



# RMAA Review

News from the Rural Municipal Administrators' Association of Saskatchewan

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**It's  
not what hap-  
pens to you,  
but how you  
react to it that  
matters.  
- Epictetus**

### FUN FACT

**If you work 40  
hours a week up  
until 65 years ,  
you will work just  
over 90,000 hours  
in your lifetime!**



## Call to Convention 'Growing Through Virtuality'

As was announced by President Lagrandeur, the RMAA 2021 virtual convention will be held on **Wednesday, May 19, 2021**. The theme 'Growing Through Virtuality' is very apt. We have grown, learned and adapted in significant ways over the past year. The way we meet and conduct business is very different for many of us and no doubt some of the technological changes we have embraced will continue as part of our operations into the future. The email address you provided on your membership form will be linked to your credentials to access the convention. If you need to make a change please let us know as soon as possible. Nominations for Division Directors 2, 4 and 6 will open at 9:00 a.m. on Monday May 3 and conclude at 3:00 p.m. of Friday May 7, 2021. Nomination forms can be obtained from the Executive Director. The board has secured the services of Encore Event Technologies to help deliver a quality virtual event. We encourage everyone to make the time to attend the convention as the convention committee has organized a full day of interesting topics and educational sessions including Employment Standards and O H & S.



## Humanitarian Services Silver For Gold!

**REMINDER**—Each year, at our annual convention, the RMAA has a fundraiser for a special cause. In the past we have raised funds for MS, Canadian Blood Services and the Food Bank to name a few. Recently you will have received an email regarding saving your can tabs for childhood cancer research. Please encourage your ratepayers to participate by allowing them to drop off their can tab at your office. The RMAA Division with the most tabs will be recognized at our next in person convention! For more information on this program please contact Humanitarian Committee Chairperson Cheryl Barrett at [div1rmaa@sasktel.net](mailto:div1rmaa@sasktel.net).

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

This is not the way we had envisioned introducing our newest members to the association but we feel it is important to acknowledge the following who have recently received their Rural 'C' Certificates and who are embarking on a new career path. We encourage everyone to reach out to our new members and welcome them to our association!

<b>Certificate</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Certification Date</b>
1603	Janelle Franko	No. 352 Heart's Hill	October 27, 2020
1604	Jessica Davis	No. 142 Enterprise	December 21, 2020
1605	Terrence Schneider	No. 402 Fish Creek	January 4, 2021
1606	Ashlee Friess	No. 6 Cambria	January 4, 2021
1607	Bradley Wiebe	No. 159 Sherwood	January 13, 2021
1608	Tanya Papp	No. 333 Clayton	January 13, 2021
1609	Taylor Baillargeon	No. 469 Turtle River	January 28, 2021
1610	Duane Storey	No. 493 Shellbrook	January 28, 2021
1611	Gwen Lowe	No. 187 North Qu'Appelle	March 4, 2021
1612	Ward Minifie	No. 167 Saskatchewan Landing	March 4, 2021
1613	Sydney Unick	No. 151 Rocanville	March 4, 2021
1614	Cheryle Zbirun	No. 273 Sliding Hills	March 4, 2021
1615	Sam Kalmbach	No. 38 Laurier	March 19, 2021
1616	Jennifer McNabb	No. 33 Moose Creek	March 19, 2021

**WELCOME EVERYONE! GOOD LUCK IN YOUR NEW PROFESSION!**

## 25 YEARS STRONG!

Congratulations to the following members who have reached a milestone 25th Anniversary!  
Once again, the following will be included in the 2022 convention program but we didn't want to miss this opportunity to say **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Dale Brenner - R.M. of Montmartre No. 126

Terry Erdelyan - R.M. of Pittville No. 169



## Meet Division 3 Director Raylene Packet



**Where are you from and how did your path lead to Administration?**

I was born in Lafleche, spent K-7 in Maple Creek and then moved to Fiske. My path was led by my aunt, now a retired administrator (RM139). She introduced me to the idea of looking at a career in local government and so I jumped on in, started my LG courses and office training at Herschel and Dodsland.

**What is your favourite thing to do when you are not working?**

I enjoy being outdoors whether it is maintaining my yard, taking a walk or sitting around a bon fire.

**Favorite Food?** My mom's homemade pizza.

**How long have you been an Administrator?** 10 years

**What is your favorite duty as an Administrator?**

Oh my, there are so many duties and I enjoy most of them but favorite would be locking up at 4 on Friday! But no really...I do like reconciling and data entry (GL, AP, bank, month end, payroll).

**What is your least favorite duty?**

Writing grant applications and follow ups, not that it is too painful but just not a favorite of mine. Keeping up with TCA records is up there on the least favorite list as well.

**What compelled you to become a board member?**

I became a board member to help fellow administrators and be a voice for them. I think that it is important to know what happens behind the scene of an association you are a member of.

**You have been on the board now for about one year. What is the most surprising thing that you have learned about what the RMAA Board's function?**

I am surprised at how involved the RMAA is with other organizations and the government. As SARM is a voice for rural Saskatchewan, the RMAA is a voice for administrators.

**If you could give one piece of advice to a new Administrator what would that be?**

Stay neutral, don't take it personally, keep an open mind, get all sides of the situation and do your homework! Sorry more than one piece but there are so many pieces!

**What advice would you give to a new Council member?**

Look at the municipality as a whole and understand that change doesn't happen over night.

**Anything else you would like to share?**

I'm learning to balance the duties and to do lists as well as let go of the small stuff, it will exhaust you!





A number of resources out there define spring as a new beginning or re-birth of sorts. Out of the depths of what was once frozen and un-yielding ground, new life slowly but surely begins to re-surface. In the midst of the minus 30-40 degrees in the dead of winter, it is difficult to imagine that within a few months a new beginning will be here. As far as nature is concerned however, this is just another typical day at the office, so to speak.

Nature's resiliency is a constant reminder to me, that despite the challenges or opportunities that come my way including my own versions of "droughts, harsh winters, heavy rains and early frosts, etc.", I too have the *ability* to adapt and find a way to overcome.

Herein lies the problem. Ability is one thing; motivation is a whole other issue. I have found myself talking myself out of an opportunity or an obstacle, because the challenge was deemed to be too difficult (or so I thought!). Nature, on the other-hand does not think. *It just "does"*. Don't get me wrong, I am not suggesting we completely throw caution to the wind on everything we do. However, we can learn a thing or two from nature and use some of that resiliency occasionally.

Looking back on my own experiences, there have been times that the rewards were far greater than the risks. Becoming a Director in the RMAA Board is a decision I am very fortunate I didn't talk myself out of. While we certainly had our share of challenging situations, it was the most fun I have ever had finding a solution as part of a team. Being on this team, taught me not only the importance of working collectively, but also respect for each other. Ideas that I had initially deemed to be out of place (and believe me, I had some doozy's!) were listened to thoughtfully and with respect. Granted, not all ideas were accepted; however, this team takes the time to listen and epitomize the phrase "no idea is a bad idea".

Resiliency is a trait we are all currently experiencing, even more so today. Despite the pandemic challenges our Healthcare professionals, Teachers and all Service Providers, including my fellow Municipal Administrators continue to set the standard of not giving up, and by simply "doing". I appreciate you all for what you do and what you have given me. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve these past 4 years and I wish the new Division 2 Director all the best!



## Retirements



Normally we would recognize our newly retiring members at the Wednesday evening banquet sponsored by Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance. While we will include these individuals in the 2022 program we didn't want to wait an entire year to wish them well!

Deborah Saville—R.M. of Walpole No. 92  
Ed Mish — R.M. of Golden West No. 95  
Sherry Green—R.M. of Sutton No. 103  
Charlene Loos—R.M. of Hillsborough No. 132  
Rolande Davis—R.M. of Enterprise No. 142  
Monica Buddecke—R.M. of Newcombe No. 260  
Wendy Gowda—R.M. of LeRoy No. 339  
Lloyd Cross—R.M. of Eagle Creek No. 376  
Lois Gartner—R.M. of Fish Creek No. 402  
Shelley Holmes—R.M. of Flett's Springs No. 429

We will miss you!

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