



PARCS UPDATE #5 – OCTOBER, 2009

1. ANSWERING AND POSING QUESTIONS ABOUT GOVERNMENT GRANTS

WHY DOES OUR RESORT VILLAGE RECEIVE SO FEW GRANT DOLLARS?

When your newly elected councilors first examined the budgets for their resort village, they were likely disappointed to discover how few dollars their resort village receives by way of government grants. A resort village's share of the province's **unconditional revenue sharing grant** is limited to a per capita allotment based on the number of permanent residents in the village (approximately \$140 per permanent resident in 2009¹). Two other grants are also driven by the number of permanent residents: the **MEEP grant**² and the **GTF grant**³ which are conditional and require simple reporting. Unfortunately, like the unconditional revenue sharing grants, for a resort community, these two grants are also very small because they are **based on the number of permanent residents in the resort village**.

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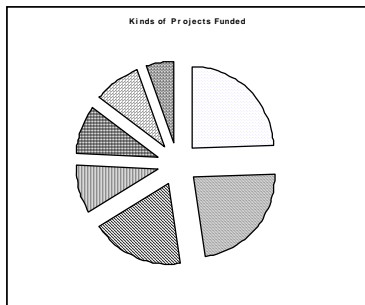
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HOW DO THE NEW INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS WORK?

Resort Villages and Rural Municipalities with resort hamlets are able to compete with regular cities, towns and villages for the new infrastructure funding grants, introduced in 2008, that propose to "create jobs, support local economies and attract tourists"⁴. Projects funded by these grants provide up to 1/3 federal and 1/3 provincial funding to match local funds.

WHAT KIND OF PROJECTS ARE THE INFRASTRUCTURE DOLLARS FUNDING?

The chart below illustrates the Sask Infrastructure investments as of September 28, 2009. Clockwise from the upper right these **274 projects** include:



- 67 municipals road projects
- 63 water projects (treatment, pipelines, water mains)
- 51 sewage projects (lagoons, treatment plants, lift stations)
- 27 bridges
- 26 street projects
- 25 highway projects
- 15 other projects (3 landfill and 5 recreation projects)

None of these include projects such as the construction of boat launches, picnic areas, public docks or golf course upgrades – projects that might be typical of a resort community.

DID ANY RESORT COMMUNITIES RECEIVE INFRASTRUCTURE DOLLARS?

Yes. The Resort Village of **Manitou Beach** is part of a funded regional wastewater project group. Three other resort villages will receive funding: **Chitek Lake** for a wastewater treatment system, **Tobin Lake** for a lagoon project and **Kannata Valley** for a water treatment plant and distribution expansion. Two RM's will receive funding on behalf of resort hamlets: the RM of Coteau to clay cap a road to **Hitchcock Bay** and the RM of Mervin for a water treatment plant at **Sunset View Beach**.

¹ Based on 2006 census data.

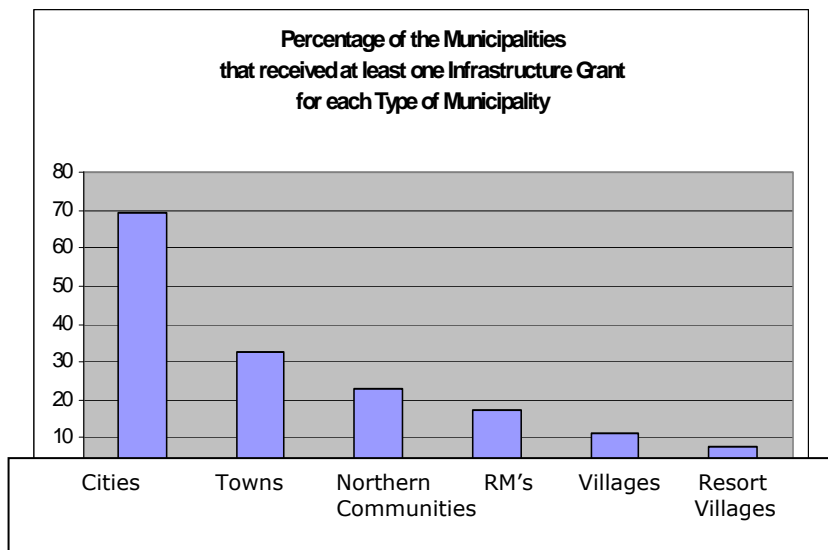
² The Municipal Economic Enhancement Program: a grant aimed at infrastructure enhancement.

³ The Gas Tax Fund supports environmentally sustainable municipal projects that contribute to cleaner, air, cleaner water and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. (Example – One Resort Village used this grant to upgrade the insulation and energy efficient windows in their Village Office). The GTF is paid out over a period of time.

⁴ Summarized from: www.buildingcanada-chantierscanada.gc.ca/regions/sk

WHAT SHARE OF INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS WENT TO RESORT VILLAGES?

The chart below illustrates the percentage of municipalities that received at least one infrastructure grant, as of September 28, 2009. Almost 70% of Saskatchewan cities received infrastructure grants (the city of Saskatoon received 51 grants) while 33% of Sask towns and 18% of rural municipalities were recipients of at least one infrastructure grant.



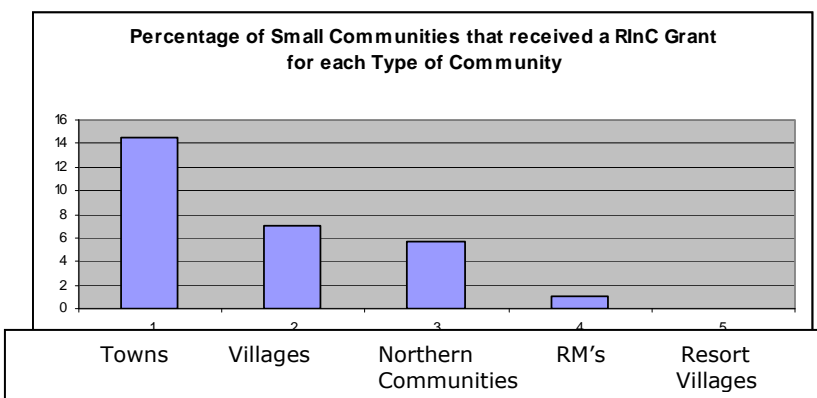
Only 10% of Resort Villages in Saskatchewan received a Sask infrastructure grant.

Did this low rate of grant approval happen because so few resort village applied? Or did they apply for the wrong kind of projects?

WHAT ARE THE NEW RInC GRANTS?

Minister Lynne Yelich (Western Economic Diversification)⁵ described the Recreation Infrastructure Canada program as an "infrastructure investment to upgrade local recreational facilities, provide a short-term targeted stimulus to the economy and result in greater employment opportunities for Saskatchewan people". Like the earlier infrastructure grants, these federal and provincial grants also fund 2/3 of the project. However, these new grants

are aimed at smaller communities. The chart to the left illustrates the percentage of municipalities that have received a RInC grant. Once again, resort villages received the disproportionate smallest share. **Resort Villages have, to date, received none of the recreation grant dollars.** One would suppose that grants aimed at recreation improvements would be a natural fit for resort communities.



The RInC grants continue to be announced, a few at a time. Meanwhile, applicants wait in limbo and cannot start work on recreation infrastructure projects because the RInC grants will not fund projects that have already been started.

WHO CAN PROVIDE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT GRANTS?

The grant information in this PARCS UPDATE has been forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs asking for his comments when he addresses the PARCS Convention in two weeks.

⁵ September 10, 2009 in Warman Sask.

2. FUN AT THE PARCS CONVENTION

GIFTS, MUNCHIES AND NETWORKING

The upcoming PARCS Convention will provide an opportunity for you to meet and chat with delegates from other resort communities. On Thursday evening, our informal social will feature draws for *lots of free gifts* including:



- Two draws, each for a limited edition print, each valued at \$250, commissioned by *Ducks Unlimited*.
- A draw for a weekend stay at the *Gold Eagle Lodge and Casino* in North Battleford.
- 4 draws, each for a case of 1 litre-*Drainbusters* (an *Envirosafe* product to keep your cottage septic system odour-free).
- Draws for T-shirts, hats and numerous other gifts to be announced.
- ***Come to the Thursday night social for lots of fun!***

Congratulations to Nick Toporowski of Candle Lake whose name was drawn for our Early Bird Reservation contest at the Saskatoon Inn. Nick is the lucky winner of a complimentary room for convention.

NAME OUR NEW PARCS MASCOT AND WIN HIS COUSIN

PARCS is pleased to announce that we have successfully recruited a Saskatchewan Black Bear to fill the vacancy of official PARCS mascot. Convention delegates will be invited to meet our *new mascot* and enter a contest to give him a name. The winning entry will take home our mascot's cousin, shown on the right relaxing at the lake.



ENTER THE NEWSLETTER CONTEST

Bring a copy of your resort community's newsletter and enter it for a chance to win a prize in the *best newsletter contest*.

WIN A WEEKEND GETAWAY TO A SASKATCHEWAN RESORT

Our silent auction will feature weekend packages for golfing and relaxation at some of the *Saskatchewan Resort Gems* in our province.

3. IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER

Still interested in learning more about:

- The different types of governance for resort communities?
- The roles and duties of the resort village council?
- Environmental stewardship at the lake?
- The new rules for docks and boat launches?
- Jurisdiction over beaches and waterfront?
- Options for dealing with sewage at the lake?
- Putting a bylaw enforcement officer to work in your community?

Phone, fax or email registrations will be accepted up to and including ***Thanksgiving Monday October 12th at 9:00 pm.***

- Member registrations - \$150
- Non-member registrations - \$200
- Extra banquet tickets - \$50

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