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RURAL COUNCILLOR

VOLUME 51 number 4
WINTER 2018 ISSUE

PUBLISHED BY THE SASKATCHEWAN
ASSOCIATION OF RURAL MUNICIPALITIES

Publications Agreement #40062693

GOVERNANCE

Advocating on Behalf of Rural Saskatchewan; Communities Working Together for Success; Keeping Highways Safe for All Motorists; Capacity Building for Governance; Tips for Councillors; Infrastructure for Population or Industry?; Modern Asset Management Supports Good Governance; Effective Policies Create Effective Communities



PROGRAMS

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) provides financial incentives for programs that preserve, protect and restore habitat on the land for waterfowl and wildlife. In addition these programs also provide other benefits for improvement of soil health, prevention of soil erosion, and flood and drought prevention.

Here is a list of our current DUC programs that are offered in our priority areas:

Conservation Easements (CE)

DUC signs a CE with the landowner who agrees to protect the natural value of the land (wetlands, native prairie, and tame grasslands) in perpetuity in exchange for financial compensation. Haying and grazing are allowed on the uplands while the wetlands are kept intact.

Purchase of Land

DUC purchases land for the purpose of restoring and protecting the habitat on the parcels. DUC pays fair market value for land and retains ownership of these lands in perpetuity. DUC also buys land as part of our Revolving Land Conservation Program (RLCP), where we purchase the land, restore any upland or wetland habitat on the parcels and then sell the land with a CE.

Long-term Lease

The long-term lease program (minimum 10 years) provides annual compensation to landowners based on current fair market value for land (cultivated and grassland). DUC pays for all restoration (grassland and wetlands) and manages the land for the period of the lease.

Rangeland Programs

- + DUC provides financial assistance to landowners for costs associated with constructing a new perimeter barbed wire fence (up to a maximum of \$5,000) in exchange for protecting the wetlands and upland habitat on the parcel.
- + DUC manages its lands through haying and grazing tenders, and we invite producers to use portions of our land in

exchange for a fee, then we invest those proceeds back into local conservation programs. Contact your local DUC office for more information on this program.

Forage Programs

DUC currently offers several types of forage programs including the following:

+ Nutrien Forage Program

This program provides \$100 reimbursement for each 50lb bag of Nutrien seed purchased and seeded.

- + **Forage in Rotation Program** – DUC agronomists will work with you to implement a rotational forage program and provide financial compensation for those areas that are seeded.

- + **Marginal Areas Program** – DUC agronomists will work with you to find areas on your land that are growing poor crops due to excessive moisture or salinity, and work with you to seed those areas to forage. DUC will also provide financial compensation on those forage lands. The remaining cultivated acres remain farmed to maximize your crop yield and profit on the most viable cultivated acres of your field.

Wetland Restoration

If wetlands have been drained or altered on your land, we can help you restore them back to their natural levels. These projects are usually combined with other programs such as our CE, lease or forage programs.

Some conditions apply. Contact DUC for more information at 1-866-252-DUCK (3825) or du_regina@ducks.ca



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Benchmark Public Relations

2260 McIntyre Street
Regina, SK S4P 2R9

T (306) 522-9326

F (306) 522-0923

E info@benchmarkpr.ca

W www.benchmarkpr.ca

Editor
Pat Rediger

Associate Editors
Ashley Leugner/
Kathleen Israel (SARM)

Layout & Design
Nicole Williams

Advertising
Warren Nerby/
Don Shalley

SARM Board

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Return undelivered copies to:
Saskatchewan Association
of Rural Municipalities
2301 Windsor Park Road
Regina, SK S4V 3A4

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OUR VISION

By being the rural voice, SARM will effectively lead autonomous municipalities in creating a vibrant, diverse economy resulting in a strong, sustainable Saskatchewan.

OUR MISSION

SARM delivers timely, dependable programs and services to meet the needs of its members while influencing government policy and facilitating municipalities to work together to foster rural development and build strong, sustainable communities.



MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

BY THE HONOURABLE SCOTT MOE
PREMIER OF SASKATCHEWAN



ON BEHALF of the Government of Saskatchewan, I am pleased to provide SARM's *Rural Councillor* magazine with an update on issues facing our municipalities.

Saskatchewan is a land of opportunity, a province with a population that is as diverse as our geography is vast. With over 700 municipalities of all shapes and sizes, the role of municipal government has never been more vital.

A key aspect of this is the importance of good governance at the local level. This is not only something all residents of our great province expect, it is something they deserve. And rightfully so; a strong, well-functioning local council have a direct impact on the success of a community.

MUNICIPAL REVENUE SHARING

The Government of Saskatchewan understands that in order to have good governance at the local level, communities must have the ability to access funding for the betterment of their residents. That is why I am proud of this government's commitment to municipal revenue sharing. It's no secret this great province has faced several challenging years – marked by significant resource revenue decline. But a year ago, we charted a three-year course to reduce Saskatchewan's dependency on resource revenue, and to balance the provincial budget by 2020. Our government has a plan that is comprehensive, fair, balanced – and on track.

Within that plan, our government's commitment to municipalities remains clear – just as it has been since taking office a decade ago. Since 2007, Municipal Revenue Sharing has increased from \$127 million in 2007–2008 to \$241 million for the 2018–2019 provincial budget.

That's an 89.5 per cent increase.

We also recognize that the current program has been in place for a decade, and that it is time for a review. I have tasked my officials to consider how the program might more effectively enable and encourage good governance and greater inter-municipal co-operation within the province.

REGIONAL COOPERATION & PLANNING

Another important aspect to good governance is a renewed emphasis on regional cooperation and planning. This is something that is found at the heart of Saskatchewan's DNA: neighbours helping neighbours, communities helping communities for the betterment of all. As our province moves forward, municipalities must work closely with one another.

Regional planning can help communities, including neighbouring First Nations, reach a common goal and make it easier for developers and businesses wanting to move into an area.

For example, the Calling Lakes Planning District. It consists of official and associate members, such as: the RM of North Qu' Appelle, Town of Fort Qu' Appelle; Village of Lebreton; the Resort Villages of Katepwa, B-Say-Tah, and Fort San; as well as the Treaty Four Tribal Council.

They have created consistent bylaw requirements making it easier for businesses and developers to invest in the participating communities. Each community is on a level playing field, working towards the betterment of the region.

Going forward, I challenge each of you to sit down and look for ways to partner with your regional neighbours – including First Nation communities – on future projects and initiatives.

MUNICIPAL PEER NETWORK

Recently the Municipal Peer Network (MPN) was launched in Saskatchewan. Developed in partnership with the Ministry of Government Relations, SARM, SUMA, UMAAS and RMAA, the MPN has created a network of seasoned administrators and locally elected officials who can share advice and experiences, while providing support to peers as well as those new to local government, in order to help resolve complex issues and conflicts.

This network of municipalities works together to overcome local challenges, and I would encourage everyone to consider participating in this program as it moves forward.

The Government of Saskatchewan is also standing by to provide support to communities. For example, the Ministry of Government Relations has a team of municipal advisors ready to share their advice and expertise in the areas of municipal governance in relation to the appropriate legislation.

By working together to reach a common objective, teamwork and regional co-operation can help improve quality of life to serve all of our citizens. I am proud of the work SARM has done on keeping our great province of Saskatchewan strong and growing.

Scott Moe
Premier



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

BY THE HONOURABLE WARREN KAEDING
MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

IT'S ALWAYS a pleasure to have to the opportunity to speak directly to SARM members, whether it is in person at SARM conventions, or in writing as I appear today. I would like to congratulate those of you who were successful on Election Day a couple days ago, and thank you to everyone who put their names forward. Municipal politics can be a difficult and sometimes thankless job, but it is such an important role that simply does not get the credit it deserves. The many volunteer hours you put in to help keep our communities and our province strong is greatly appreciated.

Speaking of elections, I'd like to thank the SARM executive and the members for providing us feedback on municipal election dates. We know that you and your ratepayers are anxious to hear the results of that discussion, and I'm happy to say that we will be announcing our decision in the very near future.

I'm also happy to give you an update as to what your Provincial Government has been up to. As many of you are aware, at the SUMA and SARM conventions this spring, I spoke about our government doing a review of the Municipal Revenue Sharing Program. We thought that after 10 years, it was important that we take the time to go over what we know is a vital program to our communities. My staff have been working diligently over the past many months discussing with local officials from all over the province about what works best in this program, and what could use improvement.

Some of the improvements we have discussed include how we can use some of that money to work together better through increased regional cooperation. Through this work, we can increase capacity in some of our smaller communities through partnerships with neighbours to ensure that municipalities are better able to serve their ratepayers. It can also help to create a more attractive investment environment for business and developers. Even simple changes, such as aligning bylaws, can help bring in new industries and make it easier for existing businesses to expand. You can expect to hear more on this in the coming months, and we've appreciated the feedback and cooperation we have had to date.

On another note, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the Civic Addressing Registry initiative. This is a very important program that helps us provide accurate location data to emergency response services, such as ambulances, fire crews and police. Sometimes, land locations can be difficult to recall in an emergency if it's away from the home or yard. RMs in this province have done a good job of signing up, with 201 RMs participating. However, that still leaves 95 that haven't, and we encourage you to work with your councils and administrators to ensure your municipality is registered.

You may also know that we have been going through the province, along with SARM staff, and discussing issues identified by

local RMs and smaller urban communities regarding our current legislation around tax tools and Road Maintenance Agreements. It's important that during these discussions we take the time to recognize some of the challenges we face in our province. As I mentioned earlier, we know that it's important to ensure that our communities and Saskatchewan as a whole can attract new businesses and workers. However, this can be difficult with the patchwork of different tax schemes we have in our municipalities across the province. But these challenges can be overcome, and I trust that as long as we work together, we can find a solution that works for residents and industry.

We are also extremely proud of the work done by our municipal organizations to establish the Municipal Peer Network, which was launched with the partnership of SUMA, SARM, UMAAS, RMAAS, and the Ministry of Government Relations. This is a group of experienced leaders, both elected and non-elected, helping to oversee and provide support to those new to local government. As elected officials we have a duty to Saskatchewan people, and it's important that we have veteran leadership and experience to rely on when people need help. This network helps to provide that, and will help us all to provide good governance to the communities we serve.

This September, I was pleased to join with Federal Minister Champagne to announce 46 infrastructure projects worth over \$53.9 million under the Small Communities Fund. These projects are jointly funded by the federal, provincial, and municipal governments. Some of the projects included a new lagoon for the RM of Swift Current, upgrades to grid road 734 in the RM of Lumsden, and a water system upgrade in the RM of Britannia. These types of projects are vital to the quality of living we enjoy in Saskatchewan, and to our ability to continue to attract new growth opportunities. We have also recently signed onto a new infrastructure agreement that will provide nearly \$1 billion in Federal funding, much of which will be used to support our municipalities.

We know that Saskatchewan is a massive province and when you have 776 municipalities, it can be difficult to try and balance the unique needs of our many communities. However, our government is always interested in what challenges your local councils are facing, and we will always work towards better policies and legislation that not only help local representatives do their job, but help our province remain attractive for growth and investment.

After all, it's not just about growth for the sake of growth; it's growth that helps us build for the future. It's growth that will provide good paying jobs for our residents, a better education for our kids, and improved healthcare for our families.

Thank you again for your service to your communities and your province.



ADVOCATING ON BEHALF OF Rural Saskatchewan

BY RAY ORB
SARM PRESIDENT

GREETINGS to council members and administrators. By the time this article is published, I'm hoping the majority of the 2018 grain crop is are the bin. In spite of the early snow that fell over most of the grain belt in the third week of September that stalled the harvest, the moisture was needed especially for pasture and forage land that was in dire need of replenishment.

AAFC published the 2018 Livestock Tax Deferral map, and it takes in most of southern Saskatchewan from the U.S. border and as far north as the Saskatoon area. This is something that SARM has asked for and will help producers in the drought area if they need to sell some of their breeding herd due to shortages of feed or water (or both).

SARM's Agriculture committee has been meeting on a regular basis and has focused on several issues such as Bill C-49 (grain transportation), the PMRA consultation on the possible discontinuance of strychnine, Crop Insurance programs, (possible improvements on pasture insurance), to name a few.

SARM's Environment committee has focused on the Trespass Act consultation, Bill C-71 (gun control), the *Navigation Protection Act*, the *Fisheries Act*, the federal carbon tax, and the province's made in Saskatchewan climate change strategy: *Prairie Resilience*.

Several of our board members are traveling to Ottawa from October 1-4 and have several meetings lined up with key ministers and bureaucrats. We're scheduled to meet with Liberal MPs and Conservative MP's that are relevant to the files we deal with. We'll be reporting on those meetings and all key issues at our Midterm Convention in Saskatoon in November.

I have been fortunate to have been recently re-elected as Chair of the

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Rural Forum at the FCM Board of Directors meeting in Annapolis, Nova Scotia.

The Rural Forum is made up of over 40 members from all across Canada who represent municipalities or provincial organizations who have an interest in rural issues. The member municipalities range in size from sparsely populated RMs to some of the smaller cities. It's actually amazing to see members like this working together at the Rural Forum for the betterment of rural Canada.

FCM commissioned and recently released a report called *Rural Challenges, National Opportunities*. It tells the story of success stories from all across Canada of how some rural and urban communities have partnered and met the challenges in regards to infrastructure, economic development, broadband delivery and policing. It's a great story and cites some examples of how challenges in rural areas have led to opportunity. It mentions the contribution of rural Canada to the national GDP and makes a statement worth remembering: "Rural Canada supplies the fuel that drives the economic engines of the country." And it does, with rural Canada contributing an average of 30% to the nation's economy each year with provinces such as Saskatchewan's rural areas contributing much more to the provincial GDP.

Another issue which SARM has spent time on is rural crime, which has been on everyone's mind for several years now. We have watched the statistics increase on rural agriculture thefts and break ins and have been struggling to deal with it as rural communities.

SARM has been fortunate to have received the attention and guidance of RCMP Assistant Commissioner Curtis Zablocki at 'F' division in Regina. We

have met with him several times and have a direct line of communication with him and his office. He has addressed our delegates at several SARM conventions and has met directly with RMs as well. We are in agreement in two of our visions: to reinvigorate the Rural Crime Watch program and to create a Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association. To those ends we have formed a committee that is working with RCMP Corporal Mel Zurevinsky with input from some local rural crime watch groups, two of our SARM directors, with input from the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing.

To date we believe we have well over 100 rural communities that have formed their own local crime watch groups.

We believe the provincial Protection and Response team comprised of RCMP, municipal police, conservation officers, and highway traffic board officers is already making a difference in response times, that Rural Crime Watch revitalization will help and that changes to the existing *Trespass Act*, including harsher penalties, will go a long way to curb rural crime.

2018 has certainly been a busy year, and it isn't over yet. I certainly hope if you're newly elected (or need a refresher) you can attend the Municipal Leadership Development Program Roles and Responsibilities module on November 13. Please try to take all the rest of the of the MLDP modules, and you will receive a certificate upon completion.

I hope everyone can attend the Mid-term in Saskatoon from November 14-15. Please have a look at the agenda found at sarm.ca.

Best wishes in the days ahead, and here's hoping your harvest is done, or soon will be, and remember to have a safe harvest and safe travels.



IF IT WERE EASY, Everyone would be doing it

BY CARMEN STERLING
SARM VICE-PRESIDENT

RECENTLY, I had the privilege to speak at a luncheon put on by a local service club. As I was preparing my remarks I asked my husband, Darren, to provide me feedback on the content. Interestingly he told me to include a comment that I have said to him in the past; "If it was easy, everyone would be doing it."

Many times over the years when he was frustrated with all the things that impact the farm that are completely out of his control, I would say that statement to him. I was preparing a speech that focussed on some of the things I've learned since being elected to council 16 years ago, and he turned the tables on me when I asked how my speech was. You know what, he's right.... If it were easy, everyone would be doing it!

If it were easy to let your name stand for council, everyone would. If it were easy to take a role on council and make decisions that affect an entire municipality, everyone would. If it were easy to balance the public's interest with the interests of your municipality, your employees, your municipal neighbours and all of your ratepayers, everyone would. To me the fact that it is not always easy is what makes it so rewarding to get involved in municipal politics. Personally, I think that we need to experience challenges to really appreciate the opportunity we have to represent our communities.

When you take the step to represent your community as reeve or councillor you really do take on a responsibility to do the best you can to ensure your municipality is successful, which benefits your ratepayers. There can be many competing interests in a municipality that council must consider when making their decisions.

As council members, there's an expectation that you have a knowledge in, or are prepared to educate yourself in, a wide variety of areas. Accounting to ensure understanding of the financial statements and budgeting process. Planning to ensure understating of the development and zoning process. Human resources to ensure appropriate policies and procedures are in place for employees. Governance to ensure processes and procedures of council are efficient, effective and abide by all necessary legislation. Common sense to ensure we are practical and realistic in our decision making. This is certainly not a comprehensive list. There are many other areas that council members need to have knowledge in or a willingness to acquire knowledge in. When you consider the items indicated above, it really drives home the "If it were easy..." statement.

Over the past few years, SARM has been focussing efforts on capacity building initiatives and training opportunities aimed at increasing the overall knowledge of our members. Workshops during convention, plenary presentations and training partnerships with Southeast College, SUMA, Asset Management Saskatchewan, to name a few, are ways we look to try and make your job on council just a little bit easier. We each bring our own experiences into our roles on council, so being able to access these other opportunities to enhance our knowledge is very beneficial to our municipalities. Regardless of whether you are new to council or a seasoned veteran, I encourage you to take advantage of the many opportunities available.

In closing I want to say thank you to each and every one of you for stepping

When you take the step to represent your community as reeve or councillor you really do take on a responsibility to do the best you can to ensure your municipality is successful, which benefits your ratepayers.

up and for continuing to step up to represent your municipalities. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to doing your best to ensure your municipalities and ratepayers are successful. In doing so, you not only make your community a great place to live, work and farm or operate a business, you also contribute to the success of our province and country!

It has certainly been my pleasure over the past year to serve as your Vice President. I look forward to continuing to do my very best on behalf of you, our members! Please do not hesitate to reach out to me when needed. As 2018 comes to a close, I wish health, happiness and prosperity for each of you and your communities and may the year to come be successful and rewarding!



MESSAGE FROM DIVISION 1

BY **BILL HUBER** SARM DIRECTOR, DIVISION 1

AS I WRITE this article for the *Rural Councillor* it is near the end of September, and for the most part it has been another challenging year! As I look out my office window at the farm, there is approximately four inches of snow on the ground, and it is still snowing.

Yesterday, I listened to the Crop Report; in Saskatchewan, harvest is at different stages in different areas of the province. The southwest is approximately 85 per cent complete, and the northwest is at only 17 per cent complete. The area just north of the Qu'Appelle Valley, where my rural municipality is located, is near 60 per cent complete, according to the reports I have heard.

The drought this year has especially raised concerns about crops, livestock, feed and pastures. The grain crops have been all over the map depending on where the showers went. Some areas had average to above average yields, while other areas had below average and poorer yields.

Lately, the biggest concerns with the drought are the livestock producers who have to deal with the short hay and feed supplies and the possibilities of having to sell off part or all of their breeding herds.

This past week, the Federal Agriculture Department released the drought map. But personally, I think there are some more areas that have to be included in the map, especially in the southwest corner of the province and along the Saskatchewan and Alberta border.

Some of the issues that we have been working on at SARM are rural crime, Bill C-49 *The Transportation Modernization Act*, The CAP Program that replaces the Growing Forward II Program, the *Trespassing Act*, and Intensive Livestock Operations (ILOs) just to mention a few.

This past Spring, I had the opportunity to attend a Rural Crime Assessment meeting in Yorkton with Shannon Stubbs, MP for Lakeland, and Kathy Wagontail, MP for Yorkton, regarding the Motion M-167 that was introduced in the House of Commons on March 28, 2018, dealing with rural crime in Canada.

Not long ago, we were taken by surprise by the unexpected announcement of Lyle Stewart stepping down as Minister of Agriculture. Although we will miss him as the Ag Minister, the first thoughts that come to mind are for his health and speedy recovery.

At this time, I would like to welcome David Marit as the new Minister of Agriculture, and I look forward to working with him on different issues that arise with the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities.

In closing, I hope to see you at the Midterm Convention in Saskatoon! Safe travels, and I hope you have a good Fall.

'All the Best' to each and every one of you in the New Year!



Timely delivery of maintenance is a major priority for the Agency in 2018 and will continue to be our priority moving forward, followed closely by delivering on our commitment to radically increase overall property inspections.

SAMA is well on our way to meeting our major strategic objectives, including our Agency objective to review/inspect 100,000+ properties in 2018. As of October 1st, approximately 75,000 property reviews have been completed.

For more information visit our website at **www.sama.sk.ca**.

Contact SAMA by phone at: 1-800-667-7262,
or by email: info.request@sama.sk.ca.



MESSAGE FROM DIVISION 2

BY NORM NORDGULEN SARM DIRECTOR, DIVISION 2

GOOD DAY all.

As I write this, we are ending another growing and harvesting season in Saskatchewan. As usual there is a wide variance of yields and rain across the province as well as completion dates. I hope everyone can make the best of what they have. One fella told me “even an average crop can be profitable if the prices are there.” We just need the prices to be there for us.

A service for everyone is safety nets and insurance, and I encourage everyone to use them. Some insurance coverage may be poor, but when needed, it's better than nothing. When I started farming in the late 70s, I could do an off-farm job to make ends meet (I even picked bottles in ditches), but in today's world of large farms – high inputs and machinery costs along with marketing product, working off-farm just isn't an option many can do.

Ag programs and insurance need constant tweaking, and that is what your Ag Committee and policy staff try diligently to stay on top of. Currently, we are looking forward to working with Sask. Crop Insurance to improve coverage for grass rainfall insurance which in many areas has paid dividends to producers an unprecedented two years in a row. That is not a good thing, nor is coverage high enough, but it's there when needed. Today's farm must make use of all options to stay ahead of the game, and I have the utmost of confidence in our farmers across this great province to do just that.

I would like to touch on something that came up at coffee this morning with my elderly friends – all in their late 80s-early 90s. In old days it took as much as half of farm production just to feed the horses and livestock that powered that farm. A sobering thought when we look at our fuel bills today. High as they are, I'm sure it's not half of your production, but it just points out how things have changed.

I want to end with a congratulations to RMs Moose Jaw and Marquis, the CTPC and SCTPC, and team on getting sorely needed passing lanes tendered for 2019 on Highway 2 north of Moose Jaw. Great job people; it shows what can be done with a team effort. I know there are other groups out there across the province taking on similar challenges, and I just wanted all to know it can be done. Never give up – never surrender, find a way.

Hope all have a safe journey ahead, and I look forward to talking to as many of you as I can either at conventions or elsewhere.





MESSAGE FROM DIVISION 3

BY LARRY GRANT SARM DIRECTOR, DIVISION 3

GOOD DAY everyone, we come to that time of year where us directors write a short report of their perceptions of the past year and into the future.

I take a keen interest in agriculture and environmental issues affecting municipalities, farmers, ranchers and industry in Saskatchewan, especially in the southwest (Division 3). I sit on SARM's internal Agriculture and Environment committees, as well as numerous external committees.

I'd like to touch on a few things that affect all people in Saskatchewan, one in particular is species at risk. Species at risk has a huge affect on the on rural municipalities when they propose any road or bridge work. Environmental assessments can be onerous and expensive. I feel that a system needs to be set up that maintains environmental integrity with a more realistic cost of doing so. Farmers and ranchers are also the best environmentalists in the world, and they should be recognized

for it. RMs need to build infrastructure to serve the people at the best bang for their buck. No one on RM councils are going to deliberately destroy habitat for the fun of it. Society demands more and better infrastructure, we need to find a way to provide that at a reasonable cost. I feel like it is possible if everyone puts their heads together and works together to come up with a suitable solution. This is one of the areas that I take interest in and want to work to benefit all involved.

The SARM Board of Directors all work together and rely on each other's strengths and knowledge to benefit all of rural Saskatchewan.

As I write this, the leaves are turned and falling off the branches, but when you read this, it will be close to the holiday season. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

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*SARM's board,
management
and staff*

SARM

Saskatchewan Association
of Rural Municipalities

*Wish Everyone a
Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year!*



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Part 3 : A Good Night's Sleep: Sleep & Agriculture

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MESSAGE FROM DIVISION 4

BY HARVEY MALANOWICH SARM DIRECTOR, DIVISION 4

GREETINGS councillors and reeves!

Once again, another year is passing so quickly. Through all my travels attending meetings across the province, many issues have been discussed. Some issues of importance I have highlighted in the following paragraphs.

Rural Saskatchewan is a key player for economic growth because of all the natural resources located in rural municipalities, thus making rural infrastructure very important. This infrastructure is the key to keeping goods and services moving in helping industries expand and grow. The high costs of building and maintaining this infrastructure means government funding must be increased to keep up with the pace of economic growth. The onus can't fall on the municipalities.

We are working on Rural Crime Watch being consistent throughout the province. A working group has been formed to establish a provincial Rural Crime Watch Association like they have in Alberta. The association would provide support for local crime watch groups and create consistency and unity throughout the groups.

A challenge with the Water Security Agency as there seems to be a lack of direction when dealing with illegal drainage.

As I'm sure you are aware, clubroot detection is a concern for not only the province but SARM and its members as well. SARM hired six Plant Health Officers, one in each of SARMs divisions, to monitor, test and report for clubroot in crops. Preventing the disease from spreading throughout the province is very important.

The province asked for public input on revising and amending the *Trespassing Act*. Changes must be made to help land owners protect their property, or at least know who is on it, why and when.

Another common issue in the ag industry that needs attention are the high input costs. The high input costs of growing crops doesn't match or exceed the return we receive for our products.

In regard to trade agreements, there is a need to nail down trade agreements with the U.S., European Countries and the Asian Panhandle in order to move our products and remain competitive.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the SARM Midterm Convention to discuss these issues and any others you may have.

Hope you had a bountiful harvest and a prosperous year (weather permitting).

God Bless!

Clubroot detection is a concern for not only the province but SARM and its members as well. SARM hired six Plant Health Officers, one in each of SARMs divisions to monitor, test and report for clubroot in crops. Preventing the disease from spreading throughout the province is very important.



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Communities working together **FOR SUCCESS**

BY JUDY HARWOOD SARM DIRECTOR, DIVISION 5

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY of Corman Park and the City of Saskatoon have enjoyed one of the longest successful regional land use planning partnerships in Canada, dating back to 1956. The Corman Park – Saskatoon District Planning Commission consists of elected officials of both councils and appointed members at large from both municipalities for an area surrounding Saskatoon. The Commission has its own official community plan and land use bylaw, ensuring that growth in the area takes into consideration both rural and urban needs.

Last year was the implementation of the Saskatoon North Partnership for Growth (P4G). This is a joint effort between Corman Park, Saskatoon, the cities of Warman and Martensville, and the Town of Osler, planning the region to a future population of 1,000,000. The intent of this plan is to identify the best end uses for land in the region based on growth needs, servicing requirements, and other infrastructure considerations. The successful partnership is considered a leading example of voluntary regional planning versus efforts that have occurred in other western Canadian jurisdictions, and it will provide long-term certainty to municipal councils, ratepayers and investors.

Corman Park has no objections to effective growth of the urban municipalities within our boundaries. Surrounding the largest city in Saskatchewan, as well as the two fastest growing cities in the country, in Warman and Martensville, along with the Towns of Osler, Dalmeny and Langham, our municipality has helped facilitate unencumbered regional growth in recent years, at levels unseen in this province since the early 1900's. Corman Park has been supportive of growth within urban municipalities,

taking the stance that investment in the region is positive for everyone and that a municipal council should provide effective regulation to ensure the wellbeing of ratepayers, but not interfere with private investment and the demand for growth.

CORMAN PARK has no objections to effective growth of the urban municipalities within our boundaries.... taking the stance that investment in the region is positive for everyone.

What we do fight for is the ability of our ratepayers to invest in their lands. While taking steps to protect lands in such a way that they will not be an impediment to future growth, we must also allow for development to occur where current demands exist. This can create conflicts between municipalities, but we must recognize the differing land uses that are necessary in the region to drive the economy, including rural development.

Corman Park has numerous existing and additional development demands that do not fit the traditional rural model, but they have been very successful. The Greenbryre Estates golf community development is only one example, being a dense residential community located in the RM with full urban services and amenities not provided by the City of Saskatoon. The Village at Crossmount is another example of a mixed use rural community that has been built without access to City of Saskatoon wastewater facilities. We also continue to have strong demand for commercial and industrial development that is not able to be provided within an urban environment.

Through the P4G process, Saskatoon and Martensville have reached an agree-

ment to provide sanitary services outside of city limits, with principles and a framework that can be carried forward to future connections as well. A relationship between Saskatoon, SaskWater, and regional partners has also allowed for potable water to be distributed in the region since the mid-20th Century, providing a key service utilizing existing infrastructure. Customer municipalities pay a premium for this service, helping to subsidize City of Saskatoon residents' water service. What is not a smart decision is to force the duplication of services by each municipality, at great cost to all residents of the region, including the City of Saskatoon, for no reason other than protectionism.

Since 1996, the City of Saskatoon has been able to grow from a population of 193,647 to its current estimated 278,500, adding 22,420 acres (35 square miles) of land through five separate annexations with Corman Park, in part because of positive relationships between councils and administrations. Because of this, the City of Saskatoon has land within existing boundaries to accommodate, by their estimation, an additional 220,000 residents and associated amenities.

As the City of Saskatoon grows, the Corman Park land base shrinks; therefore, it is important that we be able to diversify and allow for growth. While there will always be differing interests, both sides have recognized the need to facilitate investment that allows each municipality to be successful. It is important that this continue into the future so investment does not choose to leave the region.

May I wish everyone, and in particular Division 5 reeves, councillors and administrators, a very Merry Christmas, a safe holiday season and health, happiness and prosperity in 2019.



INFRASTRUCTURE

for population or industry?

BY ROD WIENS SARM DIRECTOR, DIVISION 6



IN THE past year we have seen a lot of infrastructure development in Saskatchewan. The provincial government has increased municipal revenue funding by 89 per cent in the last ten years. The problem is that much of this infrastructure is for moving people and not for industry. We have developed a rural infrastructure in this province that is adequate for the agriculture industry. Through programs like "clearing the path"(CTP) and Municipal Roads for the Economy (MREP) – (the program when it had a budget) we were able to rebuild and redesign our road network to address the pressures of elevator and rail consolidation. But now we are experiencing infrastructure pressure from other industries, such as oil and gas. The question becomes, who should fund this additional pressure on our infrastructure? The easy answer is that the property tax system should pay for it. As industry moves in, an RM's assessment increases, and so taxes collected should also increase.

The problem is that the increase in assessment does not cover the increased cost of municipal infrastructure that is needed. Some RMs face the prospect of needing to improve infrastructure for industry that is not in their municipality. How do they come up with the additional revenue sources?

There are a number of strategies that can be used. Tax tools are used by some RMs to level out the infrastructure demand of the different tax classes. The problem with this solution is its affect is limited. This is because of government limits on the use

of tax tools, and with the broad tax classes that we have, many industries get lumped in with the high infrastructure users. Road maintenance agreements help, but they often don't cover road maintenance costs let alone road construction. Some RMs use some form of an infrastructure fee. They charge a fee when a development occurs, and then use the amount collected to build infrastructure. This fee helps build infrastructure, but it is not adequate to build what is needed.

Most government infrastructure programs have a population component to their funding formulas. Federally, rural is defined as any community under a population of 100,000 people. That means all rural municipalities in Saskatchewan compete for infrastructure funding with all urban centres in the province, excluding Saskatoon and Regina.

The focus so far has been on road infrastructure, but the same concerns arise with cellular and internet service. The focus is on servicing population and not industry. Businesses today cannot operate without these services. It puts much of rural Saskatchewan at an economic disadvantage.

It is time for infrastructure funding to better reflect our economic needs. Rural Saskatchewan contributes significantly to the province's economy. Our infrastructure is important for both population and industry. But should the rural population pay for much of the oil and gas infrastructure?

Photo credit: shutterstock.com



EFFECTIVE POLICIES create effective municipalities

BY JAY MEYER
SARM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WHEN it comes to a well governed municipality, it is critical for the council and administration to understand each others' roles and responsibilities as well as the administrator's executive limitations; the expectations of council on the administrator. The development of a strong governance policy manual will assist with a stronger relationship between councillors themselves as well as with the administrator, as expectations are defined. The manual instigates monitoring of governance. Monitoring brings clarity on such things as one's responsibilities around the council table. Not all may have similar views of where elected officials should engage in administration, while refraining from those activities that fall within the realm of management.

Within the manual, it is important to have a performance evaluation mecha-

nism. One of the biggest challenges of being an administrator is a lack of feedback. For a council to have a confident and productive administrator, evaluation/feedback is necessary; otherwise, one may develop a lack of communication around expectations. Performance evaluations are an excellent opportunity to produce a clearer sense of mutual expectations. A lack of feedback will instigate internalization by the administrator around the job he/she may be doing and may drive a lack of confidence in the job being done.

Another important aspect of the manual is the strategic priorities/goal setting of council. This is critical for municipal planning. The conversation will assist in all members of council going in a consistent direction. When councils are engaging in annual goal setting, both elected officials and administration

should be working together. The administration is in the trenches doing the day to day work and are a great asset in the process, especially when it comes down to resource allocation decisions.

Continually working on governance is critical in the development of effective councils. The conversation and getting to know each other in a more proactive way alone will assist with growth. SARM's Board of Directors just recently adopted its own Governance Policy Manual. The board are into their third year of monitoring themselves as well as the executive director. This manual encourages the board to be continually training in governance. I challenge all municipalities to do the same as it not only assists in the direction of council, but it assists in the direction and confidence in the administration and staff.

SARM

VISION

By being the rural voice, SARM will effectively lead autonomous municipalities in creating a vibrant, diverse economy resulting in a strong, sustainable Saskatchewan.

MISSION

SARM delivers timely, dependable programs and services to meet the needs of its members while influencing government policy and facilitating municipalities to work together to foster rural development and build strong, sustainable communities.

GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Government policies addressing the needs of rural Saskatchewan

SARM's policy positions are validated through ongoing consultation with and input from member municipalities

Member municipalities, governments and stakeholders trust SARM as a credible and transparent organization

COMMUNICATION

Effective communication advancing the strategic work of the organization

SARM's Communication is supported through continuous improvement and Innovation

SARM's brand and brand promise is consistently reinforced

The Board's role in engaging member municipalities is key

CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity building supporting member municipalities

Governance and administrative capacities are an important focus

SARM's role is to facilitate

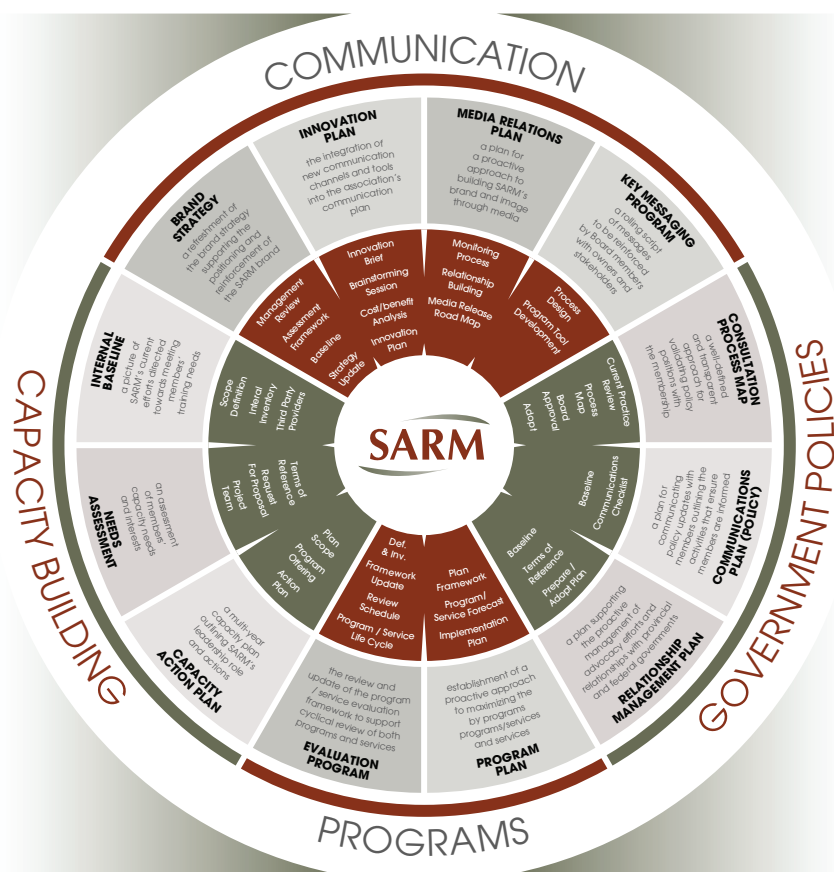
Capacity efforts meet the collective needs of member municipalities

PROGRAMS

Relevant programs supporting the work of member municipalities

SARM's Programs provide demonstrated benefits

Municipal Infrastructure is a priority focus





CAPACITY BUILDING for Governance

BY LINDA BOSER

RMAA DIRECTOR FOR DIVISION 3

AS THE WORLD OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT continues to evolve, so must the skills of municipal employees and leaders. To help municipalities with this goal, SARM and SUMA have partnered with Southeast College to provide a program that focuses on building employee skill and capacity in a number of business training workshop style courses.

AS I WRITE this article the first signs of fall are starting to show. Harvest is well underway; the leaves are starting to change and there is a crispness in the air that signals summer is ending. With the fall season, rural municipal elections will soon be upon us, and with the possibility of new councilors or the start of a new term for experienced councilors, it seems like the perfect time to talk about capacity building for governance.

Capacity building is defined as the process by which individuals and organizations obtain, improve and retain the skills, knowledge, tools, equipment and other resources needed to do their jobs competently or to a greater capacity. Capacity building in local governments involves providing the tools for elected officials and municipal staff to best fulfill their responsibilities.

The Municipal Leadership Development Program (MLDP) is one of the training tools that provides such capacity building. The MLDP is a series of six modules developed exclusively for elected and appointed municipal leaders in Saskatchewan to improve the quality of their governance, and it is an opportunity to network with others. Mayors, reeves, councilors and municipal staff are able to benefit from this program that is designed to strengthen local government leadership by addressing key issues facing governance at the local level. Even if your council and staff are confident about their role, MLDP provides an opportunity to review the foundations of good governance.

Each module targets specific issues of importance to municipalities:

MUNICIPAL LEADERS ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

This module provides current information to assist with council procedures as well as the role of policy decision-makers, employers, and community leaders.

STRATEGIC AND FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR MUNICIPALITIES

This module introduces strategic planning, how to plan for success, an overview of financial planning – the budget process, with a focus on where the money comes from. It teaches the relationship between assessment and taxation, tax tools, municipal borrowing and investments and an introduction to asset management.

COMMUNITY AND LAND USE PLANNING

Learn about topics such as 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 permit process; the development appeal board process; enforcing bylaws; the building permit process as well as regional planning.

HUMAN RESOURCES IN THE MUNICIPAL WORKPLACE

Employees carry out the direction of councils and deliver municipal services. As employers, councils need to know what their responsibilities to employees are. This module gives an overview of the labor market, the role of council and administration, the legislative framework, how to deal with conflict, the hiring and dismissal process, the importance of orientation and motivation, and how to manage performance.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS FOR MUNICIPALITIES

This module teaches how to effectively communicate with your ratepayers as well as the media. Learn how to become proactive. There are special tips on public speaking and techniques used by various forms of media.

MUNICIPAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDAMENTALS

This module will help participants to understand economic development principles and theories, review the context for economic development; discuss problems common to economic development; and introduce processes and skills applied in economic development.

Another program that provides an opportunity for capacity building for governance is the **Municipal Management Essentials** training program. Different from the Municipal Leadership Development Program, which focuses on responsibilities and concepts, the Municipal Management Essentials program focuses on building skills and capacity. As the world of municipal government continues to evolve, so must the skills of municipal employees and leaders. To help municipalities with this goal, SARM and SUMA have partnered with Southeast College to provide a program that focuses on building employee skills and capacity in a number of business training workshop style courses. The Management Essentials program has a stream of training for administrative staff and another for foremen. Many of the workshops would be applicable to councilors, and they are welcome to attend as well. Each

stream consists of nine modules that provide skills for today's workplace (see list below).

The Municipal Leadership Development Program and Municipal Management Essentials are only a couple of examples

The Municipal Leadership Development Program and Municipal Management Essentials are only a couple of examples of capacity building opportunities for good governance. Training and knowledge provide for more confident decision making and a stronger municipality.

of capacity building opportunities for good governance. There are other training opportunities always popping up depending on the issues of the day that will enable you to expand your knowledge and skills in your role as a municipal leader. Training and knowledge provide for more confident decision making and a stronger municipality.

MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT ESSENTIALS PROGRAM STREAMS

ADMINISTRATIVE Training Stream	FOREMAN Training Stream
Conducting Effective Meetings	Supervisory Skills
Presentation Skills	Being a Safety Leader
Leadership Skills	Customer Relations
Communicating Effectively	Accounting & Finance for Non-Accountants
Time Management & Organizational Skills	Negotiation Skills
Assertiveness for Personal & Business Success	Problem Solving & Decision Making
Basic Business Law	Communicating Effectively
Marketing for Managers	Time Management & Organizational Skills
Conflict Management	Conflict Management

LEAD FROM WITHIN

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MODERN ASSET MANAGEMENT

supports good governance

BY VICKI-MAY HAMM FCM PRESIDENT

NO TWO COMMUNITIES in rural Canada are the same. But as municipal leaders, many of us face similar challenges in managing the public infrastructure people depend on for their quality of life. Assets like roads, bridges and storm water systems support services that families and businesses need to thrive – and these are increasingly vulnerable to impacts of our changing climate.

In August, a Statistics Canada report shed new light on infrastructure challenges and opportunities that cities and communities face across the country. This release from Canada's Core Public Infrastructure Survey revealed that four-fifths of Canada's 765,000 kilometres of public roads are rated fair or better. That's a testament to the resilience of the municipalities that maintain and renew those roads, with very limited financial tools.

Of course, as local leaders, our eyes are drawn to the flipside – the one-fifth of roads that urgently need upgrades. We're constantly scrambling for ways to boost the infrastructure that supports our economy and quality of life. And, the same Statistics Canada report highlights an opportunity for many of us. It shows that fewer than a quarter of rural communities have comprehensive road network asset management plans that help municipalities prioritize and make the best use of limited resources.

With limited staff and budgets, long-term infrastructure planning is a challenge for many rural communities. The good news is there are new tools, support networks and resources available to build asset management capacity. This includes support offered through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to help municipalities make the most of new federal investments that FCM helped secure – including a \$2 billion fund dedicated to rural and northern infrastructure priorities.

Rural communities across Saskatchewan are seizing these opportunities. In particular, they are leading the charge in accessing available grants and local capability-building training through FCM's Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP).

More than 60 communities in Saskatchewan have accessed grants of up to \$50,000 through FCM to enhance their asset management practices. Another 56 have participated in the NAMS Canada online course that helped them develop an asset management plan. What's more, SARM and SUMA are working with Asset Management Saskatchewan to deliver asset management training specifically geared to Saskatchewan communities.

Local governments in this province are clearly ready to invest the time and energy necessary to strengthen asset management practices to improve the governance of their infrastructure.

Ultimately, improving our asset management practices is about being the best possible stewards of the services we provide to our communities. With access to accurate, current and relevant data about the assets that support critical services, we can plan more effectively.

Modern asset management calls for an integrated, holistic approach to ensuring sustainable service delivery. We need to consider the current state of our assets and the full life-cycle costs of operating, maintaining and replacing those assets over time. The goal is to ensure that communities can deliver the services that residents need and want at costs they can afford.

Modern asset management supports good governance. It requires building effective practices in our everyday – from securing council buy-in, to developing and implementing an asset management policy and investing in proactive, preventative maintenance to make our

THE ROAD AHEAD: RM of Frenchman Butte

Determined to exercise greater control over the future of its assets, the RM of Frenchman Butte No. 501 took steps to modernize its asset management. With support from FCM, the community trained its reeve, six councillors and eight staff in asset management and launched a multi-stage asset management initiative.

FCM also helped Frenchman Butte draft a long-term capital plan and standard maintenance policies to ratify the municipality's five-year strategic plan. Their efforts also guided the development of the community's first-ever transportation-route plan to better accommodate the increase in heavy-load vehicle traffic resulting from local growth in the oil and gas industry.

When extensive flooding in spring 2018 washed out approximately 50 roads, including seven major routes, the municipality reallocated money from elsewhere in the budget to cope with the emergency. The community's officials recognize that while it is impossible to plan for every contingency, deliberate asset management helps ensure that infrastructure can continue to support the essential services residents rely on every day.

existing infrastructure last longer. And as communities do this, they increase their capacity to govern one of their most important functions: delivering services that their residents depend on.

MAMP is a five-year, \$50 million program delivered by FCM and funded by the Government of Canada. It supports small- to mid-sized communities in strengthening their infrastructure investment decision-making through sound asset management practices. To access tools and find out more, please visit fcm.ca/assetmanagement.

Vicki-May Hamm is mayor of Magog, Quebec and president of the FCM.

CONGRATULATIONS

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Case: Melfort Conservation Officers received a TIP call on August 18, 2018, regarding someone shooting an animal and driving onto a standing wheat crop to retrieve it. Sometime between August 15th and 17th, 2018, an animal was unlawfully harvested on private land, 3.5 miles North of Struthers Lake, SK. It was determined that four shots were fired from a rifle. A vehicle then drove into the field and loaded the animal without processing it. There was no hunting season open during this time. Officers were able to collect some evidence at the scene, but **the public's help is needed to solve this case.**

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EMPLOYEE WITH A DUI?

BY CRAIG WILLIAMS

SARM DIRECTOR OF INSURANCE & BENEFIT PROGRAMS

Important Liability Insurance Considerations for RMs

IMPAIRED DRIVING shatters too many lives in Saskatchewan and across the country. The tragic consequences of impaired driving are immediate and far reaching. Enforcement of impaired driving laws is therefore crucial to the safety of the travelling public. As an employer, if you have an employee who is charged with the *Criminal Code* offence of impaired driving, there are important items to consider to ensure your liability coverage is not impacted.

ADMINISTRATIVE DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENSION

When an individual has been charged with, but not yet convicted of the *Criminal Code* offence of impaired driving, they are immediately subject to an administrative driver's license suspension. The suspension typically begins with the roadside stop and remains in place until the criminal charges are resolved in court.

During this period, an individual is only barred from operating licensed motor vehicles on public roads, and it is permissible for the individual employee to operate unlicensed mobile equipment, such as a grader, on public roads.

Coverage would remain in place under the RM's liability insurance for an employee in such a situation, but only while they operate unlicensed mobile equipment. Coverage would not extend to the operation of any RM owned licensed vehicles.

CRIMINAL CODE CHARGES ARE STAYED

If charges are stayed, the individual's license is restored in its entirety and all coverage remains in place.

FOUND GUILTY, CRIMINAL CODE CHARGE OF IMPAIRED DRIVING

If an individual is convicted of, or pleads guilty to, the *Criminal Code* charge of impaired driving, they are subject to a blanket driving ban. The court order is typically in place for a minimum of one year.

During this time, individuals are not legally allowed to operate any motor vehicle on a public road. This would include unlicensed mobile equipment such as a grader. For the duration of the ban, the Liability Self-Insurance Plan (LSIP) would not cover any claim arising from damage caused to a third party by a disqualified operator of any RM owned motorized vehicle on a public road.

IGNITION INTERLOCK SYSTEMS

An individual may be permitted to have an ignition interlock system in their vehicle. This system, along with a specially issued restricted license, allows the individual to operate only the vehicle with the ignition interlock system installed. Otherwise, the individual remains subject to the blanket driving ban for the duration of the court order.

If the RM wishes to install an ignition interlock system on each piece of equipment the individual employee needs to operate during the course of their duties, LSIP would consider providing liability coverage to the individual employee for the operation of the selected vehicles and/or pieces of machinery.

In the absence of that system, LSIP would take the position that the

employee is not covered for the operation of any municipal motor vehicles on public roads until the court ordered driving ban is fully lifted.

Impaired driving shatters too many lives in Saskatchewan and across the country. As an employer, if you have an employee who is charged with the Criminal Code offence of impaired driving, there are important items to consider to ensure your liability coverage is not impacted.

If you have further questions or concerns regarding employee DUI's, please contact Craig Williams, Director of Insurance & Benefit Programs, at 306-761-3726 or at cwilliams@sarm.ca.

Disclaimer: the foregoing is for general information only. In a claims situation, the terms and conditions contained in the SARM policy wording will apply.

SARM Q&A

GETTING TO KNOW *SARM's board and staff*



LARRY GRANT



DANA SCHMALZ

LARRY

- Q** What is your role at SARM?
- Division 3 Director. I represent the interests of the people in municipal Division 3. I help take their concerns to senior levels of government and other organizations that have a potential to impact rural Saskatchewan and its citizens.
- Q** How long have you been a municipal elected official?
- I first became a Councillor on January 1, 1997 and became Reeve of the RM of Val Marie No. 17 on November 7, 2012. Before becoming a Councillor, I was the School Trustee of the Shaunavon School Division from 1983 to May 1996.
- Q** Where did you grow up?
- Val Marie born and raised. I've been there all my life. I grew up on the edge of Val Marie, and in 1977 my wife, Sherry, and I moved just north of Val Marie where we still reside.

- Q** *What is your favourite thing about being on the SARM Board?*
- *The people I meet and the people I get to work with on the SARM Board and at the SARM office. Those experiences and interactions make the job enjoyable.*

- Q** Tell us about your farming operation.
- I rent my farmland to a good farmer. Sherry and myself, with the help of my two boys, run a 200 cow livestock operation. We may downsize one day so I can operate on my own, or I hope one of the boys will take it over. I find there is a labour issue, you either need to have a big operation with multiple employees or a small enough operation to do it on your own these days.
- Q** Hobbies?
- My favourite hobby is probably spending time with my grandchildren. I like golfing, but I don't get to do much of it. I like running cows and I also enjoy working with SARM. I enjoy the company of the board members and the SARM staff.

DANA

- Q** What is your role at SARM?
- Director of Community Planning Services.

- Q** *What is your favourite part about working at SARM?*
- *Working directly with municipalities and having the opportunity to make an impact – it's very rewarding.*

- Q** How long have you been with SARM?
- Since August of 2009.
- Q** Where did you grow up?
- On a dairy farm in the Shellbrook area.
- Q** What keeps you busy when you're not at the office?
- Primarily my two daughters who are under the age of four, but my husband and I also enjoy renovating and building houses – we've renovated a few and built two so far....
- Q** If you weren't a community planner, what other profession interests you and why?
- I considered pharmacy – I always had an interest to work directly with patients and to benefit and influence people's well-being and lives.

TIPS FOR COUNCILLORS

SOME fresh new faces may be joining the council table after the October 24 RM elections.

Whether you're a first timer or an experienced veteran, councillors should be commended for the dedication and commitment it takes to serve citizens at the local level. Your roles and responsibilities as elected officials are determined by provincial and federal legislation, as well as municipal bylaws and policies. Municipal Advisors from the Ministry of Government Relations have provided some information based on frequently asked questions.

An important thing to remember is that no matter how large or small your RM might be, it is still a level of government with the same legislated responsibilities. Every municipality must have adopted a Council Procedures bylaw that sets out clear and transparent meeting procedures. Council members need to be familiar with the bylaw, and it's a good idea to have it on hand at every meeting.

The municipality must also have a Code of Ethics bylaw. Councillors are expected to uphold the highest standards while in office. The Code of Ethics bylaw is not only a requirement of legislation, but these checks and balances are beneficial for veterans and newbies alike.

No matter how large or small your RM might be, it is still a level of government with the same legislated responsibilities.

Council members need to be clear on their roles and responsibilities. While councillors are not to be involved in the day-to-day operations of the municipality, they still may need to ask the tough questions. One duty of council is to maintain financial integrity, and as

such, tough questions may arise, such as obtaining regular financial statements, bank reconciliations, reviewing invoices, approving payments and establishing policies for internal financial controls and reporting.

Knowing roles and responsibilities is especially important when it comes to conflict of interest. If a councillor has a conflict of interest, such as any business dealings or personal connections in a matter before council, they must declare and disclose the general nature of the conflict, abstain from voting on the matter, refrain from discussion, and leave the room. Council members may question other council members on whether or not they have a conflict, but it is up to each individual council member to declare the conflict and follow the steps noted above. Councillors may wish to review their council procedures bylaw to make sure it addresses how the questioning may be noted in the minutes.

Council members are also required to file a public disclosure statement within 30 days of being elected. A public disclosure statement outlines any business holdings and personal interests you may have. When decisions are made, declarations of conflicts of interest provide transparency to the public and the rest of council. Council members must update their disclosure statement annually and any other time something changes with their business or personal interests.

In this age of social media, it's also important to remember that municipal councils cannot hold a meeting by text or email. Decisions can only be made at a duly-convened council meeting. The public has the right to know about and attend these meetings as observers. The only time a closed (in-camera) session is acceptable is for long-range or strategic planning, or when dealing with one of the exemptions noted in Part III of the *Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Council meetings are the time for members to debate matters before council. While it's inevitable that council members may find themselves at odds sometimes with their peers sitting around the table, debate is healthy. Councillors have been elected by the citizens to contribute to decisions made in their best interests. In fact, some of the best decisions are the result of that healthy debate. Once a decision has been made, it's important to concede to the majority rule. Each council member has one vote, and the decision of the majority needs to be respected.

While it's inevitable that council members may find themselves at odds sometimes with their peers sitting around the table, debate is healthy.

Municipal advisors receive many calls that pertain to code of ethics issues, real and perceived conflicts of interest, and roles and responsibilities of council members. While advisors are happy to answer your questions or concerns, councillors are encouraged to take advantage of the extensive information available on the website at www.saskatchewan.ca. The ministry has numerous resources available, and if you don't know what a document is called, typing a key word in the search feature may assist you. Councillors are also encouraged to consider taking workshops offered through the Municipal Leadership Development Program, designed to strengthen municipal government leadership.

Advisors can be reached at (306) 787-2680, and they can assist councillors, as well as administrators and citizens alike.

Saskatchewan Municipal Peer Network

MEET THE MENTORS



RODNEY AUDETTE
ADMINISTRATOR,
RM OF DUFFERIN

As the CAO/Administrator in an inter-municipal office, Rodney contributes a unique perspective to the peer mentor program. He also brings a strong background in council/administration relationships and governance that could provide positive assistance to both municipal administrative staff and elected officials.

Cell: 306-631-3421

Phone: 306-638-3112 | 306-638-3188

Availability: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Available anytime, in case of emergency.



DON MCCALLUM
ADMINISTRATOR,
RM OF CUTKNIFE

Don is the past-president of RMAA, past SARM board member, and has the unique perspective of being a joint town/RM office administrator for 15 years. Throughout his 38-year career in municipal administration, he has seen the profession evolve and intensify. For this reason, Don believes that the new administrators in local government would benefit from peer mentorship.

Cell: (306) 398-7840

Phone: (306) 398-2353

Availability: Anytime, within reason



DON TAYOR - REEVE, RM OF SALTCOATS

Born the fourth generation into a family farm, established in 1898, Don has deep roots in Saskatchewan agriculture. He also has deep roots in municipal politics, dedicating nearly 40 years to municipal service – 16 years as a councillor and 22 years as reeve. Don has contributed to numerous community boards and provincial boards, including 20 years on the SARM Board of Directors. As a peer mentor, he hopes he will be of genuine help to someone in their role.

Phone: (306) 898-2065

Cell: (306) 621-1707

Availability: Anytime, preferably not on Sundays.



DONNA TYMIAK
ADMINISTRATOR,
RM OF BIG RIVER

Donna began her career as a RM administrator in 1997 and received her Rural “Superior A” Certification in 2008. She credits her success as an administrator to a positive attitude, supportive husband, progressive councils, and fantastic mentorship throughout her career. Her involvement with the Municipal Peer Network stems from the knowledge that administrative colleagues may benefit from networking or reaching out to a fellow professional as a confidential sounding board. Donna’s career has provided her with experience in several fields, most notably with governance, land development, and inter-municipal relationships.

Phone: (306) 469-2323

Availability: Monday – Friday, 1 – 4 p.m.



JAMES LEROY - REEVE, RM OF WHITE VALLEY

James is no stranger to joint-municipal boards and the opportunities and challenges they present. As the RM of White Valley Reeve, he has been involved with several joint-municipal boards. The RM municipal office also shares space with the Town of Eastend – which provides opportunities for collaboration. James sees the Municipal Peer Network as an exciting way to work with others, building new ventures and relationships.

Phone: (306) 297-8608

Availability: Monday – Friday

The Saskatchewan Municipal Peer Network connects municipal officials and administrators with highly experienced mentors who can provide advice and help resolve disputes. Mentors can offer coaching on interpersonal conflict, governance practices, public issues, service provisions, and roles and responsibilities.

AGRICULTURE DRAINAGE:

Rural municipalities governance role

IN LAST fall's edition of the *Rural Councillor*, the Water Security Agency (WSA) shared an article about Saskatchewan's new approach to agriculture water drainage and what it means for landowners, communities and rural municipalities (RMs). In this edition, we highlight how governance will play an important role for RMs.

The WSA introduced the Agriculture Water Management Strategy in 2015 following a series of wet years that impacted many landowners and RMs. As a result, WSA adopted a new approach to agricultural water management.

The new approach requires all drainage works, new and existing, to be approved. It ensures that landowners can legally construct and operate their drainage works, while downstream flooding, water quality, and habitat impacts are mitigated and properly managed.

What does this mean for RMs?

RMs administer lands on behalf of the Ministry of Highways. When drainage works are located within RM controlled lands, the RM is responsible for those

works, including any associated approval requirements or liability.

RMs may be obligated to consider granting land control and applying any necessary conditions for drainage projects.

Land control is permission from a land owner to drain across or onto a parcel of land owned by that land owner.

Landowners seeking approval for drainage works may ask the RM to agree to give them land control for drainage across a road allowance. This is the primary way in which an RM may be made aware of a drainage application. However, WSA may contact RMs about individual drainage projects if there are special circumstances which require RM input or, in rare circumstances, project applicants may ask to advertise an application in the RM office.

When deciding whether or not to grant land control for drainage projects, RMs should primarily consider whether the project will impact RM roads or infrastructure and whether there is a public safety issue.

An RM may grant land control in one of two ways:

1. Become a joint applicant to the drainage project: the RM may sign the application and become one of the applicants. By signing the application, the RM is consenting to the project and granting land control for the term of the approval.
2. Provide written land control: the RM may pass a resolution granting land control for the project and provide a letter to the applicant documenting the resolution.

RMs may also be asked to provide land control for organized drainage works associated with conservation and development associations or watershed associations. In these cases, RMs should ensure that the obligations for maintenance of any drainage works are documented in writing.

Should the RM be a joint applicant for drainage approval?

In some instances, an RM may become a joint applicant as a way of granting land control when its infrastructure is actively used in a project. For example, in some



existing projects, a RM's road network and infrastructure are being effectively used as part of a flow control system to manage flood situations. When a project of this kind is being proposed, the RM should consider the impacts to the road network, public safety, duration of water against the road base and the infrastructure necessary for flow control. Another consideration would be who is going to operate the infrastructure if gates will be used.

Approvals for culverts

If an RM modifies a culvert (e.g., lowering) or roadway in such a way as to alter the spill elevation of a wetland or divert the natural flow of water, then a drainage approval is required.

An RM may install a new culvert, replace an old culvert, upsize or lower a culvert without a drainage approval if the purpose is only to facilitate the natural flow of water. Modifications to culverts, while not needing a drainage approval, may require other types of WSA approvals such as an Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit.

Drainage during emergency situations

During emergency situations, an RM may have to respond quickly to avoid damages to RM lands or infrastructure. Drainage works constructed pursuant to *The Emergency Planning Act* in case of disaster or emergency, do not require a drainage approval on the condition that:

- the drainage works are rendered inoperable immediately after the disaster or emergency ceases to exist; and
- within one year after the disaster or emergency ceases to exist, the drainage works either have a drainage approval issued for them, or are permanently decommissioned to the satisfaction of the Water Security Agency.

What to do if drainage into an RM ditch is causing a problem

If a landowner has existing or new drainage works which drain onto any

RM administered lands above the point of adequate outlet, then the RM can file a Request for Assistance with WSA. The point of adequate outlet is the location where no further land control is required to address neighbour to neighbour flooding or erosion.

If unapproved drainage works are present, the landowner will be required by WSA to either obtain approval or close the drainage works. To get approval, the landowner will need to obtain land control from the RM and the RM can, at that point, ensure that appropriate mitigation steps are taken to ensure no further damage will be caused.

If there is approved drainage into an RM ditch and damage is being caused, the RM should notify WSA, either by completing a Request for Assistance or sending a letter, referencing section 83.01 of *The Water Security Agency Act*.

You can learn more about the Agriculture Water Management Strategy and the role of RMs at www.wsask.ca or by clicking on the RM Drainage Fact Sheet. You can also contact your nearest WSA regional office.

KEEPING HIGHWAYS SAFE

for all motorists

Despite the hustle and bustle of everyday life, automobile drivers must remember that farming equipment is on the road for a very important reason: to feed the people of our province, our country and the world.

SAFETY is a top priority for the Honourable Lori Carr, the newly appointed Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

Minister Carr is the MLA for Estevan and was an active member of her community, serving on Estevan city council and as a board member for the Air Cadet League of Saskatchewan, Sun Country Health Region and Ducks Unlimited.

As she travels between Regina and Estevan, a city with an economy driven by power generation, oil, gas and agriculture, Minister Carr has seen Saskatchewan farmers working tirelessly to complete harvest. With harvest progressing despite challenging weather, Minister Carr and the Government of Saskatchewan remind both drivers and producers to ensure that safety is top of mind for themselves, their families and their fellow citizens when out on our highways.

Despite the hustle and bustle of everyday life, automobile drivers must remember that farming equipment is on the road for a very important reason: to feed the people of our province, our country and the world. We must respect our producers and have patience during this significant time of year.

Motor vehicle drivers can do their part by watching for farm equipment on the roads and practicing defensive driving. Remember that when farm equipment is sharing the highways, it is travelling more slowly than the rest of traffic, and you might catch up to the equipment sooner than anticipated. If you see slow-moving farm equipment, adjust your speed, do not pass unless you are certain the way is clear, and check behind for other approaching vehicles.

Farmers must also take proper precautions before travelling on public roads. Agricultural vehicles and equipment should be inspected and properly main-



Photo credit: shutterstock.com

tained, and producers need to ensure that all lights are working and properly adjusted.

Producers should check their route prior to starting out with farm equipment. It is important to become familiar with any height, length and weight restrictions and understand when permits are required. Farm machinery operators must travel at a speed that maintains control at all times, and if needed, should pull over when there is a suitable area to allow backed-up traffic to pass.

In September 2018 alone, SaskPower had 13 reported cases of farm machinery contacting electrical equipment. If there isn't enough clearance when moving tall equipment under power lines, producers should determine an alternate route or call SaskPower (1-888-757-6937) to raise the wires.

Most lanes on provincial highways are between 3.5 m and 3.7 m wide, and operators need to make sure that their route is sufficiently wide and solid enough to handle the equipment. If the equipment is too wide or heavy, the operator may need an escort or permit.

Many factors, including the type of equipment being moved as well as the time of day and the highway being travelled, come into play. Information on moving farm equipment, including restrictions and permits, can be found on Saskatchewan.ca and is also available from the SGI Permit Office (1-800-667-7575).

Saskatchewan's population continues to grow, recently reaching over 1.162 million people according to new figures released by Statistics Canada. In fact, Saskatchewan's population has grown every quarter for the past 49 consecutive quarters, which is the longest period of sustained growth since quarterly records were first kept in 1971.

This population increase shows that Saskatchewan is a great place to live, work and raise a family. It also means that our producers are helping to feed a growing province, that there are more vehicles out on our highways and more people needing to get home safely. The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to the safety of our highways, through investment, innovation and awareness.

APPOINTED OFFICER

Roles and Responsibilities

The Weed Control Act and The Pest Control Act of Saskatchewan

BY COLLEEN FENNIG SARM DIVISION 6 PLANT HEALTH OFFICER



THE *Weed Control Act* (2010) is legislation that addresses prohibited, noxious and nuisance weeds in Saskatchewan, and *The Pest Control Act* (1978) addresses agricultural pests in Saskatchewan. Each Act outlines the duties for RMs, their appointed officers (weed inspector or pest control officer) and for landowners. In the simplest terms, *The Weed Control Act* and *The Pest Control Act* empower municipalities to pass bylaws related to pest and weed control and to appoint officers responsible for enforcing the respective acts. The appointed officers need to be acknowledged by the Ministry of Agriculture, meaning that the municipality must inform the Ministry of any appointments they have made.

In the case of *The Weed Control Act*, a municipality may appoint a weed inspector (WI), to enforce the Act. This position carries with it certain rights and responsibilities. In general terms, a WI has the power to do the following:

- Enter and inspect private property (except for dwellings) for prohibited, noxious and nuisance weeds;
- Investigate the presence of prohibited and noxious weeds, and must respond to complaints respecting prohibited, noxious and nuisance weeds;
- Make agreements or issue orders with/to landowners and/or occupants of a parcel of land for the following:
 - the eradication of prohibited weeds and isolated occurrences (less than 5 ha/quarter) of noxious weeds;
 - the containment and integrated control of established noxious weeds (more than 5 ha/quarter) as well as the integrated control of nuisance weeds.
- If an agreement or order issued regarding prohibited, noxious or nuisance weeds has not been carried out in the timeframe provided, the WI may, on behalf of the municipality,

arrange for appropriate measures to be taken to deal with the infestation.

- In the case where machinery, domestic animals or other material are or may be contaminated with prohibited and/or noxious weeds, the WI may issue permits for their movement using the same form as an Order.

WIs also play an important role in the overall invasive weed management in a municipality. They work with other organizations, individuals, businesses and government agencies to help coordinate activities and ensure that prohibited and noxious weeds are either eradicated or controlled, whichever is the most appropriate under *The Weed Control Act*. Other important roles include raising awareness of prohibited and noxious weeds among residents and ratepayers, and introducing and monitoring biological controls where appropriate.

It is important to note that a WI may or may not be the person who applies pesticides. If the WI is hired to spray weeds, he or she must have an appropriate Pesticide Applicator License. Typically, this is an "Industrial" class if making application to roadways or "Agricultural" when making applications to farmland.

While the appointment of a WI is voluntary, a municipality must appoint a WI by the next council meeting, for no less than two years, upon receiving a petition from at least 10 voters. If the municipality does not, the Minister of Agriculture may appoint a WI and deduct their pay from provincial payments made to the municipality.

For *The Pest Control Act*, a municipality may appoint a pest control officer (PCO), who has certain rights and responsibilities. In order to enforce *The Pest Control Act*, a PCO has the right to:

- Enter upon any land or premise (other than a dwelling-house) for the purpose of performing his or her duties as outlined in the Act.

- The PCO has the right to take specimens of any pest that he or she finds and of any plant matter infested or suspected of being infested with pests.

It is the duty of the PCO to enforce *The Pest Control Act* and to investigate and deal with any complaints made either to the municipal council or to the PCO. Further to this, every person shall take measures to destroy, control and prevent the spread of all pests on any land or other premises owned, occupied or controlled by him. If an agreement or order issued regarding the control or eradication of a pest has not been carried out in the timeframe provided, the PCO may, on behalf of the municipality, arrange for appropriate measures to be taken to deal with the infestation.

With both Acts, the appointed officers cannot pick and choose which aspects he or she enforces. If the appointed officer is negligent in his or her duties, the liability of that negligence lies with the municipality.

With the increasing occurrence of clubroot in Saskatchewan, currently appointed PCOs may not be comfortable or trained to deal with the disease. A municipality may appoint a clubroot PCO and a "rat-man" PCO to meet their specific needs. A WI cannot enforce *The Pest Control Act* for clubroot unless he or she is also appointed a PCO. SARM's Plant Health Officers are available to help RMs, PCOs and WIs with weed and pest concerns and may be appointed as a WI or PCO temporarily.

For more information on the roles and responsibilities of appointed officers and municipalities, you can contact your SARM Division Plant Health Officer. For a list of program options and information on the Canadian Agricultural Partnership – Pest Biosecurity Program, including the names and contact information for SARM's Plant Health Officers, visit <https://sarm.ca/programs/administered-programs/ag-programs>.

rural councillor MEMBER NEWS

MARVIN FONSTAD RM OF CAMBRIA NO. 6 IN MEMORIAM

Marvin Albert Fonstad was born on February 17, 1943 at Estevan, SK and passed away on August 28, 2018 in Regina, SK.

Marvin farmed with his dad at Torquay, SK for many years. Together with his wife, Lyla Clauson, they raised their children Lance, Marlo and Meryl on the family farm.

Marvin was also a school bus driver for 17 years, served as councillor of RM of Cambria No. 6 from 1985-90, and on was on the church council for Trinity Lutheran Church in Torquay before moving to Regina in 1990.

Marvin is survived by his wife, Lyla; children, Lance (Connie) and their children Taylor and Bailey; Marlo (Von) Agioritis and their children Tyler, Erica (Arrol) Collomb Colton and Ava, Trifon and Hannah; Meryl (Donna) and their children Kelsey (Kaleb Memory) and Cole. Marvin was predeceased by his parents Albert and Anna Fonstad.



KEN WALDHERR RM OF CHURCHBRIDGE NO. 211 IN MEMORIAM

Kenneth Vincent Waldherr was born February 13, 1971, the second son of Wilbert and Marvis Waldherr at Yorkton Union Hospital. He passed away on August 18, 2018 at the age of 47.

Ken grew up on the family farm north of Churchbridge. He attended school in Churchbridge from kindergarten to grade 11 and finished with his grade 12 in Yorkton. After four years in Saskatoon

at the University of Saskatchewan, Ken earned an Engineering Physics degree and then worked in Vancouver doing physics research along with a summer job as a rickshaw driver for tourists.

After that, Ken worked in Germany using his engineering degree. At this time, he travelled all over Europe, meeting relatives and visiting many museums and historical places. He also worked in the Alberta oil fields for a time before settling back at the family farm.

Ken spent his summers farming, and his winters were spent working as a ski instructor and assisting with adaptive sit ski for people with mobility issues. In addition to farming and work at "the hill"; Ken was an active councillor for Division 6 from 2001 and was on many other committees and public boards until his passing.

He will be greatly missed by his mother; his surviving siblings: Brian (Colleen) Waldherr, Laura (Don) Coleman, and Carol (Mark) Dilsner; as well as many aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, and cousins. Ken was predeceased by his father.



ROBERT WENKOFF RM OF HEART'S HILL NO. 352 IN MEMORIAM

Robert Wenkoff passed away May 19, 2018 at the age of 87. He was born and raised on the family farm in the RM of Heart's Hill. As a young man, Robert joined the Armed Forces serving active duty in the Korean War. Upon leaving

the military, Robert returned to his roots, operating a mixed farm. Over the years, Robert was a dedicated Legion Member.

Robert will be lovingly remembered by his children: Karen (Jerry) Richert, Debbie (Eddy) Wenkoff, Annette (Murray) Vankoughnett, Marilyn (Rocco) Sabatino, Cindy (Tony) Woodson, Bobby (Brenda) Wenkoff, stepson Trent Steinbart; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; sisters: Stephanie Link and Margaret Wenkoff; and brothers: Michael, Martin, Joseph, Peter and Francis. Robert was predeceased by his brothers, Johnny and Stanley Daratha.

Robert served as Division 1 Councillor for the RM of Heart's Hill No. 352 from 1989-98.

MEMBER NEWS TIPS

Here are some tips to help you prepare your Member News submissions:

- Do not include photos in Word documents. Send them as separate high resolution JPG, PNG, TIFF or PDF files.
- Try to send original photos not ones that have been scanned from printed documents or taken off of websites.
- Photos should be a minimum of 300 dpi resolution. Tip: check the file size. If the file is less than 100 kb in size, it may not print properly in the magazine.
- Check your cell phone camera resolution before taking photos. Often to save file space, photos are taken at a low or medium resolution. Ensure that the camera's settings are set to High, Highest Quality or Maximum resolution.
- Max. length for write-ups is 250 words.

Please email questions or Member News items to sarm@sarm.ca. Thank you for all of your submissions. We love sharing your stories and achievements with our readers!

SEASON'S GREETINGS

FROM THE BOARD, MANAGEMENT
& STAFF OF MUNICIPAL HAIL

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