

UMAAS UPDATE

Volume 25
Issue #2

Sept 2014



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- It's Time To Fairly Fund Municipalities

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President's Message

I hope this article finds everyone just back from summer vacations and refreshed ready to take on the world! I have found that while on annual holiday leave, I missed the daily concerns that fill the email inbox and random calls from those who are willing to pass on their knowledge and direction in the municipal office.

The 2014 Annual Convention was very well attended and the review of the convention evaluations is extremely positive. The majority of comments received were categorized from good to excellent! Thanks to the Convention Committee for a job well done! Please remember, that your ideas and suggestions are what the Committee will look at when reviewing topic items for inclusion into the agenda. If there are topics and workshop ideas that you feel would benefit the UMAAS membership, send them to your division representative or the Executive Director.

There have been a couple of changes to the Executive since the annual convention wrapped up in June. New to the Executive is Associate Director Jan Hoffart. Jan is the Administrator In Halbrite and we welcome her participation. Division 2 Director Position previously held by Gord Murray is now vacant and the Executive will discuss the vacancy, subject to Sections 27 and 32 of Bylaw 1-00, at the Executive's September 2014 meeting. On behalf of the Executive, I would like to thank Gord for his years of service to UMAAS and for his valued participation on the Executive. We all wish you the best in your future endeavours.

The summer has been relatively quiet for the most part for the Executive. Having said this, a number of meetings are upcoming for various Provincial Committee participants from Long Term Infrastructure Funding; SAMA;

**- Rodney Audette RMA, President
UMAAS**

Provincial Legislative Review; and MDLP just to name a few. As always your Executive work hard at promoting sound advice and good relations with the Committees we take part on. Further we will also continue to work to provide a positive, respectful, and collaborative working relationship with SUMA and our fraternal partners at RMAA.

Your UMAAS Executive will be once again be participating in the University of Regina Career Fair. The Executive continues to feel this is an important function to promote our profession. If there are other events and functions such as the U of R Career fair where UMAAS members feel our participation would be beneficial, do not hesitate to let us know.

As was mentioned at the UMAAS Convention in June, the UMAAS website will soon have sample bylaw/agreements for joint administrative offices as well as draft Administrator/CAO employment agreements. With regards to the employment agreement documents, remember they are samples and may be tailored to fit the uniqueness of the employment situation.

Before I close, I would like to take this opportunity to wish the best of luck to one of our UMAAS Members, Jay Meyer of Shaunavon. Jay was recently selected and will be assuming the position of Executive Director for SARM. On behalf of the Executive we wish you all the best in this exciting and new challenge.

I hope everyone has a good fall and winter. Please feel free to contact myself or any member of the Executive with your questions, concerns and suggestions. I look forward to seeing you all at the 2015 SUMA Convention in Saskatoon.

Executive Director's Editorial

**- Richard Dolezsar,
RMA**

Like most communities across the province, and indeed across the country, our Council has diligently set aside reserves for priority capital projects, while waiting for the details of the heavily promoted, but yet hit the ground, New Building Canada Fund.

While the smoke has yet to clear, this fund was promised in the 2013 Federal Budget and officially announced with the February 2014 Budget. The \$1-billion dedication for projects located in communities smaller than 100,000 residents throughout Canada through the Small Communities Fund over the next ten year period does not inspire much confidence that there will be significant dollars for small town Saskatchewan after review of the information to date.

Saskatchewan has been allocated \$437 million in Federal funding over 10 years in total for all communities. If you do simple math and these funds were divided equally on a per capita basis amongst all municipalities we would see a result of about \$43.00 per capita per year. Not really the type of windfall that will address our province's infrastructure deficit. I expect it will not be divided on a per capita basis, but rather a "priority" project application basis. With the number of multi-million dollar projects such as lagoons, water plants, major streets, bridges, lift stations and recreational/cultural facilities on the waiting list, even with the provincial government matching these funds, there will still be a lot of disappointed municipalities standing on the sidelines.

Another disappointment is that at the time of writing, six months after the federal budget announcement, there is still no news on the program implementation, yet both senior levels of government claim to be working diligently at finalizing details. One begs to wonder if the program details really need to be that complicated and is this really acceptable performance by these levels of government. It will be interesting to compare the length of time municipalities will be allowed to submit applications when the program is finally allowed to roll out.

Then there is always the consideration of municipalities who were faced with infrastructure issues that could not wait for new infrastructure program access and have been forced to proceed in the interim. Typically any projects started before applications could be made, are not eligible, which will likely be the case again. To these municipalities, I say do not despair. In all likelihood, the savings from continuously inflating construction costs, which will inflate once again when the funding applications are finally approved, may be significant enough that your net cost, had you waited and been approved, will not be significantly different, and your project is complete prior to the rush to

these same contractors.

Therein lies another flaw in this system. Let's suppose 15 or 20 major water and sewer projects are simultaneously approved in the province and put out to tender amongst a handful of Saskatchewan contractors able to do the work. The supply and demand dynamics of the market place are instantly out of balance and guess who pays the price.

So, after examining and pointing out some the obvious shortcomings it would be irresponsible to not provide recommendations to improve the system and get infrastructure funds into the coffers of municipalities in an equitable, efficient, predictable and reliable matter.

How about both the federal and provincial governments simply using annual per capita allocations to all municipalities, and add to the infrastructure capital pool, all resulting net savings from program administration?

This would meet the test of equity, efficiency, predictability and reliability. It also squarely puts the responsibility for allocation of capital infrastructure funds on a local priority basis to municipal councils. Yes, I know there would still be some project eligibility, audit and accountability issues to be ironed out, but at least the program could flow smoothly on an ongoing predictable basis.

It is time to fairly fund municipalities, which are after all, the building blocks of our country and the foundation of our daily lives, where we live, work and raise our families. Yet from information I am provided from outside sources, municipalities garner only 8% of the total tax revenues paid by Canadians. Locally there are clear visions and plans for what has to be done and we do not need senior governments to artificially set priorities for us.

I know there are municipalities who will claim this type of simple system won't work for them as they will never be able to receive a multi-million dollar windfall to support their essential project. But, remember this, you may never get it anyway and wouldn't an alternate concept of receiving a couple hundred thousand a year to be matched from your own sources, accumulated annually and used to support your communities own capital financial priorities be an attractive alternative.

Definitely this type of program scenario would negate the need for months of haggling over program details, prevent the loss of yet another construction season and eliminate the weeks of preparation and arbitrary rating of individual applications.

Anyway, these are just some of my armchair opinions of what may be an attractive and effective alternative, and as Sy Robertson would say: *"That's a fact Jack!"*

**MINUTES of the
FIFTY NINTH (59th) ANNUAL CONVENTION of the
URBAN MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATORS' ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN
Held at the TRAVELODGE HOTEL IN SASKATOON, JUNE 3RD TO 6TH, 2014.**

PRESENT WERE: 187 Delegates-8 Spouses-3 Fraternal-52 Sponsors/Exhibitors/Guests = 250

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4th

CALL TO ORDER

President Rodney Audette called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, June 4th, 2014.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

President Rodney Audette introduced the Head Table and gave his welcoming remarks.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Richard Dolezsar provided his annual report on the operation of the Association and announcements relating to the 2014 Convention Program.

2013 CONVENTION MINUTES

Moved by Stephen Schury that the 2013 Annual Convention Minutes be approved as circulated. **CARRIED**

2013 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Moved by Richard Dolezsar that the 2013 Audited Financial Statement be accepted as circulated. **CARRIED**

CONFERENCE KICKOFF SPEAKER DUANE JANISKEVICH

Duane Janiskevich provided an inspiring conference kickoff presentation entitled "Unleashing the Power of Regret".

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS PRESIDENT

Phil Boivin, Government Relations, conducted the Call for Nominations for President.

Paul Lidstrom, Moosomin nominated Rodney Audette, Bethune for the position of President.

No further nominations were received upon third call.

Phil Boivin, Government Relations, declared Rodney Audette elected President by acclamation.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS VICE PRESIDENT

Phil Boivin, Government Relations, conducted the Call for Nominations for Vice President.

Brad Hvidston, Tisdale nominated Jason Chorneyko, Wynyard for the position of Vice President.

No further nominations were received upon third call.

Phil Boivin, Government Relations, declared Jason Chorneyko elected Vice President by acclamation.

WORKSHOP SASKATOON CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION TENDER DOCUMENTS 101

Matthew Farthing and Dana Jacobs of the Saskatoon Construction Association provided information of various project tendering processes including: pre-bid, design build, design bid build, tender documents, bid depository system.

NOON LUNCHEON

The following persons provided remarks and fraternal greetings at the noon luncheon:

- Councilor Mairin Loewen provided greetings on behalf of the City of Saskatoon.

- Don Poon, SAL Engineering

- Gayle Zimmerman, Sask Water

- Don McCallum, Past President RMAA

- Julie Gibson, Director MMAA Division 1

- Mike Derricott, Director LGAA

DISTRICT MEETINGS

District meetings took place from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

JOINT OFFICE WORKSHOP 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

A meeting of the administrator group involved in joint office administration was conducted.

DISTRICT MEETING REPORTS

Respective division directors provided individual reports on issues addressed in their regional meetings which included the following items: LGA, knowledge of LGA instructors, SAMA services, finding Level II water operators, annexation compensation, limited capital grants, fall district meetings, potential board of reference for mediation of CAO/Council conflicts, OH&S training, Council training, SMB workshops, infrastructure deficit, enforcement of bylaws, multi material recycling program, starting salaries/guideline, bylaw enforcement/policy making workshops, asset management plans, regional cooperation, landfill regulations, record retention.

JOINT OFFICE MEETING REPORT ITEMS

Salary guideline tools for joint offices, agreement for shared services, employment contracts.

ADVISORY SERVICES PRESENTATION LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Phil Boivin & Diana Lee of Government Relations made a presentation on regulations for new organized hamlets, municipal districts, restructuring regulations, non-compliant municipalities, auditor regulations, tax cancellations, abatements, quashing bylaws, ministerial power to dismiss.

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS:

1) New Administrators "Everything You Didn't Learn in LGA" presented by Government Relations Advisory Services.

2) Human Resources "Attraction and Retention" presented by Mubarka Butt from the City of Saskatoon.

ANNUAL BANQUET, RETIREMENTS AND SOCIAL EVENING

Conference participants enjoyed the annual banquet, retirement awards, membership pin presentations, new certificate recognition and performance by James Williams. MLA Jennifer Campeau attended as guest speaker.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5th

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS MEETING

An Associate members meeting was held and Jan Hoffart of Halbrite was elected as Associate Director.

SUMA PRESENTATION TANIA MEIER GROUP PROCUREMENT

Tania Meier of SUMA made a presentation covering the following topics: program information, SUMA strategic plan looking forward, future projects to explore, SUMA legal services available to membership.

WORKSHOP DAVE HAGEL MANAGING CHANGE

Dave Hagel presented a workshop on change: change is inevitable, Saskatchewan change, change management-structured approach to transitioning from current state to desired state.

WORKSHOP TODD TRESLAN - SAMA UPDATES & HOW TO READ YOUR ASSESSMENT PROPERTY REPORT

Todd Treslan of SAMA provided a detailed workshop on how to read your assessment property report.

NETWORKING AFTERNOON

Delegates participated in a networking afternoon with a choice of either a Texas Scramble Golf Tournament at Rosthern Valley Regional Park or Waneskewin Walking Tours, Entertainment & Meal. This was followed by a social evening and entertainment featuring a magician.

Winners of the Texas Scramble were a team of:

Brad Hvidston, Jason Chorneyko, Kelsey Robinson, Shawna Bzdel

Individual Winners:

Men's Longest Drive Kyle Derrick Ladies' Longest Drive Nicole Lerat

Men's Closest to the Pin Mike Derricott Ladies' Closest to the Pin Glynis Dvernichuk

FRIDAY, JUNE 6th

PRESENTATION JEFF MULLIGAN COUNCIL/ADMINISTRATION RELATIONSHIPS

Jeff Mulligan presented Council/Administration relationships building team environment, instilling pride in the organization, need for organizational plan, focus on long term needs aside from keeping taxes low.

PRESENTATION SASKATCHEWAN MUNICIPAL BOARD PRESENTATION

Kyle Derrick & Lise Gareau from Saskatchewan Municipal Board presented on revenue & expenditure forecasting, working with Council, setting utility rates, borrowing funds, waterworks rate policy & capital investment strategy.

INTRODUCTION OF 2014 - 15 EXECUTIVE

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Division 1 | Ronda Heisler, Vibank |
| Division 2 | Gordon Murray, Gravelbourg |
| Division 3 | Joni Mack, Jansen |
| Division 4 | Aileen Garrett, Unity |
| Division 5 | Brad Hvidston, Tisdale |
| Division 6 | Nicole Lerat, Rosthern |
| Division 7 | Therese Chartier, Buffalo Narrows |
| Associate | Jan Hoffart, Halbrite |
| Vice President | Jason Chorneyko, Wynyard |
| President | Rodney Audette, Bethune |
| Past President | Shelley Funk, Dalmeny |
| Executive Director | Richard Dolezsar, Hudson Bay |
| Executive Assistant | Teresa Parkman, Hudson Bay |

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

President Rodney Audette thanked the Delegates and Executive Members for their support and looked forward to working with the new Executive and membership in the coming year. He invited delegates to communicate regularly with Executive members.

ADJOURNMENT

President Rodney Audette declared the Convention adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Parable of Responsibility

Know Your Responsibilities

"The Parable of Responsibility" by Charles Osgood

There was a most important job that needed to be done,
And no reason not to do it, there was absolutely none.
But in vital manners such as this, the thing you have to ask
Is who exactly will it be, who'll carry out the task?
Anybody could have told you that everybody knew
That this was something somebody would surely have to do.
Nobody was unwilling; anybody had the ability.
But nobody believed that it was their responsibility.
It seemed to be a job that anybody could have done,
If anybody thought he was supposed to be the one.
But since everybody recognized that anybody could,
Everybody took for granted that somebody would.

But nobody told anybody that we are aware of,
That he would be in charge of seeing it was taken care of.
And nobody took it on himself to follow through,
And do what everybody thought that somebody would do.
When what everybody needed did not get done at all,
Everybody was complaining that somebody dropped the ball.
Anybody then could see it was an awful crying shame,
And everybody looked around for somebody to blame.
Somebody should have done the job
And Everybody should have,
But in the end Nobody did
What Anybody could have.
The End!

Profile

- Jan Hoffart

Administrator Village of Halbrite

Hi, my name is Jan Hoffart and I was born June 20th, 1963 to Adolph & Stella Hoffart. I have one older sister and two younger brothers. I attended elementary school from grade 1 to 6 in Minton, SK and grade 7 to 12 I attended Gladmar Regional High School and Graduated in June 1981. I grew up on the family farm and my parents also ran a garage repair and air conditioning business, by the name of S & S Sales. I currently reside on a farm in the R. M. of Cymri No. 36, and am engaged to my soul mate and the Love of my Life Darrel. He has 3 wonderful children, and in turn we have 5 awesome grandchildren and one more on the way.

I attended STI in Moose Jaw where I took an office education course. I have also attended many different training courses and have received certificates in a variety of areas from H2S Alive to Financial Management Workshops, First Aid & CPR, PART (Professional Assault Response Training) to mention a few. I have also completed 5 of the 6 Modules in the Municipal Leadership Development Program. My most recent accomplishments include graduating from the LGA course at

the University of Regina and gaining my Urban Administration "C Certificate" from the Board of Examiners.

My employment history was a vast of twists and turns and different opportunities, I have done many different jobs, from waitressing and cooking in a small cafe to owning my own Business's "Jan's Craft World" in Bengough, SK and "Meg's Mini Mart" in Griffin, SK to being a group home's supervisor in Weyburn, SK, as well as a Photo Lab Manager at Wal-Mart and RCWC. (There was times I have been known to work 4 jobs at once, full time, part time, casual and temp fill-in position - in my younger days, LOL.) I am currently employed by the R.M. of Benson, interning under the direction of Laureen Keating, where I work 3 days of the week, the other 2 days I am contracted to the Village of Halbrite as the Administrator. The Village of Halbrite has 108 residents, and is located on Highway 39 between Weyburn and Estevan.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve on the UMAAS Board and hope to use this time to learn and help in any way I can. I am always open to new opportunities and look forward to what the future brings.

Community Profile

Village of Halbrite

Halbrite was derived from a combination of the names of three surveyors on the Soo Line in 1892 - Hall, Bruce and White. The small settlement of Halbrite became a Village on February 26, 1904. Just after the turn of the century, the village situated on the North Portal branch of the CPR - Section 1 Township 6, Range 12 West of the 2nd Meridian, had both an express and telegraph office. According to the official NWT census taken in 1906, Halbrite's population was 272 and in 1911 increased to 300.

Halbrite Village business sector was made up of a pool hall, baker, drugstore, barbershop, jewellery store, community hall, implement agencies, school, churches, hotels, 5 livery barns and Freeland's tank factory. The first newspaper "Halbrite News" was in print from 1906 to 1915. The Village had a thriving grain market; there were several line elevators built to handle grain and there were also three grain agents.

Halbrite was the seat of government in the area, when local

improvement district #3H2 was formed on July 30, 1904. On February 8, 1908, a meeting was held establishing Midale as the new centre. On December 13, 1909, the Rural Municipality of Cymri No. 36 was established.

The Village of Halbrite current day is home to two trucking companies and a home-style cooking restaurant/convenience store. Kids Korner Park also makes it's home in the Village along with the Halbrite Community Complex, where the natural ice rink is an awesome place for folks to gather and watch ice skating, a game of hockey or curling.

Halbrite Recreation Board has been known to put on some pretty awesome functions including the steak fry fundraisers, which are always well attended.

The Village of Halbrite currently has 108 residents, and is located on Highway 39 between Weyburn and Estevan.

You are always WELCOME in the Village of Halbrite.

Board of Examiners Report

June 4, 2014 Meeting

Standard Certificates:

Donna Goertzen
Joan Corneil
Shelley Krecsy
Angela Holdstock
Christopher Costley
Gail Sloan
Lora Hundt
Marie Selby
Jean Deavers
Tammy Landry
Janelle Scott
Sheree Emmerson
Carrie Pelletier
Donna Colley
Linda Hyrniuk
Janet Hoffman

Advanced Level 1:

Debra Parry
Jan Meyer

E.F.A.P.

EMPLOYEE AND FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Do You. . .

- have difficulty coping at work?
- live in fear and apprehension?
- have more bills than money?
- require legal advice?
- find living stressful instead of exciting?
- have trouble talking with your spouse or children?
- use alcohol and/or other drugs to cope with life?
- want someone confidential to talk to?

Wonder What To Do???

If you need information or assistance to sort out a problem we invite you to have a private discussion with your Program Manager, Internal Referral Agent, Supervisor, Employee Group Representative or your Counseling Service.



Human Resources Services Ltd. (HRS)

Regina: 352-4166 Saskatoon: 1-800-305-4477
Melfort: 1-800-305-4477
Estevan: 1-800-305-4477

Website: www.hrs-stress.com E-mail: hrs2@sasktel.net
24 HOUR SERVICE/7 DAYS A WEEK
1-800-305-4477

NOTICE

**Need Legal advice on
issues between yourself
as Administrator/CAO and
your Council**

**CALL FOR FREE
INITIAL PHONE
CONSULTATION:**

**Adam R. Touet
The W Law Group
Suite 300, 110 - 21st Street East
Saskatoon, SK. S7K 0B6
Phone: 306-244-2242
Email: atouet@wlawgroup.com**

Mr. Touet is under annual retainer to your Association and is available to members for initial consultations.

ADVERTISING RATES - UMAAS UPDATE

Published 3 times a year -
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| | <u>Member</u> | <u>Other</u> |
|----------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Page | \$150 | \$200 |
| 1/2 Page | \$75 | \$100 |
| 1/3 Page | \$50 | \$70 |
| 1/4 Page | \$35 | \$50 |
| Card | \$20 | \$25 |

YEARLY RATES FOR ALL 3 ISSUES -
DISCOUNT 20%

PLEASE ADD GST

**DEADLINES: 15th day of the
preceding month.**