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**2022 CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS
"A WHOLE NEW WORLD"
JUNE 7TH TO 10TH SASKATOON TRAVELODGE**

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“An Ode To Teeth Gone By”

As I sit down to write this editorial, I am mourning the loss of my top teeth. I had all my remaining top teeth extracted at the end of February as a preliminary move, to move to a full top denture. For the past ten to twelve years my Dentist has been waging a battle to try and keep my teeth for as long as possible. Ultimately one has to decide if one is going to throw good money after bad, or make the tough decision and move to an alternate path.

I have been investigating options for teeth replacement. I had a consultation with a Regina surgeon who provided me with a quote for implant dentures to eventually replace my entire set of teeth. These implant dentures are the cat's meow. The problem is that the quote came to \$63,000. Ouch! It is no wonder that people have begun travelling to different countries for major dental work. The same item in a Cancun dental clinic was estimated to cost in the \$18,000 - \$23,000 range, plus the cost of four or five trips to Mexico.

So what do my dental woes have to do with municipal administration? I am using my dental situation to segue to a discussion about asset management in the world of huge infrastructure deficits. I will use the new arena construction in Wynyard as a comparison.

Although the old arena in Wynyard, now demolished, was older than my teeth, they both had similar trajectories. The old arena was constructed in 1950 and was in use to the end of the 2018-2019 arena season. My teeth were constructed in the mid-1960's and lasted until 2022. The old arena finally succumbed to age while my teeth were seriously affected by a medical condition. Both “assets” underwent a lot of maintenance to extend their useful lives; however, both assets needed full replacement.

The next decision to be made is how and what do you do to replace the asset. One does not need the “Cadillac” model; however, one also wants to avoid the Ford Pinto. For those too young to get the reference, in his book “Unsafe at Any Speed”, Consumer Advocate Ralph Nader called the Ford Pinto the most dangerous car as its gas tank tended to explode even in minor collisions.

In my case, I had the option to go Cadillac on the top plate at a cost of about \$30,000 or do a regular denture plate, with extractions, at a more reasonable cost of \$3,700. When it comes time to replace my bottom teeth I will be looking at something more than regular dentures but less than an implant denture. The cost difference, in today's dollars, is \$33,000 versus about \$8,000 - \$9,000.

In the Wynyard Arena situation, a decision was made to build a facility for the next 70 – 100 years. The old wood-arch structure lasted 69 years and the thinking was a modern, steel constructed facility will last much longer. Although the facility is not a Cadillac, in my humble opinion, it is definitely a Jeep Grand Cherokee. As the cost of the facility went 20% over the estimated budget of about \$10,000,000 to \$12,000,000, the lack of a comprehensive asset management plan reared its ugly head. The Town of Wynyard undertook financing for about two-thirds of the costs. Interest and principal payments of about \$525,000 per year are really affecting our budget process. In addition, we burned through a lot of our reserves to pay for the other third of the project.

The moral of the story is that a municipality ignores asset management at their own peril. Asset management has been a hot-topic item for a number of years. I took the three-day course about ten years ago. The biggest thing I learned is that CAO's do not have time to properly implement an Asset Management Plan on their own. Municipal Councils need to be educated on the importance of asset management and have to be willing to commit the resources to get those plans implemented.

As I sit hear finishing up my editorial and thinking about my teeth, I am reminded of a clip from the movie “The Blues Brothers”. Charles Napier's character says to the John Belushi character; “Well, suppose we ain't got no union cards and go in there and start playin' anyway? Whatcha gonna do about that? You gonna stop us, Stein? You're gonna look pretty funny trying to eat corn on the cob with no !@#%&* teeth!”

In closing, I want to wish everyone a warm and healthy Spring. I hope to see everyone at the UMAAS Convention in June.



Executive Director's Editorial

- Richard Dolezsar
RMA, Executive Director

Plans are well underway for the 2022 UMAAS Conference themed "A Whole New World" June 7th to 10th at the Saskatoon Travelodge. I am really looking forward to reconnecting with everyone after missing out the last two years. Conference Chair Kelly Hoare will be giving a breakdown and promo of the conference program elsewhere in this edition and we will be forwarding the draft program and registration forms under separate cover. It's going to take a bit of doing to get everything lined up again for a full scale in person convention when we haven't had one since 2019. Everything from speakers to sponsors, entertainment to AV contractors, meals to door prizes, exhibitors, golf tournament, tour option, hotel contracts etc... I think you get the picture.

Of special note I want to mention that there will be a whole host of Executive Elections which will take place at the conference. Jason Chorneyko who has been our President for the past six years has indicated he will not be seeking re-election. Nominations will be open for President, Vice President, Division No 1, No 3, No 5 and No 7 as well as the Associate Member position.

In other news, after 32 years as your Executive Director I will be retiring from this position as of December 31, 2022. Teresa Parkman who has been our Executive Assistant for the past ten years has also indicated she will be giving up that position the end of this year. In addition, Joyce Aitken who has been the Secretary to our Board of Examiners for the last 11 years will also be retiring at the end of this year. I am anticipating that your new Executive will be advertising for these positions shortly after the conference with plans for selection sometime this fall to allow for a bit of time to mentor the new personnel. UMAAS will definitely be welcoming some new faces in 2023.

After writing over 100 editorials in the past 32 years, topics certainly come at a premium now. So why not lay into something of a bit of a positive nature like Spring Fever. It certainly has been a long, cold, windy and snowy winter particularly in Northeast Saskatchewan and I am sure all areas of the Province have experienced a lot of extreme and harsh weather this past winter. As a result, at this time of year it will not be uncommon to experience spring fever which can be described as a feeling of restlessness and excitement at the beginning of spring likely caused by the anticipation of longer days, warmer temperatures and the greenery that will soon surround us. The symptoms of spring fever may include: Restlessness and a want to be active and out and about, an increase in energy levels, increased vitality, improved mood, a positive attitude and mindset, the desire to spend more time outside and a tendency to experience the feelings of happiness. So I say, bring it on, I think we could all use a good dose of Spring Fever and hopefully it is highly contagious.

Here's a short story to close with:

Four old-timers were playing their weekly game of golf at a southern resort, and one of them remarked how nice it would be to wake up Christmas morning, roll out of bed and without an argument go directly to the golf course, meet his buddies and play a round. His buddies all chimed in and said "Let's do it! We'll make it a priority, figure out a way and meet here early Christmas morning."

The special morning finally arrived and there they were out on the Golf course.

The first guy says, "Boy this game cost me a fortune! I bought my wife such a diamond ring that she can't keep her eyes off it."

Second fellow says, "I spent a ton too, My wife is at home planning the cruise I gave her. She was up to her eyeballs in brochures."

Number 3 guy says, "Well my wife is at home admiring her new car, reading the manual."

They all turned to the last guy in the group who is staring at them like they've lost their minds. "I can't believe you all went to such expense for this golf game." I patted my wife on the butt and said, "Well babe, Merry Christmas! It's a great morning for either sex or golf." And she said.... "Take a sweater."

Hope to see you all in June. Until next time.....

2022 UMAAS Convention Promo

**– Kelly Hoare,
Convention Chair, Division 6 Director
“A Whole New World”**

June 7 to June 10, 2022, at the Saskatoon Travelodge

It has certainly been a couple of crazy years! If we were not able to adapt to change before, we certainly can now! We are looking forward to an in-person conference this year and to put some normalcy back to our world!

The theme for the 2022 UMAAS Convention is “A Whole New World”. With the ever-changing demand on Municipal Administration, we need to be prepared to manage that change and not let that change manage us! For many of us, our world looks nothing like it did pre COVID-19.

The Convention Committee has prepared an agenda that will empower you and make you laugh. Kicking Convention off with a keynote speaker and breakout session focusing on your mental health.

The Keynote address will be delivered by Stuart Ellis-Myers – Twitchy – “Mental Health! Mental Wealth!” Twitchy will have you laughing like you have never laughed before! We have had Twitchy at a previous convention and were not disappointed. We have an exciting opportunity for a couple of our CAO's..... Twitchy would like to show case a couple of you and how you overcame a mental health issue. If you are interested or want more information, please contact me at cao@townofshellbrook.ca. You can also check out these 2 videos that he has previously put together if you are interested.

<https://youtu.be/aryM5Za56G0>

<https://youtu.be/Vr8At5ZynNo>

We will also hear from George Cuff. George is a wealth of knowledge and has many years of municipal experience. He delivers a very powerful message. Kendal Netmaker will join us as our Keynote speaker on day two.

Other topics that will be on the agenda include presentations from SUMA, Kinetic GPO (previously SUMA Advantage), MEPP and TSASK. We will also provide you an opportunity in an OPEN FORUM to ask questions of a panel of experienced Administrators, Government Relations Advisors, and other experts.

Networking opportunities are a valuable part of Convention and this year we are pleased to again offer both a golf tournament and the Women on the Go Tour. More information on the tour will be provided prior to convention.

We are looking forward to this year's convention and getting back together with all of you.

Kelly Hoare, 2022 Convention Chair

2022 UMAAS CONFERENCE

“A Whole New World”

The Travelodge Hotel, Saskatoon Offers the
Following Special Rate For On Site Convention Rooms

June 7th - June 10th 2022

\$114.00 - Standard Doubles

or

\$114.00 - Business King

PHONE (306) 242-8881

.Please book by May 7th 2022 and advise you are with UMAAS.

CAO Profile

Erin Robertson CAO Village of Canwood

Erin's Profile:

I was born and raised in Calgary, Alberta, and spent the first part of my adult career in information technology (computers) organizing people and product for a large telecommunications company. This path changed when I was set up on a blind date with this handsome rancher who captivated my heart and introduced me to the ranching lifestyle.

Shortly after we were married we made a big decision to branch out from his family operation and purchase our own farm. We looked at many different locations and ended up purchasing a farm in the Canwood area. You may be asking yourself why Canwood; well why not? It's beautiful here with all the lakes, rolling hills, trees, grain and pasture land! We moved our operation from Alberta to Saskatchewan all while our first child was 6 months old! Just so we are clear, I would recommend never doing this as it's a lot of work!

When we finally settled from our move the cattle operation grew very quickly so I only worked casually for the local Credit Union. We welcomed our second child in 2007; and after a full year off I wanted to return to a career that had scheduled hours. I was lucky to secure a part-time position as an Office Clerk for the R.M. of Canwood in 2008 that, after a few years, evolved into full-time. In the fall of 2014 I wanted to expand my knowledge base in local government so I enrolled in the LGA Program with the U of R. In 2015, the village office next door was advertising for an Assistant Administrator who would eventually takeover for the outgoing administrator. I threw my name in and was awarded the position in early 2015. In the spring of 2016 I completed my degree and was awarded the Administrator role shortly after.

When I am not at the village office, I am working on our farm! I love ranching and I love cows! Placing a cut of meat on our table and knowing exactly how it was raised is very rewarding. Shameless plug here, eat beef!!!

My husband, Barclay and I are very proud parents of two amazing teenagers. When we are not busy with work and farm life, we all love to be outdoors camping and quadding. All of us are also avid hunters and enjoy skiing in the winter.

Community Profile

Village of Canwood

Village of Canwood Profile:

Village of Canwood population is 314 as of the 2021 census. Canwood is ideally located 45 minutes north west of Prince Albert, beside the Canwood Provincial Forest and surrounded by a large rural area. The Village was first known as Second Siding, Fargaard and McOwen and then incorporated as the Village of Canwood in 1916.

The Village of Canwood is a great choice for people looking for small town life while being close to larger centers with convenient highway travel. The village supports residents and a large surrounding rural community, lake developments, and neighbouring First Nations. Some of the services offered in the village include a public school (Pre-K to 12), credit union, pharmacy, medical clinic, long-term care home, SGI and Insurance, business center, churches, library, hotel, liquor vendor, grocery store with a gas bar and cardlock, bowling alley and skating rink. We are also very fortunate to have in close proximity Canwood Regional Park that has a 9-hole grass greens golf course, ball diamonds, enclosed event center and camping!

The community has a variety of active social clubs such as Canwood Elks and Royal Purple, Legion Branch, Seniors, curling, skating and golf clubs. Canwood is very fortunate to have a First Responders group and a short distance from Town of Shellbrook that has a newly constructed hospital offering all of your primary health care needs.



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March 17, 2022

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