

SUMA opens hospital contribution review

Prompted by SUMA, the Department of Health is conducting a review of the policy whereby Saskatchewan communities are expected to fund 35% of health-care construction projects.

According to Health Minister Len Taylor, 42 projects worth an estimated \$600 million are under review.

The offloading of responsibilities from the Province to municipalities has been a key issue of the SUMA Municipal Funding Campaign - especially when municipal revenue sources are limited. Said SUMA Interim President Allan Earle, "when the only way you have of generating revenue is property tax... I don't know where they expect communities are going to raise those kinds of dollars when revenue sharing and infrastructure funding is not at an all time high." He added, "we're using every dollar we have just to provide the ongoing requirements of a community

without throwing in 35% toward a multi-million dollar project."

Unable to fund the contribution with property taxes, communities have turned to other revenue generating devices, such as levies, fundraisers, trust funds and corpo-

rate donations.

Communities will find out the results of the review when the 2007-08 Provincial Budget is released this spring.



The City of Humboldt is one of several communities expected to contribute to construction projects at its local hospital

SUMA encourages Saskatchewan Health to reconsider its community contribution policy.

The municipal funding campaign achieves mixed results.

Interim President Allan Earle discusses unity while Laurent Mougeot ponders a third-party view of municipalities.

St. Walburg earns international recognition. FCM applauds the federal government's homelessness and housing policies.

Can't wait for Convention? Get the scoop inside.

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Funding negotiations press on into Convention

Phase one of the municipal funding campaign brought mixed results. A series of ads that were run in late November through early December were successful in catching the Province's attention, and prompted exchanges of letters to the editor that generated a significant volume of publicity for collective frustrations of Saskatchewan's mayors and councillors. Still, we are without a deal that would see cities, towns and villages receive significant increases to revenue sharing and infrastructure funding over a longer term than the ad hoc contributions the Province has put forward in the past.

The December 8-9 meeting of the Board of Directors served as an opportunity to review activities and strategize for the future. Additionally, Deputy Minister for Government Relations, Lily Stonehouse attended the meeting to provide her perspective on the negotiations process.

It seems that the department is genuinely committed to working with SUMA to develop a longer-term solution for municipal funding, but the Department's interests

diverge from those of SUMA when it comes to the planning process. The process lasting one to two years intended by the Province simply did not meet the needs of Saskatchewan's cities, towns and villages.

The SUMA board resolved to continue the campaign through January, building momentum into Con-

vention. The December 21 and January 9 meetings with the Province are to serve as checkpoints to measure progress and guide the tone of any public campaigning


in January. Although campaign messages would likely have been lost over the Christmas season, the Board of Directors generally agreed that the communications campaign should move forward in the new year.

In addition, the Board proposed a membership levy to help fund future communication efforts to be

brought to Convention. Communities that have already contributed to the 40/40 campaign would be credited against the levy.

On December 21, the SUMA executive met with Minister Harry Van Mulligen to discuss municipal funding. A key outcome from this meeting was the Minister's political commitment to stay involved in the negotiations process. As well, the Minister agreed to a timeline over which SUMA and Government Relations would work on a long-term plan for municipal funding. The process would have an October 31, 2007 deadline. The Minister would take the plan to Treasury Board in December for the 2008-09 Provincial Budget.

Over the next couple of weeks, the SUMA staff and executive will be busy meeting with the department. It is hoped that Minister Van Mulligen and Premier Calvert will come to the SUMA Convention with good news.



Quote

"Remember - good things come to those who wait."

- Minister Harry Van Mulligen
December 8
SUMA Christmas Party

President's *Voice*



Revenue sharing and infrastructure funding negotiations are increasing in intensity as we head into the 2007 Convention. Sas-

katchewan's mayors and councils have an important role to play as we look to build momentum:

1. Spread the word.

Municipalities provide important services to our residents that need to be adequately funded. The provincial government is accountable to the public, so let urban residents know they deserve a better deal. Use the media and any public relations vehicles you have available to raise frustration levels and gain support for more provincial funding.

2. Share your voice.

SUMA is your representative association, so make it work for you. You were elected for your good ideas on how to build our communities and the province, so let us know how we're doing. Contribute resolutions, vote in SUMA elections and bend the ears of your representatives on the board. As an association, we are what you make us.

3. Say you're with SUMA.

With 460 councils and over 2,000 elected officials, our united voice is difficult to ignore. Remember that

we all want the same thing - to provide adequate services to our residents that enhance their quality of life. Let's build on that unity.

With that, I bid you all the best in the New Year, and look forward to seeing you all at Convention. We have a lot of work to do, but the payoffs will be worthwhile. When it comes to municipal services, our residents deserve the very best.

Mayor Allan Earle
Dalmeny

Executive Director's *Voice*



A few key strokes on one of the most popular internet search engine can yield interesting results. A few days ago I was looking for information regarding revenue sharing and municipal governments. One of the sites listed on the results was the Canadian Encyclopedia Online. While the site did not provide much background data for the purpose of our research, it did offer an interesting third party perspective on the main challenges facing municipalities.

The Canadian Encyclopedia Online defines a municipal government as:

"a local government created by the provinces to provide services that can be more effectively handled under local control... The powers and responsibilities which municipal governments may exercise are usually set out in a general municipal statute, often known as the Municipal Act, the Local Government Act, the Cities and Towns Act or some similar name. Municipal governments make policy, raise revenue (the major sources of which are the taxes on real property and grants from the provincial governments) and ensure the implementation of policy. The first 2 tasks are the responsibility of the municipal council, elected locally, which is expected to act as a local legislature. Under the Constitution Act, 1982, the powers of municipal governments are determined by provincial governments, but their performance is assessed by the electorate in regular elections."

Municipalities are effectively "creatures" of the Province for a very simple and good reason: effectiveness. Local governments continue to remain the best structure to deliver services in the most efficient manner while meeting the expectations of local residents. From a policy standpoint, municipalities are the order of government which provides the highest level of accessibility to its constituents, therefore ensuring that the municipal policy framework is highly relevant to local issues.

The Canadian Encyclopedia also acknowledges one of the greatest challenges of municipal governments, the revenue side of operations. Municipal revenue streams are essentially limited to property taxation and funding grants from other orders of government. Property taxes, while being under direct control of the municipality, are subject to the pressures associated with maintaining a competitive business environment and affordable taxation levels for residents. The other stream, operating and

infrastructure funding from other governments, remains mostly unpredictable from year to year and has yet to keep up with the growth of the provincial economy.

Finally, the definition recognizes an interesting aspect of this order of government. While the powers and responsibilities of municipalities are generally defined by provincial laws, at the end of the day it is municipal elected officials who are held accountable for the successful delivery of municipal services in their communities.

SUMA's annual Convention next month will be presented under the theme of "Bold Leadership, Sustainable Communities". It will be an opportunity for all Saskatchewan urban municipalities to continue to work together to achieve significant progress in addressing challenges affecting local governments. Google SUMA for further details!

Laurent Mougeot

[insert SUMA logo here](#)

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The Urban Voice, published six times per year, is the official newsletter of the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association. Articles, letters and photographs are invited. All material is subject to editing. Subscriptions \$18 per year.

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Mayor Allan Earle, Vice-President, Towns
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Councillor Tiffany Paulsen, Saskatoon
Councillor Bill Rudachyk, Weyburn
Mayor Jim Scarrow, Prince Albert
Mayor Roland Zimmer, Tisdale

SUMA spreads Christmas spirit

After the 2005 Convention, SUMA was left with many souvenir teddy bears. We are pleased to announce that the furry creatures have found many happy homes.

SUMA, represented by Shantel Lipp, donated the teddy bears to the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region. To commemorate National Child Day, the region's hospitals gave a bear to every pediatric in-patient.



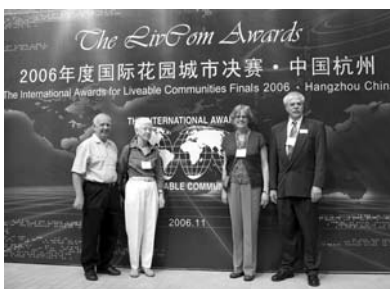
St. Walburg earns international recognition

with contributions from Mayor Gordon Hall and Councillor Tony Leeson

On November 9-13, the Town of St. Walburg competed as a finalist at the 2006 LivCom Awards in Hangzhou, China.

The LivCom Awards are endorsed by the United Nations Environment Programme and promote Best Practices of the management of the local environment. The objective is to improve the quality of life of individual citizens through the creation of "liveable communities."

St. Walburg earned a Bronze level standing in the category for communities under a population of 20,000.



Environmental leadership was an important component of St. Walburg's LivCom application.

Some of the initiatives St. Walburg has undertaken include composting and recycling programs. As well, the town makes efforts to conserve water and energy with its user-pay systems and energy efficient facilities. Thankfully, St. Walburg's pristine environment has not been affected by the "brownfield" consequences that communities in other industrialized nations have had to address.

Volunteerism was another highlight of the St. Walburg application. The citizens contribute to many recreational, business and community beautification initiatives.

Councillor Tony Leeson represented St. Walburg in China, and learned a great deal about his community in the world. Many communities worldwide face similar challenges concerning infrastructure funding and health. Relating to health, diabetes and obesity are problems that affect both rich and poor countries and are common concerns.

St. Walburg stood out with its sus-

tainability model that stressed community input and volunteerism. Councillor Leeson noted that community consensus was a foreign idea to many delegates. In other countries, major environmental projects are dictated by central governments, and enacted by paid employees. Delegates were impressed by the St. Walburg model where projects are planned at the community level and built with the vision and labour of local volunteers.

While the St. Walburg model has obvious merits, Councillor Leeson believes that massive central government funding for "green projects" has been effective. Using a paternalistic management style, socialist countries have created impressive "green communities."

Viewing other communities' submission enabled Councillor Leeson to evaluate FCM's Green Funding. He observed that FCM is "on the right track," but smaller communities are at a comparative disadvantage for accessing funds



Councillor Tony Leeson and Norman Linkert with the St. Walburg display

because of the sizable amount of money they must raise with a limited tax base. He advocates an increase to revenue sharing and loosening the conditions on other funds. With these improvements to funding programs, Leeson suggests that Canada would have an abundance of Liveable Communities, large and small.

St. Walburg plans to return to the LivCom Awards next year with the hopes of improving on their bronze level standing.

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Building Communities receives mixed reviews

Provincial funding for recreational and cultural facilities in Swift Current, Yorkton, Lloydminster and Saskatoon was welcomed as a partial response to SUMA's lobbying over several years for more flexible municipal infrastructure funding. Many of these types of local and regional needs were unmet while priority was given to "green" infrastructure projects like the upgrading of water and waste treatment systems. The "Building Communities" program is positive, but more needs to be done.

SUMA's concern is that the \$20 million committed for the current year, or the \$100 million total over three years, will not be enough to cover the infrastructure needs of all urban municipalities. "For the cities that received funding under Building Communities, we're thrilled," said President Allan Earle. "This is exactly the sort of commitment to communities that we have been advocating for a long time. I just wish that more of the wealth could be spread to benefit a greater number of people."

Here's what SUMA members had to say:

Dear (Minister Hagel):

When the government announced in the 2006 fall throne speech that funding was going to be provided for building communities in terms of recreation and culture we were very pleased. There has been very limited as-



The City of Yorkton received a \$4.07 million retroactive contribution from the Province for the Gallagher Centre.

sistance available in these areas for many years and we saw this as a response to that need. Our hope was that at least 20% would be made available to rural communities.

For Eston our key projects for 2006 and 2007 have been to reduce the energy costs for our facilities.

...We had also planned for installation of solar heating in our swimming pool utilizing the Renewable Energy Deployment Initiative... The REDI program was put on hold for most of 2006 and our application was not accepted so we were hoping it would meet the criteria of the Building Communities Program.

...From the original announcement we had the impression that there might be as much as \$50 per capita available for qualifying projects. We were hoping to obtain as much as 50% funding toward these projects and proceed with them in 2007.

Today we find out that the Building Communities program does not include Eston or any other community who are planning on expenditures of less than \$1,000,000. This is a community that has deeply invested in recreation and cultural facilities in the past decade and we do not have any major needs that would require a \$1,000,000 project. We have built our multi-million (dollar) facility; we need help to keep it in operation.

We are however struggling to continue to find the operating costs for the recreation and cultural facilities that will help to maintain the quality of life your government brags about in Saskatchewan.

...We request that you either reconsider the minimum level of the program or initiate in the 2007 budget a per capita program that will allow smaller communities like Eston to make the infrastructure improvements that will build our

community. We would hope that you can expand your vision of Saskatchewan to include all communities not just the largest communities.

Al Heron
Mayor - Town of Eston

After waiting patiently for the details of the above program to be distributed our Council is extremely disappointed with the \$1,000,000 threshold for projects. While indicating the program will support rehabilitation, renovation and retrofitting of existing facilities this threshold will be prohibitive for upgrades of existing facilities which is where many mid size communities are at. Any viable center already has their major facilities in place and many capital upgrades are in the \$100,000 to \$500,000 range for such things as energy and heating systems, low e ceilings and physical plant upgrades. As a result there will be limited opportunities for participation by the majority of Saskatchewan Communities.

We would like to know how this criteria was selected and if the Minister will do a review to reduce the threshold for projects to \$100,000? This will then allow participation by a reasonable number of Saskatchewan Communities in the spirit of what I am sure you agree, a true Saskatchewan "Building Communities" program is intended to achieve...

Richard Dolezsar, R.M.A
Town of Hudson Bay

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SUMA opposes “paternalistic legislative changes”

SUMA's Board of Directors re-affirmed their opposition to Bill 17, The Miscellaneous Statutes (Municipal Collection of Other Taxes) Amendment Act, 2006, at the SUMA Board meeting on December 8th. The SUMA Executive, with support from the President and Vice President of SARM, once again conveyed this position to the Minister at the Municipal Forum on December 11th.

Seen by the SUMA Board as an over-reaction to recent withholding of school taxes, Bill 17 proposes changes to several pieces

of legislation including the Cities Act, the Municipalities Act, and the Northern Municipalities Act, that would require municipalities to pay interest on taxes withheld or not collected to school divisions, allow the Minister to withhold Revenue Sharing grants, and force municipalities to impose penalties on uncollected school taxes as just a few examples of the changes.

Discussion at the SUMA Board table concluded that the Minister has sufficient authority to enforce regulations regarding tax collection and that the proposed legislative amendments would signal

a dramatic step back in SUMA's long-standing drive to protect and enhance the autonomy of local governments.

In keeping with the spirit and intent of the Cities Act and Municipalities Act, SUMA's Board is in favour of changes contained in Bill 28 and a soon to be introduced Bill to amend the Municipalities that will bring into force recommendations put forward by the Municipal Liability Review Committee. The changes will include general immunity for nuisance claims, duty of repair regarding streets, roads and public places, statutory im-

munity for employees, officers and agents, and several others. SUMA will continue to pursue issues such as proportionate liability. Also included in the Cities Act amendments is a change that will remove the requirement for cities to create an Administrative Review Body. While the requirement will be removed, Cities will retain the option to create such a body if they choose to do so.

For more information on the proposed legislative changes, ask your MLA or visit www.legassembly.sk.ca, and visit the “Progress of Bills” section of the website.

FCM: Homelessness initiatives provide “hope”

This is a statement released today by Federation of Canadian Municipalities President, Councillor Gloria Kovach of Guelph, Ont., following the announcement of the Homelessness Partnership Strategy and the extension of the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program.

“We welcome Minister Finley's announcement... of a two-year extension to the Government of Canada's support for initiatives combating homelessness and funding for rehabilitation and re-

pair of affordable housing.

Today's announcement of a Homelessness Partnership Strategy puts an end to the uncertainty over homelessness funding and provides hope for many who face the bleak prospect of spending the winter months without a roof.

We commend the Government for retaining the community delivery model that made the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) so effective. This model allowed communities to access funds themselves, so they could

develop local responses to homelessness. The new initiative holds promise to improve on this model, with provisions to tie in the support of other provincial/territorial governments and federal agencies to increase the effectiveness of the program in bringing people out of homelessness.

The extension of the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) is equally important, as this program often provides the most immediate and cost-effective means of ensuring that people are able to live in housing that is

healthy and safe, as well as affordable.

Of course, what is ultimately needed is a long-term commitment and strategy to deal with homelessness and housing affordability working with municipal governments and other key players.

Today's announcement gives us two more years to find those long-term solutions. FCM stands ready to do its part.”

CivicWeb

The Town of Porcupine Plain would like to thank iCompass Technologies for all the hard work and creativity in designing our new website. The staff at iCompass are exceptional – they are always courteous, accommodating and informative.

The Town of Porcupine Plain chose iCompass Technologies because of their unique web hosting qualities. One feature that was very important to us was having the ability to update the site “in house”. We are able to ensure that the information on the website is as accurate and prompt as possible. The online training and technical support for the website are great resource tools for our staff.

To date, we have been receiving numerous compliments on the new site, particularly on the layout, events calendar and news pages. These compliments exemplify iCompass's abilities in being one of the best website hosts for municipal governments.

Again thank you iCompass for your dedication in making our website the best it can possibly be.

Alicia Kwasney
Administrator, Town of Porcupine Plain



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Convention update

Education Sessions, Plenary Sessions, a trade show, awards, fun and entertainment await you at the 2007 Annual SUMA Convention.

The Convention is the largest and most important event hosted by SUMA each year. Convention offers the opportunity to review the policies and bylaws of the Association and to vote on resolutions to give the Association direction for the coming year.

The theme for the 2007 convention is "Bold Leadership, Sustainable Communities" and we have put together a program that will provide you with the tools and information you need to become bold leaders for your municipality. The convention logo symbolizes strength and unity demonstrating that all levels of government must work together toward a sustainable community.

Sunday Education Sessions

Sunday afternoon features ten education sessions in two 90 minute time blocks. First block of sessions from 1:00-2:30 p.m.

are:

E1 – Emerging Issues in Water Utility Operations

Presented by: SaskWater

E2 – The Municipal Makeover – Get Reacquainted with the SUMA Advantage

Presented by: SUMA's Strategic Partners

E3 – Immigration/Agrivision – an Introductory Session

E4 – Take Charge of your Municipal Operating Budget

Presented by: Roman Martiuk, City Manager, City of Prince Albert

E5 – Shared Services – A Review of Information Processing

Presented by: Vadim Software, ICompass and CGIS Spatial Solutions

From 2:45 – 4:00 p.m. choose from 5 additional topics:

E6 - Municipal Composting– How can it Benefit your Municipality?

Presented by: Joan Harrison, Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council

E7 – Leading Your Way through Successful Negotiations

E8 – Joint Leadership Ventures – How working together makes us

stronger

E9 – New Directions in Water Technology

Presented by: Associated Engineering

E10 RCMP – Client Service Enhancement Project

Presented by: Staff Sergeants Chris Kaiser and Glenn DeGoeij

Convention Plenary Sessions

Convention 2007 offers two thought-provoking and informative sessions that are vital to your communities.

Common Sense Approach to Sustainability for your Community

Many municipalities across North America have realized the power of making far reaching decisions based on local resources. Through municipal sustainability planning, cities, towns and villages re-discover the strength of community-based planning for sustainability as a prerequisite to successful development.

The purpose of this forum is to introduce the concept and the prerequisite of holistic planning in sustainable community development.

ment.

The objectives are to give attendees an initial understanding of:

- the principles of sustainable development
- the need for holistic planning
- the support that is available for municipal sustainability planning
- the stages from initial planning to implementation of programs and projects
- one community's experience with a new approach to development

Participants:

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA), Town of Davidson

Saskatchewan's Political Party Leaders Discuss Sustainability

A panel comprised of the leaders from all three Saskatchewan political parties will head up the second major main hall plenary. The leaders will be on hand to discuss their vision for a sustainable Saskatchewan as it relates to immigration, environment, government and financial matters.

The Glory of Easter

CRYSTAL CATHEDRAL MARCH 2007

- The Glory of Easter is brought to life through exciting drama, song and pageantry
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Convention Update *continued*

Social Activities

Viva Las Vegas

Join us for an evening of pure Las Vegas style entertainment in "An Evening with the Legends", featuring world class celebrity impersonator Robert Larrabee. You'll be entertained to music by Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Elton John, Neil Diamond and many more. Try your luck at the casino tables and enjoy some great food and fun. It's a night you won't want to miss! You could also win a trip to the Las Vegas!

Board Hosted Hospitality Night

It's become a convention tradition! The SUMA Board of Directors invites you to join them at the Board Hospitality "Toonie" bar. Drop by the Cedar Room at the Park Town Hotel and try your luck at the 50/50 draw proceeds going toward the "Mike Badham Scholarship Fund" and enjoy an evening of mingling with friends old and new, exchanging ideas and maybe even sing a song or two.

President's Banquet and Award Ceremony

SUMA looks forward to honoring long serving elected officials and employees for their dedication to their municipality. Following the formal part of the evening, Don Bryan, entertainer extraordinaire will introduce you to his hilarious cast of characters.

Municipal Marketplace Trade Show

It's true. With more display area available, Municipal Marketplace is now the largest trade show of its kind in western Canada.

The Municipal Marketplace at the 2007 Convention will host over 160 booths with products and services to sustain your municipality and build on future growth.

Booths will encompass the ground level of TCU Place in three separate and distinct areas; the new Grand Gallery, Regal A & B, then flowing into the back stage area. Continental breakfast in the tradeshow starts your day, followed by

coffee breaks, lengthened lunch and dedicated tradeshow time on Monday allowing ample time for leisurely viewing and discussion with product providers.

What's new in 2007? SUMA has opened the door to product sales on the show floor. Test the product on-site and save on shipping costs by taking it home with you after convention.

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TENDER

The Town of St. Walburg invites tenders for the Town contract Public Works and Utility Position.

Qualifications required are:

Utility Position:

- Level 1 Water Treatment and Distribution
- Level 1 Wastewater Collection and Distribution

Public Works Position:

- Valid Class 3 License with Air Brakes Endorsement
- Operating experience for town equipment; loader, grader, sweeper, tractors, garbage and gravel truck.

The successful tender will be responsible for the overall supervision, organization, coordination, control and execution of all functions of the Public Works and Utilities Department, operating within approved policies, programs and budgets of Council and relevant municipal bylaws and government legislation.

This contract can be bid separately as Utility and /or Public Works.

For a detailed description of the contract requirements contact the Town Office at 306-248-3232, E-mail: townofstwalburg@sasktel.net.

Tenders must be sealed and marked Tender on the front of the envelope. Submissions must be received by 4:00 p.m., Tuesday January 16th, 2007.

Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted

Tenders should be delivered to:

Town of St. Walburg
Box 368
St. Walburg, Saskatchewan
S0M 2T0

Saskatchewan Crimestoppers



Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers continues with its mandate of reducing crime and assisting police in apprehending criminals in Saskatchewan cities, towns and villages. To date this year, Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers have helped police recover \$117,230 in stolen property, \$324,140 in illicit drugs, and paid out more than \$15,000 in Tip rewards. With the help of local media, police agencies and most importantly, Tipsters, Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers will be able to carry over these successes in the New Year.

Also of note, Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers held its Annual General Meeting in Regina on November 2nd. Mrs. Gail Mattson was unanimously re-elected as President of the Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers Board. I would like to thank Gail and all members of the Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers Board for all their hard work throughout the year. These individuals contribute countless volunteer hours staffing information booths, chairing fundraising committees, and attending monthly Board meetings, just to name a few of their activities.

The following are some of the Unsolved Crimes currently posted

on the Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers website. You can view these stories at www.saskcrimestoppers.com. If you have any information about these crimes, please contact Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS(8477); or you can leave a Tip online using the "Submit a Tip" feature found on the website. Remember, Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers is totally anonymous and your information could be worth a reward of up to \$2,000!

Melfort - Hit and Run Causes Damage

Melfort RCMP and Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers are asking the public's help in solving the following crime that occurred in Melfort on November 11, 2006.

Police indicate that sometime between 8:30 and 9:30 pm, a vehicle parked in the 600 block of Crawford Avenue East received extensive damage from a hit and run. Police feel that the vehicle involved was a larger model, perhaps a pick-up truck.

North Battleford - Elderly Woman has Purse Snatched

North Battleford RCMP are reporting a purse snatching that occurred at an apartment complex

located on the 1100 block of 99th Street.

Police report that at approximately 1:15 PM on October 28th, an unknown male suspect followed an elderly woman into her apartment building. Once inside the building, the male suspect and female victim boarded the elevator. Upon reaching her floor, the victim made her way down the hallway toward her apartment when the male suspect grabbed her purse from the basket on her wheeled walker. The suspect is described as a white male, in his late teens, with blonde and/or reddish coloured hair.

Prince Albert District - Theft of Copper Wire on the Rise as Commodity Price Rises

Members of the Prince Albert Rural RCMP Detachment are reporting a Break and Enter that occurred at Thorpe Brothers Limited on Highway # 2 South.

An employee of Thorpe Brothers noticed a small hole in the fence surrounding the property. It is believed that thieves have been using this hole as means to enter the property and steal small quantities of copper wire. Copper wire has become a hot commodity with criminals as the price of the product has sky-rocketed in recent

years. The wire is sold to metal recycling centers for a hefty profit. In this incidence, Thorpe Brothers estimate several thousand dollars of copper wire have been stolen. Police say that this is not the first incident of theft at Thorpe Brothers. There have been several other cases of theft to the business in the past year, including the theft of a company truck.

Swift Current - 'Tis The Season for Residential Break-Ins

Many break and enters have occurred in Swift Current recently. Police indicate that between the evening of December 8th and morning of December 9th, four homes were broken into. These homes are located on North Hill Drive, Hillcrest Drive, MacDonald Crescent, and Taylor Drive.

Taken from the homes was the usual B&E fare: electronic equipment, jewellery, and a small amount of cash.

Residential break-ins are common at this time of the year. Citizens are reminded to take extra care with their belongings during the Christmas season as thieves will be targeting houses for recently purchased gifts.

MLDP Winter Modules

by Kristin Dowler, MLDP Administrator

This year, the Municipal Leadership Development Program wraps up its third successful year. Since 2003, we have delivered 97 modules over 80 different locations around the province, over 1200 municipal leaders have taken at least one module, and 88 people have completed all five modules, earning them a certificate of completion. At the upcoming convention, I look forward to giving many more certificates away.

In the three years of its exist-

ence, the MLDP has offered five modules: Module 1 – Municipal Leaders' Roles and Responsibilities; Module 2 – Planning for Success: An Introduction to Strategic, Financial, and Land-use Planning; Module 3 – Municipal Economic Development Fundamentals; Module 4 – Human Resources in the Municipal Workplace; and Module 5 – Public Relations and Communications in the Municipal Workplace. Each of these modules was specially designed to meet the needs of municipal leaders in

Saskatchewan. If you are a new councillor or a seasoned veteran, you are guaranteed to learn something from the instructor, and from the interaction with your peers.

In 2007, the MLDP will introduce a new module – Advanced Economic Development – as a supplement to module 3. It will focus on strategic planning, business retention, and project management. More information will be distributed to municipal offices when the module is ready to be delivered.

The upcoming winter session has been scheduled and registrations are already streaming in. If you are interested in attending a module, I encourage you to send in your registrations soon, as space in each module is limited. For more information about the program, please visit the MLDP homepage at www.mldp.ca or call 306.761.3731.

MLDP Winter Schedule

Tuesday, January 23	Module 2	Planning for Success	Kelvington
Wednesday, January 24	Module 3	Municipal Economic Development Fundamentals	Gull Lake
Wednesday, January 24	Module 4	Human Resources in the Municipal Workplace	Francis
Tuesday, January 30	Module 2	Planning for Success	Davidson
Tuesday, January 30	Module 5	Public Relations and Communications for Employees	Kamsack
Tuesday, February 20	Module 2	Planning for Success	Spy Hill
Tuesday, February 20	Module 3	Municipal Economic Development Fundamentals	Big River
Wednesday, February 21	Module 4	Human Resources in the Municipal Workplace	Spiritwood
Tuesday, February 27	Module 5	Public Relations and Communications for Employees	Biggar
Wednesday, February 28	Module 3	Municipal Economic Development Fundamentals	Raymore
Wednesday, February 28	Module 4	Human Resources in the Municipal Workplace	Hazlet
Thursday, March 1	Module 5	Public Relations and Communications for Employees	Lumsden