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# News Release

## AMM awards excellence

### **CO-WINNERS PRAISED FOR UNIQUE PROJECTS**

**April 16, 2008** – Doug Dobrowolski, President of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), presented the 5th Annual Municipal Excellence Award this morning at the Municipal Officials Seminar at Brandon's Keystone Centre. This year's recipients are co-winners - the *Town of Carberry* for its Main Street Heritage Conservation District Project, and the *Town of Altona and Town of Plum Coulee* for their Regional Police Services Agreement.

A panel judged the submissions using criteria including creativity, cost-effectiveness, sustainability, and overall benefit to the municipality. While each of the 2009 submissions met the criteria to varying degrees, according to Dobrowolski, it was the uniqueness of the winning projects that stood out. "We had several really great submissions this year, so it was a very tough decision," said Dobrowolski. "What ultimately worked in the winners' favour was the fact that these projects are one of a kind. They both created something new that can now be used as a model in other municipalities."

The Town of Carberry saw the value of their Main Street and took the steps necessary to preserve and revitalize its grand old historic buildings. By establishing the first Commercial Heritage Conservation District in Manitoba, they have not only preserved their heritage and provided a sense of place for their residents, but created a marketable tourist attraction at the same time. "There are so many Manitoba communities that could follow Carberry's template and preserve their own heritage," explains Dobrowolski.

The Towns of Altona and Plum Coulee's regional police services agreement has benefits for both communities. For Altona, it's reduced costs with continued high quality service. For Plum Coulee, it's consistent response, increased visibility and community policing. "It's the only agreement of its kind in Manitoba where a police services agreement is endorsed by Manitoba Justice," explains Dobrowolski. "It's a win-win because it's saving money for both municipalities without reducing services. In fact, services are enhanced and are consistent with the Provincial Police Act."

To view the submissions of both finalists, as well as the other entrants, visit the AMM website at [http://www.amm.mb.ca/res\\_tools.html](http://www.amm.mb.ca/res_tools.html).