

## Board develops Strategic Plan at September Meeting

The Board of Directors of SUMA met September 23-25 to conduct business and finalize the association's 2010-2013 strategic plan.

The event began with a supper attended by the Hon. Darryl Hickie, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Deputy Minister Van Isman and MA Chief of Staff Doug Line at the Regina Inn. SUMA President Allan Earle presented a welcome message to the guests, and Mr. Hickie gave a response congratulating SUMA on their advocacy work and indicating enthusiasm at continuing the ministry's productive relationship with the organization.

Immediately after the meal, the internal corporate and policy committees convened. During the Environment Committee's meeting, resolutions were set forth to lobby the provincial government for the extension of the Municipal Recycling Bridge Funding Program for paper and cardboard until the Municipal Recycling Program is fully implemented in 2011, and that SUMA extend congratulations to the province on the success of the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) pilot program. The committee also confirmed its support of the implementation of a permanent HHW program using a



Board members Al Heron, Rodger Hayward, Rolly Zimmer, Fred Clipsham and Chris Wyatt take part in a prioritizing exercise during the recent strategic plan meeting.

mixture of depot collection, hazardous waste collection events and other collection methods.

The Convention Planning Committee confirmed the selection of Senator Pamela Wallin as the keynote speaker for the 2011 Convention, and approved a preliminary agenda which will incorporate new changes to the convention format (see related article in this issue). The Corporate Services Committee received a report on the outcome of the rebranding initiative for Suma Advantage. The new brand will be introduced to SUMA members this fall.

The lack of resolution submissions received was discussed. SUMA priority items will be brought to the December Board meeting for review and preparation as resolutions for Convention. The Transportation and Community Development Committee presented an informational report.

Friday morning, Harvey Linnen and Cam Cooper of H.J. Linnen and Associates gave a presentation on the review of SUMA's advocacy strategy, providing a broad spectrum direction which SUMA can

employ to increase the effectiveness of the association's advocacy efforts. This led to the Board's strategic planning session.

The Board meeting itself was held Saturday morning. Following an in-camera session, approval was given to an amended 2010-11 operating budget.

The Board received reports from Director Sharon Armstrong (Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency), Vice President of Towns Rolly Zimmer (Municipal Employees Pension Plan and continued work by the Physician Recruitment Agency of Saskatchewan), and CEO Laurent Mougeot (Federaton of Canadian Municipalities and proposed budget cuts to the Emergency Planning College).

Mougeot also reported on the municipal infrastructure plan, the upcoming National Infrastructure Summit and the state of municipal development and capacity within the province. The Board approved a motion that a response be prepared to the Minister of Municipal Affairs confirming SUMA's interest in participating in a focus working

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It was with great sadness that earlier this month I learned of the passing of a long time friend and colleague, Mayor Gordon Hall of St. Walburg. Gordon entered municipal governance as a councillor with the Village of Spruce Lake in 1973, and he served on council there until 1975. From 1976 to 1993, he served as a councillor with the Town of St. Walburg. Gordon became Mayor of that town in 1993, and he remained in that position until his passing this year.

I came to know Gordon through his involvement in SUMA as the Northwest Director from 1997 through 2010. Gordon was a staunch supporter of SUMA and a true champion for his town and surrounding communities in the region. As a long serving member of council, Gordon brought experience and extensive knowledge of municipal issues to the SUMA Board. While on the SUMA Board, Gordon participated as a member of the Protective Services and Resolutions Committees.

Gordon will be remembered by all SUMA members as the resolutions chair at the annual convention. As a retired teacher, Gordon had mastered the skill of staying on task and enforcing the rules. In addition, he was also widely known for his bone crushing hand shake.

A significant highlight of his time on council occurred in 2007 when St. Walburg received the Community Sustainability Award at the International Awards for Liveable Communities in London, England. Gordon was recognized for his commitment and dedication to the association in 2006 as a recipient of the Life Membership award.

I had the privilege of speaking at Gordon's funeral. It was evident by all the family, extended family and friends present, that Gordon was a respected member of the community. Gordon was a good friend and colleague, and he will be truly missed.

President Allan Earle



Saskatchewan – Very much a resource based economy.

The significant amount of interest being expressed over one of the largest potential corporate takeovers of this decade is a good opportunity to reflect upon the distribution of population and local governments across the province.

A couple of years ago I heard the President of the Montreal Chamber of Commerce state how critical it is for residents of Montreal to remember that their city would not be the metropolis of national and international headquarters if it were not for the remote resource based industries located across the province. After all, aluminum production, hydro-electricity, forestry products and ag-food production are not city based operations. These activities occur where resources happen to be.

More recently I heard the President and CEO of the Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership, Lionel Labelle, explain the significance of Saskatchewan's agricultural sector on the international scene. While we often hear that agricultural products now account for less than 10 percent of provincial GDP, Saskatchewan remains a major supplier of food products to India, China and the USA. These are expanding markets, and the entire agricultural sector is being re-shaped to capture new opportunities, including processing and handling.

Saskatchewan's Ministry of Highways recently adopted a strategic plan which reflects the concept of "roads to resources" as a means to support and promote resource sector opportunities. Again, this is a further acknowledgement that our economy is clearly dependent on accessing resources where they sit.

So, when we watch the world's interest in acquiring Saskatchewan's potash extraction rights, we should also take the time to reflect on the need to sustain strong local governments across the province to support our resource based economy. Attracting and retaining workers to support these industries is directly tied to our communities' ability to deliver municipal services which meet families' expectations for work opportunities, safety and lifestyle.

Already inter-provincial migration patterns and international immigration have impacted many of our cities, towns and villages, and it is expected that this trend will be sustained over the next 15 to 20 years to meet Saskatchewan's demand for work force replacement and growth opportunities. Where will the key locations be to accommodate such population increases? How will we structure health and educational facilities in our regions? How will local governments maintain reliable and affordable municipal services to create healthy sustainable communities? All of these are questions which must be answered in a strategic fashion. They also need to be addressed within a collective framework. The Planning for Growth program recently launched by the municipal partners (SUMA, SARM, the New North, Municipal Affairs, Enterprise Saskatchewan and the Government of Canada Gas Tax program) is an excellent approach to engaging regions on this pathway.

CEO Laurent Mougeot

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Vice-President, Cities

**Mayor Rolly Zimmer**  
Vice-President, Towns

**Mayor Barry Gunther**  
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**Tammy Bryant**  
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**Laurie Bryant**  
Accounting &  
Corporate Programs Assistant

**Tauna Kupiec**  
Group Benefits Administrator

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# New SUMA Director no newcomer to municipal governance

## Board Profile – Bruce Fidler

It may be Bruce Fidler's first term as a Director of SUMA, but he's no newcomer to urban politics. Prior to his election last March as the Northern Region Director, Bruce spent nine years as Alderman and seven as Mayor of Creighton.

Born in Flin Flon, Manitoba, Bruce's family moved to Brandon in time for him to enter high school there. He remained in Brandon through his post-secondary education, and in 1978 moved to Creighton, where with his wife Kelly and son Nick, he has remained ever since.

As well as his involvement on council, Bruce chairs the local economic development committee, chairs the North Northeast Transportation Committee, and sits on many other provincial committees, including the Northern Transportation Advisory Committee and Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative.

When he's not engaged with SUMA activities, Bruce works as the Maintenance Facility Supervisor at the Flin Flon School Division. What does he do in his "spare time"? "There's not much of that," Bruce smiled. "I enjoy golfing, fishing, all outdoor activities."

Bruce said he put his name forth to represent his region with SUMA because he was intrigued by the organization's range of supports and services. "SUMA offers a lot of information and advocacy support that we as a smaller community wouldn't have access to otherwise," he said.

He was pleased with the Strategic Planning exercise the SUMA Board engaged in, at the recent September Board Meeting in Regina. "Once the results of the day are put in place," he said. "the Board will be able to provide clear direction and objectives to the organization's management and staff. This type of vision can only ultimately benefit the organization and its member communities. It was a process of taking members' wants and needs, and developing a strategy we can use to lead our focus to the servicing of those wants and needs."

Bruce said he would definitely encourage any non-members to join SUMA. "First off, they should look at the services and support SUMA offers, and if that doesn't convince them, I'd encourage them to come and sit with us, listen to us, and see what we do. Small communities don't have the access or the capabilities of following all their goals by



*Board member Bruce Fidler is enjoying his work with SUMA.*

themselves. SUMA provides that leadership, and that collective voice to achieve things on the behalf of members that they wouldn't be able to do individually."

## Waste Reduction Week

Submitted by Fred Clipsham

The other day I ordered a pizza. The delivery charge was \$4.00.

Like most homeowners in the inner city, I pay about \$2.00 per week for garbage pickup. Pretty cheap, really, when you consider the amount of solid waste the City handles every day.

I thought of this while attending the Fall Forum sponsored by the Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council (SWRC) in Humboldt. The SWRC is a Saskatoon-based non-profit organization that provides a tremendous service to people across the province.

The SWRC website ([www.saskwastereduction.ca](http://www.saskwastereduction.ca)) has information on where to recycle just about anything. Did you know there are five Regina businesses where you can drop off fluorescent light fixtures for recycling, or that in Yorkton you can recycle tin cans at three places?

The SWRC Fall Forum provided good news about the ways several Saskatchewan businesses are reducing waste by finding new uses for what we throw away. (Many of the presentations are posted on the SWRC website.)

Jack Shaw, of Regina's Crown Shred & Recycling, reported on his success at recycling plastic into fence posts for farms and ranches, horse stables and urban landscaping. After removing milk jugs and the #1 plastic, the mixed plastic is run through a grinder before being extruded into a mold. The resulting posts can be pounded, will take staples and can be cut just like wood. A six foot post retails for \$4.50. Shaw plans to add planks to his product line later this year. You can see his products at several upcoming shows, including in Regina at Agribition or the Spring Home Show. Crown Shred & Recycling also has plans to collect and pelletize grain bags and ship the plastic for recycling.

Shane Olsen operates Shercom Industries, a tire recycling plant in Saskatoon. Shercom is Saskatchewan's only fully integrated tire recycler, collecting, processing and manufacturing recycled rubber products. His first product was E-Z Riser, essentially rubber wedges used by people who changed their own oil. Alas, this market has all but disappeared as people switched from doing it themselves to oil-change shops.

Shercom spends \$300,000 annually on research and development. With over one million used tires collected annually in Saskatchewan, there is lots of potential for recycled products. One use that should have a good market is tire-derived aggregate (TDA). TDA is about one-third the weight of the same volume of gravel, and has advantages when spread as a layer in road construction. Because it provides excellent drainage and also is a very good insulator, roads built with a TDA layer have fewer frost heaves. TDA is also very useful for backfill when constructing retaining walls because it causes 50 per cent less lateral pressure than earth backfill.

Crumb rubber is used in rubber-modified asphalt, as turf infill (Go Riders!), and on playgrounds and riding arenas. When formed into mats and used to cover running tracks, tennis courts and dog runs, it benefits users by cushioning impact.

Jason Praski operates Titan Clean Energy Projects at Craik. The company manufactures eco-friendly bio-products and energy from waste biomass. Titan uses high temperature pyrolysis to generate combustible gas, liquid bio-oil and solid bio-mass for a variety of uses. Titan's feedstock includes forestry waste and creosote-treated utility poles, old bridges and rail ties.

The gases are burned to provide some of the heat needed in the pyrolysis process (which essentially 'cooks' the waste biomass in the absence of oxygen.) Titan markets the bio-solids as Maratherm® long burning heating briquettes, Mayan Gold® biochar soil amendment, industrial use absorbent material and as industrial use compost. The heating briquettes, which are compact and create relatively little mess, are used in residential wood stoves for overnight heating. They are an excellent coal substitute in commercial boilers, and are much cleaner burning than coal. The biochar soil amendment can be used at home for potted plants and gardens, in greenhouses as a growing medium and for pesticide/herbicide containment, and by industry to replenish carbon and mineral depleted soils.

It is great to see the success these companies are having by finding new uses for the waste we create in our communities. Take a look at the SWRC website or the websites of these companies to learn more!

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## Board develops Strategic...

group to formulate a solution to the municipal development and capacity issues. SUMA feels it is inappropriate to use funds allocated to towns from the Municipal Operating Grant. Mougeot was appointed SUMA's representative on the Planning for Growth Review Committee.

Senior SUMA Policy Analyst Sean McEachern updated the Board on the status of the new resolutions database, which is currently being populated, and gave a report on the Tangible Capital Assets reporting project and financial statement workshops.

Communications and Web Coordinator Dawn M. Barker presented reports detailing SUMA's presence in the media during the past quarter, outlining SUMA's new electronic communications tool Constant Contact, and updating the scheduling for and changes to the Urban Voice.

For further information on any of the items discussed or presented at the September Board meeting, please contact SUMA at (306) 525-3727 or email [suma@suma.org](mailto:suma@suma.org).



SUMA Board members Dawn Luhnig, Al Heron and Darren Hill brainstorm elements of an effective communications strategy during the September Board meeting

## Save time and money by using Chatterson's Online Health & Safety Training

*"The Town of Oxbow has had our employees take the Transportation of Dangerous Goods, WHMIS, and Confined Space courses through Chatterson's online training program. We have nothing but good things to say about it. It saves our employees time by taking the classes online and not having to take off a whole day off to complete training. The webpage is very user friendly and fast. We highly recommend it."*

Christy Hook  
Administrative Assistant  
Town of Oxbow

Chatterson Janitorial is a SUMA Advantage partner that provides janitorial supplies and has recently expanded its product offering to include online health and safety training.

By taking these courses online you can save time and money with no more high travel expenses and time away from work.

Participants can work at their own pace and become certified in the following courses:

- Due Diligence
- WHMIS
- TDG
- Aerial Lift
- Confined Space
- Fall Protection
- Fire Safety
- Lock Out
- Office Ergonomics
- Forklift, Lift Trucks

Every course can be taken online, anytime. However, in order to make the most of your SUMA Advantage, you can register for a selected course in order to maximize your purchasing power.

All SUMA members that register for the selected course will be subject to the appropriate price discount.

Please contact Angela at Chatterson Janitorial Supplies for the schedule and pricing structure at 1-800-667-8178 or email [angela@chatterson.com](mailto:angela@chatterson.com).

For detailed course descriptions, visit [www.chatterson.com](http://www.chatterson.com).

## New Look Coming to SUMA Advantage

SUMA Advantage is getting a new look and will be launched this fall, so be sure to keep your eyes open for the exciting changes!

If you are not already familiar with the SUMA Advantage program, read on to find out more.

SUMA Advantage should be your **first call for savings**. By using the SUMA Advantage programs, members receive discounts on products and services from participating partners.

When choosing suppliers SUMA considers members' needs, and pre-screens the suppliers so you don't have to.

The SUMA staff is available to answer any questions you have and help you find suppliers for your buying needs.

The Town of Eston has benefited from many SUMA Advantage programs and most recently from the Fuel Supply Program:

*"The Town of Eston has been benefitting from a number of SUMA Advantage programs for years. In 2009 we began to use the fuel supply program. We have been experiencing cost savings that run from three to seven cents per litre from the program. Ordering and billing is simple and straightforward and the advance notice of price changes allows us to plan orders to obtain the maximum savings."*

Gary Johnson  
Administrator  
Town of Eston

For a program listing visit [www.suma.org](http://www.suma.org) and for questions contact Tania Meier, Manager of Corporate Programs at (306) 525-4379 or email [tmeier@suma.org](mailto:tmeier@suma.org).

# Saskatchewan Water Management Forum a success

Representatives from nearly 40 stakeholder organizations attended the Saskatchewan Water Management Forum, held October 13 in Regina. The event, jointly sponsored by SUMA, Ducks Unlimited and the Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds, was conceived with the aim of engaging key stakeholders in dialogue to generate recommendations toward the development of an effective water management strategy for the province.

Despite inclusion in the 2009 Throne Speech and the 2010 Premier's mandate letter for the Ministry of Environment, little detail has been available regarding the development of a comprehensive water management plan.

SUMA recognizes that as Saskatchewan's population and economy grow, and industrial and residential developments depend on water, the issue of water resource management will become increasingly critical. As populations increase, cities will require increased capacity for drinking water production and wastewater treatment. Industrial developments often require water as part of manufacturing process. Saskatchewan agriculture producers are another large water user and as the world population grows, more water will be needed to produce food for export.

SUMA is pleased to have assumed a leadership position on this important issue, and engaged in collaborative partnerships with a range of stakeholders. Along with our partners, SUMA welcomed delegates from municipal associations, industry groups, agricultural interests, watershed groups, provincial agencies and environmental organizations.

The event featured leading water experts Beverly Yee, Dr. Rhonda McDougal and Dr. Howard Wheeler. Ms. Yee, the Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) of Environmental Stewardship for Alberta's Ministry of Environment, outlined the steps and challenges the province of Alberta experienced in creating its water management plan, and Dr. McDougal, Director of the Planning and Coordination Branch of Manitoba Water Stewardship, gave a presentation on best practices in her province's water management model.

Dr. Wheeler, the Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Water Security at the University of Saskatchewan and Vice-Chair of the World Climate Research Programme's Global Energy and Water Cycle Experiment, linked local water issues to the more widespread



*Stakeholders representing almost 40 groups united to develop a guidance document for the provincial water management strategy Oct. 13*

concerns of global warming, and underlined the need to recognize the linkages between land, water and air when creating a water management strategy.

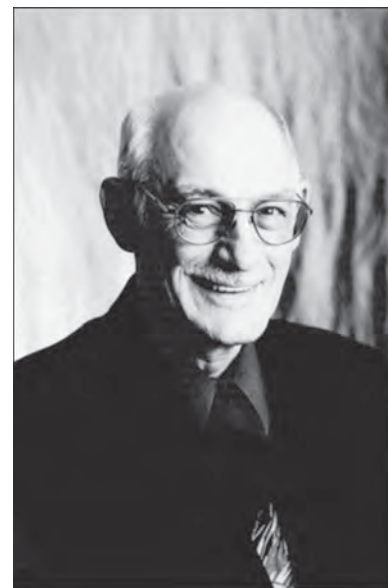
During the afternoon breakout session, the participants discussed the commonalities and disparities in the way they approach water and in their organizations' water targets. Topics included the need to identify key aspects which must be considered when developing a Saskatchewan water management plan, and elemental approaches needed to implement and administer such a plan. The participants also discussed the ways their various groups approach water and their organizations' water priorities. When completed, the Forum's recommendations will be presented to the Minister of Environment for consideration and inclusion in the provincial water management strategy.



*Dr. Howard Wheeler, Senior Excellence Chair for the ,??? Was a keynote speaker at the Saskatchewan Water Management Forum.*

## Gordon Hall 1939-2010

SUMA Board Member  
Colleague  
Friend



Gordon Hall passed away October 2, 2010. He will be greatly missed by his community, SUMA's Board of Directors and staff, and his friends, family and colleagues.

Gordon became the Director of the Northwest Region of SUMA in 1997. He has served on several committees and worked most recently on the Agricultural Council of Saskatchewan (formerly known as SCCD or CARDS). He was an active member of the North Central Area Transportation Committee, representing the interests of municipal government. Gordon also served on SUMA's internal committees in the areas of Sustainable Communities, Protective Services and Resolutions.

Gordon was presented with SUMA's Honorary Membership award in 1996 in recognition of many years of commendable civic service voluntarily given. In 2006 the SUMA Board of Directors chose to present him with a Life Membership for exemplary service, commitment and dedication to his community, Council and to the association.

*"And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."*

*- Abraham Lincoln*

# Advocating on your behalf

## SUMA ministerial mandate meetings proceeding

As mentioned in the September edition of the Urban Voice, a series of meetings between SUMA's policy team, Directors and members of Saskatchewan government ministries is underway, and is expected to conclude this month. Responses from the ministries have been overwhelmingly positive, and SUMA staff and representatives feel the meetings have provided an excellent catalyst for increased consultation with the government.

The first round of meetings occurred August 19 and 20. SUMA President Allan Earle and SUMA Director Sharon Armstrong met with the Hon. Jim Reiter, Minister of Highways and Transportation the morning of the first day.

Earle and Hon. Ken Krawetz, Minister of Finance discussed issues of mutual concern, and when Earle and Vice-President of Towns Fred Clipsham met with Environment Minister Dustin Duncan, they had the opportunity to speak about such subjects as recycling bridge funding, the Saskatchewan Water Management Forum and the impact that new federal regulations concerning wastewater management may have on municipalities.

The day's meetings concluded with Director Roger Hayward and Earle meeting with Hon. June Draude, Minister of Social Services to speak about how best to

address the urgent need for affordable housing.

The first meeting of August 20 involved Director Paul Topola, Earle and Health Minister Don McMorris, who held a dialogue on strategies for physician recruitment, the need to develop a comprehensive senior care strategy, and the issue of capital planning for health care facilities.

Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport finished the first round of meetings. Director Al Heron, Earle and TPCS Minister Bill Hutchinson spoke about building a strong recreation sector, and the benefits to the ministry of a proposed consultation meeting with key stakeholders.

Earle met with Crown Investments Corporation Minister Tim McMillan September 23 to touch on the necessary linkages being created by the One Stop Business Centre concept, and expressing municipalities' gratitude for SGI funding the cost of municipal fire departments providing vehicular extraction procedures at accidents

Earle and Director Dawn Luhning met with the Hon. Laura Ross, Minister of Government Services that afternoon, to underline two key messages which were brought forth at each of the ministry meetings: the need to develop a consultation protocol agreement between SUMA and the provincial government, to solidify our working relationship; and the creation of a sustainable, predictable "Made in Saskatchewan" infrastructure program.

The September 23 round of meetings concluded with Earle and Director Barry Gunther's appointment with the Hon. Jeremy Harrison, Minister of Enterprise Saskatchewan, where Canada-EU trade negotiations, government reform and alternative services delivery were on the table.

SUMA will meet with the rest of the provincial Cabinet over the coming weeks. Our advocacy efforts are aimed at raising the Cabinet's level of awareness regarding urban municipal priorities.



*Barry Gunther, the Hon. Jeremy Harrison, Minister of Enterprise Saskatchewan, and Allan Earle*



*Dawn Luhning, the Hon. Laura Ross, Minister of Government Services, and Allan Earle*



*Paul Topola, the Hon. Don McMorris, Minister of Health, and Allan Earle*



*Allan Earle, Sharon Armstrong and the Hon. Jim Reiter, Minister of Highways and Transportation*



*Rodger Hayward, the Hon. June Draude, Minister of Social Services, and Allan Earle*



*The Hon. Ken Krawetz, Minister of Finance, and Allan Earle*



*Al Heron, the Hon. Bill Hutchinson, Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, and Allan Earle*

# Disposal Project Ensures Safe, Effective Handling of Specified Risk Material

By Katie Boyce, for Saskatchewan Municipal Awards

After putting in a lot of hard work to launch their Specified Risk Material (SRM) disposal project, winning a Saskatchewan Municipal Award for Environmental Stewardship was the perfect prize for the RM of Canwood No. 494, Village of Debden and Village of Canwood.

Since 2007, the three groups have partnered with the provincial and federal governments and private businesses to create the province's first and only existing SRM disposal landfill site.

"We put a lot of time and effort into this project, and there were a lot of hoops to go through. To win the Saskatchewan Municipal Award made it all worthwhile," said Richard Porter, president of Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation, which operates the SRM disposal project.

Porter has played a major role in realizing the \$2 million project, which was supported by funding from the provincial government.

He first heard of the project during a meeting of the Association of Regional Waste Management Authorities. At the meeting, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture asked if any municipalities were interested in developing a project to safely dispose of SRMs – remnants of slaughtered cattle that potentially contain Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), or mad cow disease.

At that time, Saskatchewan had no disposal sites for SRMs.

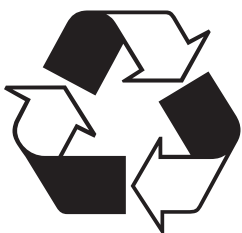


The RM of Canwood and the Villages of Debden and Canwood banded together to create a solution for handling hazardous Specified Risk Materials – and won a municipal award for their efforts!

"The cattle and slaughter industries had no place for the remnants to go," said Porter. "We had to have something in place through the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, some type of pit. There was a challenge and need for the project from the province, cattle and slaughter industries."

The Board of Directors of Highway 55 Waste

Management Corporation, which is co-owned by the RM of Canwood and the Villages of Debden and Canwood, started research into the feasibility of the project, and also received information from the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment and from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) about the process, *continued on page 8...*



## Crown Shred & Recycling Inc.

### PLASTIC FENCE POSTS

#### FEATURES

- DURABLE
- LIGHTWEIGHT
- UNIFORM COLOUR
- LAST A LIFETIME
- POUNDABLE
- ROUND
- TAPERED

#### COMPOSITION

- RECYCLABLE HOUSE PLASTICS

#### SIZE

- DIAMETER 4 INCHES
- LENGTH 6 FEET



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Saskatchewan Geospatial Imagery Collaborative puts photos at your fingertips

*"Maps are powerful visualization, analysis and decision support tools and the location-based information (or geo-information) they provide have the potential to pump even more productivity-related benefits into the Canadian economy if they were leveraged more strategically to advance a wide-range of public and private sector initiatives. But the lack of a national action plan has constrained the ability of Canada and Canadians from reaping the benefits of geo-information and geomatics. A coordinated national effort and a comprehensive action plan are therefore urgently required to promote more widespread adoption of geo-information and to leverage an important technology - Geomatics.*

*In so doing, the Government*

*of Canada will yield immediate and universal benefits for Canada's Economic Action Plan. Furthermore, a comprehensive national geomatics action plan will have a lasting legacy by enhancing Canada's innovation, productivity and global competitiveness."*

*- excerpt from "Shaping Canada's Landscape: Enhancing Canada's Economic Action Plan through the Power of Geomatics and Geo-Information" (Geomatics Industry Association of Canada, 2010)*

Through SUMA's participation in the Saskatchewan Geospatial Imagery Collaborative (SGIC) and made possible through Federal Gas Tax program funding, SUMA members can now access high-resolution satellite imagery of their municipality, their region and the whole province.

The SGIC was created to share knowledge and costs relating to the acquisition and use of remotely sensed satellite and aerial photographic imagery for mutual and public benefit.

Designed to focus on imagery that supports the province's public policy priorities and key areas of economic development and government services, the program has been collecting photos since 2008.

SGIC entered into an agreement with the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC) to administer the purchase and distribution of the digital images over the next several years. SRC has taken on the administrative responsibilities for the project.

Approximately 75 percent of provincial imagery has been acquired, with full completion expected by 2011-12.

A new on-line system employing open-source GIS software to share the catalogue of more than 3 terrabytes of geospatial imagery has been developed. All partners and the public can access the imagery from a common repository at <http://www.flysask.ca>.

So what does it mean for you and your municipality?

Urban administrators and councils will likely find the content more current than aerial photos located in municipal offices. It allows users to zoom, pan, search, and add information layers. In addition, the project will greatly assist companies working in the oil, mining and other sectors, helping to generate activity and economic growth in those sectors. As well, the imagery will also provide required high quality images for SAMA's Assessment Services Division

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*...continued from page 7*

## Disposal Project Ensures...

transportation, and long-term effects of using a landfill as a suitable method for the permanent contaminant of SRMs.

Waste management was not a new venture for the RM of Canwood and the Villages of Debden and Canwood. In 2003, they jointly formed the Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation.

The corporation operates the region's landfill, which opened in 2005 to address a need for new landfill space. The landfill provides service to 15,000 people.

However, creating an SRM disposal site presented some unique challenges, including meeting federal and provincial requirements to ensure the SRM landfill is geologically secure and environmentally safe.

In spite of the many requirements, Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation forged ahead. After forming a partnership with Saskatoon Processing Company, which supplies rendered SRM products, as well as performing consultations with Amec Earth and Environmental, the project was presented at a public meeting in 2008 and was well endorsed.

Construction of the site started soon after on a quarter of land owned by the corporation. The fenced-in landfill site, which was completed in 2009 and received its first load in February 2010, includes a 110,000 cubic metre pit with a natural clay base and a synthetically lined collection pond, both of which meet specifications for groundwater protection.

The SRM disposal site employs one full-time staff member who ensures that all procedures are carried out correctly and that the landfill is covered on a daily basis.

Currently, Saskatoon Processing Company is the main client for the SRM site and transports the rendered products, which look like briquettes, in SRM "dedicated" vehicles to the landfill.

For clients with vehicles that are not considered "dedicated," a 60 x 80 foot wash facility is currently under construction on the site to be completed this year. After dumping their loads, vehicles will be washed off at the building in order to meet federal regulations.

With the new addition of its wash facility, the landfill site is well on its way to continuing to

serve the province's need for an SRM disposal site.

Porter is proud of the work that his community has done to complete Saskatchewan's first and only SRM landfill site.

"We've done something good for the province," he said.



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- REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS
- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP
- ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
- HERITAGE CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP

**Nomination deadline is March 18, 2011**

For nomination forms, visit the website at:  
[www.municipalawards.ca](http://www.municipalawards.ca),  
or contact Dustin Austman at (306) 787-2740  
or Gail Meyer at (306) 525-4398



# Cost Sharing Intermunicipal Projects

Submitted by: The Municipal Capacity Development Program

Cost sharing arrangements and agreements are a common and efficient way for municipalities to work together. Combining financial resources allows municipalities to tackle issues of mutual concern and issues that cross municipal boundaries. At some point in time, an intermunicipal working group has to determine how they would like to allocate the costs for their specific project. Whether the project is a sustainability plan, study or even a recreation facility, there are a number of ways that municipalities can allocate costs reasonably and accurately. Often, it is important to identify who will be benefiting from the project in order to determine how the costs will be shared.

The following funding options are for situations or programs which are not self supported (i.e. they cannot be fully supported by user fees):

## Equal Shares

The equal shares method is used when each participating municipality receives identical benefits from the joint initiative. Each municipality should pay the same amount. It is important to continuously monitor the project and make sure that equal benefits are being received by all.

Example:

Costs for a Regional/District Plan – Planner, Engineers, Studies, etc.

## Use

In this situation, municipalities would pay according to their use. This model would pertain to situations where the residency of the users or direct beneficiaries of the service can be identified. By identifying the users accordingly, costs can then be distributed equally.

Example:

Fee for services from a shared Planner, Engineer, Bylaw Enforcement Officer, etc.

## Population

In this category, costs are allocated according to population. The municipality's share is equal to its percentage of the total participating population. Population must be accurately measured for this method to be accurate. Census population counts are often distorted in their measurements therefore it is important to be cautious when calculating costs. It is also important to be aware that population is continuously changing and therefore can be inaccurate in a short course of time.

Example:

Institutions such as schools or colleges can use this to determine the amount of people from the municipalities that are using the facility. If there are 500 students attending the college and 120 are from the Rural Municipality of X, then  $120/500 = .24$  \* 100 = 24. Municipality X would have to pay 24% of the total costs.

## Assessed Valuation

In this method, the estimated value of property is used to determine how costs will be allocated. The assessed valuations for all participating

municipalities are combined to make a total. Each municipality can then determine their percentage by dividing their individual assessed value by the total. Shares tend to be higher for the more developed municipalities and lower for the less developed.

Example:

Costs for a recreation centre.

Formula:

$$\text{Cost Share} = \frac{\text{Assessed Value for Municipality 1}}{\text{Total Assessed Value}} \times 100$$

Once a funding option has been chosen, it is important for the municipalities to formalize commitment to their arrangement. A common way for municipalities to formalize commitment to their cost sharing arrangement is through an agreement. Cost sharing agreements set out clear guidelines and provide an understanding for how the costs will be arranged. The agreement should clearly identify who is involved, what their roles are (if applicable), what the project or service is, how and by whom it will be completed or delivered, how much it is going to cost and how the funds will be allocated. For sample cost sharing agreements, please visit: <http://www.municipalcapacity.ca/municipal-agreements>.

Cost sharing is becoming prominent in sustainable municipal governance. Cost sharing allows municipalities to achieve economies of scale and improve the delivery of services. Researching and exploring the various ways that a project can be cost-shared allows the group to choose an option that will satisfy and appropriately allocate the costs to successfully complete a project.



...continued from page 8

## Disposal Project Ensures...

for its agricultural land inspection program, and potentially for its urban inspection program.

raster tile indexes, FlySask Orthophoto Program, National Road Network Sask Grid, Blue Marble Next Generation and Spot 10m imagery.

Nonmembers have access to administrative boundaries, national topographic system,

By applying for a username and

password, SUMA members can access additional features; Spot 2.5m and tile dates, Regina 2006 and 2009 imagery, Saskatoon 2001 imagery and Orthophoto tile dates. There are no restrictions to the number of simultaneous users.

To apply for a username and password, please have your administrator contact Gail Meyer, Manager of Member & Administrative Services at (306) 525-4398 or email [suma@suma.org](mailto:suma@suma.org).

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# SUMA Policy Team learns about water infrastructure

It certainly wasn't a "boring week at the office, doing the same old thing" for SUMA's Policy and Communications team, when they joined City of Regina crews the week of August 8 to do an in-depth tour of the city's water infrastructure systems.

Dorian Wandzura, the General Manager of the Public Works Division arranged the tour with SUMA's Director of Policy and Communications, Mark Cooper. Hosted by John Ullrich and David Jjian, the team tagged along with various city crews as they repaired breaks in water lines, installed storm sewers, and installed new water connections to houses.

Mark, along with Senior Policy Advisor Sean McEachern, Policy Advisor Che-Wei Chung and Communications and Web Coordinator Dawn M. Barker also had the opportunity to get a first-hand look at one of the city's three pumping stations, which deliver water continuously to the city's distribution system, even during power failures.

They learned that there are over 900 kilometres of water mains and 725 kilometres of sewer lines within the city limits, as well as 4,058 fire hydrants and 15,000 manholes. Additional figures and facts are in the accompanying sidebar.

The team also got a first-hand look at the impressive lift station in the city's south end, as well as a full tour of the city's Wastewater Treatment Plant, located just west of Regina, which treat about 80 million litres of sewage from bathtubs, toilets, sinks and washing machines daily. After domestic sewage leaves the home or building, it goes to the McCarthy Blvd. Pumping Station, where it is screened to remove large particulates and then pumped on to the treatment plant, where a series of sedimentation, scum and sludge removal processes, and secondary (aerated lagoons) and tertiary (clarification) treatments take place. After the water is treated, it undergoes ultraviolet disinfection and then is released as clean effluent into Wascana Creek.

The Policy and Communications staff were very grateful to the maintenance crews they shadowed for extending a warm welcome, and for being patient with their many questions.

"The crews consistently showed professionalism and regard for safety, and we commend them for their excellent work," Cooper said.

The informative and enjoyable week provided greater insight about what goes into maintaining the city's systems, knowledge which will assist SUMA as it continues to advocate for increased provincial and federal infrastructure for its members.



*Policy team staff members Che-Wei Chung and Sean McEachern toured with the City of Regina infrastructure workers to learn about municipal water infrastructure.*



*The SUMA policy team had the opportunity to learn the 'ins and outs' of water infrastructure delivery during a tour with the City of Regina. Here, Policy Director Mark Cooper and Policy Analyst Che-Wei Chung are shown the controls for a lift station.*

## Did you know...

### Regina has:

- 62,008 water services and meter connections
- 8,350 watermain valves
- 16 wastewater lift stations with forcemains
- 25,000 catchbasins
- 700 kilometres of storm water mains and catch basins
- 840 kilometres of waste water collection drains
- 277 storm water outfalls

# Team Service Connector Completes Deep Dive Design Project

## Submitted by Communities of Tomorrow

The project team working on an innovative solution to the challenges of municipal water service connections has completed its 100-day deep dive design project.

The team for the "End to End Service Connector Project" was assembled by Communities of Tomorrow (CT) after its extensive consultations with Saskatchewan municipalities about their most pressing infrastructure needs.

"Virtually every municipality we talked with identified the replacement of water service connections as a major ongoing issue," said CT President John Lee. "We decided to take this on to see what new solutions might emerge."

The project team consisted of public works and engineering staff members from seven Saskatchewan cities: North Battleford, Estevan, Regina, Melfort, Saskatoon, Humboldt, and Weyburn.

They were joined by researchers and representatives from the National Research Council, University of Regina, SIAST, Saskatchewan Research Council, TRILabs, as well as business representatives and members of the Communities of Tomorrow team.

The entire project was coordinated and facilitated by Greg Fieger and his team from Conroy Ross Partners.

The group split themselves into two teams, one concentrating on the excavation and installation of water service lines, and the other focusing on the so-called "corporation stop", the valve used to turn water service on and off at the city's water main pipe.

Each group was led through creative thinking exercises by the facilitator, then designed their own agenda to attack their specific area. They met physically for three two-day sessions, and used conference calls and a specially created internet hub to maintain contact between those meetings.

Over a period of approximately three months, the work teams researched existing solutions, then created preliminary designs for innovative solutions in their area of emphasis.

Finally the teams provided conceptual drawings and estimated budgets to build their recommended systems.

"The teams were working to find a way to reduce the cost, time, and disruption associated with replacing municipal water service connections," said Lee. "Every city has to do a large number of these replacements every year, and any savings can add up very quickly."

The project team proposed a new excavation cage, and pipe winching system, and a re-design of the standard corporation stop valve.

Now that the team's reports are in, CT is taking responsibility for moving their work to the next stage.

"I believe many of the municipalities will have immediate results from the project, in terms of adopting best-practices and equipment that they learned about by participating in the sessions," said Lee. "Next, we will be working on potential design and building of prototypes, in order to put the team's ideas to work in the real world."

Senior city officials attended the final working session of the group, and were impressed with what they saw.

"From a management point of view, anytime that there's a possibility of saving dollars for the taxpayer, and there's ways to accomplish that, we're behind it one hundred percent," said John Wade, City Manager for the City of Melfort.

"All the cities have the same problems, and we need solutions," said Blaine Frank, Director of Engineering for the City of Weyburn. "I can think of many things I'd like to see them take on in the future."

Communities of Tomorrow will be keeping municipalities up to date on new developments in the service connector project, and is now examining what other municipal infrastructure priorities could be attacked using this project team approach.

## Do you have a certified Operator at your water and wastewater facility?

The Ministry of Environment requires all communities within the province of Saskatchewan to have a certified water and wastewater operator at their facility if the facility has been classified by the ministry.

Operator certificates are issued by the Operator Certification Board (OCB) whose responsibility is to administer the mandatory certification program within the province. The OCB works at arm's length with the Ministry of Environment and makes decisions based on The Water Regulations 2002 and The Saskatchewan Water and Wastewater Works Operator Certification Standards, 2002.

If you have questions about the regulations and standards or about OCB policies, you can now look up this information on our website, [saskocb.ca](http://saskocb.ca).

Viewers can download certification applications and renewal applications, and find detailed information on the certification process in the FAQ section.

Upcoming meeting dates and events that the board is attending are also featured on the website, as well as a job board for municipalities to post vacant positions.

Currently the board is working towards listing all the certified operators in the province, to allow viewers to perform searches for individual operators or search for operators by community.

Visit [www.saskocb.ca](http://www.saskocb.ca) to see pertinent information regarding government regulations and standards, OCB policies and downloadable resources. OCB is the site to visit for the most up to date information on certification in Saskatchewan.

## MLDP

### FALL 2010 SCHEDULE

*The Municipal Leadership Development Program is the only program developed for elected and appointed municipal leaders in the province. Mayors, reeves, councillors and municipal staff will benefit from the program's modules, designed to strengthen government leadership. The one-day workshops target specific issues of importance to northern, rural and urban municipalities.*

- **Financial Planning & Strategic Planning for Municipalities**  
Tuesday, November 23 Tisdale
- **Financial Planning & Strategic Planning for Municipalities**  
Wednesday, December 1 Ogema
- **Municipal Economic Development Fundamentals**  
Tuesday, November 23 Lemberg
- **Municipal Economic Development Fundamentals**  
Wednesday, December 1 Unity
- **Human Resources in the Municipal Workplace**  
Wednesday, November 24 Elrose
- **Human Resources in the Municipal Workplace**  
Thursday, December 2 Saltcoats
- **Public Relations and Communications for Municipalities**  
Thursday, November 25 Broadview
- **Public Relations and Communications for Municipalities**  
Tuesday, November 30 Warman
- **Community and Land Use Planning**  
Thursday, November 25 Spiritwood
- **Community and Land Use Planning**  
Tuesday, November 30 Ponteix

Visit the MLDP website [www.mldp.ca](http://www.mldp.ca) for more information, or to obtain a registration form.

*The MLDP was designed through a partnership between SUMA, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, New North, the Urban Municipal Administrators Association of Saskatchewan, the Rural Municipal Administrators of Saskatchewan and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.*



**Nov. 24th & 25th, 2010**  
**Gallagher Centre**  
**Yorkton, Sask.**

The focus of this conference is to highlight the benefits of partnerships of different communities across the province including the **Municipal, Industrial, Political & Aboriginal Communities**. We are showcasing the benefits of **working together** to grow Saskatchewan and the positive relationships that can be formed as a result.

**Highlights Include:**

- Chief Clarence Louie, Osoyoos Indian Band
- Urban Reserve Creation Success Stories
- Chief Ovide Mercredi, Misipawistik Cree Nation
- Doug Griffith, 13 Ways to kill a Community
- Sean Wise, Industry Advisor, Dragons Den, CBC
- Town of Winkler Success Story
- With much more to come.....

**Registration Fees - 2 day Summit:**

**Register on or before October 23rd \$100.00**  
**After October 23rd \$130.00**

**To Register: Phone 306.728.2740 or**  
**www.picatic.com/ticket/event650757**



**FLOOD RECOVERY UPDATE**

**WAS YOUR FURNACE OR WATER HEATER DAMAGED BY THIS SUMMER'S FLOODS?**

**PDAP wants to help**

Were you affected by flooding this past summer? Was your furnace or water heater damaged? Have you already filed a claim with the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program (PDAP) for damages not covered by your insurance policy?

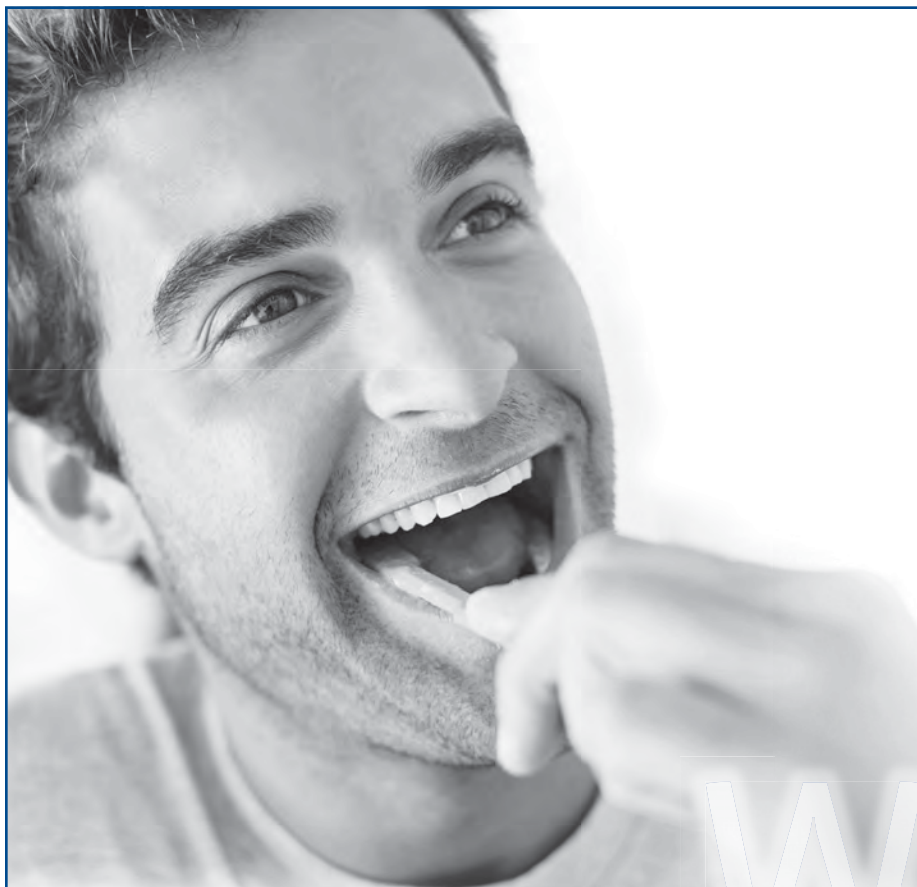
We want to ensure that you receive immediate assistance for replacing your furnace and water heater under your PDAP claim. We're asking residents who have sustained damage to either their furnace or water heater and who have already filed a claim for uninsurable damage or who are thinking of doing so, to contact us in order to assist you on a priority basis.

If you've already filed a PDAP claim, you'll need the following information before you phone or write:

- Your name
- Both your mailing address and street address
- Your contact number
- Your PDAP claim number

If you haven't filed a PDAP claim, but think you'll need coverage to replace your furnace, you can phone or write, and we'll walk you through the process.

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