

VOLUME 21 NUMBER 4 | WINTER 2016

URBAN*Voice*

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SASKATCHEWAN URBAN MUNICIPALITIES ASSOCIATION

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VOLUME 21 NUMBER 4 | WINTER 2016

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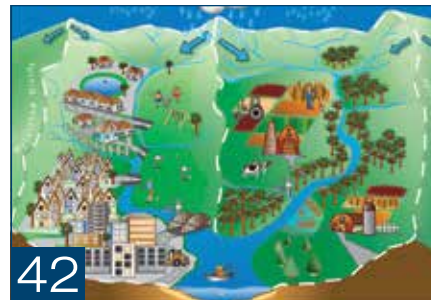
SHAPING AN URBAN SASKATCHEWAN

112th Annual Convention

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IT'S TIME FOR ACTION

Laurent Mougeot, Chief Executive Officer

We did it. After a federal election in October 2015, and a provincial election in April 2016, we came back around and wrapped it all up with municipal elections. Congratulations to you all. We have all spent the last year imagining what we want for our country, our province, and our hometowns. As we approach Convention 2017, it's time to shift from imagination to action.

The theme for Convention 2017, *Shaping an Urban Saskatchewan*, is about making that shift and preparing to take action. We have a lot to learn from our past; Canada 150 celebrations will begin soon, and we've got more than a century under our belt as a province. But we need to also look forward with purpose and intent. Urban Saskatchewan is where this province is going, and growing. People want the sense of community that they find in our towns, villages, cities, and northern municipalities. They want the services available there; they want the jobs and the opportunities that live in our hometowns.

Residents may respect councils' past accomplishments, but they elect urban leaders because they want you to achieve your vision. As you engage in this new term with your council members it is critical that you take the initiative through innovation and leadership to shape your future — instead of having the future decided for you by others.

Urban Saskatchewan is where we can encourage new approaches, diverse opinions, progressive decisions, and strong leadership. It can be a hub of ingenuity, because necessity is the mother of invention. Urban governments face many common challenges, most of which boil down to making more while using less. Residents expect a lot from their local council, and it takes a lot of careful consideration, hard work and smart decision making to meet those expectations.

The work of urban leaders is never done. You are a member of council in chambers, in the grocery store, at the post office, and with your friends and family. Whether you see growth or challenges around you, you cannot afford to slow down. We all need to look forward — your new council, your administration,

SUMA. We need to set goals. We need to make action plans. And we need to find people to help us.

We do not achieve greatness in isolation. Great things do not happen by accident. That is what we are getting at when we talk about *Shaping an Urban Saskatchewan*. You and I already know urban Saskatchewan is a great place to live, work, and play. That is why we live there, but more importantly, that is why we have signed up to serve. Now it is time to work together; first, within councils — because you cannot make your individual ideas reality without the strength of your council team behind you — and then, with those groups around us.

SUMA is the collective voice of urban Saskatchewan. We are here to be one of the groups you work with to shape your community. The Board of Directors and my staff work hard all year to support the work you do on behalf of your municipality.

We bring you together at our annual convention (and other events, of course) to build the connections you need. Convention gives you a chance to talk to your peers about their successes and how they are dealing with their challenges. You get to hear from voices of expertise and authority; education and breakout sessions are a great chance to get information, and in some cases, inspiration. The people we bring in to lead these sessions may be the connection you need to get the work done. You might find the right vendor in the tradeshow to make a long-awaited project happen at the right price. You even get face time with provincial decision makers at the Bear Pit and Dialogue with Ministers.

All year, SUMA works for you and with you, to push for our hometowns to be great. We learn and listen about what works and what does not. We look around us for examples of great work and how we can apply it to Saskatchewan's cities, towns, villages, resort villages, and northern municipalities. We work with like-minded organizations to strengthen our collective voice in the pursuit of improvement. I am lucky enough to help lead the voice of urban Saskatchewan all year, but those four days every February are especially exhilarating for me. My team and I hope you'll join us there. ■



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Convention 2017 Shaping Up to Be Fantastic

Councillor Randy Goulden

It's only November and I'm already so excited for what's coming up in February! It's my distinct pleasure to be the Chair of SUMA's 112th Annual Convention, because we have a fantastic event coming to you in 2017.

Our annual convention is a major undertaking, and often the first thing people think of when they hear of SUMA. It makes sense. Aside from the sheer size of the event, this is the annual gathering of the three main jobs SUMA does on behalf of our members.

We Represent Your Interests

SUMA started as a way to band local governments together to speak with a collective voice. That work continues every day at the SUMA office, and it certainly seeps into the events of every convention. Members get a chance to influence advocacy work by debating and voting on the resolutions submitted by your peers. Resolutions are the most public way we hear about members' priorities.

Executive elections will also happen at Convention 2017, the first convention after municipal elections. We will be electing the next SUMA President; the town sector will elect their Vice-President of Towns, and villages, resort villages and northern municipalities will elect their Vice-President. All the details on those elections are on page 22.

Convention also gives you access to provincial decision makers through the Wednesday activities. Not only do members have the chance to speak to the Premier and his cabinet during the Bear Pit, you also get to take questions to sessions dedicated to several ministers with portfolios tied closely to municipalities.

We Help Save You Money

Convention itself holds a tremendous value for members. There are few four-day conferences with registration fees as low as ours — and our convention is tailor-made for urban Saskatchewan leaders.

The Municipal Marketplace Tradeshow also brings you tangible ways to save money. We bring the vendors to you, so you can shop around without taking the time and expense to travel to each vendor when you need supplies or services. Many SUMA Advantage partners are also at our tradeshow, linking you to the work we do all year to save members money.

We Help You Build Capacity

As I said, SUMA's annual convention is a professional development opportunity tailored specifically for our members. Our education and breakout sessions are fantastic places to learn more about your role as an urban leader, what you can do better, and how your work overlaps with other fields. The agenda has four separate spots for these sessions, so be sure to make the most of these chances to learn about urban leadership in Saskatchewan.

We're bringing inspiration to you with our keynote speaker, Olympic Gold

Medalist Joan McCusker. Her address will not only share some of her undoubtedly fascinating experiences, it will also talk about the attitude it takes for ordinary people like us to build the extraordinary communities we call home.

You may also find inspiration and knowledge with your peers at Convention. We do our best to make time for these connection opportunities outside of guided sessions by giving you a time and a place to gather. Our Welcome Reception on Sunday is a great time to celebrate 150 years of Canadian history, but also to celebrate the successes in your own communities — and get inspired by the successes of others. As we reward the service of municipal employees and elected officials at the President's Banquet on Tuesday night, we are reminded of the challenges we've overcome, and have a chance to talk to others about how they've solved problems their communities faced.

Convention 2017 will be a great time to connect and collaborate. I look forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting the newest generation of urban leaders this February, so please join us for what is sure to be a fantastic four days! ■



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Important Dates and Accommodation Information for Convention 2017

Thursday, December 22, 2016: **Early-bird registration deadline**

Thursday, January 12, 2017: **Last day for cancellations**

Sunday, February 5 – Wednesday, February 8, 2017: **Convention 2017**

Host Hotel: Hilton Garden Inn

Accommodation and rate information is available
on the Convention 2017 page of the SUMA website.

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Clearing Up Convention Misconceptions: A Q&A with Katee Galandy

There's no doubt that SUMA's annual convention is a critical event, giving our members a chance to get together, debate resolutions, identify issues shared by urban governments, and foster unity among Saskatchewan's cities, towns, villages, resort villages, and northern municipalities.

It might seem like convention just happens, but **Katee Galandy** is well aware of all the details that need to be taken care of in order for the annual event to run smoothly. As the Convention and Events Coordinator at SUMA, Katee oversees everything convention — though she's first to make it clear that she doesn't do it alone. It's a group effort for SUMA staff, and there is a Convention Planning Committee as part of the SUMA Board of Directors. The committee approves the major parts of convention, like keynote speakers and education sessions. But Katee is the person behind the scenes making sure the event looks seamless for delegates.

What can we look forward to at Convention 2017?

Because this is the first year after a municipal election, there's lots going on, including the SUMA Executive elections. We'll have many people at Convention attending as first-time elected officials, so that is going to be exciting, too. Education is an important part of Convention, so on top of the regular education sessions, the Municipal Leadership Development Program will be offering modules on the Saturday before Convention begins.

You survey delegates to see what they thought of convention each year; what do you do with all the feedback?

We compile, summarize, and report all the feedback to our Board of Directors. Wherever possible, the Convention Planning Committee and staff take the feedback into consideration, making

changes for future years. For example, delegate feedback led to us revamping our education session selection process to pick sessions that are relevant to current municipal issues and speakers who can relate to our members. During this process we take suggestions from the delegate feedback, identify current hot topics, put out a call for submissions to find great speakers for those topics, and coach speakers through the process to help them understand our members. Many positive comments from the delegates following Convention 2016 lead us to believe the new process is working.

Our education sessions are so valuable to delegates that I see feedback asking for more opportunities to attend the sessions we plan. While we can't make this work because of time and space restrictions, our sessions are recorded and posted on our YouTube channel after convention. This way, delegates can still see the other sessions from the comfort of their own desk.

Certainly, we can't make every change, but we make every effort to deliver a good, quality program, and delegate feedback is extremely important.

It seems that a lot of the feedback is tied to food! What's your take on this?

It's definitely not cheap to host an event the size of a SUMA convention. For example, our breakfast costs are about \$15 per person per day, and lunch costs are almost \$25 per person per day. The coffee and tea that is available during the breaks costs us nearly \$9,000.

While there are likely delegates who would be willing to pay more for meals, we make every effort to keep convention accessible and affordable. The goal is to keep registration affordable to provide an opportunity for all of our members to attend.

We've been able to accommodate delegate feedback on healthy food choices, especially for breakfast. And where we serve breakfast is another hot topic. Although some delegates would prefer that we serve breakfast in the main hall, having it in the tradeshow area in Saskatoon gives delegates time in the morning to network with the vendors. Vendors also appreciate this arrangement, because time with the delegates is important to them.

Aside from food, are there other expenses you think would surprise people?

Well, I think it's important to note that even the things we really don't think about cost money. For example, the screens that appear in the Grand Salon cost \$850 per screen per day to rent, so our total costs on that are almost \$14,000.

Bussing is another significant cost at \$28,000, though our host city provides a grant that offsets the cost. If we increased service and had buses running all day and going to more hotels, it could easily double the cost of this service.

These are just a couple of examples, but the bottom line is that everything costs money — and costs continue to rise every year.

How important are sponsorship and the Municipal Marketplace tradeshow to the success of the event?

The tradeshow always gets great reviews, and I think people understand the revenue the tradeshow generates, and the valuable connections it provides for our members and partners. In addition to the delegates liking the tradeshow, our exhibitors are really happy, too.





Wherever possible, we look to offset costs through sponsorship. For example, our education session speakers are usually there for free and come on their own time. We pay for the keynote and entertainer, and again, offer these up as sponsorship opportunities to offset costs. We also provide other options, such as the opportunity to introduce speakers and handbook advertising.

Are you going to bring a comedian back to the President's Banquet?

In 2015, we decided to move to a plated meal with three entertainment acts during dinner followed by a live band, and we received lots of positive feedback. This format works well when convention is in Saskatoon. TCU Place has a larger room to accommodate the necessary floor plan, their sound system and lights work well for the two entertainment options, and the staff members excel at serving a plated dinner.

This format doesn't work as well at Queensbury Convention Centre in Regina. However, that facility excels at serving delicious buffet meals, so we will have a buffet dinner when convention is Regina, and provide a comedian for entertainment after the ceremony.

Having the two different formats will keep it fresh from year to year, please delegates that prefer one format over the other, and play to the strengths of both facilities.

Putting this convention together is an incredible amount of work. Which part is most rewarding?

I think the fact that most everything is planned in house, by staff. We generate a lot of work out of our small office, and I may be biased, but I think we deliver excellent value to our members. We do contract one person to manage tradeshow, sponsorship and advertising because we don't have the capacity to handle that, but otherwise, it's 16 of us. Everyone works hard, and I'm really proud of our team. ■

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Shaping an Urban Saskatchewan

Policy Opportunities at Convention

For more than a century, SUMA has worked to better understand the interests of our members. We are always looking for new ways to engage with you, learn from you, and deliver victories for you. But we can't ignore the tried and tested ways, like our annual convention.

Each year SUMA members come together at convention to discuss the important issues of the day. You get several opportunities to have direct input into SUMA's policy development and advocacy work. To prepare you for Convention 2017, let's explore these opportunities.

Resolutions

Delegates influence SUMA's policy direction by submitting resolutions ahead of Convention, and voting on those presented at the Tuesday afternoon resolution session. Resolutions help guide SUMA's priorities for the next year.

Sector Meetings

This year, the sector meetings on Tuesday morning will include elections. They will also provide delegates with sector-relevant updates on key policy files. Delegates will have the chance to ask questions and provide suggestions for new policy priorities.

Annual General Meeting

At SUMA's formal AGM on Monday afternoon, delegates will receive a report on our activities in the past year. This session also gives delegates the chance to ask questions about SUMA's advocacy priorities and our progress in advancing the interests of our members.

Dialogue Sessions

Wednesday morning's dialogue sessions with provincial cabinet ministers are a key opportunity to ensure your voice is heard. SUMA has invited seven members of cabinet and a representative from the RCMP to participate in this year's dialogue sessions.



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These sessions allow delegates to ask specific questions in a more focused way than the Bear Pit allows.

The Bear Pit

The Wednesday morning Bear Pit session is the final event of the SUMA convention and is often the highlight. With the Premier, full Cabinet, and members of the media attending, delegates have the chance to ask questions about their priorities and get answers directly from the provincial decision-makers.

Meetings with Ministers

On top of scheduled events, many cabinet ministers are willing to meet with individual SUMA member governments during the convention. If you are interested in meeting with a particular minister during Convention, contact the minister's office directly, or call SUMA and we will point you in the right direction.

Electing Board Members

SUMA members will finalize the next SUMA Board of Directors, at the first convention since the municipal elections. On Monday, delegates will elect the President. On Tuesday, the Vice-President

of Towns, the Vice-President of Villages, Resort Villages, and Northern Municipalities, and the Northern Regional Director will be elected. Board members are responsible for representing your interests during their term, so making an informed decision at the elections is one way to ensure your voice will be heard and your interests represented.

Meeting with Board Members and Staff

Finally, we encourage our members to get to know SUMA Board members and staff during Convention. We are here to represent you, and we want to get to know you, your issues, your challenges, and most importantly — your successes. While we may not have time for a formal meeting at Convention, we would love to chat informally, exchange contact information, and plan to connect following the event.

There are many opportunities to influence the policy and advocacy work of SUMA at our annual convention. This is an opportunity for you, and a necessity for us. Active engagement of our members is the only way we can be the voice of urban Saskatchewan. ■



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Shaping an Urban Saskatchewan

Keynote Speaker: Joan McCusker

Joan McCusker was a member of the renowned Sandra Schmirler Curling Team. They won multiple titles, including three Canadian and World Women's Curling Championships and an Olympic Gold medal at the 1998 Winter Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan.



Joan grew up on the family farm around Saltcoats, Saskatchewan with her six brothers and sisters, and graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor of Education. She has taught a wide variety of grades and subjects and is currently a substitute teacher in Regina public elementary schools. Joan is a TV curling commentator for CBC and Sportsnet. She has worked at three Winter Olympic Games as a broadcaster, including the most recent games in Sochi, Russia. Joan and her husband Brian live in Regina with their three children — and try hard to keep up with their activities!

Joan has worked in a variety of careers: teacher, mom, athlete, broadcaster, high performance consultant, coach, and motivational speaker. She has observed successful people in all walks of life.

Join us for her keynote address "Shaping Saskatchewan with Attitudes for Leadership Excellence." What does great leadership look like? Joan believes that great leadership begins with ordinary people who find themselves leading. These are the people that learn to bring out the best in the people around them. With plenty of examples, Olympic stories and resources, Joan shows the qualities of effective leaders. She will describe five interesting ALEs — Attitudes for Leadership Excellence — that are sure to help you shape an extraordinary community. ■

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Shape Your Convention Experience with Eventbase

The Eventbase app is once again available for SUMA convention delegates, so you can shape your own Convention 2017 experience. Available for iPhone, iPad, Blackberry, and Android users, you can download Eventbase through your device's app store. Whether you are new to the app or this is your first time attending, here a quick guide so you're ready to go by Convention.

Once you've downloaded Eventbase, open the app and search for SUMA. Watch for the blue SUMA logo! When you tap the SUMA logo, you go to the basic information about Convention, including a short description and the dates. Tap Launch Event Guide, and you're off to the races.

In the event guide you'll find a full schedule, which means you have the most up-to-date information about when and where events are happening at Convention. We will be adding information as soon as it's available, so if you can't find the information now, it should appear soon.

The schedule gives you basic information, and if you tap on an event, you'll get all the available information, from date and time to room number and a description of the session or event. Again, these sorts of things will be updated from now until Convention, so this is a perfect way to make sure you are always in the know.

As we confirm speakers, watch the Speakers section to read bios, and learn more about who will be speaking and leading sessions.

When you're ready to shape your Convention experience, you can basically build your own personalized agenda. When you select the stars next to events you plan to attend, it gathers all your favourites in the (surprise, surprise!) Favourites section. Voila, your own agenda, which you can change at any time.

If you can't get the app for your phone — or you just prefer to use a mobile website — visit www.tinyurl.com/SUMAconventionapp to use the mobile web version. ■

Available for iPhone, iPad, Blackberry, and Android users, you can download Eventbase through your device's app store.

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Shaping an Urban Saskatchewan

Education Sessions

There will be many opportunities to learn at Convention 2017, from the informal learning experiences at meals and in the halls to the education and breakout sessions planned by SUMA staff.

Sunday, February 5

Education Sessions

E1 and E7

Gear Up to Manage Your Assets

A good asset management plan means you are spending money on infrastructure in the smartest way. Who doesn't want to get the greatest impact at the lowest cost? This session, guided by the Asset Management Getting Started Guide, will help you learn the fundamentals of asset management, and the key first steps your municipality needs to take to get your plan ready.

E2 and E8

Unlocking New Revenue Sources

Running an urban municipality is an expensive prospect, and councils can't afford to leave any stone unturned when it comes to potential revenue sources. At this session, learn how to market your municipality, make better corporate partnerships, and deliver shared value to your partners and residents.

E3 and E9

How the Solid Waste Strategy is Shaping Up

A provincial Solid Waste Management Strategy is in the works. Attend this session to hear the goals and discussion on what might be key features of the strategy — from waste diversion and reduction to regionalization — and what that could mean for municipalities.

E4 and E10

Get a Move Ahead on Climate Change

The last five years have seen a drastic increase in natural disasters in Saskatchewan, as a result of climate change. Adapting and making your municipality more resilient can help your community avoid catastrophic damage and recover faster following an emergency.



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E5 and E11

Moulding Municipal Champions

Do you ever meet with MLAs, MPs, or senior government officials to advance the interests of your community? Find out how you can be the best champion for your municipality by learning the tactics and skills it takes to make the most of every meeting with those officials.

E6 and E12

Are You a Target? Security in the Digital Age

Municipal governments of all sizes are trusted with lots of personal data; residents and property owners expect it to be safe. The costs to deal with a data breach after the fact are staggering, not to mention the negative public perception if it happens. At this session, find out about the unique risks municipalities face and what you can do to manage them.

Monday, February 6

Education Sessions

E13

Examining the Economic Forecast of Saskatchewan

When planning for the future, it's important to understand the current and future economic climate for Saskatchewan and Canada. This session will look at current provincial and federal government revenues and expenditures, labour market data, demographics, and financial market information to help you shape your urban municipality.

E14

Creating Business Links with First Nations

First Nations can be key partners in achieving economic success in your municipality and region. This session will highlight the value of doing business with First Nations, explain arrangements such as urban reserves, and explain how to start building a strong, beneficial relationship.

E15

Illuminating the Role of Watersheds

Water is an essential element in all our lives. Find out about how watershed associations help protect Saskatchewan water bodies, and learn more about the key water issues in our province.

Tuesday, February 7

Breakout Sessions

Cities:

The Keys to Innovative Government

Social media use among governments is on the rise, but can it be used beyond the usual communications role? Explore how

municipalities can use digital tools to innovate, including opening up policy processes or transforming public service delivery.

Towns and Villages:

Promotional Profiles for Economic Growth

Continued economic growth is vital to maintaining a healthy, vibrant community. See some of the ways to promote your community, and entice new businesses and residents to drive growth.

Towns and Villages:

It Takes All the Pieces of the Puzzle:

Cultivating a Diverse Council

Does your council reflect the demographics of your municipality? Representation on council can help your municipality's direction match the needs and expectations of your residents. Join us to discuss cultivating diverse voices — age, culture, and gender — in local government. ■



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Shaping an Urban Saskatchewan

Executive Elections

Convention 2017 will see plenty of new faces, and that includes elections for three SUMA Executive Committee positions:

- President
- Vice-President of Towns
- Vice-President of Villages, Resort Villages, and Northern Municipalities

Nominees for all positions must be elected officials of a SUMA member council in good standing. Any elected official from a SUMA member municipality in good standing is eligible to run in the Presidential election. The election will happen on Monday, but nominations for the President must be returned to the SUMA office prior to Convention, or onsite at Convention no later than 11:45 a.m. on Sunday, February 5, 2017.

To run for Vice-President of Towns, you must be an elected official from a town council that is a SUMA member in good standing.

Nominees for the Vice-President of Villages, Resort Villages and Northern Municipalities must be an elected official from a village, northern town, northern village, northern hamlet or resort

village council that is a member of SUMA in good standing.

The elections for the Vice-President positions will happen at the sector meetings Tuesday morning. Sector Vice-President nominations can be submitted to the SUMA office prior to convention, or onsite no later than 9:00 a.m. on Monday, February 6, 2017. However, any unsuccessful candidate for the position of President can notify the returning officer by 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 6, 2017, if they wish to run for Vice-President of the appropriate sector without having to file new nomination papers.

The Vice-President of Cities is the Chair of the City Mayors' Caucus, and depending on election results, a Regina/Saskatoon Executive Member may be selected at the City Sector Meeting on Tuesday morning. Those individuals will make up the SUMA Executive Committee for the next four years.

Nominations are open; forms and information on the election rules and procedures are posted on the Executive Elections section of the Convention 2017 page on our website. ■



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Social Activities at Convention 2017

Convention is a busy few days, so delegates deserve a chance to take a load off and spend some informal time with their colleagues and peers. There is an activity on each night — come on down and enjoy yourself.

Join SUMA at the Welcome Reception on Sunday night from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. at O'Brians Event Centre, where we will celebrate Canada 150. You will have the chance to network with other members of SUMA's Board of Directors and your fellow delegates. Enjoy the coast-to-coast light appetizer food stations and a cash bar while we showcase the beautiful scenery this great country has to offer. Heidi Munro and her six-piece



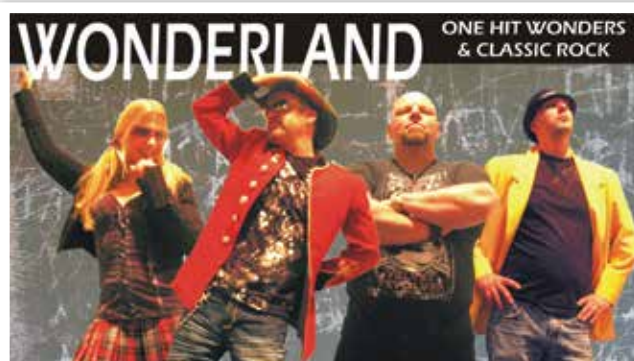
jazz band are sure to keep you entertained, playing iconic songs from Canadian history. Tickets for this event are \$30 and space is limited, so purchase your tickets today!

The Monday night hospitality night continues with the same format as previous years. Danceland DJs will be spinning the tunes at the Hilton Garden Inn, and there will be a cash bar. The evening starts at 8:00 p.m., and you do not need a ticket for this event. Please join us.

The plated meal and dinner entertainment shone at the President's Banquet and Awards Ceremony in 2015, so we are keeping this format when convention is in Saskatoon. Enjoy a three-course meal while Dance Saskatchewan showcases three different cultures through dance.

After the formal program, stick around for some time on the dance floor with Wonderland. This one-hit-wonder tribute band plays classics by Soft Cell, The Buggles, Tommy Tutone,

and many more, along with classic rock that will keep you dancing all night long. Tickets for this event are \$60. This is a great value for an evening filled with food and entertainment. We look forward to seeing you there. ■



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SUMAssure AGM

The SUMAssure Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 5 from 4:20 p.m. – 5:20 p.m. at TCU Place in Saskatoon. It is important that all SUMAssure subscribers have one representative who will act as a voting delegate to ensure we have quorum.



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Subscribers can expect to elect two positions to the SUMAssure Management Board, and receive a review of the reciprocal financials, bylaw amendment(s), and auditor appointment. The floor will be open for subscribers to raise insurance-related topics for discussion, and SUMAssure representatives will be on hand to answer questions.

This meeting will be closed to the general public as it is intended for SUMAssure subscribers only.

If you are interested in learning more about how to join the SUMAssure Management Board, please contact Tania Meier, Governance Manager, at 306-525-4379 or inquiries@sumassure.ca.

Subscribing municipalities will receive formal notice of the Annual General Meeting in late December. ■

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THAT ALL
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HAVE ONE
REPRESENTATIVE
WHO WILL ACT
AS A VOTING
DELEGATE TO
ENSURE WE
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Transportation Information

SUMA and the City of Saskatoon are pleased to provide shuttle bus service for SUMA delegates at Convention 2017.

Information with approximate departure times and bus stop locations will be posted in the following hotel lobbies:

Downtown:

- Delta Bessborough
- Park Town Hotel
- Radisson Hotel
- The James Hotel

North End:

- Travelodge
- Saskatoon Inn

For those attending Sunday education sessions, a continuous shuttle circuit from hotels will begin at noon and continue as required.

Monday to Wednesday shuttles will run delegates to TCU Place in the morning and return them to hotels in the afternoon. Bussing will be provided for the Welcome Reception on Sunday evening from the above hotels as well as the Hilton Garden Inn and the Holiday Inn Downtown to O'Brians Event Centre. Bussing will also be provided for the President's Banquet on Tuesday evening from the above listed hotels.

There will *not* be a continuous shuttle service during the day Monday to Wednesday. Bussing will also *not* be provided for the hospitality night at the Hilton Garden Inn.

If you'd rather drive, private vehicle parking is available at the following parking lots:

- Midtown Plaza lot across from TCU: \$12/day
- Behind TCU and Midtown Plaza, directly across from the Midtown food court: \$12/day
- Directly across from the fire station on Idywyld Drive: \$7.50/day
- Beside the Holiday Inn: \$10/day ■

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Fair Practices Office, Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board
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Fire and Auto Enterprises
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Strengthening Local Government Leadership with MLDP

Once again, the Municipal Leadership Development Program (MLDP) will have workshops available the day before SUMA's Annual Convention kicks off. The MLDP workshops were developed exclusively for elected and appointed municipal leaders in Saskatchewan. The modules target specific issues of importance to urban, rural, and northern municipalities. Mayors, councillors, and municipal staff will strengthen local government leadership through the learning opportunities MLDP offers.

MLDP will offer five modules, each running from **9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 4 at TCU Place in Saskatoon.**

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Strategic and Financial Planning for Municipalities

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Municipal Economic Development Fundamentals

This module helps find answers to key questions about economic development: What is it? Who are the players? What role can the municipality play? What kind of returns can you expect?

Human Resources in the Municipal Workplace

This highly interactive session gives participants an overview of the labour market, council and administration's role in human resources and the legislative framework around it. You'll also learn how to deal with conflict, more about the hiring and dismissal processes, the importance of orientation and motivation, and how to manage performance.

Public Relations and Communications for Municipalities

The module teaches you how to effectively communicate with your ratepayers and the media. Learn how to become proactive in your public relations activities. Get tips on public speaking and techniques used by print, radio, television and other media.

Community and Land-Use Planning

This module covers many areas around community and land-use planning: the roles and responsibilities of council, administration and the public; the creation, adoption, and amendment process for Official Community Plans and zoning bylaws; the subdivision process; servicing agreements; the development and permits process; the development appeal board process; enforcing bylaws; the building permit process; and regional planning.

If you can't make it before Convention 2017, the same five workshops will be offered again on Monday, March 13 at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon to coincide with the annual SARM convention.

Registration for both sessions will open on **December 15, 2016**. Visit the MLDP website at www.mldp.ca for more information. ■

Congratulations to this year's winners!

First Place

Oil Spill and Water Crisis Response
City of Prince Albert

Activated an emergency operations centre in response to an oil spill that contaminated the source of their drinking water, the North Saskatchewan River.

Second Place

Our Humboldt Strategic Framework
City of Humboldt

Developed and implemented a framework setting out a vision and strategy for Humboldt, and used it to align policy and the budget process to the framework.

Third Place (tie)

Highway 316 Concept Plan
RM of Blucher

Developed a comprehensive concept plan for the area that addressed infrastructure needs, existing development, future development, surface water considerations, and environmental factors.

Third Place (tie)

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle/Laser Survey
Town of Kerrobert

Used drones and laser technology to survey the town to create an asset map and topographical map to help develop an infrastructure upgrade master plan and drainage plans.

Regional Cooperation Award

Wallace Creek Watershed Association Board
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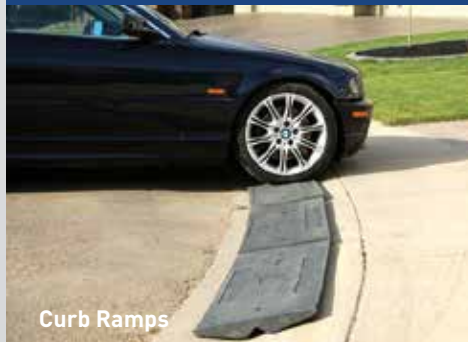
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Rubber Mulch - Bark

SASK ENTREPRENEUR TURNS HAZARD INTO **RESOURCE**

Shercom Industries founder Shane Olson may have been ahead of his time, but now his decades of dedication to turning an environmental hazard into a useful product that saves municipalities time and money is paying off.

Shercom is recognized by Saskatchewan business, community and industry leaders for contributing to environmental sustainability. But Olson defers the recognition, which most recently came in the form of a nomination for EY Entrepreneur of Year in 2015 for Agricultural and Environmental Innovation.

"As much as we get credit for recycling, in reality, all we are doing is changing the shape of tires," said Olson.

"It's not recycling until someone uses the newly manufactured product ... so it is our customers who are the real recyclers, and they deserve the credit and the congratulations."

More product is now available due to a recent expansion to increase Shercom's processing and manufacturing capacity. Each week, Shercom can divert up to 1 million pounds of tires away from landfill piles by collecting them and turning them into products such as rubber mulch. The mulch resists weeds and insects while remaining colour-fast for years. It ranks ahead of all other CSA-approved materials for safety, making it a preferable option for under play structures.

When rubber is used for molded products, such as Patio Tiles or Splash Pads for rain gutters, consumers find they are lighter and more flexible than concrete but heavier and more durable than plastic.

You can imagine how much more forgiving a rubber surface is to walk on through a city park or to dampen a fall alongside a swimming pool. Re-surfacing running tracks and playgrounds or cracked concrete and asphalt with a flexible rubber surface is an innovation pioneered by Shercom. Experience it for yourself in Regina at the Rick Hansen Optimist Playground.

Landscape contractors, property owners and municipalities find Shercom's products are delivered at competitive prices, with the added benefit of lasting for years. Recycled rubber products naturally resist weather and temperature damage, as well as provide excellent durability, traction, and comfort.

Since getting started more than 20 years ago, Olson has had to overcome significant obstacles but his persistence has not gone unnoticed. Recently, the company was recognized in Legacy Builders Magazine by EY (Ernst & Young) which said Shercom Industries is "changing the world ... by keeping 40-50 million pounds per year of scrap tires out of landfills." This comes after Shercom Industries was honoured with the 2013 Environment ABEX and SABEX Awards.

More recognition comes from the Ministry of Environment, who described Shercom as a world class business and expressed gratitude, "for the work they do transforming tires from an environmental hazard into a usable product, allowing their customers to participate in the environmental sustainability of our planet."

Olson got started before it was widely recognized recycling plays a critical role in sustainable industry. That awareness has now arrived. National chains are carrying Shercom's unique, high-quality products and civil engineers are recognizing the benefits for projects all over Saskatchewan. Visit Shercom's booth at the upcoming SUMA and SARM conferences to learn more about how recycled rubber products could be a solution for your municipal project needs.

The property in Saskatoon pictured here is landscaped to incorporate many products made from recycled tires. Using rubber mulch, rubber lawn edging, rubber tiles and incorporating a rubber-paved driveway, this project alone recycled over 650 tires!



Freedom | Freedom without external liberty; in a spec

Open Government in Urban Communities

Kayla Oishi — Analyst, Office of the Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner

For cities, towns, villages, and northern municipalities, there is a distinct responsibility laid out in various laws to be transparent, open and accountable. Cities, towns, villages and municipalities are local authorities for purposes of *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (LA FOIP). Some local authorities are working to meet those duties through open government initiatives.

What is Open Government?

Open government is the belief that citizens have the right to request access to the records of local authorities. It aims to make cities, towns and villages more transparent and accountable, while improving services and enabling the public to stay informed. Three terms are used to describe the key aspects of open government:

1. Open data
2. Open information
3. Open engagement

Open data is the proactive release of local authority data through “self-serve” portals (such as city websites) that make information available to download and view in different formats. Open data allows citizens to do their own analysis of the data provided, such as city boundaries, agreements and contracts, bylaws, and financial documents.

Open information is the proactive release of internal records that are likely to be of interest to the general public. This could include information that has recently been requested through the freedom of information process and released, and is deemed to have broader value to the general public. The difference between open data and open information is the format of the information involved. Open data would include information that is raw and unorganized, whereas open information is processed and organized, such as an analysis of information that reveals context. Both are meant to make local authority records more accessible.

Section 91 of *The Cities Act* and Section 117 of *The Municipalities Act* both state that any person is entitled to inspect or obtain copies of contracts approved by council, bylaws, financial statements of the municipality, and meeting minutes. By proactively disclosing these records, you can save citizens — and your municipality — time.

Open engagement is connecting with the general public through tools such as YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter to provide up-to-date information, and to give the public the ability to interact with their municipality.

What Are Communities in Saskatchewan Doing?

Local government websites can show the different ways in which local authorities are trying to become more open and accessible to residents. Let's consider the City of Saskatoon: Their website is easy to navigate, and has various tabs with drop-down menus linking to information such as business statistics, strategic plans, freedom of information, bylaws, and city council agendas and minutes. The performance dashboard shows the City's progress towards 25 targets for their 10-year strategic plan, a significant piece of open and accessible information. The dashboard shows residents how the city is doing in reaching its goals.

What Can Your Local Government Do?

Open government is an extremely significant, beneficial initiative for everyone involved: local authorities, citizens, and businesses. It helps create economic opportunities, promotes integrity and accountability, and gives the public a stronger voice. So, what can your local government do to embrace this initiative?

1. **Learn from Others:** Take a look at other jurisdictions; what are they doing? Collaborating with other jurisdictions can help you anticipate challenges and prepare solutions, and learn from the mistakes of others. There are many resources available from various governments and local authorities that outline open government initiatives you can use to model your practices.
2. **Engage:** Keep the public engaged, and have internal discussions to increase awareness and garner support. Make sure that the information shared with the public is relevant to the public and timely. Use tools such as social media, feedback forms, and surveys to determine if you are meeting the needs of the public and to increase engagement.
3. **Make Plans:** Prioritize the open government initiative according to the needs of your community and your

organization. Keep in mind the ongoing cost and resource requirements, and make a sustainable, realistic and effective plan.

4. **Don't Do Everything at Once:** As stated above, prioritize the open government initiative in phases, so you do not stretch your budget or your staff. Start small, and then go bigger to minimize the risk of failure. Have defined roles and responsibilities within the institution so there can be continuous improvement to the program.
5. **Know the Legal Requirements:** Government institutions and local authorities are subject to one or more of the following provincial access and privacy laws: *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIP), *LA FOIP*, *The Health Information Protection Act* (HIPA). It is important to understand these laws and others, and how they pertain to your institution in relation to freedom of information, privacy protection, intellectual property, etc. Having staff who are knowledgeable in the above laws is key to reaching your goals under an open government initiative.
6. **Stick to It:** Open government is not a 'project;' it is an ongoing commitment. Ensure all staff are aware and supportive of this initiative. Training staff in the organization's priorities, services, and processes is important to keep things running smoothly. Monitor and evaluate your progress, then relay that progress to the public to enhance openness and accountability.

Cities, towns, and villages can embrace the concept of open government and take steps to make their local government more transparent. In doing so, you may find that your ratepayers welcome the change! ■

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Municipalities Finding their Call to Action for Reconciliation

Angela Hill — Communications Consultant, Office of the Treaty Commissioner

Each of us in Saskatchewan is travelling a journey of reconciliation. With the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, the journey has become a focus for all orders of governments. How do we build relationships built on understanding and mutual respect? How do we build a future that benefits us all?

What it means to reconcile and how to get started on that journey can seem like daunting questions. At the Office of the Treaty Commissioner (OTC) we are working with municipalities because we know communities are looking to engage in reconciliation. We can provide tools, models, and information to get the process underway.

At the OTC, reconciliation is at the heart of what we do. The Treaties in Saskatchewan were and are about reconciliation. Using the input of about 380 Saskatchewan leaders, the OTC has developed a draft vision of reconciliation as both a goal — something to achieve — and a process — a means to achieve that goal. Learning to work together toward the goal of reconciliation is at the heart of this work. To meet this goal, we aim to work with as many partners as possible.

The City of Saskatoon's declaration of a Year of Reconciliation was a useful jumping off point for discussions held in Saskatoon. Alongside the City of Saskatoon, the OTC developed a

branding and communications strategy for reconciliation in Saskatchewan. This plan helped solidify partnerships with the Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan, Central Urban Métis Federation (CUMFI), Saskatoon Health Region, Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre, the Saskatoon Tribal Council, and the City of Saskatoon. All members of the group lent their support to the project, agreed on a logo and a set of objectives, and agreed to work together on a proposed month of activities in May and June 2016. The group quickly expanded to include school boards and post-secondary institutions, libraries, businesses, faith groups, settlement agencies, the police, and a wide range of community organizations. The culmination was the first Rock Your Roots Walk for Reconciliation on June 22. Thousands of people filled the streets of downtown Saskatoon.

"Our organizing committee was such an incredible mix of people who came together each week to eat together, to learn together, and very often, to laugh together. The group was incredibly diverse — we had people from all walks of life; over 30 organizations were participating by the end," said **Rhett Sangster**, one of the organizers and Director of Reconciliation and Community Partnerships with the OTC.

"To see so many people come out, and to see the diversity of the crowd walking side by side, it literally gave me goosebumps a couple of times! It was just such a powerful and positive statement of reconciliation and the resilience of Saskatchewan people," said Sangster. Rock Your Roots saw people from different nationalities representing who they are, from the colourful kitenge fabric of Africa, to Scottish kilts, to the beaded regalia of Canada's First Nations.

"To me it really validated that reconciliation is not only possible in Saskatchewan, but that the process of reconciliation — that of coming together and learning and building and planning together — that this is an incredibly rewarding and enriching experience for those who are willing to jump in and take a few risks and get to know their neighbor," Sangster said.

Focusing on Saskatoon was a starting place. However, the tools (logo, set of activities, promotional materials) were designed to easily expand into other regions of the province, and make it easy for other organizations to get involved. The OTC wants to look at building partnerships for similar events in other Saskatchewan communities. We've recently started working on Reconciliation Regina with the City of Regina, and other community organizations based there.



Stoney Knoll celebrations of Treaty 6



photo credit: **Arvid Kuhnle**



photo credit: Arvid Kuhnle



photo credit: Gord Waldner, Saskatoon Star Phoenix (<http://thestarphoenix.com/gallery/gallery-rock-your-roots-walk-for-reconciliation>)



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Flag raising at Saskatoon City Hall
photo credit: **Errol Sutherland**



Young girl at Saskatoon Public School Powwow expressing her vision of reconciliation (part of the month of Reconciliation activities)
photo credit: **Rhett Sangster**

Another great example of reconciliation was when the Mennonite, Lutheran, and Indigenous communities came together to commemorate the 140th anniversary of the signing of Treaty 6. A big reason for the event was to bring different cultures together.

"It's good to remind each other why we coexist; it's special to coexist," said **Neil Sasakamoose**, the executive director of the Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs and the MC for the day.

Using Stoney Knoll, a hill in the middle of the prairie near the community of Laird, as the meeting place for the gathering was intentional. The land belonged to the Young Chippewyan First Nation, but they were removed in the late 1800s and Mennonite and Lutheran farmers settled the area.

Starting in the 1970s, there has been the beginning of an understanding of what happened. **Leonard Doell**, coordinator of the Indigenous Neighbour's Program for the Mennonite Central Committee, spoke during the ceremony of the

descendants of Young Chippewyan band members coming and talking about their connection to the land.

He said this became an impetus to learn more and the "first step on the journey of three peoples working together for justice."

The more the OTC looks, the more we see stories of reconciliation happening everywhere. More than that, we are excited to help organizations and governments looking for a place to start.

The OTC has educational materials on Treaties and what it means to be Treaty people. Our speakers' bureau works to match our great speakers with organizations and institutions looking to learn more.

The office receives an increasing stream of requests from organizations interested in partnering with us to train their people on reconciliation and the Treaties, and to seek advice on how and who to partner with in their communities.

On the new, redesigned OTC website (www.otc.ca) we are focused on sharing stories of reconciliation from across the province. Not only does it provide a place to see what others are doing, but also people can share their stories and help the movement gain momentum.

For Orange Shirt Day, the grade 7/8 class at Howard Coad School in Saskatoon decided to create a short video about their learning around Treaties and residential schools.

Sisters Hilary and Margot Gough, along with their friend, Maggie McBride, decided to create an opportunity for people to read and explore the significance of the Truth and Reconciliation report. They created a Facebook tool — Engage with the TRC YXE — to share reactions of what people were reading to motivate others to get started or continue reading the report.

The Muskeg Lake Cree Nation intercultural celebration saw 150 people from Saskatoon's Chinese community visit for a tour, meal and evening of performances. The event was about joining together and shows that reconciliation can start with a smile and a shared supper. There are great examples of reconciliation happening all over the province every day.

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From Someone Who's Been There

Malcolm Eaton — Former Mayor of Humboldt/SUMA Vice-President of Cities



Some early experiences

Someone suggested I run for city council. Being passionate and proud of Humboldt and what a great place it was to raise a family, I wanted to help guide the future growth and development of our community. I appreciated the support and encouragement of friends and neighbors.

During my term as a city councillor, I began to see both the challenges and the opportunities that lay before us. I also began to understand the complexity and the scope of responsibility we have as council members. Most of us do not realize the wide array of services, programs, and infrastructure that fall within the work of a council and staff. You quickly learn.

I always appreciated the time our staff took to provide orientation and explanation of how things work and what the issues were. The tours into the facilities were a real eye-opener, especially all the spaces the public does not usually get to see.

I was surprised to discover how much things cost when it comes to running a small city. Financial decisions — spending tax dollars, applying for grants, raising fees — are not easy. It soon became clear we could not do everything we wanted to. As a council you are presented with many great projects, but we have to make the best choices we can for the betterment of our community with the resources we have available.

Some advice, for what its worth

Being a councillor or mayor may not be full-time work hours, but it is a full-time part of who you are in your community. You are the mayor at city hall and at the council meeting, but you are also the mayor at the rink, at church, in the restaurant. Community engagement is an important part of our job as a

council member, but when folks want to talk about important issues and concerns at the wrong time or the wrong place, it can be awkward and uncomfortable.

I was willing to listen, though I would sometimes suggest we find a better time and place to discuss concerns. Generally, I found people very respectful and appreciative of this approach.

People who consider running for council must understand that being a member of council is a job. You are interviewed and hired by voters. You are paid — not well, but paid. This is not a volunteer position; it's hard work. It is attending meetings, **and** preparing for those meetings by reading the materials, considering the items, even going to see where and what is being discussed. It is engaging with the community groups and organizations. It is attending community events and special activities. It is talking to residents; it is listening to residents. It is taking part in learning and policy development opportunities, such as SUMA's regional meetings and annual convention.

Quite often the time spent outside of the regular council meeting is greater than the meeting time. In some ways, it is more important because it allows you to really get to know your community and your residents. When we know our community expectations and priorities, it helps us confidently make decisions.

Any council decision can have those who will disagree — especially when you change bylaws, policies, or programs. Members of council need to regularly remind ourselves that we make decisions based on what we each believe is in the best interests of the community as a whole. We make them with the best information we have at the time, and with the best efforts of our staff to provide good information, research and advice.

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Our job as a council is to steer the ship; let your administration and staff do the rowing and paddling. Don't always steer through the calm water. Be brave and steer that ship into the rapids sometimes, and sometimes into the interesting channels and bays.

Some things I am proud of

Humboldt is growing. At a regional planning conference we hosted, the mayor of Fort McMurray was asked what three things we could do to prepare for growth. She replied, "Plan, plan, and plan." It is easy to get caught up in the current issues, challenges, or projects and not set your sights on the horizon. An important question for council is always: "What do we want this community to look like in five, 10, 15, or 20 years?"

The 'Our Humboldt Strategic Plan' has been well received and was developed with unprecedented community involvement. The new Official Community Plan has some bold policy directions. We use a priority-based budgeting system that is recognized as a best practice model throughout North American municipalities. We developed a 10-year infrastructure asset management plan that includes water, sewer and storm systems, buildings, equipment, roads and sidewalks. Council has a solid foundation on which to work, but they will still face challenges and opportunities as they make these plans work for them and the community. There is always more work to be done.

One of the most rewarding experiences has been developing a strong effective regional working group. The Mid Sask Municipal Alliance (MSMA) is made up of 13 municipalities (RMs, villages, towns and the city) in the region. In addition to functioning as a planning district, the group has worked together on a number of initiatives, including a recent major regional branding and business investment strategy. It has been extremely rewarding to be part of a regional group with a vision for our region and our province.

Some final thoughts

Sometimes we are so focused on the challenges ahead that we do not take time to reflect on the progress and accomplishments of the past. We do not work alone as council members; we work together and it is important to be a member of the team. The mayor is not the boss. They are sometimes the captain, sometimes the coach, and sometimes simply one vote on an issue. I am very grateful that I was able to be part of a respectful working team that valued diversity, new ideas, debate and disagreement, and always worked with the best interests of the community in mind.

We cannot do this work by ourselves. We are fortunate to have the resources and support of our provincial association, SUMA. There is so much they have and can do for us. In addition to their staff as resources, they regularly put us in contact with other councillors, mayors, and municipalities to share ideas, successes and challenges. They also provide that very important link to our provincial and federal governments so we have a voice in the important public policy decisions that affect our municipalities.

And to those newly elected: Our job as a council is to steer the ship; let your administration and staff do the rowing and paddling. Don't always steer through the calm water. Be brave and steer that ship into the rapids sometimes, and sometimes into the interesting channels and bays. Your community wants leadership and that means sometimes taking them to new and exciting places. ■



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Seven Things Every Community Needs to Develop

Lorri Matthewson — Community Consultant and Owner, Solomon-Matthewson Consulting

When analyzing the assets of a community, we look at ways to support local business, bring in new business, support culture and recreation, increase tourism, and engage the community. To help build a community, we work with the community to get a handle on your unique assets so we can help support your growth by building on those unique assets.

Over the next several issues, I will provide relevant, practical information to help address the common development issues, focused on these seven topics:

1. Start exploring partnerships

Town council concerns itself with the administration of the town, the RM council concerns itself with the farm and rural area surrounding the town. Because these are separate entities, with separate responsibilities, agendas, and decision makers, planning together for the whole community can be very difficult.

For some time now, communities have been encouraged to work together. This too, has historically been difficult for many reasons as unique as the communities themselves.

Exploring partnerships has several benefits, with perhaps the most important one being sharing assets where it makes sense. There are just so many challenges facing small communities now; partnerships may become necessary for them to survive.

2. Actively engage the citizenship in decision making

There are so many great reasons for councils to engage the public; it really needs to be the subject of its own article. Engaged communities provide a strong volunteer base that

are critical to moving forward large projects, providing critical feedback for planning, and supporting council. There are many cost-effective ways to engage your community in planning, to improve attendance at meetings, and encourage participation in important decision-making.

3. Explore community approaches to fundraising

As grant writing becomes more competitive and your community demands more amenities, committees are often fundraising to support town-owned facilities. These fundraisers are essential to community development in small-town Saskatchewan, and the events themselves provide a lot of the quality of life we all enjoy. Council can support volunteer fundraising efforts, and find partnerships to leverage and raise funding for large projects. We need to look at ways to support projects without jeopardizing future infrastructure needs, and how to communicate your support to groups seeking funding.

4. Develop and use planning tools

Responsible local government understands that planning is essential for growth. Many of the communities that have spent the money to develop Official Community Plans and strategic plans have difficulty giving those plans feet. As a result, the plans stay on the shelf. That's to say nothing of municipalities that do not have the plans done in the first place.

Councils today have a lot on their plates. Their areas of responsibility expand and expand, and without being properly executed those expensive plans are of little use. But if used well, they can provide a road map to future development based upon initial community engagement.



5. Believe your own worth, and then monetize it

Tourism. I have never visited a community where I couldn't find something charming, lovely, or worth the stop. Some of our communities — due to an active business or two, an elegant cultural plan, a diverse and engaged community, or an incredible Main Street program — have knocked it right out of the park! There are models all around us. If they can do it, you can do it.

6. Support existing businesses while creating space for new ones

A large percentage of community business growth — around 90 per cent — comes from existing businesses when they can expand and grow, and from local entrepreneurs. While seeking new business can be worthwhile, and should be pursued where it makes sense, we need to be put at least as much effort into supporting those businesses who support our communities.

7. Communicate

Social media is here to stay. A good website and Facebook page is critical for those who are considering visiting your community, and we will share the essential elements of websites and community Facebook pages and practical tips for each.

Through upcoming *Urban Voice* articles, we will expand on these seven topics so you can make your hometown shine. ■



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Protecting our Water Sources

Bridget Andrews — Executive Director, Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds

The oil that was spilled into the North Saskatchewan River this summer reminds us how important the sources of our drinking water are. As communities along the river learned, when the water source is polluted by accident or inattention, urgent, desperate measures are required.

Urban and rural councils have one very powerful tool to protect their water sources: Zoning regulations can limit or prohibit some activity that might threaten a community's water supply. However, council's jurisdiction only extends to the municipal boundary. Beyond that, neighbors need to pass and enforce a zoning bylaw.

We are all upstream from someone and downstream from someone else, so it is important to work with neighbors to protect the source waters we all depend on. In Saskatchewan, 11 Watershed Stewardship Groups (WSGs) were created to develop source water protection plans and involve urban and rural municipalities in implementing the plans.

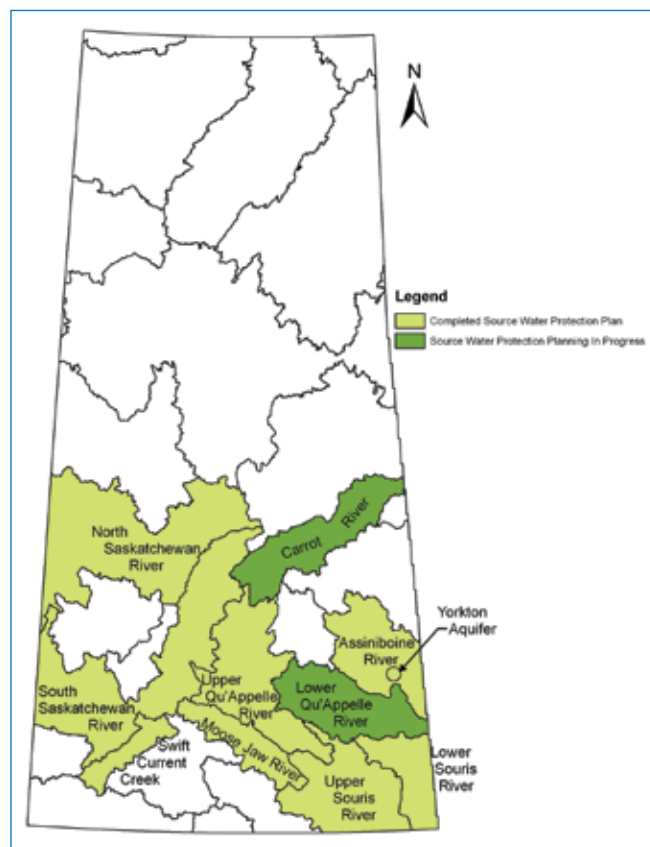
The Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds (SAW) is the umbrella organization representing the 11 non-profit WSGs across Saskatchewan. All have the same mandate: to protect ground and surface water quality. Each group follows its own watershed source water protection plan that outlines key water-related actions that need to be addressed across its specific watershed. Most projects are grassroots, meaning local communities are engaged through the organization and implementation process. All WSGs are governed by a volunteer board of directors, and often include members of local councils.

These WSGs have been working with agricultural producers since 2006 to implement best management practices on their land to improve and protect the quality of ground and surface water. The Agri-Environmental Group Plan program funds projects such as proper well decommissioning, converting marginal erodible soils to forage, grassing waterways where surface water discharges into tributaries, and fencing projects to keep livestock away from waterways. Implementation of best management practices on the landscape, by agricultural producers, is a significant first step in reducing negative water quality and quantity impacts to those downstream.

While the great majority of land in a watershed lies within rural municipalities, the great majority of people who use the water live in urban communities. So it is just as important for an urban center to implement best management practices to protect the quality of water within its boundaries.

SUMA's Convention 2017 will be the first time SAW has addressed SUMA delegates at an opening day educational session. Our session highlights how urban and rural residents can work together to protect Saskatchewan's water resources through the implementation of best management practices.

For example, many urban storm sewers in Saskatchewan discharge directly into nearby rivers or lakes without being treated. New urban developments are implementing practices to mitigate urban runoff by limiting the amount of impervious surfaces across the development. Other best management practices are designed to minimize storm water volume and





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non-point source contamination by taking advantage of biological resources such as green spaces, landscaped areas, and engineered wetlands.

Individual urban residents can also reduce their impact on water quality and quantity. Urban municipalities may want to consider sharing these key points:

- Keep sidewalks, curbs and gutters in front of your property clean.



An Example of A Watershed

Photo Credit -White River Alliance
www.thewhiteriveralliance.org/resources/what-is-a-watershed

- Consider stenciling “No Dumping — Drains to a River” at storm drains. This helps residents make the connection between storm drains and local waterways that are used for drinking water, wildlife and aquatic habitat, and recreation.
- Try to use water-based paints and never clean/rinse paint containers with thinner on the street.
- Fix oil leaks on your vehicle and clean up drips and spills with absorbent material.
- Read and follow the label on all fertilizers and pesticides. Excessive nitrogen and phosphorus entering the local waterway contributes to increased algae blooms in our lakes and rivers.
- Gather grass, leaves, and yard trimmings for proper disposal or composting.
- Remove and dispose of pet waste before you leave an area.
- The best option for washing your car is to use a car wash. Commercial car wash water is recycled and sent to a wastewater plant for treatment. When washing your car at home, wash it on the grass, gravel, or a porous surface so the water does not run directly into the storm sewer. Use phosphorus-free soap.

Ongoing education and awareness about best management practices is key to minimizing the risk to Saskatchewan’s water resources. It is important for urban municipalities to work closely with their local watershed stewardship group to implement good, sound projects that will leave a positive environmental footprint for future generations.

For more information on the Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds please visit our website at www.saskwatersheds.ca and see our session at Convention 2017. (Editor’s Note: See page 20 for details on education sessions.) ■

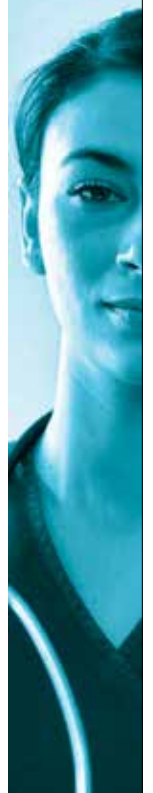
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Three Rivers, One Basin

Wanda McFadyen — Executive Director, Assiniboine River Basin Initiative

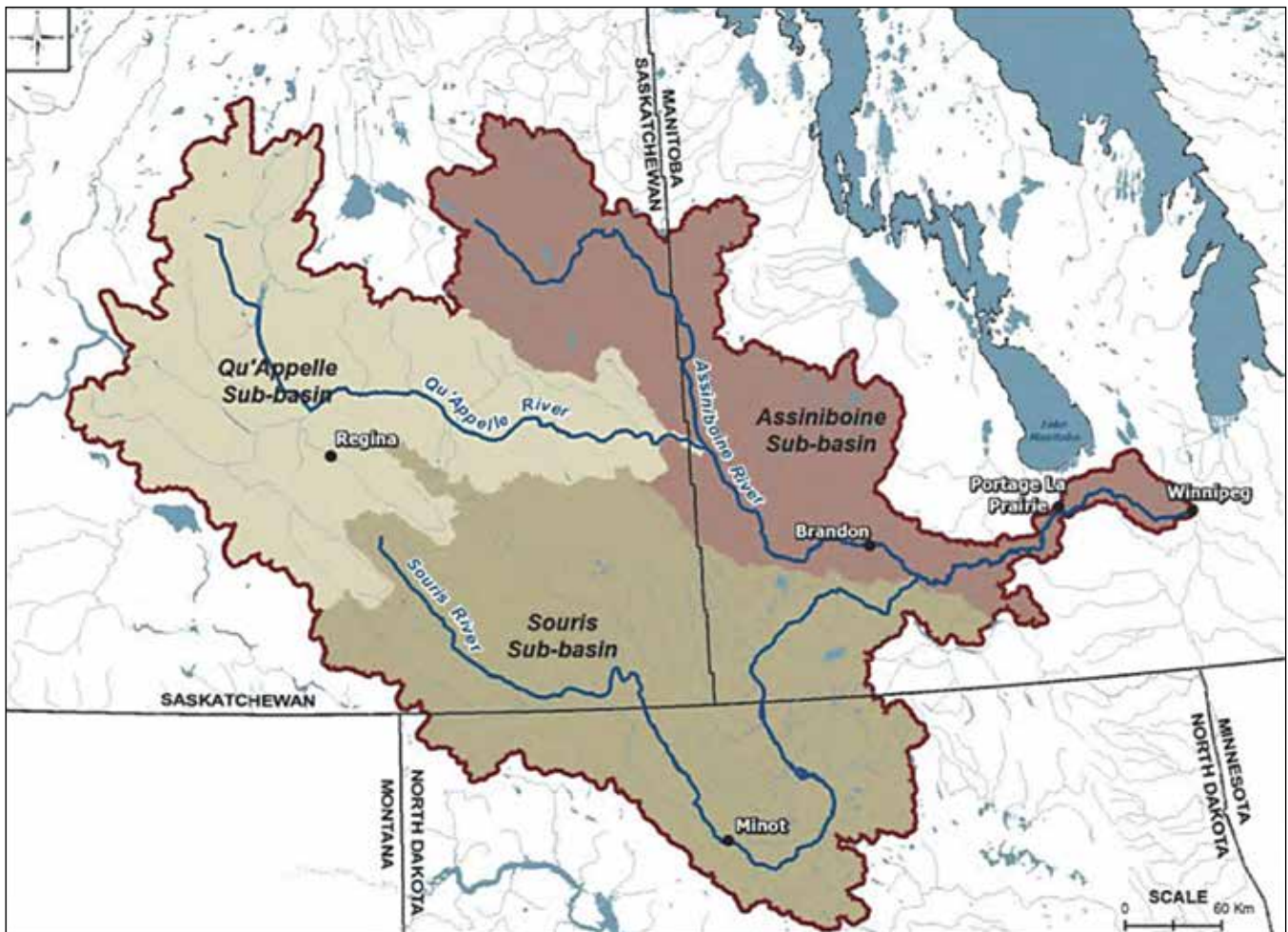
Water (noun): a colorless, transparent, odorless, tasteless liquid that forms the seas, lakes, rivers, and rain and is the basis of the fluids of living organisms. In its many forms water transcends boundaries as it forms a watershed basin with unique flow characteristics based on the landscape.

The Assiniboine River basin encompasses the Qu'Appelle, Souris, and Assiniboine River watersheds. It crosses over two Canadian provinces — Saskatchewan and Manitoba — and one US state — North Dakota. At its end point, the Assiniboine River basin joins the Red River at the historic Forks in Winnipeg. The Assiniboine River has waters diverted through the Portage Diversion into Lake Manitoba, with the final destination of all waters being Lake Winnipeg. The basin is approximately 162,000 square kilometres and home to just over 1.5 million people.

In 2008, the Province of Manitoba commissioned a study to review the potential development of an organization to pull a multitude of stakeholders across the Assiniboine basin

together. Though the study was completed and committee formed, it did not move forward until after the major flood events of 2011. The floods had a devastating impact across the entire basin and heightened the awareness around water related issues, so in 2013 the Prairie Improvement Network revisited the study to consider if it was feasible to re-engage the original committee and form an organization.

In March 2014, 130 participants from across the basin attended a workshop in Virden, Manitoba. They endorsed the development of an organization and asked the committee to host a conference in the fall of 2014 to look at perspective board structures, a vision for the basin, and items of primary concern.



Map courtesy of Assiniboine River Basin Initiative

Ironically, in late June and early July 2014, portions of the basin once again saw unprecedented flooding thanks to extreme rainfall events. These events were highlighted at the fall 2014 conference in Regina, where the Assiniboine River Basin Initiative (ARBI) was endorsed also as an organization. The members of the original steering committee were named as the first board of directors, and mandated to expand to 51 members in total (17 from each jurisdiction). The attendees also identified key areas of concern as the new organization developed. One of the primary priority items was developing a basin-wide model that could help all stakeholders with future planning around flooding or drought.

Over the course of 2015, ARBI began the process of becoming a legal entity in both Canada and the US, further developed its board structure, and defined the executive level. The board is made up of members from Manitoba, North Dakota, and Saskatchewan, with each jurisdiction represented by two members elected by their peers in their respective jurisdictions. The Chair is elected by the board. There are two positions assigned to SUMA representatives on the ARBI board. The City of Brandon and the Town of Virden participate on the board for Manitoba, and there are representatives from the City of Minot.

Funding was also of primary importance to the organization. Various levels of funding support were developed and presented to various stakeholders across the basin. The Province of Manitoba and the North Dakota State Water Commission were both early financial supporters (and continue to be), with work continuing with the Province of Saskatchewan. The six watershed stewards associations in the basin all have representation on the board.

The board also began to discuss and review potential projects that stakeholders had identified of primary importance. This included the ARBI's internal framework plan, and other projects such as LiDAR and basin-wide modelling. ARBI has supported or partnered in a number of projects, including the City of Minot's very successful \$75 million award from the US

With the development of the model, basin stakeholders will have access to a world-class tool that will help them identify some causes and effects of floods and drought and allow for the development/identification of cost-effective mitigation measures.

housing and development fund, and the Province of Manitoba's federal LiDAR application.

It was during this time in 2015 that Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association approached ARBI about the delivery of the proposed Aquanty HydroGeoSphere modelling project they were leading with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The model concept, focused on both flood and drought mitigation, seemed to fit the bill for what basin stakeholders — rural and urban — identified as a key priority item at the 2014 conference. The model was endorsed, as was ARBI's involvement on the project's steering and management committees.

Robin Christopher promoted to Division Manager, Transportation



Kerry Rudd, President & CEO of Associated Engineering and Paul Pinder, General Manager of our Saskatchewan and Manitoba operations are pleased to announce the appointment of Robin Christopher to the role of Division Manager, Transportation in our Saskatoon office.

Robin Christopher, P.Eng., is civil engineer with more than 20 years of transportation experience. Robin works with both private and public sector clients to develop practical and sustainable transportation solutions.

Paul advises, "Robin is one of the top engineers in the transportation field in Saskatchewan. He brings a strong understanding of the construction industry to this leadership position."

Robin says, "I'm passionate about delivering a quality product to our clients. I enjoy working with our clients and contractors to create a team atmosphere on projects which is key to project success."

To contact Robin email him at christopherr@ae.ca or call him at 306.653.4969.



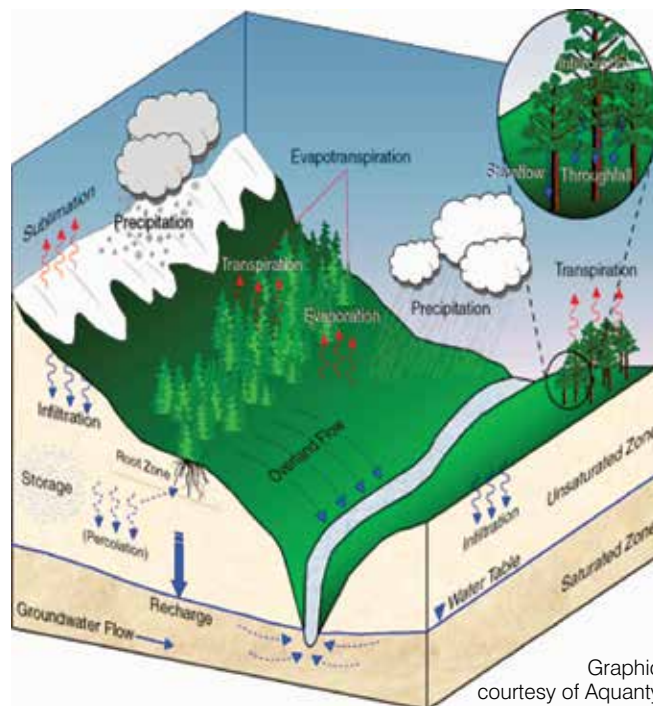
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With the development of the model, basin stakeholders will have access to a world-class tool that will help them identify some causes and effects of floods and drought and allow for the development/identification of cost-effective mitigation measures.

HydroGeoSphere is a physics-based model designed to model entire river basins that considers surface and soil moisture as well as ground water and the interactions between all three. The base model will contain more than three million data points; additional points can be added area by area, as they become available.

ARBI is committed to the further development of a resilient Assiniboine River Basin where all residents can adapt to change and achieve environmental, social and economic sustainability through collaborative actions across the basin. ■



Graphic courtesy of Aquanty

For more information on ARBI please contact:

Wanda McFadyen, Executive Director
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Membership Drive Reminder

It's been year of change, but one thing that's staying the same into 2017 is the SUMA membership drive. In 2016, we reworked the process so your membership invoice for next year should arrive in the mail around the same time as this edition of *Urban Voice*.

We encourage you to take a look at the letter, as it gives us a good chance to celebrate some of SUMA's accomplishments in the last year, and tell you about all the programs and services we offer to make your life easier (and cheaper!). You'll also see a listing of all our programs — both those you take advantage of and those you don't.

This new process is intended to make everyone's lives easier, but if you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with the SUMA office. We are here to serve.



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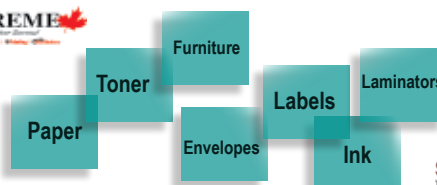


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HOW TO WIN* A COURT CASE - PART 2: GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER

Steven Dribnenki, Policy and Legal Advisor, SUMA

To summarize the last Legal Services Voice: *The best way to win a court case is to never have to go to court — and the best way to avoid going to court is being proactive and protected.* One key way to be proactive and protect your municipality is to know municipal legislation — getting your ‘act’ together.

While you should always seek your lawyer’s advice when issues arise, as a leader of your community, you should get to know the legislation that applies to your community. *The Municipalities Act*, *The Northern Municipalities Act, 2010*, and *The Cities Act* set out many statutory duties — such as the duty to maintain infrastructure in a reasonable state of repair (see, for example, section 343 of *The Municipalities Act*). However, three important sections set out some limitations on liability. These sections appear in all three municipal acts with similar wording but different sections; they are listed in *The Municipalities Act* as:

- Section 340(1): no liability in an action based on nuisance for any loss or damage arising from any public works or utilities;
- Section 340(2): no liability for damages resulting from the breaking or severing of a service pipe, service line or attachment; and
- Section 344(1): no action is to be brought against a municipality for the recovery of damages after the expiration of one year from the time when the damages were sustained.

All of these sections (including section 343) have been recently considered in Saskatchewan courts, and this gives helpful insight on when they apply. We’ll take a look at each section, but first let’s talk about what we mean by “nuisance” here.

Basically, it means that the resident’s ability to use and enjoy their land has been unreasonably interfered with by the municipal defendant. It doesn’t matter whether the interference was intentional action, negligence, or no fault of the defendant. This type of claim often arose in sewer backup cases where a blockage occurred in the municipal portion of the lines.

Nuisance claims arising from damage caused by sewer backups used to bedevil urban municipalities. They were relatively easy for plaintiffs to prove and difficult to defend against.

This changed in 2007 when legislative amendments prohibited making such claims in nuisance, and required plaintiffs to prove the urban municipality breached its statutory duty to maintain infrastructure or was negligent.

In *Karle v Nipawin*, 2010 SKPC 154, affirmed 2011 SKQB 228, the court found the Town liable in nuisance for damage caused by a sewer backup that occurred just before the amendments took effect. However, the court dismissed the related statutory duty and negligence claims, stating the Town had a reasonable repair policy in place and there was no evidence it caused the damage or failed to meet its standard of care. While this decision is dated as it took place before the amendments, it provides a good look at the higher requirements in proving breach of statutory duty and negligence claims.



Second, municipalities are also protected from damages resulting from the breaking and severing of lines. We see this applied in *Stirrett v Hvas (Village)*, 2015 SKPC 163. In 2014, there was a sewer backup in a rental home owned by the plaintiff. The Village’s investigation revealed the sewer pipe was squished by a rock through natural ground movements and that the squishing caused the pipe to freeze and back up during the winter. The court noted the legislative bar against nuisance claims in these situations and held that the language used in section 340(2) regarding breaking or severing lines included the squishing of the pipe that occurred.

The last section noted above applies in these sewer backup situations, but can also apply in other circumstances. If you have your ‘act’ together, you know that a statement of claim against a municipality must be served within one year from the time the damages were sustained. This is a shorter time period than the two-year limitation period to start a claim, which applies in most other actions. Also note that time limit begins when the damage is sustained, not when it is discovered.

While these cases do a good job of illustrating how legislation works, every circumstance and situation is different. In the event of any claim, contact your insurer or your lawyer. Also, the best way to avoid claims is often to prepare and implement a good maintenance, supervision, and complaints response policy for municipal properties. (The spring 2015 Legal Services Voice covers that in more detail.) Having your act together pays dividends in saved legal costs, and — more importantly — safe and happy residents. ■

The goal of SUMA Legal Services is to assist members on legal issues and keep members up to date on decisions and trends in municipal law. This service does not create a solicitor-client relationship. For legal advice about your specific situation, contact your community’s lawyer.

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Office Products Program Bigger and Better Than Ever

On August 1, the SUMAdvantage Office Products Program expanded with a second supplier joining the mix. Besides long-time SUMAdvantage partner Supreme Basics supplying office products, Staples Business Advantage has also signed on with the program. Now SUMAdvantage members have even more options to save money and have their office supply needs met. With this expanded program, SUMAdvantage members are truly the winners!

What does Staples Business Advantage offer SUMA members?

Staples Business Advantage, a Staples company, is the world's largest business-to-business supplier of office essentials and furniture solutions. They provide office supplies conveniently and efficiently at a reduced cost. SUMA has negotiated discounts from 45 to 90 per cent on core list items on the Staples Business Advantage online ordering system:

www.eway.ca. The SUMAdvantage prices will be built into your eway account, so you'll see the savings right away. If Internet ordering is not your style, orders can be placed via phone or fax using the eway website as a reference.

Eway is the fast, convenient, and easy way to order office supplies from Staples Business Advantage Canada. **To get your SUMA discounts you must use eway, NOT the regular Staples ordering site or in-store purchases.** Using eway means you are getting the best price available for you from any Staples purchase point. Order what you need via www.eway.ca, phone or fax, and you get free shipping with a \$50 minimum order — some locations even get next day delivery.

Staples Business Advantage will also send members a welcome package containing a Staples Business Advantage catalogue, an online quick reference guide, and your new account number.



According to your new Staples Business representative, **Graham Hellquist**, the response from SUMAAdvantage members since August 1 has been “very positive.”

Hellquist adds, “In addition to the great discount structure offered to all SUMA members Staples Business Advantage had an initial away training promotion for any SUMA member who attended the online training sessions (at which **Tiffany Hope** from Melville won a Keurig coffee machine). We plan on initiating and running some promotions in the future.”

Hellquist promises dedicated account management for all SUMA members and next business day delivery to most locations. He states, “Staples Business Advantage is much more than office products. We are a ‘one stop, one source’ for everything your members require for their offices.”

He concludes, “We bring a commitment to SUMAAdvantage and a professional account management team that will work hard with each and every SUMA member to ensure they have a positive experience with the program.”

If you have any questions for Graham, he can be reached at 306-525-3441.

Supreme Basics for peace of mind

Our long-time SUMAAdvantage partner (since 2001), Supreme Basics, is proud to, once again, be our office products supplier along with newly added Staples Business Advantage.

Kim MacDougall, your Supreme Basics expert sales

representative, says, “Supreme Basics is very proud of our lengthy association with SUMA and its members. I’ve been there since ‘day one’ and have thoroughly enjoyed our relationship. I’m ‘in the field’ a lot of the time and I’ve made a personal commitment to visit all SUMAAdvantage members in their municipal offices. While I haven’t made it to every office, I’ve visited the majority of them, and I’m still working on my goal to see you all.”

Kim reminds SUMA members to watch their emails for the monthly catalogue containing special deals from Supreme Basics. He also reminds his customers that Supreme Basics promises:

- reliable, prompt, personalized service;
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- no minimum order fee.

While Supreme Basics does not charge a minimum order fee, members are urged to help reduce our carbon footprint by combining smaller orders into a larger one.

Supreme Basics, founded in Saskatchewan in 1974 and still based in Regina, has built a reputation for quality service and products at competitive prices. If you haven’t done business with Supreme Basics, there is no time like the present.

Kim looks forward to seeing everyone at the Supreme Basics booth at the upcoming tradeshow. In the meantime, if you have any questions, problems or concerns, contact Kim MacDougall directly on his cell at 306-539-6764. ■



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Following is a list of our SUMAdvantage programs by category. To learn more about a program, visit the SUMA website.

If you need additional information, please contact SUMA's Corporate Programs and Member Services Director, **Tania Meier**, at 306-525-4379 or email tmeier@suma.org

OFFICE AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Apparel, Promotional Items and Sporting Goods	Prince Albert Source for Sports	306-764-3285	www.sourceforsports.ca
Election Material	SUMA	306-525-3727	www.suma.org
Lapel Pins	Laurie Artiss Limited	800-667-8168	www.thepinpeople.ca
Long Distance, Cellular and Internet Services	SaskTel	306-525-3727	www.sasktel.com
Municipal Magazine	Municipal World	306-525-3727	www.suma.org
Network and Email Solutions	Lexcom Systems Group Inc.	306-545-9242	www.lexcom.ca
Office Machines	SUCCESS Office Systems	800-667-8173	www.successos.com
Office Products	Supreme Basics	800-667-3690	www.supremebasics.com
Office Products	Staples Business Advantage	877-272-2121	www.eway.ca
Shipping Labels	SUMA	306-525-3727	www.suma.org

PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS, AND LEISURE

Cat and Dog Tag Licensing and Animal Control	Ketchum Manufacturing Inc.	306-525-3727	www.suma.org
Flysask	SUMA	306-525-3727	www.flysask2.ca
Fuel Supply	PFA Canada	800-807-3750	www.pfacanada.ca
Janitorial Supplies	Staples Business Advantage	877-272-2121	www.eway.ca
Mosquito Control	Evergro (Div. of Crop Production Services)	800-661-2991	www.cpsagu.ca/pages/evergro.aspx
Municipal Tires	Kal Tire Ltd.	Contact nearest location.	www.kaltire.com/locations
Municipal Tires	Michelin	306-525-3727	www.suma.org
Natural Gas	Connect Energy Partnership	866-934-6918	www.connectenergy.ca
Solar Pool Heating	Kelln Solar	888-731-8882	www.kellnsolar.com
Traffic Signs	ATS Traffic Saskatchewan	800-214-1477	www.atstraffice.ca

HOTEL AND VEHICLE RENTAL

Fleet Management and Vehicle Rental	Enterprise Rent-a-car	800-736-8227	www.enterprise.ca
Regina Hotel	DoubleTree by Hilton (Regina)	306-525-7580	www.doubletree.com
Regina Hotel	Travelodge Regina	306-586-3443	www.travelodgeregina.com
Saskatoon Hotel and Convention Host Hotel	Hilton Garden Inn (Saskatoon)	306-244-2311	www.saskatoon.stayhgi.com
Saskatoon Hotel	Travelodge Saskatoon	306-242-8881	www.travelodgesaskatoon.com

FINANCIAL

Borrowing and Financing	BMO Bank of Montreal	Contact nearest branch location.	www.bmo.com/main/business
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Blue Imp	24	877-594-0541	www.blueimp.com
Brandt Tractor Ltd.	7	888-227-2638	www.brandt.ca
Bullee Consulting Ltd.	38	306-477-2822	www.bulleconsulting.com
Brock White Canada	33	306-931-9255	www.brockwhite.ca
Cansel	13	888-222-6735	www.cansel.ca
Catterall and Wright Consulting Engineers	11	306-343-7280	www.cwce.ca
Clifton Associates	41	306-721-7611	www.clifton.ca
Commercial Pool and Recreational Products	16	888-523-9274	www.cp-rp.com
Community Initiatives Fund	35	306-780-9308	www.cifsask.org
Coverall Wind and Weather Shelters	36	306-795-7779	ladimer@sasktel.net
CUPE Saskatchewan	43	306-757-1009	www.cupe.sk.ca
Ducks Unlimited Canada	4	866-252-3825	www.ducks.ca
Enbridge Pipelines	37	403-231-3900	www.enbridge.com
EPRA Saskatchewan	12	888-567-4535	www.recyclemyelectronics.ca/sk
Expocrete	49	306-652-7232	www.expocrete.com
Fer-Marc Equipment Ltd.	21	306-569-9041	www.fer-marc.com
Handy Hitch	20	800-665-2490	www.handyhitch.com
K&L Equipment and Auto	54	306-795-7779	ladimer@sasktel.net
McElhanney Consulting Services	42	306-649-0740	www.mcelhanney.com
MPE Engineering Ltd.	51	866-329-3442	www.mpe.ca
Municipal Utilities	15	306-530-3141	www.municipalutilities.ca
Museums Association of Saskatchewan	41	866-568-7386	www.saskmuseums.org
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Park Town Hotel	46	306-667-6064	www.parktownhotel.com
PINTER & Associates Ltd.	39	306-244-1710	www.pinter.ca
Prairie Wild Consulting	42	306-222-8481	www.prairiewildconsulting.ca
Pre-Con Limited	27	306-931-9229	www.preconltd.ca
reclaimasphalt.com	15	866-754-0848	www.reclaimasphalt.com
Recycle Saskatchewan	13	855-665-6105	www.recyclesaskatchewan.ca
Rubber Stone	17	888-786-6333	don@sierrastone.com
Safesidewalks Canada Inc.	25	403-629-0605	www.safesidewalks.ca
Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency	47	800-667-7262	www.sama.sk.ca
Saskatchewan Association for Resource Recovery	8	877-645-7275	www.usedoilrecyclingsk.com
Saskatchewan Heavy Construction Association	22	306-586-1805	www.saskheavy.ca
Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation	17	306-787-2105	www.pcs.gov.sk.ca/shf
Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association	49	306-780-9231	www.spra.sk.ca
Saskatchewan Scrap Tire Corporation	27	306-721-8473	www.scraptire.sk.ca
Saskatchewan Transportation Company	33	800-663-7181	www.stcbus.com
Saskatchewan Workers Compensation Board	18	800-667-7590	www.worksafesask.ca
SaskCulture	16	866-476-6830	www.saskculture.ca
SaskEnergy	19		www.clickbeforeyoudig.com
SaskTel	56	800-SASKTEL	www.sasktel.com
SaskWater	2	888-230-1111	www.saskwater.com
Shercom industries	30,31	888-743-7266	www.shercomindustries.com
Stantec	51	306-781-6400	www.stantec.com
SUMAssure	10	866-450-2345	www.sumassure.ca
Suncorp Valuations	3	800-764-4454	www.suncorpvaluations.com
Sunroof Solar	22	306-559-3330	www.sunroofsolar.com
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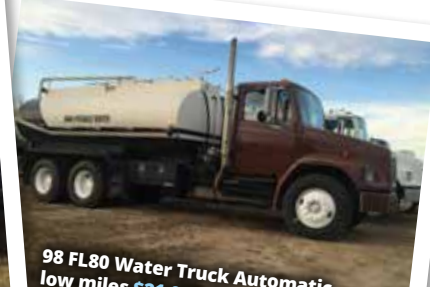
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INTEGRATED BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS

Kelly Hoare is the Administrator of the Town of Shellbrook. In the event of an emergency, it's Kelly's job to get information out to Shellbrook's 1,500 residents, right from a water or sewer break update, all the way to a tornado warning. "We recently made improvements to our disaster recovery plan by installing SaskTel Integrated Business Communications service," says Kelly. "It gives me additional mobility since I can access and re-route my phone from an Internet connection."

Let's start a conversation. sasktel.com/ibc

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