

VOLUME 16 NUMBER 3 JUNE 2011 PUBLICATION AGREEMENT NO. 40027298

URBAN*Voice*

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SASKATCHEWAN URBAN MUNICIPALITIES ASSOCIATION



Hazlet Wind Powered Rink
Election Sign Recycling
FCM Brownfields
Bridge Funding
Scrap Tire
Paint Recycling
And much more...

Rat Control at Waste Disposal Grounds



Effective rat control is directly influenced by the proper maintenance and operation of waste disposal grounds. Rats require adequate food, shelter and water to sustain populations and by limiting access to these essentials, their population can be controlled. Modern landfill operation techniques form the basis for effectively discouraging rat infestations and controlling populations.

1. Minimize the food supply

Composting removes large quantities of food supply available to rats. Organic material such as peelings, garden trimmings, spoiled vegetables and stock pen cleanings can be processed into a useful product through composting. In terms of spoiled and treated grain, elevator cleanings and dead animals, they should all be buried immediately. Please refer to fact sheets entitled *Compaction and Covering at Waste Disposal Grounds EPB 168* (<http://www.saskh2o.ca/PDF/EPB168.pdf>) and *Management of Specified Risk Materials EPB 375* (<http://www.saskh2o.ca/PDF/EPB375.pdf>) for further information.

Waste unloaded at the working face or disposal area of the grounds should be spread, compacted and covered as frequently as possible. This practice removes access to remaining food supplies and discourages burrowing and minimizes locations where rats can find shelter at waste disposal grounds.

2. Prevent opportunities for shelter

Establishing storage areas for materials that are difficult to compact into the working face reduces underground voids rats will use for shelter. By designating certain areas of the site for storing certain waste like, metals (fridges, stove, etc.), trees and lumber, tires, concrete, rocks and rubble and demolition material, you can prevent the creation of voids during compaction and covering activities.

3. Burn only wood and trees

The burning of municipal waste at a waste disposal site, except for a limited number of specific materials, is prohibited under *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002* and *The Clean Air Act*. The Ministry of Environment permits select burning of trees and clean lumber under controlled conditions at separate designated areas in the waste disposal ground. Garbage in the working face must not be burned since it has high moisture content and will not burn completely and will continue to provide a source of food for rats. Additionally, burning domestic refuse at a low temperature contributes to air pollution through the release of dangerous chemicals into the surrounding environment.

Burning forces rats into burrows in uncompacted waste during the fire event and creates additional shelter in burned out containers. They return to feed on unburned waste when conditions are safe. Results from past field inspections by the Ministry of Environment indicate that burning waste actually increases rat complaints.

4. Provide positive drainage away from grounds

Water should not be allowed to pond or pool. Without easy access to a water supply, rats will be discouraged from residing at waste disposal grounds.

5. Bait waste disposal grounds when necessary

A baiting program by a local Pest Control Officer may be required to overcome large infestations which have burrowed into a former uncompacted landfill operation. Occasionally, if evidence of rats becomes apparent, baiting may have to be conducted in the designated areas or buildings at the waste disposal grounds.



Saskatchewan
Ministry of
Environment

www.environment.gov.sk.ca



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The Voice of Urban Saskatchewan

You will undoubtedly have noticed a significant change to the design of the Urban Voice in the past few months. After years of publishing a tabloid (newspaper style) newsletter, it was decided that an updated design and format was needed. After conducting a scan of the communication pieces used by other municipal associations, a glossy magazine style was selected as the new vehicle for the Urban Voice.

In addition to the new design, each future edition will focus on a specific theme that encompasses issues and information of interest to urban municipalities. For this edition, the topic of the environment was selected as it impacts all our members. I hope you



enjoy the content of this edition and I look forward to hearing any comments you may have on this change.

On the topic of the environment, I would like to take this opportunity to address a strategy we have been using to advance urban interests on environment issues. As the association representing urban governments in Saskatchewan, SUMA is engaged in a number of environmental consultations and committees that impact our cities, towns and villages. Our objective with all of these interactions is to ensure the interests of our members are clearly communicated and considered.

However, in many of these situations the concerns of several stakeholders require consideration, making it a challenge to ensure that the position of urban governments is at that forefront. SUMA has found that many of these stakeholders have comparable interests to ours and that by partnering with these organizations we can achieve mutually desired outcomes, while ensuring we advance your interests.

We have started to use this strategy more frequently, specifically on environmental matters. Most recently, we partnered with Ducks Unlimited and the Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds to host a forum to discuss

water management in the province. The outcome from this initiative was that a number of recommendations were sent to the provincial Ministry of Environment. These recommendations led, in part, to the ministry establishing a consultation process that will develop Saskatchewan's first comprehensive water management plan.

SUMA is also working closely with organizations involved in recycling to ensure the Multi-Material Recycling Program is designed to meet the needs of urban governments and regional waste management authorities.

These partnerships have proven to be beneficial as they have strengthened our influence on environmental issues. Through building interest-based coalitions, SUMA seeks to deliver better results for our members, and better results for Saskatchewan. I would appreciate your feedback on this approach and suggestions for other partnerships that SUMA should consider.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laurent Mougeot'.

Laurent Mougeot, Chief Executive Officer

Indoor Water Conservation Tips

CONTRIBUTED BY SASKWATER

Kitchen

- When you want a drink, don't let the water run until it is cold. Instead, refrigerate a jug of tap water and save 7-12 litres of water per minute.
- Don't let the tap run when rinsing dishes or washing fruit and vegetables and save 7-12 litres of water per minute.
- Don't pre-rinse dishes before putting them in the dishwasher. Instead, scrape off food first using a spatula. Soak very dirty pans and dishes before washing.
- Run the dishwasher only when it's fully loaded and save 70-190 litres of water with each load you eliminate.

President's *Voice*

As Saskatchewan's economy continues to grow, attracting more people to our cities, towns and villages, urban governments will play an increasing critical role in protecting our environment from any potential negative impact this growth may cause.

Urban governments are the service providers offering safe and clean drinking water, a system to handle wastewater and options for the disposal of solid waste to our citizens. However, as all of these services are regulated by the federal and provincial governments, we are frequently at the mercy of any regulations these orders of government impose on our operations.

Urban governments support many of these improvements and understand the value in protecting our environment from potential risks. Unfortunately, the challenge for local governments lies in complying with these regulations, which in general are extremely expensive to implement.

SUMA has been actively involved in several consultations regarding changes to water and wastewater treatment, new solid waste regulations and the introduction of a multi-material recycling program. Continually, we express the need to examine the impact of proposed regulations through a multi-level regulatory impact analysis, which involves the studying of other regulatory changes imposed by all

orders of government. This type of analysis shows that every year, urban governments are required to follow higher standards in every municipal operation; environment is just one of them. However, the primary financial tool available to urban governments is the property tax. We cannot continue to look at regulatory demands through a single lens because it does not provide the real picture of the financial pressures faced by urban governments today.

SUMA has consistently communicated to the Ministry of Environment that these proposed changes will have a significant financial impact on urban governments, and there is little capacity in this sector to adhere to these regulations if there are no new financial tools available to assist in the implementation.

SUMA has repeatedly heard from the Ministry of Environment that they are a regulatory body and do not have the authority to appropriate funds for any new regulations they create. The decision to designate funds occurs through a separate government process. This structure is problematic for urban governments as it often leads to regulation without funding. The impact is ultimately felt by local taxpayers. The provincial government needs to alter how this process works and ensure that regulation and funding decisions follow a parallel process.

SUMA is deeply engaged on many fronts concerning potential changes to environmental regulations and their impact on urban governments. We will continue to be vocal on these matters and ensure that the interests of our cities, towns and villages are represented.



Allan Earle, President



CRIMESTOPPERS: Swift Current

The Swift Current Rural Detachment of the RCMP request the public's assistance in solving the following matter. Three businesses were broken into in the town of Cabri sometime through the evening of May 25 at 7 p.m. to May 26 at 6:30 a.m. in the Center Street and 1st Street area. At each location thieves broke the lock on the door without damaging any other property. A beige safe, 3x4 feet by 28 inches was stolen from one of the businesses. The safe weighed approximately 500 pounds.

Harnessing nature's power - SMA *winner* Hazlet's eco-rec



By Dawn M. Barker

The village of Hazlet, at about 85 people (300 if you count the surrounding area), isn't big – but its ideas are! And one of those ideas was celebrated May 13 at the Saskatchewan Municipal Awards, when the municipality's Wind-Powered Rink project garnered first-place and runner-up awards.

Facing increasing power costs, ageing infrastructure and shorter seasons, Hazlet town council knew it had to do something with its largest piece of infrastructure – the rink. Costs would have to be passed along to rink users to cover the cost of the operation as it existed, or improvements had to be made.

An individual in the community proposed the idea of using what was most likely the most prominent free resource in Saskatchewan – the wind – to help power the rink. The idea was distinctive – the wind powered rink is the first of its kind in Saskatchewan, and potentially, in Canada.

"It was a big project," said Terry Erdelyn, a minister from Hazlet. Erdelyn and school principal Kristy Sletten were two of the volunteers who helped with the project, and they were on hand to accept the first place trophy in the Municipal Innovation and Service Excellence Award and the runner-up placing in the Environmental Stewardship Award categories.

First, the village's wind data was checked at the Wind Atlas website (www.windatlas.ca/en/index.php) to determine the velocity and consistency of the wind. In order to obtain the best wind exposure, an elevated location was chosen.

The village's economic development committee began to examine the options to install an artificial ice surface, and found matching grant funding through Recreational Infrastructure Canada, a federal/provincial partnership program. The village then began the task of putting together its portion of the funding through donations, fundraisers and volunteers.

First, the skating ice surface was renewed, and an artificial ice plant put in place. Research then began into the determination of power needs for the rink, and a budget for a wind turbine of the appropriate size was created. Hazlet had help in the form of a wind power technician from a Swift Current wind farm to help with planning and sizing. A company was engaged to obtain a refurbished 75 kilowatt Vestas model turbine from Denmark via Kansas.

While the turbine was being restored, work was proceeding apace back at the rink site. A company that had designed and poured the bases for 88 turbines near Swift Current was brought in to design Hazlet's base and pour the concrete for the turbine tower.

The tower was the first piece of the machinery to arrive, and volunteers installed the three sections, and torqued the bolts to ensure stability. When the nacelle and blades arrived a few months later, the village brought in cranes from Regina to do the installation. Finally, after months of delay and nearly two years after the project's inception, the turbine was installed and the meter, fuse boxes and power in the rink were hooked up to the turbine.

In the fall of 2010, a cable line trench was laid between the turbine and the rink, and the SaskPower inspection, CSA certification and test runs were completed.

Although it has been running for less than a single season and so cost savings have not been evaluated, Hazlet's citizens are confident in the rink's potential to save power and dollars. During the summer months when the rink is not in operation, power generated by the turbine will "bank" energy for the community by providing power to the

innovation

SaskPower grid, in effect turning back the rink's power meter to reflect the savings.

While the project does provide a blueprint for other municipalities to follow, it was not a smooth and easy road to follow.

"Given the chance to do it again, we'd never have used a refurbished turbine. The holdups and delays in refurbishing and bringing the turbine across the border made the installation about six months late, which increased the costs in other areas," Sletten said.

Another caution the volunteers offered other municipalities considering a similar endeavour: be ready to put in a lot of hours and a lot of work.

And finally, Sletten offered a word of wisdom about doing homework before taking on large projects. "It's very important to do research about the wind in your area. You need to know the quality of your wind, the different levels in different areas, and make the right choices – otherwise the investment in a turbine won't pay off. You have to know the amount of power you're consuming, and the size of turbine you'll need. Do the research," she said.

Despite the difficulties encountered in making the project a success, Hazlet's citizens are thrilled to be the owners of this unique facility, and they're excited to watch as its potential unfolds in the years to come.



An advertisement for WestWorldTours. The background is a close-up, low-angle shot of the Statue of Liberty's head and crown, looking upwards. The text is overlaid on the image. In the top left, the logo for "WestWorldTours" is displayed in blue and red, with the tagline "Where Dependability is a Tradition" in small text below it. In the top right, the words "NEW YORK NEW YORK" are written in large, bold, white capital letters, with "October 8 or 15" in a smaller white font below them. In the bottom left, the text "Jersey Boys", "Billy Elliot", and "& Wicked" is listed in white. In the bottom right, the website "WestWorldTours.com" is written in blue and red.

A Sign of the Times - *Election*

By Shannon Derrick

Political lawn signs were a prominent part of the Saskatchewan municipal landscape this spring during the recent federal election and will be again late this fall during the provincial election campaign. Managing the post-election flotsam and jetsam can be a challenge for urban municipalities but a few

Canadian cities have found a way to do it.

In Ontario, the Regional Municipality of Durham had noticed how after elections, a large quantity of campaign signs ended up in the waste stream. Inspired by one of their bordering neighbours, the City of Toronto, the Durham Region Works Department

started an election sign recycling program in time for the 2010 municipal election.

For several weeks directly following the election, local municipal waste management facilities accepted election signs for free. If other waste materials were included, then regular dumping charges would apply. The program included all three main types of signs – corrugated plastic, plastic film, and paperboard – as well as the wooden stakes and wire mounts from the signs. Corrugated plastic (Coroplast) was shredded to make pellets for new Coroplast. Film plastic (plastic bag signs slipped over a metal armature) was baled and processed in Ontario for plastic lumber. Wooden stakes and metal armatures were also recycled locally. “An entire tonne of steel was recycled just from the anchors used for the lighter, plastic paper signs,” says Stephen Laird, a works technician in Durham.

Getting the message out to election candidates in a timely manner has been one of the lessons learned in implementing the program. The works department reached out to all the candidates by sending them personalized letters informing them of the program. At the Durham Region, contact is initiated at least four months in advance of the election. Craig Bartlett, Manager of Waste Operations, noted that candidates who want to reuse their signs are encouraged to do so, thus further reducing the amount of waste.

The program has been such a success that the Durham Region’s waste management division has made it a permanent part of the larger goal of diverting 70 per cent of their waste from landfills. “Last year’s [Election Sign Recycling Program] diverted



Sign Recycling

6.28 tonnes of municipal election signs from landfill," said Cliff Curtis, Durham's Commissioner of Works. "With the expansion of the program to include election signs from all levels of government, as well as other temporary signs, we anticipate diverting up to 15 tonnes of material from landfill each year."

Election sign recycling programs in other Toronto-area municipalities have met with similar success. In the wake of the 2010 municipal election, York Regional Municipality noted a 131-per cent increase in the total quantity of material recycled compared to the 2006 municipal election. The increase from 4.08 to 9.42 tonnes is attributed to heightened awareness of the program, an additional drop-off location and more drop-off dates and times.

Back on the prairies, the City of Edmonton has had similar success with

the election sign recycling program they started in 2008. The idea to begin recycling election signs arose in response to repeated inquiries to the city's Customer Support Centre regarding how to deal with the signs. The idea took off through the acknowledgement that, once broken down into their separate components, the signs were quite recyclable. Getting the public to disassemble the signs has been the greatest obstacle but there haven't been any significant costs associated with the program thanks to the fact that the community recycling depot bins were already in place prior to the inception of the program.

Given the low costs involved, setting up an election sign recycling program would be an achievable opportunity for Saskatchewan urban municipalities to increase the percentage of waste diverted from landfills.



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Brown + Green = Gold: Turning brownfields into golden opportunities

By the Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Almost every Canadian municipality, large and small, is home to a brownfield site. By sustainably remediating and redeveloping these sites, communities can increase their revenues, manage environmental risk, improve public health and revitalize neighbourhoods, among other benefits.

To help Canadian municipalities achieve their goal of a cleaner, healthier environment, the Government of Canada endowed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) with \$550 million to establish the Green Municipal Fund™ (GMF). The Fund is a long-term, sustainable source of grants and loans for innovative environmental municipal initiatives.

GMF funding is available to all Canadian municipal governments and their partners in eligible projects. For capital projects in the brownfields sector, FCM offers below-market loans of up to 80 per cent of eligible costs. There is no specified funding limit, but FCM reserves the right to adjust the maximum loan limit per project.

Through its funding for brownfields capital projects, FCM aims to help municipalities and their partners bring contaminated sites back into productive use and reduce the need for greenfield development.

Small municipalities lead by example

While small, rural and remote communities make up 19.8 per cent of the Canadian population, since 2000, these communities have represented

over 33 per cent of GMF funding approvals. A lot of excellent work is happening on the ground in very small communities, supported by GMF.

The Town of the Blue Mountains, Ontario, population 6,825, had been short of office space since amalgamation in 1998. Eight years ago, the town council examined its options and made a bold choice: to build a new town hall on a brownfield site and make a statement about sustainability by revitalizing an historic section of the community.

After acquiring a site that met its needs — a 75-year-old gas station and service centre — the town held a series of meetings with residents and stakeholders to capture the community's vision for the new development. With 2,485 square metres of office and public space designed to achieve LEED® Gold certification, the new civic centre fulfills that vision of a community gathering space. It is surrounded by parkland that features a band shell and theatre, splash ponds and a skating loop, and connects to walking trails with river access.

With the help of GMF capital project funding, the town has transformed a downtown brownfield site into a new civic centre that showcases the community's commitment to sustainability, energy efficiency and land stewardship. The project shows how the public sector in a small municipality can take the lead in remediating brownfield sites and developing ecologically responsible buildings.

The Town of the Blue Mountains won the 2011 FCM Sustainable Community Award in the brownfields category. A

short video of the winning project is available on the FCM website at www.fcm.ca/gmf (Click on Awards.)

Low-cost financing when it's needed most: Remediation

GMF supports brownfield projects at the clean-up (remediation) stage, when risk is highest and funding is hardest to secure. Funding is also available for stand-alone renewable energy production projects implemented on brownfield sites.

To apply, municipalities need to meet certain prerequisites depending on the type of project undertaken. For example, for a site remediation or risk management project, municipalities must have completed Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments, and a remedial action plan or risk management plan for the site. For all types of projects, a municipal plan, such as a sustainable community plan, strategic plan, or sector plan is also needed. A complete list of prerequisites for capital projects is available on the FCM website at www.fcm.ca/gmf (click on Funding Opportunities/Eligibility).

Is there a brownfields capital project in your near future?

Contact GMF staff at (613) 907-6208 or at gmf@fcm.ca — a member of the GMF team will be happy to talk to you about your project and discuss the GMF eligibility requirements and application process. Or visit the FCM website at www.fcm.ca/gmf for more information on GMF funding and eligibility, sample projects, and to download the GMF Application Form.

The 2011 Municipal Recycling Bridge Funding Program for Paper and Cardboard

**By Che-Wei Chung
and Shannon Derrick**

Since 2009, SUMA has administered the Municipal Recycling Bridge Funding (MRBF) Program on behalf of the Ministry of Environment (MOE). The intent of the funding is to support municipal recycling operations while the provincial government develops a long-term, sustainable and province-wide Multi-Material Recycling Program (MMRP) based on the Extended Producer Responsibility. The MOE launched the MMRP consultation in 2010 and it continues to work on the regulations and implementation details.

In April 2011 the Minister of Environment announced another \$1.25 million to continue supporting the bridge funding programs administered by SUMA, the Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres and the Association of Regional Waste Management Authorities of Saskatchewan. SUMA's share is \$331,000 and the additional funding will extend the current program to April 2012.

SUMA policy staff have reviewed the structure of the MRBF and made necessary adjustments to ensure that it complies with the current terms of the Go Green Fund. Many requirements will remain the same. For example, all participants must submit tonnage receipts in order to receive funding. Participants are also required to sign a declaration form to confirm that their recycling service has been in place since January 2011.

The 2011 program will continue to be paid out in two installments. The first payment will be paid based on

\$25 per metric tonne based on actual tonnage for the first six months of 2011. To receive the first payment, tonnage receipts from January 1, 2011 to June 30, 2011 must be sent, along with a receipt submission form and a signed declaration form. The deadline for participants to submit the required documents for the first payment is July 28, 2011.

The second payment will be paid based on actual tonnage recycled between July 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011. Participants will not need to submit another declaration form; only their tonnage receipts and submission forms. The deadline for participants to submit the required documents for the second payment is February 9, 2012.

Municipalities that were unable to provide actual tonnage in 2010 will also receive two payments. Both payments will be based on the 2010 estimated tonnage, but you will still be required

to send in a signed declaration form to show that you are still recycling. If your recycler is now able to provide actual tonnages or you have found a scale to weigh your materials, please let us know and we will work with you to determine your payments.

We welcome joint submissions from groups who share recycling services. Submissions must identify all partners and a contact person to receive payments and redistribute them.

The summary of requirement scan be found in the chart below.

In conclusion, all forms, deadlines and program information are on the <http://www.saskmunicipalrecycling.ca/> website. Any new announcements will be made through the biweekly Urban Update. If you have any questions regarding the program, please contact recycle@suma.org or (306) 525-3727.

Participants	Requirements	
General Participants	First Payment: Deadline – July 28, 2011 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed declaration form; • Receipt submission form; and • Actual tonnage receipts from January to June 2011. 	Second Payment: Deadline - February 9, 2012 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receipt submission form • Actual tonnage receipts between July and December 2011.
Shared-Service Participants	First Payment: Deadline – July 28, 2011 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform us who your partners are; • Signed declaration form from each partner; • Joint receipt submission form; and • Actual tonnage receipts from January to June 2011. 	Second Payment: Deadline - February 9, 2012 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint receipt submission form; and • Actual tonnage receipts between July and December 2011.
Estimated Tonnage Participants	First Payment: Deadline – July 28, 2011 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed declaration form; • The first payment is based on 2010 estimated tonnage 	Second Payment: Deadline - February 9, 2012 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The second payment is based on 2010 estimated tonnage

SWANA's *Northern Lights Chapter*

**By Roland Rusnell,
Saskatchewan Director, SWANA**

SWANA - The Solid Waste Association of North America is the leading information and education resource for solid waste professionals across North America. Founded in 1961 as the Governmental Refuse Collection and Disposal Association (GRCD) the scope and context of the association outgrew its name and became SWANA in the 80s. Membership consists of more than 8,000 professionals representing both public and privately operated waste collection and disposal services, consultants, contractors, manufacturers, politicians, economists, recyclers, fleet services, to name a few.

As the most highly regarded industry led association of solid waste professionals in North America, SWANA continues with its mission of "Advancing the practice of environmentally and economically sound management of municipal solid waste in North America".

The Northern Lights Chapter region encompasses the Northwest Territories, Alberta, Saskatchewan

and Manitoba. The chapter provides waste management training to more than 100 individuals each year. Recent course offerings include the Landfill Operator Basics course and the chapter's own Transfer Station Operator course, as well as SWANA International Certification courses; Manager of Landfill Operations (MOLO), Household Hazardous Waste, Recycling Manager and Operations, Construction and Demolition Manager. Waiting in the wings for us to host are the balance of the SWANA certification and non-certification courses (Bioreactor Manager, Compost Manager, Landfill Gas Basics, Health and Safety for Solid Waste Professionals, Waste Screening).

One of the best ways to establish a base level of understanding and knowledge about landfill operations is by way of SWANA's Landfill Operator Basics course. Information contained in this two-day course is derived from best practices of landfills and managers from across North America, including a couple of sections developed right here in our chapter. Under a continuous review process, courses are updated to reflect best practices and industry standards of operation.

Since the late 90s the Province of Alberta has been certifying operators of landfills and compost sites. Beginning in 2010, certification administration, training and mandatory examinations have been conducted by the SWANA Northern Lights Chapter. Feedback from the mandatory certification requirement has been very positive and we continue to look forward to every group of students, whether they are new to the industry or veteran operators.

The Northern Lights Chapter continues to talk to the Provincial and Territorial governments in order to reaffirm SWANA's commitment to public and environmental health and safety through education of solid waste workers. Most recently we have set in place a full slate of provincial and territorial representatives to the board of directors. These are advisory, non-voting positions only.

SWANA NLC has several volunteer committees from Finance to Membership to Awards. If any current SWANA member is interested in becoming more involved as a committee member they can contact our office at (780) 496-5614 or by emailing info@swananorthernlights.org. It is hoped that all of the open committee positions will be filled soon so the business of providing high quality conferences, hosting and developing training courses can proceed.

The SWANA Northern Lights Chapter is encouraged by recent trends in waste management here in Saskatchewan and across North America. For more information on SWANA or any waste management issue, please contact the writer at roland.rusnell@swananorthernlights.org



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CHP -

the new industry standard?

Submitted by the Saskatchewan Research Council

In September 2010, SRC unveiled a 6 kilowatt (kW) combined heat and power (CHP) system prototype that provides both electricity and heat energy more efficiently than any other existing technology in its class and reduces overall energy costs to the consumer.

The unit, installed at Inland Metal's manufacturing facility in Regina, uses first-to-market CHP technology that captures heat from a natural gas-powered internal combustion engine in a small to medium-sized industry. Typically, excess heat from conventional electrical generation facilities is released to the atmosphere as part of combustion exhaust. In addition, energy "line loss" is also experienced as electricity is transmitted from central plants to customers over long distances. But this CHP system captures both the heat of the engine as well as the majority of heat in the exhaust stream, using it for facility space heating.

The electricity produced by the CHP system eliminates line loss and as a result, overall system input energy reductions ranging between 35 and 42 per cent could potentially be achieved compared to providing heat and electricity separately from the natural gas system and central electrical power plants located in Saskatchewan. This technology also has the potential to reduce CO₂ emissions by up to 55 per cent compared to Saskatchewan's coal powered electrical generation.

The anticipated outcome of the demonstration project and associated

field monitoring underway at Inland Metal is to gain a better understanding of installation requirements, CHP system performance, overall utility savings, greenhouse gas (GHG) savings and operational requirements.

Potential improvements in power and efficiency are what prompted Inland Metal to pilot the CHP system in their facility. "As a manufacturer, Inland Metal's requirement of power and a comfortable work place was one of the reasons we looked at the combined heat and power unit," Inland Metal Managing Director Rob Craddock said. "If you can generate power and heat for part of your facility while reducing greenhouse gases, it helps reduce our impact on the environment.

Craddock predicts that this technology is on its way to becoming an industry standard. In the months following the installation of the CHP unit, he has noticed savings in his power consumption. "During this winter we were able to see the full potential of the system as the unit ran almost 24 hours a day and during a couple of power outages our facility was still able to function with the power generated from the CHP unit," notes Craddock.

This system is perfectly suited to Saskatchewan's extreme weather fluctuations. Its integrated technologies allow it to function extremely efficiently, maximizing usage of the provincial electrical grid and natural gas distribution systems. It will also provide back-up electrical supply in the event of a power outage.

Grant McVicar, Director of Energy Conservation at SRC, adds that



the CHP system offers valuable advantages over the conventional electrical power generation and natural gas systems. "This technology is a real game-changer," says McVicar. "At 87 per cent operating efficiency, the system has the potential for significant company savings in energy costs and a reduced environmental footprint, all while providing the added back up of electrical power generation and heat during an electrical outage." McVicar expects another three units to be installed and tested at other mid-sized commercial facilities, and eventually, several 1 to 3 kW units will be installed in residential homes. Although CHP technologies have existed for years, they have predominantly been used in large industrial plants.

"No one had put the pieces of a CHP technology together to come up with this kind of efficiency," notes McVicar. "We are very optimistic that it can be commercialized here in Saskatchewan."

Saskatchewan Scrap Tire Corporation

Submitted by Scrap Tire Corporation

With more than 2.8 million pounds of scrap tires collected over 12 weeks, The Saskatchewan Scrap Tire Corporation's Phase 3 – Black Gold Rush pilot project proved successful in 2010. The pilot, launched in July 2010, was the first part of what the corporation calls Phase 3 of the stewardship program. This phase is aimed at cleaning up all scrap tire stockpiles on private and farmland in Saskatchewan and is a one-time free service provided by the SSTC. The SSTC plans to launch the full BGR in 2012.

Forty-eight municipalities in the southwest region of the province took part in the Black Gold Rush pilot project and helped to make it such a success. Municipalities oversaw the main objectives of the project, including: establishing a drop off location, choosing drop off dates and acting the main point of contact between the community and the SSTC. Service groups (such as 4H clubs) also played a significant role in the Black Gold Rush pilot assisting the municipalities with their sites and the ratepayers with their tire drop-offs.

"We were very pleased with the response from the municipalities and the service groups," said Scrap Tire Corporation Executive Director Theresa McQuoid. "Their participation and hard work helped make the pilot a success."

Now that the Black Gold Rush pilot project is complete, the SSTC will evaluate the outcome and plan for the full launch of Phase 3 in 2012.

"At the request of the Ministry of Environment, province-wide implementation of the Black Gold Rush program will begin in 2012," said McQuoid. "This will give us time to refine our process based on what we learned during the pilot process. We want to make sure we have it right."

A website solely dedicated to the project can be found at: www.scraptire.sk.ca/black-gold-rush. This site includes information for municipalities, service groups and residents. Applications for interested service groups can be found on this site, as well as registration forms for residents who would like to participate in the clean-up. A map is provided to give ratepayers a general idea when the SSTC will be in their community. Dates will be added as they become available.

The Saskatchewan Scrap Tire Corporation (SSTC) is a non-profit, non-government, industry-led organization managed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The SSTC is funded by a Tire Recycling Fee charged on the purchase of new tires. The mandate of the SSTC is to remove and recycle all scrap tires in Saskatchewan. SSTC has implemented three phases since 1996 to carry out this mandate. The phases are as follows:

Phase 1 of the program keeps scrap tires out of the waste stream as they are generated. When retailers install new tires on consumers' vehicles, the used tires removed from the vehicles are kept on-site by the retailers, picked up by collectors, and transported directly to processing facilities for recycling. This phase is ongoing.

Phase 2 saw the cleanup and recycling of tire stockpiles built up in city, town, village and rural municipal landfills throughout Saskatchewan. This phase is now complete.

Phase 3 is the Black Gold Rush program. This is the removal of scrap tires that are privately owned on farmland and private property. This initiative by the SSTC will be a one-time, free service set to kick off in 2012.

Through the Phase 3 process, the SSTC will promote responsible tire disposal by all residents of the province on

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ation's Black Gold Rush Pilot



a go-forward basis. Responsible tire disposal means leaving your old tires with the retailer when you purchase new ones and not storing them on your property.

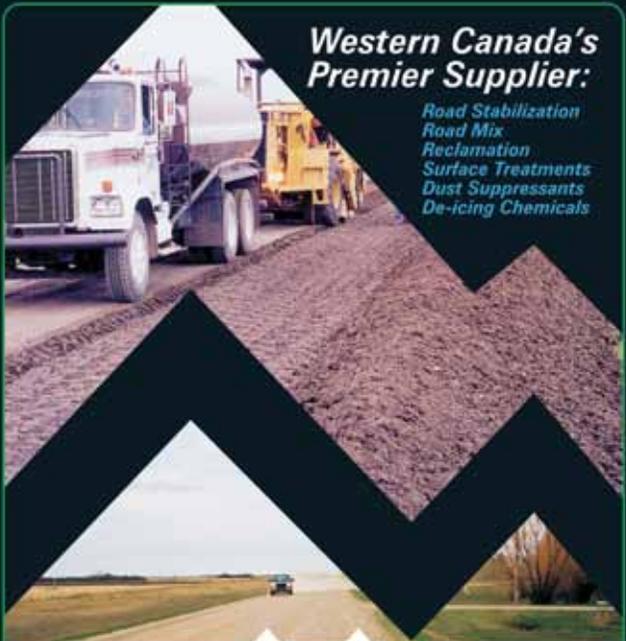
BGR by the numbers:

- 12 Weeks the pilot project ran
- 14 Service groups that participated
- 48 Participating municipalities
- 57,713 Number of scrap tires collected
- 2.8 million Pounds of scrap tires removed from private and farm land



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Municipal representation is a must for the proposed *Multi-Material Recycling Program*

**By Che-Wei Chung
and Shannon Derrick**

On May 4, 2010, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (MOE) launched the first public consultation on the proposed Multi-Material Recycling Program (MMRP). According to the ministry document, the preferred MMRP is based on 75/25 cost sharing between municipalities and the industry. The proposed program will recycle residential packaging materials, such as paper, glass, tin and plastic. A Stewardship Responsibility Organization (SRO) will govern the program, with an industry-led board of directors and no municipal representatives. Advisory and technical committees, consisting of municipalities, industry and environmental non-governmental organizations, will be established to advise the SRO. The SRO Board of Directors is the decision-making authority that will oversee the development of the program plan for the MMRP and its on-going operation.

Since the first day of the consultation, SUMA has been advocating for the inclusion of municipal representatives on the MMRP Board of Directors. We believe that the absence of municipal representation is unacceptable, especially since municipalities are expected to contribute 25 per cent of the costs, but will have no control of the program. Many stewardship programs have industry-only SROs, but most of them are 100 per cent industry funded. This is not the case of the proposed MMRP.

The opposition against a municipal voice on the SRO believes that municipalities would be in a conflict of interest, because municipalities are the beneficiary of the MMRP. They argue that advisory and technical committees will allow municipal inputs while avoiding conflict of interest. The

belief that local governments 'profit' from the MMRP is false. The primary objective of the MMRP is to transfer the cost of recycling from municipal governments to the producers of waste; currently, local governments are paying for 100 per cent of recycling. The MMRP is not a billion dollar jackpot for urban governments. No residents of this province will be taking a bonus home once the MMRP is launched.

The concept of conflict of interest is being applied in a contradictory way. The proposed program requires industry to pay for 75 per cent of the MMRP. Industry is just as financially involved as municipalities. How do we know that industry would design a MMRP program plan that is in the best interest of municipalities? We do not know. That is why municipalities need to be at the table.

It is not logical for opposition to argue that other stewardship programs do not include municipal representation on the board of directors. In fact, in Saskatchewan, the boards of four out of the five stewardship programs have incorporated one municipal representative. Ontario's Blue Box program, which is very similar to the proposed MMRP, reports to the Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO). Four members of the WDO board are municipal members appointed by the Association of Ontario Municipalities.

As our province continues to grow, more Saskatchewanians are demanding recycling services. Both Regina and Saskatoon are designing citywide programs. Many town councils are also considering bringing curbside services to their citizens. Urban governments, not industry, are at the frontline of recycling collection; in fact, some of the industry board members will not even come from Saskatchewan. That is why in order to ensure that local issues are kept at the forefront, representation from urban government is essential. Only urban representatives truly understand the recycling challenges of cities, towns and villages. SUMA has been advocating this on your behalf since 2010 and you can help convey this message by talking to your MLA. For more information on how to do this, please contact the SUMA office or email suma@suma.org.

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Trends of Four Active Generations *Affecting* Urban Parks, Open Spaces and Landscape

**By Barry Rogers, Consultant,
Parks and Open Spaces, SPRA**

Public parks and open spaces have been and will continue to be important ingredients of healthy, high quality communities in Saskatchewan and across Canada. The design, number of and use of these spaces in the urban landscape have been influenced by many factors. A review of the literature and research on 21st century trends by the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA) uncovered some 30 trends that affected the parks field as well as recreation and culture. Many of these trends are interrelated and need to be understood and addressed in that manner. The trends can be grouped under the following five categories: Demographics, Behavioral, Organizational and Workplace, Infrastructure and Environmental. Demographic trends can be further grouped as: Growing Seniors Population (i.e. over 55 years old), Shrinking Youth Population (i.e. under 20 years old), Cultural/Ethnic Diversity and Generational Differences.

There is not adequate space in this article to describe all of these trends that can influence the parks development, management and programming in your community. Therefore, the following discussion will focus on one aspect of Demographic Trends....Generational Differences.

Individuals who grow up together in the same culture during roughly the same 20 year period are influenced by many of the same events and experiences and tend to share certain basic preferences, beliefs and values, which are demonstrated in their behavior. This includes their attitudes, interests and participation in parks and outdoor recreation and how these change due to education, new opportunities (i.e. new park and recreational activities and equipment), financial circumstances and maturation.

All communities are made up of four generations. Knowing and understanding the needs and interests of these generations will help you make better decisions. The four generations are: Veterans (Born: 1925-1944), Baby Boomers (Born: 1945-1964), Generation X (Born: 1965- 1984), Generation Y (Born: 1985-2005). Outlined below are some generalized characteristics and approaches to meet the needs and interests of each of these generations.

Veterans (ages 67-86)

- More active than before and would benefit from small traditional ornamental gardens or community flower/vegetable gardens located in close proximity or on the grounds of their residence.
- Natural surroundings are therapeutic and consistent with their rural background and recreational experiences of their youth.
- Hard surfaced and level walkways that are well maintained year round enable safe and confident physical activity.
- Provide benches, shade (i.e. trees or structures), privacy and a scenic view if possible.
- They like to connect with other generations, particularly their families, so do not isolate them anymore than they may feel.

Baby Boomers (Ages 47-66)

- Also called the 'Big Generation' as it tends to be the largest size population group in history and has greatly influenced every aspect of society.
- Have been unconventional pioneers throughout their lives, seeking adventure and learning in nature and unexplored areas. They like solitude and autonomy.
- They are in transition in work/life balance, having being workaholics in their adult lives thus far.
- Believe parks and open space add to their private property value.
- Have wealth, mobility, interest and time to travel to parks beyond where they live and support larger, more natural landscapes in their community.
- Physical activities have shifted to health and fitness benefits, rather than sports and outdoor pursuits. They are an extremely active, fit and healthy group.
- The shift in activities should be reflected in park development and programming, such as fewer sports fields and organized leagues and more trails and educational and cultural programming.
- Strong connections to communities, organized groups and volunteerism are valued, which are assets to park management and program activities.

Generation X (Ages 27-46)

- They are emerging leaders in society with more education, global exposure and therefore knowledge than their community.
- Very family focused with equilibrium in their work/life balance.

- Urban focused, so less likely to travel to parks located in rural/natural areas; therefore, opportunities need to be manufactured for them. Example: including in the urban parks system large, protected and managed natural areas (i.e. forest, grasslands, wetlands, water features), community gardens and farmers' markets.
- Sense of being special results in expectation of specialized facilities to use informally/spontaneously, such as off-leash dog parks, skateboard parks, open air cafes and bars.
- Although they prefer being in urban environments, they have a growing concern for the environment due to global warming. While thinking globally, they must be motivated to act locally (i.e. stewardship of one's home and surroundings, support for parks).
- Less competitive than the Boomers, but seek thrills and excitement (i.e. motorized recreation, skateboards and in-line skates) impacting park design, facilities and management.
- Less connected to organizations and community and more to family and friends.
- Similar to the Boomers, they are re-popularizing activities such as cycling, bird watching and nature study.
- Less interested in water-based activities and concern for nature being self-focused.
- Members of this group (under 40 years of age) are noticeably less affluent than Boomers and could use support, information and encouragement to use parks.

- Value and benefits of parks and open spaces are not understood or appreciated and often regarded as a waste of tax dollars.
- They live a segmented life style that is rushed and hectic with multiple demands. Leisure time and use of parks is limited.
- Pathways for commuting, parquets, pedestrian street malls and plazas associated with places of work and shopping are ways to provide a short and convenient park experience to this group.
- Greater "me" focus than previous generations is demonstrated in less interest in community volunteerism, lack of respect for others and a disregard for parks and natural environments.

Generation Y (Ages 5-26)

- Have strong relationships with their parents; however, their parents do not have a strong relationship with parks or much beyond their urban setting. Therefore there is the need to educate both generations about the value and benefits of parks, for present and future generations.
- Less skilled in sports and outdoor pursuits and often considered the 'do not break a sweat' generation.
- Members of this group see parks and open space as places to gather and socialize, especially over age 14 and unfortunately, this hangout time is often perceived as problem by some.
- They are less physically active and fit than earlier generations, preferring to be indoors rather than outdoors. Usually always connected to some electronic communication or gaming device where ever they are and whatever they are doing, thus presenting a challenge to education and programming.
- Limited experience in water-based recreation such as lakes, rivers and swimming pools making water slides and water spray parks more acceptable, economic, accessible and useable options (i.e. the new beaches).
- Over protected by parents and the education system. This generation is self-absorbed (a "me" focus), lacking in interest and skills to interact with nature and the outdoors. Some ways to get them into parks is Geo-caching (ie. a scavenger hunt using GPS devices), paintballing or other techno/physical activity in an outdoor setting.
- These youth are still youth as the generations before them, rebels without a cause and marching to the beat of their own era. Be patient, educate, communicate, and provide park opportunities that meet their needs and interests. It is what we have always done in this parks and recreation field.

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Urban parks and open spaces, no matter their shape, size and scope of development, can provide many benefits to the human mind, body and spirit, the environment and a community. Knowing, understanding and appropriately responding to the Generational Differences affecting the parks system in your community will help you maintain a healthy and high quality place to live, work and play for all.

Saskatchewan Recycles One Million Litres of Paint

By Kyla Clincke, Product Care

Saskatchewan residents can be proud of their ability to “paint the town green”. Since the program began five years ago, a million litres of paint have been collected for recycling at SARCAN Depots across the province by Product Care’s Saskatchewan Paint Stewardship Program. To put that in context, that would be enough paint to cover the outside of 30,000 (1,000 sq ft) homes.

The paint program’s success is due in part to our partnership with SARCAN. Saskatchewan residents can take all their unwanted household paint or empty paint cans to any of SARCAN’s 71 depots for recycling. Reusable paint is available to customers to take home for free at every SARCAN depot. The remaining paint is either recycled in the manufacturing of Portland cement or used as an industrial fuel source. Paint containers get recycled into new steel and plastic products.

The success of the program is also a result of the participation of retailers that make up the Stewardship program. As a non-

profit organization, the eco-fees collected by Product Care on the sale of new paint pay for the collection and recycling of the leftover paint. Product Care promotes the BUD rule – Buy what you need, Use what you buy and Dispose of your remaining paint and paint cans by recycling them.

Municipalities have helped, too. Many municipal offices make available paint recycling brochures and it is hoped all landfill operators will continue to encourage users to take paint to SARCAN for proper disposal. Paint can be harmful to the environment if it leaches from landfills or gets into sewer systems.

Above all we have to thank the residents of Saskatchewan. We are very pleased with the support the program has received from communities all across Saskatchewan since the program began five years ago and we will continue to provide a comprehensive paint recycling program for Saskatchewan.

Watch for the Recycling Gang at a Municipal Office Near You

Submitted by Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council

Recycle Saskatchewan has hired four energetic and green-minded summer students to help spread the news about what you can recycle in Saskatchewan. Recycle Saskatchewan is a collaboration of the five provincial recycling stewardship groups – SAARC (Used Oil), Sask. Scrap Tire Corp., SARCAN, SPRP (Paint), SWEEP (electronics) – and the Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council (SWRC).

The summer students will be visiting municipal offices to talk about recycling programs and to offer copies of the Recycle Saskatchewan handbill for distribution in municipal mailouts. The handbill is a quick reference for residents; it contains phone numbers and websites for the provincial recycling programs. If you would like to distribute the handbill in your community, please contact SWRC at info@

saskwastereduction.ca or (306) 931-3242 and let them know how many copies you need.

The summer students will also be carrying the “green” message throughout the province -- at car shows, the Farm Progress Show, provincial parks and retail outlets. A new program this year is Be Tire Smart, a promotion of proper tire maintenance for better mileage, increased safety and longer-lasting tires.

In addition to the students on the road, a fifth student will be contacting all recyclers by phone to update SWRC’s recycling database. This database keeps track of where and how to recycle almost anything in Saskatchewan. Look for the ‘Where Do I Recycle My?’ button on saskwastereduction.ca or check for the link at recyclesaskatchewan.ca.

The recycling gang looks forward to another exciting and successful summer.

Thriving in Progress: *Saskatchewan as a Sustainable "Have" Province*

**submitted by Tayah Hanson,
Municipal Capacity Development Program**

Saskatchewan is best known for its wide open spaces and big, beautiful skies. Here at home we have great bodies of fresh water and lush forests, expansive grasslands, hills, valleys, and rich prairie as far as the eye can see. I have heard stories of people avoiding the prairies on their trips east or west through Canada because there is "nothing" to see, or because they find the openness and seeming isolation disconcerting. But I have also heard out-of-province travelers talk about why they love it here: because there are more spaces left untouched by urbanization and more opportunities to be closer to nature. Be it the soft pines of the forest, the whisper of blowing grass in the field, the splash of pike in the lake, or the sky in your hair when you stand atop a hill, it is hard to ignore that Saskatchewan is a special and magical place.

When we consider the economic boom Saskatchewan is currently in and the many efforts taking place to attract more people and investments to our province, a question of "progress" arises. Progress (as a noun) describes advancement and change into bigger, better, and "more." Sustainability, on the other hand, is the "capacity to endure." Practicing sustainability in the context of an economic

boom means working from the standpoint of responsible stewardship of our best resources. Economies may go up and down but it does not mean our value as a province should. For those of us deeply settled here, we know what there is to treasure - the land, the space, prairie life, and our people. We can take advantage of a good economic situation and invest in our future "have-ness," by strengthening our local economies and infrastructure, building municipal capacity, broadening access to health care services, making environmentally conscious decisions, improving educational and job opportunities, and preserving our heritage, cultures, land, water, and sky.

In Saskatchewan, we can prepare for the residual fallout of an economic boom by taking a moment to consider what it means to be a "have" province. What do we value? What is important to preserve? What is it that we want to promote? As an action, progress "in progress" assumes moving into better resource management, land use planning, and development practices that encourage the vitality of Saskatchewan's environment and communities. Therefore, being a "have" province demands that we make smart, sustainable decisions for the long-haul so that when some other province one day steals the limelight, we will just carry on - business as usual.