SASKATCHEWAN MUNICIPAL AWARDS

Celebrating Municipal Excellence

2025 Nomination Form

Deadline: *4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 18, 2025*

Nominee Information		
Name of municipality leading project:	Resort Village of Kannata Valley	
Additional municipalities included in nomination: *(please include the names of all partner municipalities)*		
Contact Name:	Shannon Ulsifer	
Contact role in project:	N/A	
Telephone #:	306-731-2447	
E-mail Address:	office@kannatavalley.ca	
Name of Nominated Practice or Project:	Water Treatment Plant	
Date of Project or Practice Initiation:	August 20, 2008	
Date of Project or Practice Completion: (If ongoing, please indicate)	October 22, 2010	**Ongoing:** ■

Nominator Contact Information (if different than above)	
Name:	
Organization:	
Position:	
Mailing Address:	
Telephone #:	
E-mail Address:	

Saskatchewan Municipal Awards

Please provide as much detail as possible. Winning practices are posted in the Best Practices Library as a reference or resource for others. Nominations that clearly outline the practice and all steps involved have a higher chance of being selected for an award.

The Practice

1. What issue inspired the nominated project or practice?

In the early 70's, the council of the day in the Resort Village of Kannata Valley researched the feasibility of constructing a water distribution system in Kannata Valley. In searching for a suitable well and several failures later, an artesian aquifer 160 feet below the surface was discovered through continued grit and patience.
In the late 90's, the concentration of arsenic in this water source began to rise and exceed the allowable limit of 25 ppb and a Precautionary Drinking Water Advisory was issued on August 31, 2000.
In 2002, following Walkerton and North Battleford events, governments re-evaluated water delivery systems and methods and subsequently Saskatchewan introduced Water Regulations that lowered the allowable concentration of both arsenic and turbidity. Municipalities were required to meet these regulations by the end of 2010.
In 2005, following a Water Assessment Study, it became evident that a water treatment system would have to be installed in order to meet the regulations that would come into effect by the end of 2010.

2. What has this project or practice done to address the issue?

In order to address the issue, a full scale water treatment plant was built in the Resort Village of Kannata Valley that supplies treated water that meets all provincial water regulations, not only to the Village residents, but to three additional communities as well, along with potable water being hauled by truck to many residents along Last Mountain Lake who would have no access to potable water otherwise.

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The Process

This section should be the longest and most detailed part of your nomination. Include enough information, such as steps, resources accessed, and considerations to support a municipality interested in applying to a similar project or practice.

3. Indicate who had a direct role in this project or practice:
   - ☒ Municipal Council
   - ☒ Municipal Administration
   - ☐ Other

4. What was the role of the municipal council and/or municipal staff in this project or practice?

Village Council and the Administrator worked together to see this project from the ground floor to the fully functioning water treatment plant it is today. Council engaged EPEC Consulting Ltd. of Regina to conduct the pre-design and engineering reporting. This included a pilot study of a typical pressure vessel filtration absorption process using manganese greensand plus as the filter media.

Next, based on the Municipal Manager's research, Council received a proposal from Mainstream Water Systems of Regina in 2008 to supply and install a bio-filtration model. Also in 2008, the municipality applied for funding under the Building Canada Fund to upgrade the water utility. This application was successful and early 2009 the BCF program announced that grants in the amount of 66% of eligible project cost estimated to be 2.224 million based on the Mainstream-Bio-Filtration Model.

Council and the Administrator, while waiting during the approval period of the grant, continued to research the industry for recent technology and came across the AD26 Oxidation/Filtration process from AdEdge Technology as recommended by Philip Stadnyk from the Water Clinic in Saskatoon.

In early 2009, two pilot plants were installed and operated on site. One pilot was operated by the Water Clinic and AdEdge Technologies and the other by Dave Clark Water Consulting Inc., an independent firm retained by the Village.
In both cases, the results were remarkable in meeting all of the objectives set out. Following an evaluation by Council of tenders for the installation of a treatment system that would meet the objective of the community, the proposal presented by AdEdge Technologies Inc was selected and construction began shortly thereafter.

Village Council at the time consisted of Mayors Grozell and Gordon, Deputy Mayor Ken MacDonald, Councillors Don Sangster, Bill Pollon and Louis Desautels. Their foresight, diligence, time, energy and decision making brought the idea of a treated water plant to a small Village to a reality. The Village Administrator, Arnold Flegel, who was instrumental in carrying out the direction of Council, providing updates, research, tracking and a multitude of phone calls, emails and meetings was the backbone of the project and the reason the perseverance of a small community resulted in supplying residents with safe, reliable drinking water.

5. Were other groups were involved in developing this project or practice? If so, who were they and what role did they play?

Many groups were involved and consulted in the development of this project. The Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Municipal Affairs provided information and planning assistance, both from a technical and general aspect. Contractors and supplies provided, not only product, but information and advice on products, technology, efficiency, requirements and other information that is pertinent to the construction of a fully operational water treatment plant.
Contractors engaged in this project were Lakeview Construction, J & W Construction, Wild's Electric, Regina Electric, Sterling Plumbing and Heating, Wiggins Electric, Cary's Excavating, Municipal Utilities, Gieger's Fencing, Charles Currie Enterprises; equipment and supplies came from the Water Clinic, AdEdge Technologies, Frontier Plumbing and Flaman Sales (Southey).

6. What resources were involved?

The resources used for this large project involved engineering firms for planning, assessments and studies, the Government of Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan for funding, the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs for guidance. The tender process was utilized for the construction and installation phases of the building and the equipment.

The Municipal Manager at the time, Mr. Flegel, spent considerable time researching across the both the province and the country, the varying water treatment systems and which would potentially fit the Village the best. Conversations with other communities that had active water treatment plants, and other communities looking at the potential to install one. In working very closely with the Ministry of Environment as well as the Water Clinic was a priority to ensure the water treatment plant fit the needs of the community and those outside the community who would benefit from the usage of this safe, treated water.

7. How was the project or practice developed?

The water treatment plant was developed in conjunction with the Resort Village of Kannata Valley Council, the Federal and Provincial Governments and various stakeholders. From its inception to a fully functional water treatment plant was completed in one year from the time funding was obtained.

The installation of interconnecting pipelines, underground storage tanks and the construction of the water treatment plant building housing the necessary tanks, treatment systems, chlorine room, and water lines was completed and a grand opening celebration commenced on October 22, 2010.

The system chosen, leaves a reduced environment footprint by utilizing a treatment technology that reduces waste by recycling over 90 percent of the backwash water. This means only a small amount of a filter aide product besides chlorine for both oxidation and disinfection purposes is required.

Considering the project was completed and has been operational since 2010, the foresight of the Council, Municipal Manager, government agencies which approved and supplied funding for this project, has meant over 200 homes have been utilizing treated water which continues to meet safe water standards. The foresight and vision of those involved in this project is extremely commendable.

The Results

8. What effect did this project or practice have on the community?

The installation of a water treatment plant in Kannata Valley had several important effects on the community:
• Improved Water Quality: The plant would ensure that the water supply met stricter provincial regulations for arsenic and turbidity, providing residents with safer, cleaner drinking water.
• Regulatory Compliance: It would allow the community to comply with Saskatchewan's updated water regulations, avoiding penalties or further advisories.
• Public Health Protection: By reducing contaminants such as arsenic, the plant would help protect the health of residents and reduce risks associated with long-term exposure to unsafe water.
• Increased Confidence: Residents would likely feel more secure about their water supply, knowing it is regularly treated and monitored to meet safety standards.
• Long-Term Sustainability: The treatment system would support the community's growth and sustainability by ensuring a reliable and safe water source for future generations.

The economic impacts of installing a water treatment system in Kannata Valley also had several important effects on the community:
1. Compliance Cost Savings: By meeting provincial water regulations, the community avoids potential fines, penalties, or costs associated with non-compliance.
2. Property Value Increase: Improved water quality and reliability can enhance property values, making the area more attractive to current and prospective residents.
3. Health-Related Savings: Reducing contaminants like arsenic lowers the risk of health issues, potentially decreasing healthcare costs for residents and the community.
4. Long-Term Infrastructure Investment: The water treatment system represents a significant infrastructure investment, supporting sustainable growth and reducing future costs associated with emergency water advisories or system upgrades.
5. Community Confidence and Growth: Reliable access to safe water can encourage population growth and local business development, contributing to the overall economic vitality of the community.

9. Was a formal evaluation done after the project or practice was completed? Please explain.

An evaluation of the water treatment plant is an ongoing practice. As the plant continues to supply safe, reliable drinking water to over 200 properties, the success of the plant is in the continued operation, consistent satisfactory annual inspections, the Precautionary Drinking Water Advisory that was issued on October 31, 2000 being rescinded on October 5, 2010, and the continued addition of new users to the system.

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10. Describe any challenges faced.

Due to the large scale of this project, both in development, construction and cost of this facility, the largest challenge faced was obtaining the funding money to proceed. The total cost of the project was significant and without the Federal and Provincial Governments approval for funding, this treatment plant would not have become a reality.
With a number of options in water treatment facilities, choosing the right system for the community was difficult and with the mandatory provincial water quality standards changing, the old distribution system was not going to meet those standards. Therefore the challenges included:
- Building a water treatment system that met provincial water regulations at the time.
- Meet facility design guidelines regarding treatment and storage capacity as per the provincial Ministry of Environment.
- Expand consumptive water services to residents of four neighboring communities
- To utilize a treatment technology sensitive to the special environment requirement of being located in the valley of Last Mountain Lake.
- To select a system that was environmentally friendly and easily managed by the municipality.

Lessons Learned

11. What lessons were learned and what would you recommend doing differently?

The level of service that is provided to residents and surrounding communities is exceptional, and the quality of the water that allows safe consumption and use was worth the time and energy. It is important to gather information, engage in feasibility studies at the beginning of any project, ensure communication with stakeholders and community residents is maintained at all times, and have qualified and knowledgeable individuals who have the skills to budget and manage timelines effectively.

Since this plant has been effectively and efficiently providing clean, safe and reliable drinking water for 15 years, there would be no recommendations on doing anything different. Times have changed and treatment systems have changed. The best advice is to do the homework, do the leg work, keep the communication lines open and know that you, in the end, are providing something exceptional to your community.

All nominations will be listed on the Saskatchewan Municipal Awards website as a resource for other municipalities. Be sure to include specific information.

Please submit your completed nomination package to:
E-mail: awards@municipalawards.ca (preferred)
Fax: Attn: Saskatchewan Municipal Awards Program
Mail: Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, Unit 305 – 4741 Parliament Avenue, Regina, SK S4W 0T9

Questions?
Contact Stephanie Bourassa at 306-525-4318.

Thank you for submitting a nomination for the 19th annual Saskatchewan Municipal Awards.