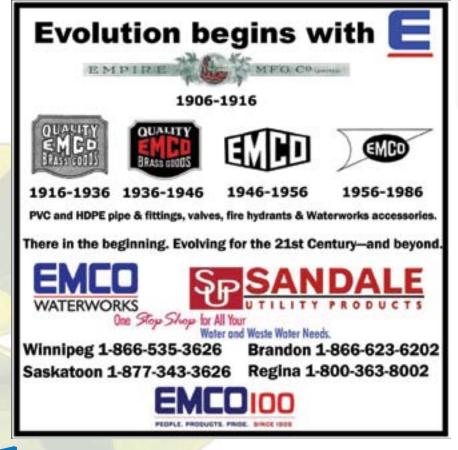
Ethanol production has grown from 10 million to 130 million litres due, in part, to Manitoba's biofuels mandate and tax incentives. The building of new, community based biodiesel plants has contributed to our communities' economy and job growth.



Manitoba is recognized as a national leader in energy efficiency.

The Town of St. Léon is the centre of a major construction project to create one of the largest wind energy farms in Canada, with 100 megawatts of wind power being produced. The goal is to produce 1,000 megawatts over the next 10 years. When completed, the project will supply enough clean energy to power all the households in Portage la Prairie and Morden combined. This \$210 million project will have a major economic impact on the region, including creating 300 direct and indirect jobs.

Cities are adopting made-in-Manitoba biodiesel and testing hybrid buses in their transit fleets. Also, Manitoba is reducing transportation emissions through low-emission vehicle incentives, encouraging new technologies, such as plug-in hybrid cars, and continuing investments in public transportation and biking and walking trails.





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"Green and Growing"

with Green Manitoba

Submitted by the Province of Manitoba

Manitoba takes action

to protect our environment, while paying close attention to the economic potential of its green efforts for our communities. The province believes there are tremendous economic opportunities for green initiatives, especially considering Manitoba's rich abundance of natural resources.

In 2005, the government solidified its long-term environmental sustainability objectives in its *Green and Growing* document. To help implement the strategies introduced in the report, Green Manitoba was created as a Special Operating Agency in April 2006.

Formed from combined components of Manitoba Conservation and Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy and Mines, Green Manitoba partners with communities to develop programs that will economically benefit the communities, while protecting the environment and reducing waste.

Through leadership and collaboration, Green Manitoba supports and guides environmentally sound community practices in three key areas:

- Waste reduction. The agency works with its partners to reduce solid waste disposal and to encourage efficient use of materials.
- Water conservation. Green Manitoba works to preserve adequate, reliable and sustainable supplies of fresh water.
- Energy efficiency. The agency encourages deceased energy consumption and works to mitigate climate change.

The following initiatives demonstrate the nature of activities undertaken by Green Manitoba.

Waste Management

The demand for improved recycling and waste management systems is growing

in Manitoba. Residential recycling, for example, rose six per cent since last year, and total recycling levels exceed 67,000 tonnes. Green Manitoba is developing a producer-responsibility model as a long-term solution for effective management of electronic waste (e-waste), household hazardous waste and blue-box materials. This follows the successful launch of Tire Stewardship Manitoba in April 2008. Improved waste management and organic waste diversion practices have significant effects in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, which benefit all our communities.

Consumer demand for electronics waste recycling services continues to grow. Manitoba's 2007 Electronic Waste Roundup diverted more than 305,000 kg (675,000 lbs.) of electronic waste from provincial landfills. A follow-up program is underway, and will end in September 2008. More collection sites have been added this year,

and in more communi-



"The province believes
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of natural resources."



ties, such as Swan River and The Pas. In total, 25 locations, spanning 22 communities, offer e-waste collection services this summer. To date, more than 10 semi-truckloads of residential electronics have been shipped for end-of-life processing.

Green Schools Initiative

This initiative works with public school divisions and some independent schools, to fund improvements to energy and water efficiency and to reduce waste in schools.

Green Schools provides many ways for schools to be involved in sustainable practices. For example, the program helps schools enhance their natural grounds, encourages teaching the importance of sustainability to students and works to connect school activities with local sustainability efforts.

The initiative recognizes and showcases the ongoing environmental efforts of our schools. It welcomes innovative proposals from schools and encourages new thinking and planning about sustainability.

Green Building Award

Brandon's new Green Building Award was developed through partnership with Green Manitoba and Brandon's Environmental Steering Committee. The award recognizes innovators in green building construction in Brandon and promotes local green building projects. This year's award was presented to the Kelleher Ford car dealership.

Additional Green Manitoba initiatives on the horizon include:

Small Commercial Program

Many large-scale retrofit incentives that are offered by utilities and governments do not apply, or may not be practical, for small business owners. Green Manitoba is developing a program and conducting market research to help small business owners improve waste management and help businesses save energy and water.

Water Conservation

Water conservation has become an important issue because of increased demand for potable water. Green Manitoba believes in working together with local businesses, government and individuals to conserve and protect our water resources. Green Manitoba is currently working with stakeholders to develop and implement a water efficiency program, which will initially focus on helping homeowners conserve water.

Municipal Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Baseline

"Up to half of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions (38 MTs) are under the direct control or influence of Municipal Governments." - Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Green Manitoba and its partners are exploring an initiative to provide tools, resources and knowledge to communities to aid in: gathering baseline information on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, predicting future emissions trends, and facilitating long-term planning and decision making for local action plans.

The government's Green and Growing agenda places a high priority on actions to enhance sustainable practices and reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout Manitoba.



"The government's

Green and Growing agenda

places a high priority on

actions to enhance sustainable

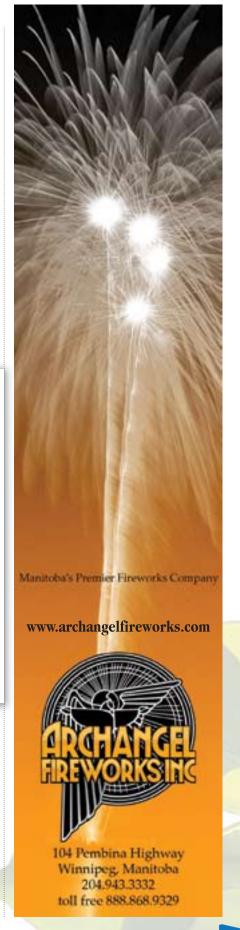
practices and reduce

greenhouse gas emissions

throughout Manitoba."

Gathering community GHG and energy baseline information is a critical first step in helping communities set targets for reducing their greenhouse gas emissions. Information gathering also helps communities measure and report their reduction achievements. These efforts will help communities meet the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' eligibility requirements for Green Municipal funding.

Green Manitoba looks forward to working with all stakeholders on many additional initiatives to help build a green and prosperous future for Manitoba communities.









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Education, authorized signs and proper installation can reduce injuries and fatalities and promote positive changes in driver behaviour.

Inappropriate or missing signs give motorists and pedestrians (especially children) a false sense of security and often lead to tragic consequences and potential liability issues for municipalities. Safety audits are a critical component to public safety as much as well maintained roads.

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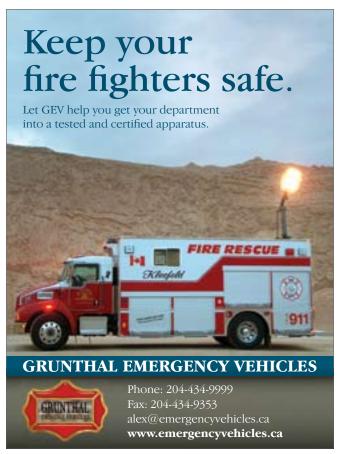


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A BETTER TOMORROW made possible



2M at the heart of a unique environmental partnership

By Keystone Agricultural Producers

The RM of Blanshard is home to two major communities and about 700 people, but may one day be known as the birthplace of a nation-wide agricultural conservation program. With the support of governments, farmers and a forward-thinking municipal council, this RM launched the first Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) pilot project in Canada in 2005.

Since then, ALUS has provided an opportunity for farmers to evaluate their farms and become actively involved in identifying lands that create environmental benefits. A payment is then provided to farmers who have signed a contract to provide these services to the public.

Innovative leadership from farmers, a municipality, conservationists, and governments had moved ALUS forward to this stage. Evaluation is still under way, but results from the first two years are very promising.

Over 70% of eligible landowners in the RM participated in ALUS, a rate that is unheard of in any other conservation program in Canada. Of those that participated, about half had never participated in a conservation program before - which means that ALUS was successful in reaching a new audience. Those that participated signed contracts to maintain or enhance their environmentally significant acres, including wetlands, riparian buffers, grasslands or wooded areas, and other ecologically sensitive lands.

Part of the reason for these successes has been the involvement and leadership shown by local people. An ALUS project manager working through the Little Saskatchewan River Conservation District worked as the first point of contact for farmers. The municipal council was also strongly supportive of moving ALUS forward, and even invested money over the course of the three-year pilot project. Roy Greer, a local councillor and member of the project's management committee often explains that their commitment was an easy decision: Their \$120,000 share triggered nearly \$1 million of investment in the region over the course of the project.

The impact of the ALUS project in Blanshard is being closely watched by agricultural organizations, conservation groups, and governments across the country. Another pilot project is taking place in Norfolk County in Ontario, where demonstration farms are highlighting environmental services that could be part of a full ALUS program. The government of Prince Edward Island recently announced a province-wide ALUS program that will help them to reach their environmental goals. Other pilot projects are also under development in Saskatchewan and Alberta, all based on unique local partnerships.

The ALUS research project receives its funding from the Advancing Canadian Agriculture & Agri-Food program, Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives (MAFRI), the Delta Waterfowl Foundation, the Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council,



(L-R) MAFRI Minister Rosann Wowchuk, KAP President Ian Wishart, and Delta Waterfowl VP Robert Sopuck participated in the ALUS tour in the RM of Blanshard.

"ALUS has provided an opportunity for farmers to evaluate their farms and become actively involved in identifying Lands that create environmental benefits."

and the RM of Blanshard, with technical expertise provided by Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, the Little Saskatchewan River Conservation District, MAFRI, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration. The ALUS concept was initially developed by Keystone Agricultural Producers and is being administered by the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation.

For more information about ALUS, contact the KAP office at (204) 697-1140 or communications@kap.mb.ca. Information is also posted online at www.kap.mb.ca/alus.htm and www.deltawaterfowl.org/alus.

FCM's Green Municipal Fund



Andrew Cowan, Senior Manager, FCM Centre for Sustainable Community Development

When the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) partnered with the federal government to create the Green Municipal Fund eight years ago, they were fueling the leading edge of an environmental sustainability wave.

"A lot has changed in eight years," commented Winnipeg Councillor and FCM Past President **Gord Steeves**, "back then there were just a few communities at the forefront, but now nearly everyone is working to make their cities and towns more sustainable."

FCM's Green Municipal Fund (GMF) has been a key resource supporting that change.

The Government of Canada endowed FCM with \$550 million to establish GMF to provide a long-term, sustainable source of financing for municipal governments and their partners. The Fund provides low-interest loans and grants, builds capacity, and shares knowledge to support municipal governments and their partners in developing communities that are more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable. To ensure the greatest possible impact, GMF invests in the best examples of municipal leadership in sustainable development – examples that can be replicated in other communities.

GMF funding is complemented by a capacity building program, which shares the knowledge and experience municipal leaders gain from GMF-funded initiatives. It informs, inspires and supports municipal

"GMF offers Manitoba municipalities with Leading initiatives a unique funding resource and I would encourage all municipalities to take a look at what it can offer."

- AMM President Ron Bell

governments to implement environmental sustainability projects and practices.

Since the inception of GMF in 2000, FCM has committed more than \$460 million in grants and low-interest loans to support nearly 800 leading projects. These GMF-supported initiatives are leveraging almost \$2.4 billion of economic activity in nearly 350 communities across Canada, over one third of those communities are small, rural and remote municipalities.

In Manitoba, municipal governments from Morris in the south, Virden in the west, to the Interlake and beyond have been able to take advantage of GMF grants for sustainable community plans, feasibility studies and field tests, and low interest loans combined with grants for capital projects.

GMF grants for studies can be used to help fuel progress toward solutions in more difficult areas of municipal programming and service delivery. GMF low interest loans, or low interest loans combined with grants, are then available to implement those solutions.

"With effective interest rates that are often below 2%," says Steeves, "there is really no competition for borrowing." On a \$1 million loan over 10 years, that preferred rate can translate into over \$100,000 in savings.

FCM is increasing its focus on sharing the results and lessons from GMF-funded initiatives. To improve the value of that sharing, GMF is invested in initiatives that will produce useful lessons that apply to a broader number of communities.

By strategically allocating funds to the best projects and studies, and sharing the resulting lessons and expertise, FCM can provide direct support to an even greater number of communities. The Federation can continually push the leading edge of the growing sustainability wave while simultaneously broadening the impact of the Fund beyond those municipalities that receive direct financing.

GMF supports a number of related programs that help elected officials and municipal staff members set and meet their sustainability goals: Partners for

Capacity Building Webinars

FCM's Green Municipal Fund is also about capacity building and providing resources, including webinars and E-learning. Webinars are interactive, web-based workshops that are accessible to a wide range of communities since there is no travel or cost required.

Some recent past webinar topics include:

- Set your sites on creative communities: the role of abandoned sites in stimulating economic development and community regeneration
- How Can the Ecological Footprint Tool Work for My Municipality?
- Greening City Hall: Policy Development for Municipal Green Buildings

For more information and to view past webinars, visit: www.sustainablecommunities.fcm.ca/Webinars/



Climate Protection, the Sustainable Communities Mission, the bi-annual Sustainable Communities Conference, the FCM-CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Awards and a popular online "webinar" series. Information about these and other programs are available through the FCM Centre for Sustainable Community development website: www.sustainablecommunities.fcm.ca.

As more and more communities adopt sustainability as a solution to promote cost savings, higher quality of life and better environmental management, FCM has adapted GMF to meet the growing demand. FCM has begun making new

improvements and adjustments to GMF based on input from villages, towns and cities across the country. Over the past year, for example, FCM has consulted extensively with leaders in brownfield remediation to modify the way projects are financed. Starting in July 2008, brownfield projects will be able to access low interest loans at any time of the year. Those loans will be disbursed at the remediation stage, when financing is otherwise more difficult to secure.

A similar consultation resulted in changes to grants and loans for sustainable transportation projects; the scope of eligible projects has been increased and application timelines lengthened to allow greater flexibility.

FCM is also working to shorten decision time so that GMF applicants can confirm financing quicker, and to extend timelines to make it easier for municipal gover ments to prepare their applications.

As municipal governments continue to raise the sustainability bar with innovative, leading-edge studies and projects, GMF continues to evolve to keep pace with municipal leadership, and remains a valuable asset to communities across Canada

Federation of Canadian Municipalities honours municipal excellence

Winners of FCM's 2008 FCM-CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Awards were honoured May 31 at a recognition ceremony during the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) 71st Annual Conference and Municipal Expo[™] in Québec City.

Since 2000, FCM and CH2M HILL Canada Limited have recognized municipal governments across Canada with Sustainable Community Awards for leadership in environmental excellence and innovation in service delivery.

"FCM congratulates all the winners of the 2008 Sustainable Community Awards," said Gord Steeves. "Each of the winners is helping to improve the quality of life for people in their communities. They are contributing creative and practical solutions to some of the critical issues of the environment and sustainable development the world faces today.'

The Awards are open to all municipal governments and their private sector partners. To be eligible, projects must have been completed within two years of the date of application, or be in the final stages of implementation, and must have achieved measurable results. Submissions are judged by an expert panel of judges.

Award winners

Winners of the 2008 FCM-CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Awards are:

- 1. Buildings: City of Toronto, Ontario: Arenas Energy Retrofit Project
- 2. Energy: City of Saint John, New Brunswick: Municipal Energy Efficiency Program
- 3. Planning: City of Pickering, Ontario: The Sustainable City Project

- 4. Residential Development: City of Kitchener, Ontario: The Intowns
- 5. Transportation: Regional Municipality of Durham, Regional Municipality of Halton, City of Hamilton, City of Mississauga, Regional Municipality of Peel, City of Toronto, Regional Municipality of York, Ontario: Smart Commute Initiative
- 6. Water: Regional Municipality of Peel, Ontario: Water Efficiency Plan
- 7. Waste: Towns of Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, Newmarket and Whitchurch-Stouffville and Township of King, Ontario: The Northern 6 Joint Waste Collection Contract and Green Bin (SSO) Launch Project

8. Wastewater: City of Québec, Québec: Restoration of the Saint Charles river bank and the development of a linear park

The FCM's Green Municipal Fund and CH2M HILL Canada Ltd. are the primary sponsors of the Sustainable Community Awards.

For additional information, contact: Green Municipal Fund and the Affordability and Choice Today (ACT) program: www.sustainablecommunities.fcm.ca

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Through ecoENERGY for Buildings and Houses (www.ecoaction.gc.ca/ buildings), you can access training and workshops, free software such as EE4 and RETScreen®, and technical publications, case studies and newsletters. The program supports the update of the Model National Energy Code for Buildings (MNECB) and is working with provinces and territories to develop a voluntary energy labelling system for buildings. If you are designing a new building or addition that is at least 25% better than the current MNECB, you can apply for a validation from NRCan. The department promotes financing options such as energy performance contracting and best practices such as building optimization (commissioning and re-commissioning). Collaboration with stakeholder associations, utilities and service providers is also a strong component.

A financial incentive, ecoENERGY Retrofit - Small and Medium Organi**zations** (www.ecoaction.gc.ca/retrofit), helps improve buildings that are 20,000 square metres or less. After performing a pre-project energy audit and completing the application forms, your municipality could be eligible for the lesser of \$10 per gigajoule of estimated annual energy savings or 25% of project costs. The maximum incentive is \$50,000 per project and \$250,000 per organization over the life of the program.

Another incentive, ecoENERGY for Renewable Heat (www.ecoaction. gc.ca/beat) offers 25% of purchase, instal-

"NR Can collaborates with associations, utilities and service providers to offer improved energy efficiency in new and existing municipal buildings."

lation and certain other costs for qualifying solar air and water heating systems, up to \$80,000 per installation.

If your municipality is applying for either of these incentives from NRCan, it is important you do not incur costs until you receive a signed Contribution Agreement. As well, you can also apply for complementary incentives from energy utilities, other orders of government and from the

Federation of Canadian Municipalities' **Green Municipal Fund** (see page 32) (www.sustainablecommunities.fcm.ca/ GMF).

For more information on Government of Canada programs after visiting the ecoACTION Web sites above, please contact the Office of Energy Efficiency at www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca/buildings/contact or call 1-877-360-5500.

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Communities going green: 10 ways to make it real

Randall McQuaker, Resource Conservation Manitoba

Amid media hype and high public expectations, local governments are moving forward with environmental action plans. Randall McQuaker from the nonprofit group Resource Conservation Manitoba (RCM) takes a look at who's doing what in Manitoba and across Canada.

Two striking conclusions emerge from even a quick survey of local environmental initiatives in Manitoba and other provinces. First, the range of what is being done is truly impressive. Communities are taking on critical challenges around waste, pollution, climate change, energy efficiency and more. And they are doing so using a variety of tools and approaches aimed at reducing the ecological footprint of local services and operations.

Second, practical steps are being taken in communities of varying sizes, not just larger cities. Clearly, people in all parts of the country increasingly expect municipal governments to take their environmental responsibilities seriously. Decision-makers know they must respond.

Following is a snapshot of community environmental initiatives in Manitoba and elsewhere.

(1) Idle-free

Over 100 communities across Canada have implemented campaigns to reduce vehicle idling. In Manitoba, Stonewall and Morden-Winkler are among the leaders. Brandon's **Environmental Steering Committee has** promoted a move to have idle-free signs posted at all schools in the city by next fall.

(2) Green buildings

Making efficient use of energy and resources is a key idea behind building green. The Province of Manitoba is currently reviewing options for standards that would apply to provincially-funded facilities. The planned PCU Centre in Portage la Prairie is aiming for LEED Silver. Elsewhere, Calgary



Winkler celebrates World Record Walk with 1,436 participants. Manitoba had the largest participation among provinces with 165 official walking events.

has a sustainable building policy committing to achieving LEED Gold standards in construction of new facilities and Silver for major renovations.

(3) Landfill bans

It has been 10 years since Nova Scotia moved to ban organics and recyclables from landfill. That's one of the factors in that province's nation-leading waste diversion rates. Selective restrictions are finding their way into practice in smaller centres in Manitoba. For example, the SWAMP regional transfer station (serving Stanley, Winkler and Morden) won't accept clean cardboard. That sends a strong recycling signal.

(4) Plastic bags

Leaf Rapids, Huntingdon (Quebec) and San Francisco are among the communities, large and small, that have taken steps to restrict the distribution of plastic grocery bags. In the big picture, plastic bags are not the most formidable barrier to a sustainable future. But their use in everyday life means they have symbolic value as well as practical impact. RCM favours an ecofee with proceeds invested in community waste reduction education.

(5) Composting

Organics comprise about one-third of the residential waste stream. When sent to landfill, they produce methane in the



Click here to return to

process of breaking down. Residential curbside pickup is available in Morden from beginning of May until the end of September for a fee. Ladysmith, BC also offers the service to residents. In Thunder Bay, collection of leaf and garden waste is free during a 10-day period in spring.

(6) Biking

It's easy, fast, healthy and non-polluting. Larger cities like Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal are putting resources into commuter cycling. And so are smaller centres like Ajax and Pickering in Ontario. The City of Winnipeg was a major supporter of the first-ever Bike to Work Day in Manitoba in June 2008. Cyclists point to the need for on-road infrastructure, so that cycling can be for transportation as well as a recreation.

(7) Waste fees

With recent figures from Statistics Canada showing Manitoba lagging in waste diversion, incentives like waste fees are getting a second look. It's an approach that has worked well in Selkirk and Portage la Prairie. Airdrie in Alberta and Owen Sound, ON, are among the hundred communities in Canada that have adopted various forms of "user pay" for waste.

(8) Pesticides

Growing concerns over the impact of exposure to synthetic chemical pesticides on human health, especially children's health, have prompted some communities to ban or limit the use of these substances. In Quebec, the restrictions are province-wide. In Manitoba, the cities of Brandon and Winnipeg have started to reflect public concern through bylaws. Morden has committed to use less toxic products for weed control in areas frequented by the public.

(9) Procurement

Local governments in Manitoba direct the spending of millions of dollars every year. For communities, green procurement means purchasing eco-friendly products that help reduce the environmental footprint of municipal operations. Bathurst, NB, and Waterloo, ON, have municipal policies. Manitoba's provincial government does, as well.

(10) Active transportation

Walkable communities are great for health, for business, and for the environment. Towns and cities need planning standards that make it safe, easy, attractive and convenient for people to walk and cycle. The City of Winnipeg commissioned a study of active transportation (AT) and has followed up by hiring an AT Co-ordinator and appointing an advisory committee.

There's much more to report – on energy retrofits, rain barrels, community gardens,

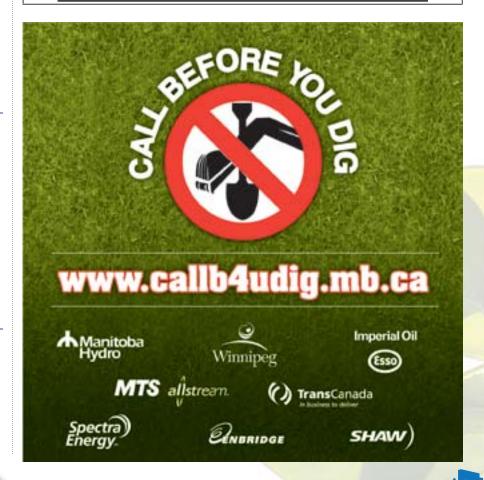
farmers markets, carpooling ... the list goes on. One inescapable take-away message – for municipalities across the country, sustainability is here to stay. ▶

Resource Conservation Manitoba is a non-profit group that promotes composting, waste reduction, sustainable transportation and resource conservation. For more information, visit www.resourceconservation.mb.ca or e-mail rcm@resourceconservation.mb.ca.



Energy Conservation & Mechanical Systems

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The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) and HED Insurance and Risk Services (HED) work together to provide municipalities in Manitoba with financial security through insurance products and services designed to manage risk.

Employee Benefits Program

This program is available for both employees and council members and participation grows annually. The "self-insured" Employee Benefits Program is used by 132 of 196 municipalities outside Winnipeg and offers flexible coverage options at reasonable rates.

Municipal Insurance Program

HED would like to thank the AMM and all 196 of the municipalities who have helped us make this program such a success. With full participation from all municipalities outside Winnipeg, the "protected self-insured" structure of the Municipal Insurance Program continues to prove its value to participating municipalities. Municipalities enjoy an ideal combination of insurance protection and reduced expenses.



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LEED Canada

Rating System By AMM Staff

The Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC) manages LEED Canada for New Construction and Major Renovations, which is an adaptation of the US Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System (LEED). LEED Canada has been tailored specifically for Canadian climates, construction practices and regulations. LEED projects are in progress in 41 different countries including Brazil, Mexico and India.

There are four possible levels of certification – certified, silver, gold and platinum – which are rated by the CaGBC based on a point system of prerequisites and credits.

The prerequisites and credits are organized into the following five categories:

- Sustainable Sites: Prerequisite

 erosion and sedimentation control.

 Points available for site selection, development density, redevelopment of contaminated sites, alternative transportation, reduced site disturbance, stormwater management, heat island effect, and light pollution reduction.
- Water Efficiency: Points available for water efficient landscaping, innovative wastewater technologies, and water use reduction.
- Energy and Atmosphere: Prerequisites fundamental building systems commissioning, minimum energy performance, and CFC reduction in HVAC&R equipment. Points available for optimizing energy performance, renewable energy, best practice commissioning, ozone protection, measurement and verification, and green power.
- Materials and Resources: Prerequisite – storage and collection of recyclables. Points available for building reuse, construction waste management, resource reuse, recycled content, regional materials, rapidly renewable materials, certified wood, and durable building.



• Indoor Environmental Quality: Prerequisites – Minimum indoor air quality (IAQ) performance and environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) control. Points available for carbon dioxide monitoring, ventilation effectiveness, construction IAQ management plan, low-emitting materials, indoor chemical and pollutant source control, controllability of systems, thermal comfort, and daylight and views.

An additional category – **Innovation Design and Process** – addresses sustainable building expertise as well as design measures not covered under these five environmental categories.

The same point scale is used for all certification, and the higher the number of points a project earns, the higher its certification rating will be. As of April 2008, there are 100 completed LEED projects in Canada.

The CaGBC is in the process of updating the LEED Canada Green Building System to address existing as well as new buildings, include all building types, and streamline the process to lower costs and shorten the time required for certification. The actual certification is not changing and the set of criteria will be similar to that outlined above. Currently LEED Canada applies only to new construction of commercial, institutional and multi-unit residential buildings. New criteria will be available for homes, neighbourhood developments, core and shell commercial buildings, and existing buildings. Implementation of the new system will occur in phases and is expected to be completed by 2011.

For more information visit: www.cagbc.org.

Also, www.gov.mb.ca/greenbuilding provides access to Manitoba's Green Building Policy as well as resources and tools to help people comply with the policy.

Manitoba's "*community-based*"

recycling success



Mike Fernandes, Senior Manager Municipal Programs, MPSC

Here's some trivia for you: When did the first recycling program start in a Manitoba community? If you answered "long before any European settler arrived," you're probably correct, but the first organized and heavily promoted recycling program in Manitoba actually started sometime around WWII when all Canadians were encouraged to "scrap" their steel and other materials to support the war effort. (Tell that to your kids and grandchildren the next time they lecture you about reducing waste!)

Unfortunately, as the war years and the Great Depression faded into history, our society gradually lost its conservation ethic and we started to take our resources for granted. To a large degree, this continues today, but thankfully there are signs of a turnaround in our thinking and one day we may look back to the year 1995 as a key point in this turnaround.

At that time, after years of negotiation with municipalities and various other stakeholders, the Province of Manitoba introduced a regulation that created the Manitoba Product Stewardship Program and an independent, multi-stakeholder board, now called Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation, to administer the system.

The original objective of the MPSP program was simple – it was designed to promote the expansion of Manitoba's recycling services for packaging and printed materials. It wasn't intended to influence aluminum mining practices in Bolivia, nor was it intended to reduce organic waste, hazardous wastes or any other wastes municipalities contend with. It was created with a very specific job in mind and it was provided a very specific revenue base consistent with that job description.

The MPSP framework was introduced as "an interim step" towards increased product stewardship and it certainly did



"The success of recycling in Manitoba has always and will always fall on the efforts of the residents, volunteers and leaders of our communities."

(and still does) have its critics. As discussions continue on how best to move past the "interim" approach, there is one element of the system that should not be overlooked in the quest to move towards a "greener" future, and that one element is the community-based approach that continues to deliver real and measurable results.

Before the MPSP framework was introduced there were recycling programs already in operation in all four corners of Manitoba including Virden (west), Winkler (south), Steinbach (east), and even Churchill (north). Many of these early recycling efforts were funded through shaky and unpredictable markets for scrap materials and temporary, ad-hoc funding from various grants. Yet it was reported that these small local efforts were able to recycle approximately 5,000 tonnes of packaging and printed material per year. It may not seem like much today, but given the challenges these early programs faced, it's a testament to the will and efforts



of the countless dedicated volunteers and local champions that these early recycling efforts even took hold and eventually created the foundation for the recycling success to follow.

The MPSP framework did not replace this local effort. What it did was provide a healthy dose of stability to local recycling programs. Instead of living and dying according to highly unpredictable revenues, community recycling programs could now count on a stable funding system that would help ensure the sustainability of recycling. For more information on how the MPSC funding system works check out our website at www.mbsc.com.

Even today, the MPSC system is not perfect, nor is it capable of making all of our environmental problems go away. But, it is very much a stabilizing force that allows communities to confidently move forward and refine their local recycling programs. The results, as they say, speak for themselves. Since the early 1990s, recycling in Manitoba has evolved into a comprehensive, provincewide infrastructure that boasts over 200 community recycling programs and last year recycled over 68,800 metric tonnes of packaging and printed material. Clearly, MPSC's "communitybased" approach has paid tremendous environmental and economic dividends for Manitoba's recycling efforts.

No doubt there have been many harsh lessons learned along the way. Some communities learned the hard way that recycling is not just about the environment, it is a business too. And there will always be times when market realities remind us that recycling is part of a larger economic system that is beyond our control. But there have also been countless individual community successes to celebrate as well.

As the planning for moving beyond the original MPSC system continues, it's worthwhile to take a moment to ask "what drove recycling success in Manitoba?" Was it just the funding provided by MPSC? Was it MPSC's consistent efforts to encourage and support communities to expand recycling? Yes, it was...partially. But let's be clear, the success of recycling in Manitoba has always and will always fall on the efforts of the residents, volunteers and leaders of our communities. It was so in the early 1900s during the war effort and it will continue to be so into the future regardless of what funding

and regulatory mechanisms are in put in place.

On behalf of my MPSC colleagues, I want to thank you for your recycling efforts since 1995 and encourage you continue to lead your communities towards a greener future!

This article is dedicated to the memory of Alice Chambers (Pinawa) and Ken Carels (Melita) as representatives of the countless volunteers and local champions who have helped to build Manitoba's recycling success!

A Few Interesting Facts:

- First Manitoba municipality officially registered with MPSC: RM of Miniota (February 1995).
- Smallest municipality participating in MPSC: Village of Waskada (Population - 199).
- Amount of packaging and printed material recycled by participating communities since MPSC was established in 1995: 600,413 metric tonnes.



Insurance



Municipal FACILITY MAINTENANCE

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

Manitoba Municipalities enjoy the benefit of a great many wonderful facilities such as arenas, curling rinks, community halls and recreation complexes.

These facilities are the focal points for these communities and would be a devastating blow if lost. Two Manitoba municipalities experienced that blow this year when their arenas were lost to fire. Most losses can be prevented or greatly reduced with regular inspection and maintenance of equipment and services to prevent fires and liability claims or by securing the building to prevent vandalism or arson losses.

Like any building, municipal facilities require regular maintenance to ensure that building services and fire service equipment remain in good and serviceable condition. This becomes increasingly important as the buildings and services age.

Many of the recreation facilities in Manitoba towns and RMs, such as arenas, curling rinks and community halls, are run by committees made up primarily of volunteers. Without volunteers, many of these facilities would not be able to operate.

Volunteer committees provide a costeffective method for municipalities to operate these facilities and these volunteers do a tremendous job keeping these facilities and programs running. However, at times it is difficult to keep an adequate number of volunteers and with so much work to do just keeping programs running, building repairs and maintenance often gets forgotten.

The committees need the municipalities' assistance to ensure the facilities are kept in good condition. Recent inspections of municipal facilities have found that regular checks of fire alarms, exit lights, emergency lights and fire extinguishing systems often fall by the wayside if not made a priority.

Monthly inspections of each facility conducted by the municipality or a volunteer designate would determine what maintenance / repair items needed to be completed before the list became overwhelming.

These monthly inspections are not difficult. Following a checklist can quickly determine any areas that need attention. Most maintenance items can be completed very quickly and easily once they have been identified.

Forms are available on the HED website: www.hedinc.com/amm/risk/checklists.asp



Missing a hazard does not automatically result in liability.

The courts do not expect perfection, just reasonableness.

BUILDING / FACILITY MAINTENANCE

- Implement a regular inspections and maintenance program as soon as possible.
- Document all maintenance and repair work. Your documentation will form the basis of a defence if a third party is injured on your premises.
- Vacant buildings or those shut down for the off-season still require regular

inspection and maintenance to prevent serious damage to the building such as water damage from a frozen/leaking pipe.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE: FIRE HAZARDS

- Check fuse panels frequently for oversized fuses. As soon as possible, change fuse-panels to circuit breaker panels.
- Install smoke and/or heat detectors throughout the building.
- Check the fire alarm system and its connection to monitoring station annually.
- Fire extinguishers and emergency lighting should be visually checked monthly. Full inspection and testing should be done annually by a qualified contractor and the units tagged with the date of the inspection / test.
- Volunteers should be trained annually in fire extinguisher use by the local fire department.
- Automatic wet chemical extinguishing systems in kitchens should be checked every 6 months by a qualified contractor. Tag systems with service date.
- The kitchen hood and exhaust system should be steam cleaned at least annually by a qualified contractor. Filters should be cleaned at least monthly.
- Move garbage cans / bins at least 25 ft. away from the building to prevent a fire in a garbage bin from spreading to the building.
- Oily rags and combustible garbage should be removed from the building immediately. Oily rags should be kept in a metal can with a tight fitting metal lid to prevent spontaneous combustion of the rags.
- Ensure that the buildings are securely locked when not open to the public.
 Many facilities are very large and you may not hear someone enter the building if you are in the rear areas of the building.

Insurance

 Monitored burglar alarm systems should be installed to detect unauthorized entry. Even if you may think that there is not much to steal, there is a very real danger that vandals could damage the building / equipment or set the building on fire.

LIABILITY HAZARDS FOR ARENAS AND COMMUNITY HALLS

- Facilities that cater to seniors or disabled persons should be checked more stringently for any slip, trip and fall hazards.
- Curled mats and worn rugs should be repaired or replaced immediately to eliminate trip hazards.
- Mats placed inside entrances should extend at least 30 feet into the building to give facility users ample time to wipe water / dirt / snow from their footwear.
- Exit stairs / ramps should be checked to ensure that the structures and the handrails are structurally safe enough to carry a full load of people exiting the building in case of emergency. An exit stair that collapses could result in multiple serious injuries.
- Exit signs and emergency lights should be illuminated and highly visible to show direction of egress in case of power outage and / or smoke filled room.
- Replace burnt out exit and emergency light bulbs immediately. Inspect and test exit signs and emergency lights monthly. Log tests.
- Stairwells and exits must be kept clear of storage or refuse at all times. Obstructions could result in serious injuries in the event of an emergency.
- Check for any "falling hazards" around the exterior of the facility – Loose roofing, siding materials, signs / awnings attached to the building, icicles hanging off the roof / overhangs. These could fall off the building and injure passersby or damage vehicles parked near the building.
- Clean away snow / ice accumulations on sidewalks, stairs and ramps to reduce slip and fall hazards especially after snowfalls, freezing rain and thaw / freeze cycles. Sand / salt frequently. Keep a log of when these tasks were performed.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact **Ken Fingler**: Telephone: (204) 942-2555 ext 7279
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MTCML members looking for tires for their construction equipment should be speaking with Kal Tires **John Huthersall**, who will be pleased to tell them of the many attributes of the Nokian TRI 2 tire. At the recent Trade Show in Brandon, John was joined at the Kal Tire booth by **Bryan Humphries** of Tennessee-based Nokian Tyres Inc. They touted the new and improved TRI 2 as even better than its predecessor because of a number of features including:

- A new construction that guarantees excellent grip on all surfaces – even in winter;
- The tire's self-cleaning capabilities;

- A higher load capacity than its predecessor;
- Excellent durability:
- Smooth, stable driving surface;
- Low noise level;
- HA-oil free (the manufacturing process uses only low-aromatic oils); and
- The low rolling resistance reduces fuel consumption.

For more information, call John Huthersall at 204-694-8560 or visit *www.nokiantires.com*.

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Simply e-mail your promotional material to Managing Editor Terry Ross (terry@kelman.ca). Please send images/photos in TIF, JPG or PDF format. Promos will run in the MTCML section of the magazine on a "first come, first served" basis.

Pro Mac brush cutters FROM WESTCON

Westcon Equipment and Rentals of Winnipeg can provide Manitoba municipalities with a wide selection of rotary brush cutters from BC-based manufacturer Pro Mac Manufacturing Ltd. Pro Mac offers over a dozen models of brush cutters ranging from a 24" rotary single arm blade to a 66" rotary mulching disc. The brush cutters are available in single or two-door frame; while adaptor brackets are come in pin type, quick change, pusher pads or grapple brackets.

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4TH ANNUAL MUNICIPAL EXCELLENCE

AWARD

THE 4TH ANNUAL Municipal Excellence Award was presented on April 17, 2008 during the AMM's Municipal Officials Seminar at Brandon Keystone Centre. This year's recipients were the Town of Carman and the RM of Dufferin for their residential development agreement, signed in August of 2007.

The need for an agreement arose due to a residential development occurring in the town that will eventually take in some of the RM, but the developer wanted the land to be annexed into the Town of Carman. The Town agreed that once the land was annexed they would place an amount of money equal to the taxes the RM would have received prior to annexation into a fund for jointly funded project and organizations. Examples of potential recipients were the local library, recreation groups and fire department.

The Town also agreed to match the amount of money it was putting in on behalf of the RM. Once the taxes received by the Town exceeded the original amount being placed in the joint fund, it would then change to 20% of the taxes received,

thus ensuring the money being put in each year would only increase with development.

The two councils hope that the agreement will allow for the RM and Town to maintain or lower taxes while jointly funding future projects. The benefits include a friendlier atmosphere amongst community groups due to their municipal governments working together. The municipalities have made the agreement as simple as possible, while

traditionally difficult situation.

In presenting the award, AMM President **Ron Bell** said Carman and Dufferin set an example for turning a traditionally difficult situation into a positive arrangement, noting that annexations in other jurisdictions often become disputes. "Not only does this create funding for important services that both municipalities use, it created goodwill amongst the town and RM," said Bell.

working together towards a solution to a

In accepting the award, RM of Dufferin Reeve **Shawn McCutcheon** said their

(L to R) Reeve Shawn McCutcheon, RM of Dufferin; Tyler King, Economic Development Officer; Mayor Robert Mitchell, Town of Carman; and President Ron Bell, AMM.

groups tax-sharing agreement is a

tax-sharing agreement is a common sense approach building on existing co-operation between the two jurisdictions. "It's really a recognition on the town's part that we needed to look a little more broadly into this issue or we'd end up arguing over nickels and dimes," McCutcheon said.

Town of Carman Mayor **Bob Mitchell** agrees. "Both municipalities are putting a great deal of effort into working together to provide a strong and healthy community," he said. "Tax sharing is one way of providing joint funding opportunities which prove we can work together for the benefit of our citizens."



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SUBMISSIONS FOR THE 4TH ANNUAL MUNICIPAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

PAPERLESS COUNCIL MEETINGS

CITY OF BRANDON - FINALIST

Brandon City Council is not only a firm believer in recycling, but in reducing waste as much as possible. Last year it decided to tackle one area where a great deal of paper was being used - council meetings. Not satisfied to simply reduce the amount of paper that was being used each council meeting, the council took the bold step to go where few councils have gone before – completely paperless.

This has been accomplished primarily by producing the agenda and all supporting documentation electronically through the use of laptop computers. Because not all Council members had personal computers at home, it was agreed to purchase a laptop for each of the 11 members at a cost of \$1,000 each, a considerable savings due to the bulk purchase. This cost has been recouped in just a year through reduced paper usage, delivery costs, and staff hours.

The paperless concept has now been extended to the flow of virtually all internal and external communication. As well, the entire operational process is much quicker, more efficient, environmentally friendly, and money-saving.

INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY

VILLAGE OF CRYSTAL CITY, RM OF LOUISE & TOWN OF PILOT MOUND

In October 2006, the RM of Louise, Town of Pilot Mound and Village of Crystal City opened facility for solid waste management. This facility now reduces household waste by up to 70% and has increased the life of the landfill site from 35 years to 70 years.

SHARED MUNICIPAL OFFICE

TOWN & RM OF GRANDVIEW

In 2004, the Town and RM of Grandview agreed to share office space and purchased a building. The shared office has been instrumental in forming a sense of community, improving communication and building a partnership between the two municipalities.

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

RM OF ERIKSDALE

The RM of Eriksdale completed its first strategic planning workshop for a total cost of less than \$1,000. They have developed a number of best practices including "shop for the right consultant," "clearly define the process," "agree on participants," "create a vision," and "agree on a workshop agenda."

EXPROPRIATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

RM OF ELLICE

In 1999 the municipality embarked on an adventure that continues today which is the acquisition of the Fort Ellice Site located in the RM of Ellice. A unified council has been imperative in facing this cost effective yet legally challenging practice.

SOUTH INTERLAKE REGIONAL LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE

RM OF ROSSER

This custom-built library branch on wheels is one of only two bookmobiles in the province, carrying approximately 6,000 books. Many of the people who utilize this unique service would likely not access the library services if not for the bookmobile.

RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

RM OF LAWRENCE

When notified that the local recycling program would cease to operate on December 31, 2003, the municipality became entirely responsible for the program. Improvements made since then, including a comprehensive communications program and the help of several grants, resulted in an increase in recycling volumes by 52.21%.



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2008 MOS and MTCML TRADE SHOW

Delegates



George Harbottle, AMM Eastern District

– Rural Director (right), chats with Rod Cameron,
Deputy Reeve from the RM of St. Clements.



Councillors Calvin Jacobson, RM of Minto and Morley Butler, RM of Birtle.



AMM Central District Directors Ralph Groening (Rural) and Mel Klassen (Urban) enjoy the wine & cheese event.



L to R: Councillor Connie Rapko, City of Selkirk, Councillor Elmer Keryluk, RM of St. Andrews, Mayor Cliff Dearman, RM of West St. Paul, and Councillor Wayne Boch, also of St. Andrews.



Delegates take in one of the many breakout sessions.



Councillor Lori Taylor, Town of Hartney, tries her hand at HED's ever-popular putting green.



President Bell responds to media questions.



Dallas Miller, Councillor for the RM of Rossburn, smiles after winning the grand prize of a \$2,000 trip voucher sponsored by HED and the AMM.

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2008 MOS and MTCML TRADE SHOW

Speakers



Roger Bouvier, Municipal Solutions.



Arlene Wilgosh, Deputy Minister, Manitoba Health & Healthy Living.



Getty and Darryl Stewart presented "Engage! The Leader's Role in Employee Engagement."



Terry Sargeant, CEC Chair, presented "The Hog Review: What it means for your municipality."



Doug Popowich, Fire Commissioner, presided over two sessions.



AMM Parkland Urban Director Rene Maillard with Greg Tramley who presented "the do's, don'ts and maybe's of municipal expropriation."



 $President \ Bell \ introduces \ Minister \ of \ Intergovernmental \ Affairs \ Steve \ Ashton.$



Paul Pierlot and Andrea Gulay explained "BizPal" to delegates.



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2008 MOS and MTCML TRADE SHOW (continued)

Trade Show



Town of Gladstone Councillor Dave Thiessen chats with a displayer.



Sitting down on the job?!



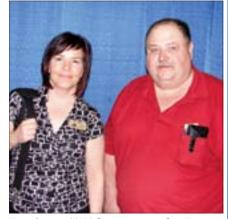
Councillor Jacques Trudeau, RM of Tache had all the luck winning no less than four prizes!



Councillor Johnny Michasiw, Town of Shoal Lake, visits the Mainstream Water Solutions Booth.



CAO Tom Mollard, RM of Hamiota, chats with fellow delegates.



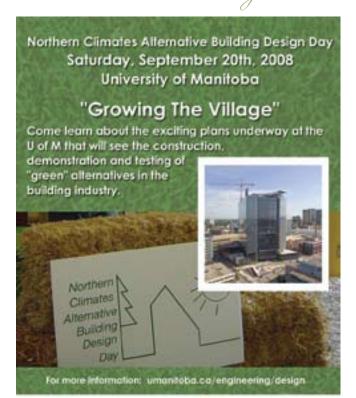
Lynne Bereza, AMM Communications Coordinator, with RM of Strathclair Councillor Garry Dalgarno.



Members of the Brandt Tractor booth pose for the camera.







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