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A Note from FCM

As requested. The Proximity Steering Committee would like to extend an invitation to the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA) to appoint a representative, and if possible, an alternate for continuity purposes, to join the steering committee.

The initiative by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Railway Association of Canada has helped manage issues arising when communities and railway operations are in close proximity. The Canadian Transportation Agency and Transport Canada are observers to the process.

The committee members have been working to develop guidelines to facilitate solutions to problems of land-use, noise and other proximity issues, implement a dispute-resolution process and improve communications between the parties. More information is available at www.proximityissues.ca. Most meetings are conference call but we try to meet face-to-face at least once a year.

Please note: Any interested persons would cover their own expenses.

For more information, please contact Roger Cameron, Director, Public Affairs, Railway Association of Canada, at rogerc@railcan.ca

Board News

- The next Board meetings will be held in Waterloo, ON, from September 21-23, 2006, in Ottawa, from November 23-25, 2006, and then in London, ON, from March 1-3, 2007.

Member Profile



**Jim Toye, City Commissioner
North Battleford, Saskatchewan**

Jim has held his position with the City of North Battleford for six years. Prior to this position, Jim has held senior management positions in Kindersley, Leader and Unity, all in Saskatchewan, for a total of 20 years experience in municipal government management. Jim attended the College of Commerce, University of Saskatchewan, received his Local Government Administration Certificate from University of Regina and also has received a Certificate in Economic Development from the University of Waterloo.

Jim has been an active member of the Urban Municipal Administrators' Association of Saskatchewan (UMAAS) from 1996 to 2006 and held the positions of Division Director, Vice President, President and past President. Jim was a recipient of the 2006 Saskatchewan Centennial Volunteer Medal, which recognized his service to UMAAS. He is active in the community and is on the executive of the Battlefords Rotary Club and a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Jim enjoys spending time with his family, golfing, camping and curling. He and his wife Colleen, a registered nurse, have three daughters and one grandson.

Jim was appointed as the Saskatchewan/Manitoba representative to the CAMA Board at the 2006 AGM held in Montreal. He is very excited about this opportunity.

**If you would like to be profiled in this section, or would like to recommend someone to be profiled, please contact Alycia Morehouse at alycia.morehouse@fredericton.ca, or CAMA Administration at the contact information below.*

Community Leadership/ Literacy Project

Look for this feature again in two weeks.

For more information on the Municipal Leadership Project, please contact Patricia Nutter @ (613) 264-0111; pnutter@lincsat.com

CAMA Awards Program

Congratulations to the City of Halifax their nomination for the 2006 CAMA Willis Award for Innovation for municipalities with a population over 20,000 – *Youth Engagement Strategy...Engaging Youth and Building Strong Communities*.

The Youth Engagement Strategy (YES) is the result of a collaborative effort between staff of Recreation, Tourism and Culture (RTC) and HeartWood Centre for Community Youth Development (HeartWood), and **YOUTH**. The strategy represents an evolutionary, developmental, community-based model aimed at improving recreational opportunities for the youth of Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) through youth involvement.

One of the key drivers behind the development of a Youth Engagement Strategy is Halifax Regional Council's interest in youth in the community they serve. Council expressed a clear and direct desire to address the issues youth face in an effort to improve the quality of life for all who live in our region.

The goals of HRM's Youth Engagement Strategy are:

1. To increase the capacity of HRM RTC to engage youth and communities in the development and delivery of RTC Programs and Services.
2. To initiate various actions that will help make HRM a more youth friendly region.

The need for this type of strategy became clear when RTC was asked 'what was being done for the youth of HRM who were not engaged in sport'. An inventory revealed that, indeed, much was being done. However, what was also revealed was that youth were not being included, or consulted, in the decision making process that created these programs.

The intent of the YES is to create and endorse a process in which youth are pro-actively and creatively engaged in determining the types of programs and services that are of interest and benefit to them. The idea is to create Youth Friendly Communities through the input and insight of the youth who live there.

The Youth Engagement Strategy Steering Committee, made up of staff from Recreation, Tourism, and Culture, was tasked with devising a means of engaging the youth of HRM in a coordinated and comprehensive approach to youth programming. Today's youth are facing an ever increasing number of issues and a more holistic approach is needed – the youth need to be involved, and want to be involved, in the process.

One key to success in the endeavour being undertaken by the Steering Committee is the development of a **Community Youth Development Model**. The Community Youth Development Model plays a significant role in engaging the youth of HRM. This model will guide HRM in our continued interest to involve youth in civic affairs.

The Community Youth Development Model blends youth development and community development, and is designed as a guide to encourage, plan for, and support active engagement of youth with HRM, their communities and agencies.

In total, over **6,100** youth in HRM have been consulted throughout the project. In fact, 24 youth representing all communities attended a 3-day residential camp to train as facilitators in a wide range of community action tools such as asset mapping, hosting group discussion groups, and surveying. This group has since formed into a youth action team 'Youth Element'. Youth Element has been involved in the overall development and leadership of the YES.

Youth voice has created lots of "on the ground" ideas reflected in area action plans and has created and "organizational shift" in municipal government. "On the ground" success stories are many; there are currently 70 area action initiatives underway in various communities across HRM. Two examples of youth success stories are:

1. Community Youth Development Fund (pilot)

RTC set aside \$50,000 to help youth plan their own community events, projects or activities. Staff believes that youth can plan and attract a lot of other youth and this can create more action beyond what is currently happening in their communities. Youth comprised the majority of the selection committee supported by 2 RTC staff. From this Community Development Fund, 12 projects were funded. One of the successful projects is a skatepark, which is no surprise, given its popularity.

2. Beaverbank Skatepark

This proposal was spearheaded by a group of young people and supported by a Community Developer in RTC. Ten organizations and individuals are partners with the Youth Action Team. The Chair of the Youth Action Team – Wesley, age 12, says, "The Youth of Beaverbank are committed to this project and are excited about the possibilities. This project has provided youth with an opportunity to learn leadership skills, meet other people in their community, and is a positive outlet for their energy. It has provided adults with a chance to learn and connect to youth in a meaningful way". This project is an excellent example of community youth development work – the new way HRM is working with youth.

Beyond all the area projects, event, and activities that have been brought forward by youth, the youth have profoundly influenced the HRM as an organization. An organizational shift is occurring as a result, and what started with youth empowerment has been embodied in the CYD model.

The most common recurring theme in the YES, is the shift from a conventional program service delivery approach, to one which utilizes a CYD model focusing on youth and relationship building. Since 2004, RTC has found itself on the leading edge of service delivery practices by using the CYD model as compared to other municipal and city recreation departments across the nation. There has been a conscious shift in management's preference about the way staff work and how they manage their time. There is a desire to have RTC known as a leader within HRM for engaging youth. To achieve this, change is mandatory – moving from task-oriented administration, to process-oriented, and focusing on engaging youth and the community, and building relationships. In fact, there are 10+ learning points identified that HRM/ RTC need to change to better provide programs and services to youth and we are moving forward on each one!

Finally, there are several other youth related initiatives currently underway within HRM. The YES will connect to, and impact many of these, i.e.; Regional Planning and Cultural Plan. HRM is in a great position to begin establishing structures, programs and projects that integrate youth participation in governance. The work that has been completed by young people and adults in the development of HRM Recreation, tourism and Culture's Youth Engagement Strategy can potentially pave the way for an HRM-wide youth inclusion strategy.

For more information, please contact Claudette Levy, Area Recreation Coordination, Halifax Regional Municipality, at (902) 490-4000, or visit <http://www.halifax.ca/recreation/youth.html>.

Membership Notes

- To have a job posting appear in CAMA's job broadcast, and on our website, the cost is \$100 for members, and \$200 for non-members. For more information, or to have your job listed, please email admin@camacam.ca.
- On behalf of the CAMA Board of Directors, we would like to welcome the following new members:
 - Pam Hargrove, City Clerk, City of Fredericton

**The next CAMA e-Brief will be issued on Monday, August 28th.
Look for the next Job Broadcast on Monday, August 21st.**

COMING SOON.....CAMA E-Brief's new look!

To have an item included in e-Brief, please contact Alycia Morehouse, at alycia.morehouse@fredericton.ca.

To unsubscribe from this list, please reply to this email, or send an email to alycia.morehouse@fredericton.ca, subject: UNSUBSCRIBE.