



People filming other people filming a highlight of this year's New North Northern Justice Symposium

See inside for more.

Upcoming

- New North AGM
June 13

Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities

NEW NORTH

This month ..

- Symposium Wrap
- AGM Preview
- Asset Management
- Alcohol Strategy Gets Release
- New North calls for investigation into scuff on new car

Monthly Newsletter May 2018

Northern Justice Symposium Serves Up Laughter & Tears, Sometimes Simultaneously

The Northern Justice Symposium is the longest-standing event of its kind in Saskatchewan, a semi-regular, not quite annual gathering that is unique in how many communities it brings together, and in the breadth of issues it deals with over 2 ½ days.

While there was no formal theme for this year's event, a direction for the planning committee was to bring community success stories to the forefront. But we know from many years of doing this symposium that you often get more than you bargained for.

A highlight for some will be the presentation by Jarrett Nelson and Joyce Night on Camp Hope, near Montreal Lake. Others will point to the last day presentation by Cowesses First Nation Chief Cadmus Dolorme. (Both of these presentations will soon be available on the New North Youtube Channel.) The blanket exercise that

ended day 2 will not soon be forgotten by those who participated in it.

For us, an important part every Northern Justice Symposium is the giving-out of the Northern Excellence Awards. Presided by Modeste McKenzie and Shaylynn McAuley, this year's field of contenders was the largest ever, with multiple nominations in each category. Beauval won Community of the Year for the work of their BRIC (Beauval Rebuilding its Community), Hannah Anderson-Ross from Green Lake was the Youth of the Year, Pauline Fontaine from La Loche was Elder of the Year, Lucy Guetre, also from La Loche, was Citizen of the Year, and Constable Alphonse Noey was RCMP Member of the Year.

A youth panel, which focused on the legalization of cannabis, gave some of the younger delegates a chance to take over the microphone for a

while. They supported the legalization of cannabis, but they also wanted communities to provide more things for kids to do so they wouldn't feel like they needed to do drugs to begin with. Makes sense.

This year's event attracted more than 290 people from almost 70 communities. For the first time, the event was broadcast live over Facebook, and drew, at its peak, around 3500 viewers. This would make this justice symposium the most viewed ever. And the most "liked," from zero "thumbs up" in all previous years, to several fists full of them this year.

Some of the presentations are still available on New North's Facebook page, which you should be able to find with the help of a teenager, and we will have a full summary of the event up on our website shortly. ■

See more coverage from The Northern Justice Symposium inside.

NewNorth News & Updates

New North AGM: June 13

Official notice has been given that New North's Annual General Meeting will be June 13, at the Coronet Hotel (Travelodge), starting 9am, and finishing around the time the cookies are put out.

As always, New North will provide an overview of the association's activities for the last year or so, make available our financial statements for everyone to wonder over, and then open the floor up to resolutions.

The resolutions session is good chance for northern leaders to practice their oratory skills in a robust and productive debate on a range of hot button issues. It also helps set the advocacy and

lobbying agenda of New North for the year.

Keep in mind that *The Northern Municipalities Act* is being opened up this year, too, so any resolutions that require changes to the NMA could get acted on fairly soon, assuming government accepts them.

Also on the agenda is an overview of the permittee responsibilities for waterworks; a session on dog control; and an update by the Ministry of Highways, where we'll hear about all the work they'll be doing in the north this year.

As well, the province would like to engage the northern elected in discussions about the new whistleblower protection

legislation that will hopefully be coming down the pike fairly soon.

In addition to all that, we hope to enjoin the elected in a discussion on revenue sharing, which is currently under review (see below).

And finally, in what is turning out to be a fairly packed agenda, we will be hearing about a new bussing initiative. Focused mainly on the westside communities to begin with, we think the business plan currently being worked on by an joint-partnership out of the Alberta will be adaptable to other parts of the north as well.

Look forward to seeing you all there on June 13. ■

Minding the Gap: Northern Municipal Fiscal Challenges and Revenue Sharing

June's New North AGM will be an opportunity for the northern elected to share their feelings about operating grant shortfalls.

Not every northern municipality is feeling the pinch of 2 years (soon to be 3) of decreasing funding, but most are. We know, because you tell us. All the time. The provincial government can quite rightly point to northern revenue sharing as having risen by about 80% since 2007. That's fine. What we are dealing with right now, though, is the downside of the flypaper effect: encouraged by NRS increases, local governments have increased spending at a rate which cannot be backfilled by owned-sourced revenues when the exogenous funding disappears. Ever.

So, what we'd like to know about are:

1. What programs or services have you had to cut or scale back as a result of falling funding?
2. Is your fiscal situation or cash flow issues impacting your ability to pay staff?
3. Are you experiencing—or expecting—staff turn-over from having to impose salary freezes? If so, how is this working out for you? How challenging will it be for you to find new staff?
4. How are residents reacting to tax or fee increases?
5. What challenges can you see ahead as a result of falling funding?

6. How okay are you with conditions being placed on revenue sharing grants?

You don't need to write that you want more money, no questions asked. We'll take that for granted. What we want to hear about are specific and concrete examples of how the funding gap is affecting your community, and particularly, how you believe it will impact the welfare of your residents.

These questions will be posed at the AGM for discussion. If you can't make it to the AGM and still want to give us your feedback, please email, fax or mail your responses to us at New North. ■

From the New North Chair

BY BRUCE FIDLER, MAYOR OF CREIGHTON

At the heart of our efforts at New North is a big concern with the stability and growth of local government in northern Saskatchewan. A few years ago, New North's sister board, the Northern Municipal Trust Account management board, released a report on northern administrative and governance needs. It said this, and I quote:

“With effective and accountable municipalities as its governance foundation, Northern Saskatchewan has the potential to be a major economic engine for the province. With capable and transparent municipal governments, northern communities will share more fully in the province’s prosperity, jobs and infrastructure ...”

That was written 7 years ago. It was true then, and continues to be true today. The work that our northern elected officials do is foundational to the growth and prosperity of the north. And it doesn't matter how small you are as a community. It's remarkable how often we see even some of our small northern hamlets

getting the economic development bug, looking around for ways they can attract investment, take advantages of the natural environment, their competitive advantages, you might say.

One of the unique features of the northern municipalities is their ability to own their own economic development corporations. We see in a number of northern communities how well these economic development corporations work to create long-term and sustainable employment for residents, as well as supply services that would otherwise not be there.

But not every community has been able to take advantage of this ability. New North will be working with communities over the next little while to help them get their economic development arms going again so they can bid on contracts, keep jobs in their communities, and be ready for opportunities as they arise. Also, in the Fall, New North will be hosting the Municipal Economic Development Fundamentals module, which is part

of the Municipal Leadership Development Program.

Next Spring, we are also hoping to bring together the northern municipal economic development corporations, along with all our elected officials, to have a round-table discussion for everyone to share their economic development tips and tools, so those who are just starting out can educate themselves, put together business plans, and enjoy some of the prosperity and growth that comes from having control over your own destinies. We hope many of you will come to that.

Another thing New North is hoping to do to strengthen northern communities is introduce our Administrative Circuit Rider Program. The person we hire for this will be an experienced administrator who will have the job of going around to help municipalities that may be struggling with the all the regulations and demands of the government to be compliant with the legislation. We know that there is huge demand for this service, and we hope to be able to provide it sometime later in the Fall. ■

New North Hosts SUMA Visit to North



No, it's not the cover of the latest edition of GQ—although it could reasonably be. It's a photo taken during the visit of SUMA officials to La Ronge and Air Ronge in early May, who met with the New North Board and members of the La Ronge town council. We have, from bearded to least bearded: Brad Henry, Hugh Watt, Mike Strachan, Bruce Fidler, Mike Natomagan, Gordon Barnhart, the other Gordon, Ron Woytowich, and Bobby Woods.

First Annual Westside Development and Investment Attraction Conference in Green Lake Focuses on Renewable Energy, Tourism

We've been fascinated by the potential of solar energy from the day we picked up our first pocket calculator in 3rd grade and noticed the row of amorphous silicon windows at the top, which meant not only that you could never run out of fun things to do, you could more or less do those fun things forever.

Many years later and very little has changed. And I mean very little: solar is still fascinating. Calculators only fractionally less so.

For this reason, the first day of the Westside Development and Investment Attraction Conference in Green Lake in May—on renewable energy—had a focus that was particularly enticing.

It shouldn't be lost anyone that the village's 96 solar panels, which you could see drinking in the sunshine atop the recreation centre as you entered town, was a project of transformative proportions, not just beginning a conversation about energy self-sufficiency that we wouldn't otherwise be having, but in its scope and imagination, grasping the idea that a project like this is about more than just panels on a roof

and saving some money: it's about building, and reflecting, community spirit.

In some ways community energy projects like Green Lake's—which could be a precursor to something even bigger—are always about more than just creating a source of electrical power available to the community. They are themselves embodiments of a kind of determination, vitality and dauntlessness that is characteristic of small communities across Saskatchewan. The renewable energy project from the village of Hazlet is a perfect illustration. Back in 2008 the small community of around 100 undertook the project of fundraising, purchasing, installing and then maintaining, a wind turbine, to make ice for their rink. Remarkable in its scope and ambition, the turbine has produced more than 250,000 kw/hr of electricity, and will enable the rink to be energy self-sufficient for more or less as long as they have the wind on the prairies to spin the blades; in other words, pretty much forever.

Energy self-sufficiency and sustainability projects can be large, and they can small. The presentation by Kevin Buffin, of

Beauval, was an extraordinary cataloguing of the technology becoming available to live "off the grid." This was fascinating and eye-opening in itself; anyone who's ever dreamed of cutting the cord couldn't help but be impressed by Buffin's grasp of the subject. But there probably wasn't anyone in the room whose imagination wasn't also stirred by the implications of the technology he was showcasing, and in particular, by his discussion of energy storage: it surely won't be long before we can scale the battery technology to the community level so that we can be, collectively, off the grid.

Also on the day's agenda was First Nations Power Authority's CEO Guy Longchild and Jenna Gall, the organization's Community Energy Project Coordinator.

The second day of the conference—which we unfortunately missed—looked at the potential of opening up the west-side to Indigenous tourism opportunities. To see photos and a wrap up of the event, check out the North West Communities Management Company site: www.nwcmmanagementco.com. ■

New North on "Stand-By" List for Clean Energy for Rural & Remote Communities Capacity Building Stream

To advance the goal of ensuring northern communities have access to stable, reliable and affordable energy, New North, in partnership with Urban Systems, has submitted a proposal to Natural Resource Canada's Clean Energy Capacity Building Stream, with the aim of putting together a northern energy plan and regional resource assessment.

The objective of the proposal is to identify viable renewable energy development opportunities, build capacity, interest and excitement in the possibilities of renewables in the north, outline and actionable and realistic path to the advancement of community-based projects, and demonstrate leadership by setting ambitious

milestones in energy and environmental sustainability.

The proposal sought funding of \$225,000, with New North to front another \$25,000, to be spent over a two or three year period, for a range of activities., Including:

- Regionally-focussed workshops to advance collaboration and engagement in the planning process;
- Developing energy demand baselines so we know how much energy is needed
- Taking a look around to see what resources are available to develop alternative energy sources; and

- The development of a regional "energy vision" and action strategy, which includes looking into creative financing and partnership solutions for renewable projects and the creation of business plans that communities can use to advance their own community energy projects.

An exciting part of the proposal is the creation of a regional energy coordinator position—which we referred to as a "green ambassador"—to run regional energy planning consultations. We will let you know how if and when the proposal is accepted for funding. ■



By Chelsea Laskowski

There was a notable youth presence at the three-day New North Northern Justice Symposium, which featured a special workshop for a large group of young northerners and high school students from Prince Albert who were in attendance during the week.

Hannah Anderson-Ross from Green Lake was among them. As the winner of youth of the year at the Northern Excellence Awards, the 17-year-old Métis student is ambitious and plans to pursue a career in law. Her dad is a conservation officer so she was interested in the justice field from a young age.

“I took a law class last year, I was originally interested in business and then I changed my mind. And I just realized I was more interested in topics of law and the injustice for Aboriginals in the courtroom so that’s what makes me want to be a lawyer,” she said.

She and others made reference to the Gerald Stanley acquittal in the killing of Colten Boushie, saying it is a symptom of a troubled justice system. The statistics can be harsh for Indigenous people, and Canadian Senator Lillian Dyck said in her keynote address that Aboriginals are more likely to face racism, be murdered, face murder charges, or be imprisoned than non-Aboriginals in Canada. She presented on a bill she proposed that would impose harsher sentences on people who assault or kill Indigenous women, similar to a law that does the same for taxi drivers. The bill is waiting for its first reading in Parliament.

NORTHERN JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM

May 15-17, 2018

“It’s definitely hard to think that we’re more prone to having someone be violent against us or having something happen to us more just because we are of a certain race, definitely hard to comprehend that and understand that that actually happens and that it’s a serious thing,” Anderson-Ross said.

Throughout the symposium, presenters made note of how care and attention — or

lack of care and attention — to young people translates into the justice system.

Gina Alexander with the Ministry of Justice’s Community Safety and Well-Being department imparted how crucial a Grade 3 reading level is. She said there is a correlation to HIV risk and high justice interaction later on in life, to the point that one state looks at its Grade 3 reading level in order to plan its justice and health budgets. She espoused the need to “wrap our head around prevention” and social development.

In a similar vein, the Northeast Youth Violence Risk Partnership (NYVRP) is aiming to change the tide for young people between 12 and 24 years old who are either already involved in or at risk of getting involved in the criminal justice system as offenders. The group currently has capacity for eight young people each in Sandy Bay, Deschambault Lake, and Pelican Narrows; Sandy Bay has the youngest group of participants who are involved, Pelican Narrows has a mix, and Deschambault is mostly adult. There is a waitlist of 85 referrals, and the program has funding after successfully building an evidence-based proposal to the National Crime Prevention and Public Service Canada that has given them \$5.2 million for a five-year pilot program that ends in 2020. Angie Merasty and

Shawna Bear's presentation on the program became emotional when they asked the audience to name the characteristics of their mentors and role models growing up: traits like caring, patience, and encouragement. All those characteristics, they said, are embodied by their staff.

Getting youth on board with three-times-a-week meetings (which can last a few hours or half a day depending on how vulnerable the youth is that day) does not just happen on its own, but there have been major breakthroughs. Out of 43 active participants, only one has reoffended in the past year, Bear said. Fourteen of them have received employment supports and two have gotten jobs out of that.

But beyond the stats are the daily changes in the young people and the relationships that have been built, Merasty and others say, because they are pulling their staff from locals who have the skills to break through the walls these young people have built up.

"These are the kids that don't have any stability in their life. They don't — they didn't — have any structure and you know, like, they're the ones that will show you in the worst ways possible, what they need, what they're lacking," said Marina Dumas, health and wellness coordinator.

Staff are not there to judge the young people or to tell them what they did wrong — although if they're going through the courts or other disciplinary action staff will help the youths honour that — but there is an effort to find out their strengths and interests, and foster those by connecting them with other agencies that can set them up to pursue them, Merasty said.

"At the beginning when we first started with the youth we... were persistent with home visits. Now the youths actually come look for us because that's all they really



Senator Lillian Dyck speaking on day 1 of the Symposium

need is someone to understand them and talk to them," said Olivia Custer, health and wellness worker.

NYVRP staff not only works with the youth but also works with the families whose struggles with the cycle of historical trauma is a hindrance to their kids' progress.

"It's hard work you know, because we teach them skills but they go back home and reality is still there," Dumas said.

One big goal for those who are under 18 is to get young people on the right track so that they do not have a criminal record that diminishes their opportunities later in life. By involving community supports early into a sentence, they can create those pro-social connections and eventually replace the imposed structure and supervision with natural relationships that provide structure for young people, Bear explained in their presentation. ■

RCMP Bootlegging Strategy Getting Some Traction

The RCMP's efforts to clamp down on bootlegging over the last year or so have been getting results, according to Sgt Conrad Logan. Presenting on bootlegging at the Northern Justice Symposium, Sgt Logan said that the RCMP received special funding of around \$40,000 to put together four anti-bootlegging initiatives in northern Saskatchewan.

In traffic stops and nabbing people around the liquor store in La Ronge,

the RCMP seized beverage alcohol intended for the black market with a street value of \$8,445.

In two operations around Creighton, the RCMP seized \$13,000 in alcohol headed for Deschambeault Lake.

As a result of the anti-bootlegging operations north of La Ronge, call volume for "violent crimes against the person" in Southend decreased by 100%, and in Stanley Mission by 50%. "Were we successful?" Sgt

Logan asks. "Several people charged but not all convicted. Resources are needed on large scale. We've got to have the bodies to do it and that's where we spent most of the money."

Sgt Logan says that one of the biggest challenges for the RCMP is that many members come to the north with very little training. Sandy Bay, for instance, has three members with two years or less of training, which is not uncommon in the north. ■



The large youth contingent came from across the north, and across the province, to engage in activities with Elders, do team building exercises, and then fearlessly get up in front of 200 people to deliver their thoughts. Here we see two members of the youth panel, Hannah Anderson-Ross from Green Lake (left), and Jada Sylvestre from Birch Narrows.

Cannabis Permit Process Raises Ire in North as La Loche Group Misses Out

The manner in which the province distributed the operating permits for retailing cannabis in Saskatchewan was always going to be a no-win situation for the government. If they decided to handpick the winners, everyone would complain about political favourites, and start scouring the Sask Party's donor list for cannabis outfits. If they went for a random lottery, which is what they did, everyone would say the lottery was rigged. (There will be three stores in the north: one in La Loche, and two in the La Ronge area.)

The alternative was for the government itself to do the retailing like they still mostly do for liquor. When the government began to sell off a lot of liquor stores following the 2016 election, they decided to leave the northern one in public hands. This choice seemed to us to reflect that, for public safety reasons, the majority of liquor retailing in the north should stay fairly closely and tightly regulated. And the best way to do that is for government to do it.

For cannabis, though, there was never a much of a chance of that, and given the current zest for privatization, it is

hardly surprising that cannabis would be sold privately.

It is also no secret that the province is being dragged into legalization like groomsmen into a wedding photo, so it's no surprise they'd be wanting to create as much distance between themselves and any aspect of cannabis retailing as they possibly could.

Even with that in mind, the fact that local economic development interests weren't given the first option on cannabis retailing seems like a missed opportunity.

In La Loche, a syndicate comprising Methy (the village's economic development arm), Clearwater First Nation and the Métis Local were unsuccessful in their bid for a permit. There were 15 applications for La Loche, so the chances of the community-led bid winning in the lottery were about 5%. The successful bid, Flower Power, out of BC, will have to go through a background check (criminal record checks, and so on; you'd think that would be done prior to the ballot), and if they fail that, then

the next applicant out of the draw will get a shot.

After three years, the province will review the successful entity to see how everything panned out. If the business doesn't start up within a year, they can lose their permit.

From the village's point of view, the missed opportunity is clearly that the vast majority of any money made from the retailing of cannabis will not stay in the community. Local economic development entities, like Methy, invest everything they earn back into the community. A major business of theirs is building houses, and they do it using locally-trained carpenters. A new revenue stream for the community would have been very handy.

Our hope is that if the province decides to open up more permits, particularly in the north, they'd consider the benefit of keeping in the community as much of the economic activity created by legal weed sales as possible. After all, it's the community that's going to be dealing with the downsides of a potentially increased use of cannabis. ■

A long-standing policy of the provincial government is that any piece of legislation shouldn't go more than five years without someone opening it up, taking a squiz at whether anything needs to be changed, and closing it again. This doesn't mean that they can't change legislation at any other time, of course: when the government tightened the conflict of interest provisions for municipal officials they had to doctor the various municipalities acts to do that, but they didn't use that as an opportunity to consult on any other changes. Not that we didn't ask them to.

The Northern Municipalities Act is due to be “opened” this year, which means that everyone and anyone who has anything to say about the “Act Respecting Local Government in Northern Saskatchewan” will have their chance to say it.

Over the years, *The Northern Municipalities Act* has undergone some fairly radical amendments since the first one in 1983. Most of the changes have added considerably to the legislation's bulk: In the last 12 years more than 150 sections have been added.

One of the remarkable things about the NMA—as we simply refer to it—is how ahead of its time it often is—at least in Saskatchewan. For example, it was the northern municipal leaders who came up with the idea that candidates for municipal government could be required to undergo criminal record checks. The NMA also has provisions that make it easier for residents to have an elected official removed from office. In the south it is, or was, quite a lot more difficult (and expensive). The northern act also

makes specific provisions for northern municipalities to create economic development corporations, and enables government to provide financial support to them if they think money'd be of any help. We think it probably would.

Although the NMA has been tinkered with over the last few years, its last major revision was in 2012. Most of the changes made back then were “word smoothing” (“striking out ‘Diet Pepsi’ and substituting ‘Low-Calorie Cola of Council's Choice’”), but some changes were a little more far reaching, such as the amendment to section 206 to bring municipalities in line with “provincial, national or international trade agreements” relating to procurement. ■

■ La Ronge Alcohol Strategy Unleashes the Power of Bylaws

This month saw the official release of the Lac La Ronge region's Community Alcohol Management Plan (CAMP), a project that community leaders, agencies and other stakeholders from across the region have been working on for quite some time to “address the harms of alcohol misuse and improve community safety and wellbeing.”

When the draft proposals of the CAMP got its first public reveal a few months ago, they made international news. The proposals also attracted some criticism, notably from local retailers concerned about the impacts on employment, and their bottom-line, of closing bars earlier and otherwise restricting the sale of alcohol. The kickback was to be expected, but the CAMP leaders, if you will, carried on.

In late May, the Town of La Ronge held a public meeting to unveil which of the CAMP recommendations they support, as well as a commitment to engage with the public, through a plebiscite, to gar-

ner community input on some of the potentially controversial recommendations.

The recommendations include, among others, improving the monitoring of liquor permittees to ensure compliance, restricting the sale of alcohol after 1am, and placing conditions on the business licenses of taxis so they are still running when the bars close, which is not the case now.

To enact, some of the recommendations will require the blessing of SLGA, and some will be done through bylaws. Others might require gentle persuasion.

The proposals the town would like to open to a plebiscite are:

- Restricting retail store purchase of alcohol after 11:00 pm.
- Limiting hours of operation for liquor permittees on month-end paydays and Canada Child Benefit payment days.

- Requirements that retailers refuse the sale of non-beverage alcohol products (hand sanitizer, etc.) if not accompanied by a minimum \$30.00 purchase of additional items not containing alcohol.

The approach here is very clever. One of the outcomes of the initial airing of the recommendations was a polarization of opinion around a couple of proposals which led some to reject the whole package out of hand. This way, however, the more easily achievable and palatable measures are shelved off from those that are potentially more controversial, while still keeping them in the public mind. The door is left open for farther-reaching, and perhaps more meaningful, measures down the track without sacrificing those things that can be done right away. ■

June 30 Deadline to Meet GTF AM Reporting Drawing Closer

To stay compliant with the federal government's Gas Tax Fund, municipalities are required to engage in various activities that "show progress" toward asset management. The next milestone is June 30. By then, municipalities will need to have:

- Gotten educated in asset management
- Developed and approved a policy and a strategy on how the municipality will approach asset management.
- Developed an asset register for all asset classes.

At this point, meeting the asset management reporting requirements of the GTF shouldn't be an onerous task. If you're spending any real cash on this—just to meet the requirements—you're spending too much. If, on the other hand, you want to go full tilt at implementing asset management, no one is going to stand in your way.

Just so you know how much you should be doing right now to meet the GTF requirements, the province has developed a useful guide to help municipalities understand what each of those three things above

involve. The guide is called: **Federal Gas Tax Fund: Asset Management: Making Progress**. It has been sent to every municipality, and you can also find it linked on the New North website.

The Asset Management Making Progress guide has plenty of background about what asset management is, templates for the policy and strategy piece, as well as a rough breakdown of what information an asset registry should contain. If you do an annual audit—which you would do if you're still compliant with the program—then you'd have just about all the information you need for the asset registry in the tangible capital assets bit of your financial statements.

An easy way to get a basic understanding of the principles of asset management is to watch a movie about it. We couldn't find one that had 1980s Harrison Ford in it, but government has the next best thing. We've linked that on our website, too.

And to give you some idea of what an asset registry should look like, have a gander at our handy fridge guide. ■

Swingline PaperPro

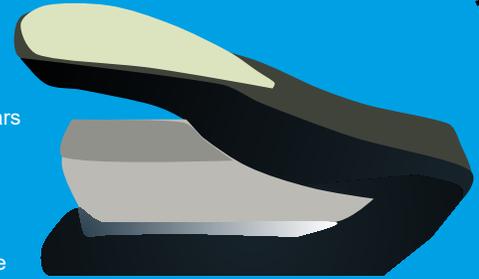
Asset Class: Extremely Useful

Asset Age: 4 of your human years

Asset Condition Rating: Bitey

Expected Use Life: Forever because I can't find it

Physical Location: Somewhere under this mess.



AlwaysJAM™

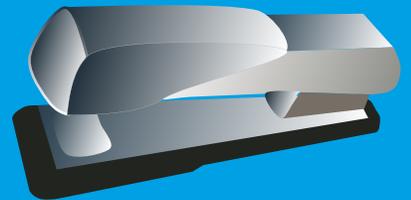
Asset Class: Crime Scene Exhibit

Asset Age: 44 in dog years

Asset Condition Rating: Fair (Hairline fracture on base)

Expected Use Life: 10 years to life

Physical Location: Cell #134978762



Bostich "Red Freak" Rapid Touch

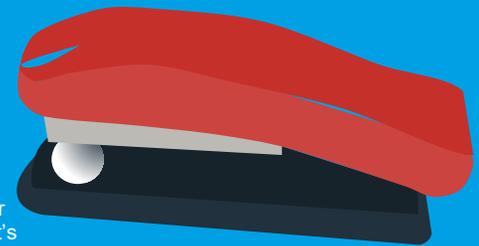
Asset Class: Road Section

Asset Age: Early Jurassic?

Asset Condition Rating: Physically fine; mentally suspect

Expected Use Life: Probably shouldn't try to use it

Physical Location: It's a stapler that thinks it's a road section. Let's leave it that.



Swingline Barracuda Saddle Stapler

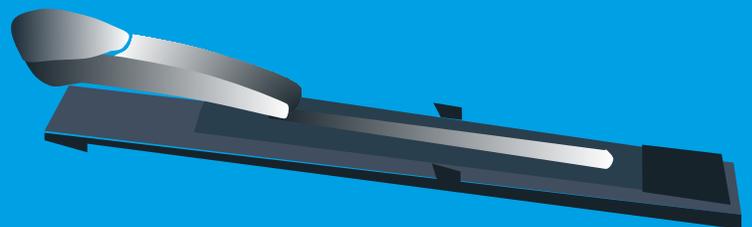
Asset Class: Stapler

Asset Age: [Remember to ask Sunshyne before printing this]

Asset Condition Rating: Maleficent

Expected Use Life: Eternal

Physical Location: Currently filming Black Panther 2



FROM THE CEO

MATT HELEY

The Northern Justice

Symposium this year was all about hearing community success stories. This came from a conversation a few years ago about how the symposium wasn't really providing enough of a forum where communities can learn from each other. The point of showing community success stories could easily be interpreted as "give us \$5 million and watch what we do with it." But while some programs cost a lot of money, other success stories were

about people donating a lot of their time and heart. You really need both.

The reason we wanted to focus on the work the local champions are doing is because, with the widespread acceptance of the need for people to solve their own problems, comes the more troubling and difficult question: how? How indeed.

The "how" depends on the community. This is why looking at what Big Island Lake or Montreal Lake or La Loche or Cumberland House are doing can help you find

inspiration—and hopefully it did—but how many of those things would look in your community is completely different.

If we could identify a common thread travelling through what we heard we'd say that many of the initiatives spoken about started with a public meeting. Sometimes, where buy-in from the residents was expected to be difficult, the champions would organize a BBQ or something else as a kind of ruse to get people to come along. "Soup and bannock" was the unofficial

theme of the symposium because that's what one community did to get people to come to a public meeting about violence: they organized a soup and bannock night, got people to come along, then closed the doors and said "right, let's talk about some difficult issues."

It wasn't so much the ruse that matters, it was the fact that people were thinking creatively, outside the box, to get a difficult conversation going. What any of that looks like in our communities, and how it turns out, is really up to us. ■

About New North ...

Since 1996 New North has been the voice of the municipalities of Northern Saskatchewan. Our goal, as defined by our mission statement, is to advocate, negotiate and initiate improvements in well-being of the residents of the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District. Organized on the basis of strength through unity, New North partners with all northern stakeholders, from government and non-government agencies, associations and First Nations, to enhance the quality of life, create opportunities and build better futures for the people of the north.

New North Executive

Mayor Bruce Fidler (Chair)
Mayor Robert St.Pierre (Deputy Chair)
Mayor Gord Stomp (Treasurer)
Mayor Mike Natomagan
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