

# #OurAssetsMatter

## AMBC NEWSLETTER



Sharing information, transferring knowledge, and building capacity for sustainable service delivery.

FORTY SIXTH EDITION – FALL 2025

### All Good Things...

*Arnold Schwabe, Executive Director, Asset Management BC*

#### ***“The Only Constant in Life Is Change.”- Heraclitus***

Many of you reading this were probably not in an “asset management” role, or even in local government, when the first issue of the AMBC newsletter came out.

Wally Wells started the newsletter in 2010 and has been directing it ever since. This is the first periodic edition that I’ve been responsible for and... it will be the last.

Times have changed. When AMBC and the newsletter started, asset management was a reasonably new term in British Columbia. It existed in other parts of the world but the term and the concepts were becoming part of government practice, along with the implementation of PS 3150. Over the last 15 years we’ve seen a rapid progression in ways to interact with our peers and with the public, for better or worse. We used to hold in-person meetings and it was more difficult and costly to get together. Technology, decreasing costs, and world events have increased the pace at which we adopted virtual meetings and increased our ability to connect.

This increased pace is part of the reason we are ending the full-length newsletter. About a decade ago, asset management regional communities of practice (CoPs) were being formed in the province. They were a way for peers to meet and share their stories and case studies, not unlike the stories shared in past issues of this newsletter. The last few years have seen a rapid increase in the number of CoPs and we now have seven CoPs that meet regularly.

This increase means our asset management stories, difficulties, and solutions are being shared at an accelerated pace, in real time, and the results have been extraordinary. As Gracelyn wrote it in a previous newsletter article:

*“Where do we have these conversations?”*

*I haven’t found a better way than our Communities of Practice.”*

Our feedback from the asset management community has also led us to the decision to end this newsletter. Back in 2022 AMBC performed a communications review and refresh project to get a sense of what the community wanted to hear and how they wanted to hear it. We conducted a survey and solicited feedback through communication channels and what we heard was that people liked the content in the newsletter, but they had a few issues. They wanted more timely updates. They felt that some of the information was dated by the time the newsletter came out. They thought that the newsletter might be too long. They wanted a reduced length and a newsletter that was more compact. They wanted a newsletter where the content was more actionable and the content was publicly searchable and easy to retrieve.

All of this was valid feedback. The extended PDF format was not conducive to search functions, multi-media, images, or actionable links. The extended format with images also became too large and difficult to send through regular email systems.

We also performed a review of the newsletter sign-ups and the process. Much of our original distribution list was compiled before direct marketing regulations changed

and we couldn't verify if older portions of the list were still CASL compliant.

The decision to end the extended newsletter is the culmination of months of evaluation and deliberation. Even though this newsletter is ending, we're not removing the opportunity for the asset management community to share stories. Early in 2025, we started an eNewsletter and we endeavour to distribute it monthly. We currently share updates, grant information, resources, and coming events, but the format and frequency means that the information is more current. In the future, our plan is to use the eNewsletter to publish case studies and stories, essentially as a replacement for this newsletter. It gives us the ability to more easily include links, reference material, multi-media, and to make the content web-searchable; all of those things that were missing from the extended newsletter.

In the coming months you are going to notice a theme. A few months back I had another conversation with Kim Stephens from the Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC, editor of the Waterbucket eNews (It's an outstanding newsletter and you should go and sign up here: <https://waterbucket.ca/>). The conversation started with AI but I'll save my thoughts on that for another time. I won't go into great detail about the remainder of our conversation because you can read about it in their November 4 edition, but it ended with us discussing the telling of our stories, why we do it, and the legacy we are passing on. You will also read about people sharing their stories at the AMBC conference this year; at the pre-conference session and during our AMBC update. In truth, our conference has always been about relating to others through our stories.

Now, ending this newsletter may seem a bit counterintuitive to the idea of telling stories. We're not putting an end to this practice; we're just moving it to a different platform. It's a platform that is more timely and accessible and can reach new and wider audiences.

#### Articles in this Edition:

- **Feature: All Good Things...**
- **UBCM Community Award for Excellence in Asset Management**
- **PROFILE: Young Professionals – Cody Chance, Sqwá (Skwah) First Nation**
- **AMBC 2025 Annual Conference**
- **Upcoming Events**

## UBCM Community Excellence Awards

*Arnold Schwabe, Executive Director, Asset Management BC*

The **City of Greenwood** was the recipient of the 2025 **UBCM Community Award for Excellence in Asset Management** for their implementation of **Resilient Greenwood – Building the Future Together**.



*UBCM Award for Excellence in Asset Management presentation to Greenwood Mayor and Councillors. Pictured left to right: Al Richmond from MFABC, City of Greenwood Mayor and Councillors, Cori Ramsay – UBCM President Elect.*

The City of Greenwood is pioneering a transformative approach to infrastructure planning by integrating strategic asset management with proactive community engagement. This forward-thinking initiative, led in partnership with Strategic Leadership Solutions and LandInfo Technologies Inc., is redefining how municipalities sustain essential services like water, roads, and waste management – and how they shift the narrative from talking about taxes to focusing on services.

Through a combination of staff and council education, data-driven risk assessments, and policy integration, Greenwood is ensuring buy-in to long-term infrastructure planning. What sets this project apart is its deep commitment to community involvement. Rather than operating behind closed doors, Greenwood is actively engaging residents in understanding infrastructure realities and shaping investment priorities. By fostering trust, transparency, and shared responsibility, this project is proving that asset management can be exciting – especially when it empowers both municipal leaders and residents to co-create a sustainable future.

The **District of Saanich** was the recipient of the 2025 **UBCM Presidents Committee Choice Award** for their **Asset management Strategy and Implementation Plan**.



UBCM Presidents Committee Choice Award presentation to District of Saanich. Pictured left to right: Cori Ramsay – UBCM President Elect, Representatives from the District of Saanich.

The criteria for considering a candidate for the Presidents Committee Choice Award include:

- Exemplary demonstration of excellence in meeting objectives of local government (for example, as demonstrated by highest application review score in a given intake);
- Outstanding achievement in relation to a current issue faced by local governments.

In 2023, Council approved Saanich's first-generation Asset Management Strategy and Implementation Plan, providing a road map for the continuous improvement of Saanich's asset management practices towards the goal of sustainable service delivery.

The project scope covers all of Saanich's built and natural assets. Project activities included assessing current state, identifying gaps, and prioritizing actions for continuous improvement. The Asset Management Strategy and Implementation Plan prioritizes ten strategic themes with forty-eight projects to be completed from 2023-2027.

The project was a collaborative effort between the Asset Management Steering Committee and a cross-departmental Asset Management Working Group, and this collaboration has continued into the implementation phase. Saanich Staff from across the organization are currently operationalizing the strategy, and are on-track towards completion of the prioritized actions by 2027. The AM Strategy and Implementation Plan is a living document that will be updated with current priorities every five years.

## PROFILE: Young Professionals

### Cody Chance, Facilities and Infrastructure Coordinator Sqwá (Skwah) First Nation

We asked Cody a series of questions about his asset management journey and, in his words, his path has taken a circuitous route. As a result, he has chosen to answer our first few questions as a group.

1. What was your initial career and what were your aspirations?
2. You previously worked for non-profit organizations. What made you decide to pursue a career in facilities and infrastructure? What is your educational background?
3. What attracted you to your current position at Sqwá (Skwah) First Nation

My professional life was almost entirely in retail, including retail management, and most recently spent 12 years with General Paint/Sherwin-Williams Company.

I've also been involved in community groups and advocating for change at all levels of government.

I burnt out after the pandemic, and took some time off to recover. It took a year and a half. During that time, I continued to volunteer and stay connected with peers in the non-profit sector.

When Sqwá First Nation found themselves in need of a Housing and Facilities Manager in 2023, and my name came up to run the department on an interim basis, I was honoured, and jumped at the opportunity.

I had hoped to get away from the corporate world and into the non-profit one, but expected it to take another decade, at least.

The Nation found a Housing Manager and, so she could focus on housing, they created a new position to handle Facilities and Infrastructure.

I didn't so much choose this career as trip and fall into it.

4. How did you learn about asset management? What interested you in the subject? What caught your attention? Once you had some sense of what asset management did, how did you pursue the subject and opportunity toward deciding there was a career choice there?

Indigenous Services Canada presents an entire Asset Management course for First Nations. That was my first introduction to Asset Management as a specific field of study. I took that course twice, read ISC's Asset Management Guide for BC First Nations, began attending AMBC Conferences, attended workshops, joined a Community of Practice, researched MMCD's Asset Management Data Register and other asset register schema across Canada, and just generally signed up for as much news and information on the subject as I could.

I'd been aware as a citizen that infrastructure wasn't where it should be, and that capital investment decisions weren't always made with the future front of mind, and had read up on the choices of past leaders, but finding myself working directly to resolve past mistakes in a community really made the importance of Asset Management eminently clear to me.

I don't totally understand why I find it so fascinating, or where the passion comes from, but the depth and breadth of the subject, the passion of other practitioners, and the focus on upstream, proactive solutions all play their part. I'm sure it's not for everyone, but I find it surprisingly *fun*.

#### **5. *What is your current position and what are your responsibilities?***

I'm the Acting Public Works Manager, and with the assistance of five staff, am responsible for all infrastructure, community buildings, fleet, and IT for Sqwá First Nation, including maintenance, and planning. I work closely with all departments to resolve current service level and capacity issues, and anticipate future needs.

Since early 2024, I've been Sqwá's project lead for a \$65 million three-community flood mitigation project.

I'm also Sqwá's delegate to Chilliwack Healthier Community, a network of over 80 non-profits and government bodies dedicated to improving quality of life for all people in the Chilliwack area.

#### **6. *What are your career aspirations or where do you hope to go from here?***

I honestly am not sure. I hope I can continue building something sustainable and progressive with Sqwá First Nation, and perhaps one day I can help other Nations and communities set themselves on a path to informed, intentional asset management.

I got where I am somewhat by accident, and likely, future movement will occur the same way.

## **Asset Management BC Conference - November 5 and 6, 2025**

The AMBC conference is a great success because of you. The 2025 AMBC Conference is fast approaching and we're looking forward to seeing everyone in person. The conference page on the AMBC website is being updated regularly so check back often and watch our social media for updates. We will keep you informed. The conference will be again at The Raddison Vancouver Airport hotel in Richmond, the first week of November on Wednesday and Thursday November 5 and 6, 2025, with the day prior reserved for in-person training sessions.

We're adding 2 new pre-conference sessions this year. The pre-conference "meet-ups" will be held on the evening of Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, and are for government employees/asset owners and First Nations. One of the sessions will be a meet-up to discuss asset management issues that owners/operators are facing and will also give attendees a chance to meet their peers. Government employees/asset owners and First Nation attendees are welcome at this meet-up. There is very limited space left for this meeting so if you are interested in attending, let us know immediately.

Our second meet-up is specifically for our First Nation delegates. It will be an opportunity to meet your peers. We hope to have representatives from the First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council available at the meeting and are working on having someone from Indigenous Services Canada attend.

There will be a limitation on attendance at these sessions and YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER TO ATTEND. If you are interested in attending, please send an email to [ed@assetmanagementbc.ca](mailto:ed@assetmanagementbc.ca) from a qualified email address (i.e. your work email, not gmail or icloud, etc.) stating your wish to attend and which session you would like to attend. Note that both of the sessions will run at the same time.

Come and enjoy a great learning experience, knowledge transfer, and networking and education opportunities.

## Upcoming Events



### **Asset Management BC**

November 4, 2025

Pre-conference Training

- Long Term Financial Planning

Info: [assetmanagementbc.ca/training/training-long-term-financial-planning/](https://assetmanagementbc.ca/training/training-long-term-financial-planning/)

- Levels of Service

Info: [assetmanagementbc.ca/training/levels-of-service-training/](https://assetmanagementbc.ca/training/levels-of-service-training/)

- Community Infrastructure, Climate, and Equity:  
Training for Elected Officials and CAOs

Info: [assetmanagementbc.ca/training/asset-management-essentials/](https://assetmanagementbc.ca/training/asset-management-essentials/)

- Leveraging Your Asset Data

Info: <https://www.assetmanagementbc.ca/training/leveraging-your-asset-data/>

### **2025 Asset Management BC Conference**

November 5-6, 2025

Annual Asset Management Conference

Radisson Vancouver Airport Hotel

Richmond BC

[assetmanagementbc.ca/conference/](https://assetmanagementbc.ca/conference/)

### **PEMAC Asset management Association of Canada**

October 27-29, 2025

Annual Conference

Westin Downtown Calgary

Calgary, AB

[pamac.org/conference/2025](https://pamac.org/conference/2025)

### **Subscribe to our New eNewsletter**

This will be the final periodic edition of the AMBC Extended newsletter. We're permanently moving to our **eNews format** to bring you **essential updates, expert insights, and real-world case studies**—right to your inbox. Now more **searchable, accessible, and timely** than ever!

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