



Asset Management Newsletter

FIRST EDITION – FALL 2010 ISSUE



Feature Article: Interview with Saanich Mayor Frank Leonard

By Glen Brown



Saanich Council has committed to an overall plan to increase capital spending to sustainable levels by the year 2019. This includes capital spending for water, sewer, drainage, transportation, park and facility infrastructure.

Mayor Frank Leonard

Glen Brown - At a recent Local Government Leadership Academy (LGLA) workshop, you mentioned the continued need to approach local government financial/funding requirements at 2 levels; (1) Continue to dialogue with senior government to improve local government funding opportunities (grants, alternative taxation approaches, etc), and (2) Look internally to your own organization to improve financial sustainability and service delivery. Saanich appears to be very proactive when it comes to looking internally and supporting best management practices like asset management. Can you provide an overview on your approach to Saanich's infrastructure replacement plan?

Mayor Leonard – *In the late 90's, staff had done considerable work in assessing our infrastructure assets, the services we provide and the long term costs associated*

with service delivery in order to identify our infrastructure gap or deficit. My concern with this information was how we presented this to the public. It was important to identify the needs, but at the same time maintain the public's trust and inspire confidence that their tax dollars are being spent wisely. So our approach was not to describe the problem as if the 'sky was falling' or the result as poor management because it wasn't, but rather as a problem that needed to be addressed and could be addressed over a longer period of time. As identified in the Saanich Infrastructure Summary¹, the solution was an incremental, long term approach that would be achieved over a 15 to 19 year period. Effective public consultation, as well as political consensus, allowed us to proceed with a yearly property tax increase of 0.75% to support the capital replacement of water, sewer, drainage, transportation and park infrastructure. This is now embedded as policy into the Saanich Strategic Plan and after 10 years of implementation, Saanich is very close to achieving our goal of sustainable levels of funding for these assets.

Glen Brown - At the LGLA, you effectively and simply articulated the importance of public awareness, consultation and education. To recall your words, "Never advance a solution to an issue prior to having public awareness of the issue, or the solution may become the issue." How did you proceed with public awareness/education with respect to the tax increase Saanich implemented to support the financial sustainability of your critical infrastructure (roads, water, sewer, drainage, parks and facilities)?

¹ http://www.saanich.ca/services/pdf/infrastructure_summary.pdf

Mayor Leonard – *It is important to look at this as a problem solving exercise. In the public sector/political governance sector, you have to take a different approach than that of small business or a big corporation. My approach is, when the solution will require time and/or money, you should follow 2 simple rules; (1) You can't solve a problem in advance of public awareness, and (2) You can't propose a solution in advance of political debate. Saanich spent considerable effort in ensuring all communications described the infrastructure gap- this included communications through the financial plan, the AGM, the Strategic Plan and all speeches. We focused on identifying what we need to spend, what we are spending, and how we will increase spending/taxation to solve the problem. It was also important how the information was provided – it was clearly understood that a 'Chicken Little' approach would not be effective with the public as we needed to ensure that the public maintained or built confidence in the job we were doing. This, over a period of a few years, addressed rule #1. During the same time, we also focused on rule #2, debating the issue at council, at all candidate's meetings and at community meetings. The implementation of the plan only began when there was a political consensus and public awareness.*

Glen Brown - *At a high level, asset management is really about looking at the services being delivered by a community, then balancing the public's expectation on 'level of service' with the public's expectation/ ability/ desire to pay for the service. Of course, there are certain services where the level of service is entirely or partially controlled by legislation, code, or bylaw. Do you think the average taxpayer is able to make this connection? Is there something collectively we (local governments, provincial government, LG associations such as BC Asset Management) can do to improve public awareness?*

Mayor Leonard - *In Saanich, I believe we have been successful in educating and making the public aware of this connection. Saanich has been able to do this through a number of different communication approaches. Through a more scientific approach, we have Public Opinion Polls, as part of our Strategic Plan. This provides input on the public's understanding of the issues and allows us to do some benchmarking. A less scientific approach for me occurs at tax notice time. There is a letter from the Mayor which is enclosed with the tax notices, highlighting the changes to taxes, what we need to do, what we are going to do, and the cost of doing it. We log the calls and complaints that come in, and over the last 10 years, complaints have steadily declined, to the present, where the majority of the complaints are focussed on assessment concerns, rather than how Saanich is utilizing the tax revenues to provide*

services. I believe our public, and certainly our community groups and associations, are well educated and aware of the issues affecting service delivery in Saanich. So for other local governments, I see the need for public awareness as a key to being successful. Any opportunity to support smaller communities, with resource and capacity issues, can only be seen as a benefit.

Glen Brown - *It is recognized that a significant challenge in managing service delivery and infrastructure is the time differences that exist between an elected official's 'life cycle' (3 years), a financial plan's 'life cycle' (5 years) and infrastructure's 'life-cycle' (25 + years). What do you consider your biggest challenge with respect to ensuring that the services provided to the taxpayers of Saanich are sustainable?*

Mayor Leonard - *The biggest challenge is something that Saanich has been successful in addressing – having stability with our Council. Saanich has had no radical shifts in the make-up of Council for the last decade. This does not mean that all members of Council agree on every issue before them, but it does eliminate Council being fearful of not being able to achieve their goals in a short time frame (3 years). It allows us to address issues with more confidence and look at issues with the long term view. A major key to our success has been the consequence of this stable culture, which also provides lots of political experience.*

Glen Brown - *Are there any other thoughts, or words of wisdom, you would like to share with the BC asset management community?*

Mayor Leonard - *It is important to understand that in the political world, change must occur incrementally. A good example of this is what Saanich has done with bike lanes. The key was starting small, but at the same time, taking the initial first step. Initially, getting something small in the budget for bike lane capital improvements provided the opportunity to continually grow the program. Politically, if we started big, it would never have been approved by Council. Now, with the budget line for bike lanes growing annually, we have an excellent biking network. We have taken the same approach with our critical infrastructure. While we have a long term plan, it was the incremental approach, year by year, that allowed us get to where we are today. In 2000, it looked overwhelming, in 2010, we are now close to reaching our goal of having our critical infrastructure services being sustainable. It all started with small, incremental steps. As I like to say, 'in Saanich, we specialize in happy endings!'*

Articles:

- Feature article: Interview with Saanich Mayor Leonard
- Our Asset Management Community
- Asset Management in Qualicum Beach
- As-Builts - Old Issues – New Realities: City of Prince George
- International Meeting: Infrastructure Canada
- Upcoming Events
 - CNAM Conference May 2011
 - FCM Conference February 2011
- Moving Saskatchewan Municipalities towards AM
- Other Sections:
 - Notes of interest
 - Future editions
 - Questions and answers

Our Asset Management Community

Asset Management BC

If you have an interest in asset management, or work in any of the disciplines in the field, then you belong to our asset management community. We are not an association or organization. We are a community of practice of asset management.

Asset Management BC was created to provide you a home for information, tools, exchange of ideas and answers to your questions. You are reading the first edition of the newsletter with more to come quarterly. Visit the Asset Management BC website and see for yourself all there is to help you.

With aging infrastructure, limited funds, citizen's desire for increased services, requests for lower taxes, we are challenged to meet all of these demands and allocate our limited funds wisely. With the introduction of the new accounting standard last year, referred to as PSAB 3150, our community now knows what they own and what the historical value is. Many of our communities have already identified the gap in spending especially on maintenance needed to maintain and eventually replace or decommission our assets. Many more communities, including First Nations communities are working to get there. The challenge for our Councils and Boards is to make the necessary decisions to fund this gap. The challenge for our staff, technical, financial and planning, is to find the best answers upon which to base those decisions and communicate the issues to our taxpayers.

The mission of Asset Management BC is to:

provide leadership and support for the management of community infrastructure assets"

To drive Asset Management BC, a working group was formed getting various professional and operational associations together along with selected local governments and First Nations.

To help in defining and delivering the message to our policy makers, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities is also part of the working group. The chair is Stan Westby, Chief Administrative Officer of Powell River. The vice chairs are Gordon Brown of the District of West Kelowna representing the Public Works Association of BC and Andy Wardell of the District of North Vancouver representing the Government Financial Officers Association



We have successfully learned to exchange ideas and understand the work of the other professions.

As an example, the approach taken to accounting for an asset by finance is different than the approach of the people operating and maintaining the asset, yet we both need essentially the same information.

Our focus is integrating the technical, financial and administrative requirements to assist our politicians in decision making and our citizens in understanding the message and the dilemmas we face.

Asset Management BC will also assist all of us by sharing experiences, tools, technologies and learning from others. The Group is liaising with others in Canada and other jurisdictions to also share experiences.

- ✓ Join in and benefit from the knowledge and tools being shared.
- ✓ Visit the website and use the discussion forum.
- ✓ Do you have information, programs or a case study you want to share? Send it to the e-mail address below
- ✓ Subscribe on-line to the newsletter

www.assetmanagementbc.ca

E- mail: info@assetmanagementbc.ca

Asset Management in Qualicum Beach

By Arnold Schwabe

The Town of Qualicum Beach

Population: Approximately 9,000

Area: 19.4 km²

Roads: 105 km

The Town of Qualicum Beach has recently embarked on an enterprise wide effort that will see significant changes in how the Engineering, Planning, Public Works, and GIS departments operate. In June of this year the Town acquired high resolution, digital frame, and georeferenced streetscape imagery from GeoAutomation, for the majority of the roads in their town – a total of 105 kilometres. The imagery was collected to an accuracy of 4cm-5cm, in x, y and z. This article will provide insight into why Qualicum Beach chose this direction and describe some of the methods it is now employing to utilize the imagery.



Background

In 2009 the Town of Qualicum Beach was typical of many towns of the same size when it came to the condition of their Asset Management System (AMS) – a system based on a variety of paper and soft copy drawings, spreadsheets, databases, and institutional memory. The ‘system’ was inefficient to manage, administer, and did not inspire confidence for its accuracy or currency amongst users.

Faced with: an increasingly older work force; regulatory requirements (PSAB1350); unknown infrastructure condition; and, an overall need to manage their assets better; the Town needed a different Asset Management strategy.

At the same time, the Town Administrator and Engineer acknowledged the need for a significant upgrade to the way

it handled its geographic data. The Town’s Geographic Information System (GIS) was in similar shape as the AMS. The two went hand in hand – you could not have an efficient AMS without a well functioning GIS.

The final element in the decision to do ‘something’ was the recognition that the Town was facing increasing costs related to the outsourcing of its Engineering, Survey, and asset inventory collection requirements.

Decision Making Process

Late in 2009, the Town was approached by the Trifide Group. The Trifide Group demonstrated the GeoAutomation processes and software for image capture and data acquisition to a small group of people, including the town engineer and the GIS technician, and discussed the benefits of using GeoAutomation imagery over other options that were available.

After a few internal meetings, it was clear that the GeoAutomation process was better suited to our requirements than other options in that: we had control of the imagery; the software process used image recognition, allowing for sign and object recognition and removal of objects, addressing privacy issues; the data and images were accurately referenced to geospatial coordinates. Other options considered were:

- GPS pickup of all visible assets in Town using limited in-house staff or contractors
- Geospatial imaging options from other resellers
- Oblique Imagery

Getting approval and financing from the Chief Administration Officer (CAO) was a rather painless process. The CAO and Town Engineer were involved early in the discussions with the Trifide Group and were able to see the benefits that the project could bring to the Town. The Town is fortunate in that we are small enough and management has the foresight and flexibility to act quickly on opportunities.

Image Collection

The GeoAutomation imagery was collected over two days. However, before the imagery collection could take place, ground control every 50 metres with multiple targets at intersections was surveyed. The survey targets were placed and surveyed by Town staff. There were approximately 3000 targets laid and surveyed by 3-4 staff over a period of 30 days. A Trimble R8 GNSS Rover survey unit connected to a Cansel Can-net Virtual Reference Network station in Qualicum Beach was used in the survey.

It is important to note that the cost of the 50 metre survey was in addition to the costs of the imagery and software. The Town kept the survey costs to a minimum by utilizing existing staff and equipment.

Sample of the targets from the GeoAutomation imagery



GeoAutomation also offers sign/object recognition as part of its suite of products. The Town understood the time savings that auto recognition of signs could produce in a sign inventory effort and acquired this feature as well.

GeoAutomation imagery of surface distress



Asset Management Utilization

The initial plan for asset inventory and collection was to use the imagery to fill in the gaps we had in our visible utility information. Hydrants, manholes, water meters, street trees, signs, etc. could be located on the photos and the attribute and asset condition information and coordinates could be entered directly into the database with very minimal fieldwork required. It should be noted that while the electrical distribution assets were readily visible on the imagery, they do not belong to the Town and at this time the Town is not considering their collection.

With limited staff and budget, it was important that we use as few field resources and contracting work as possible.

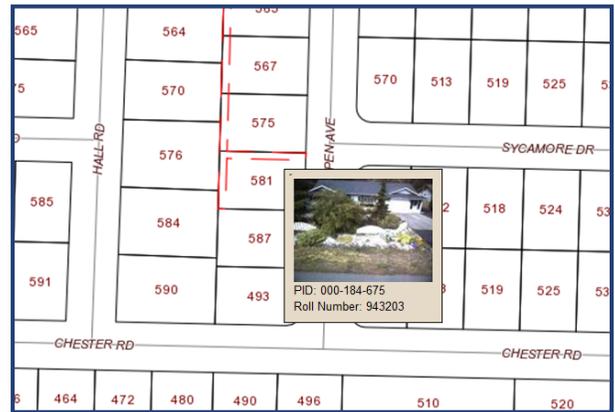
To date, we have received all the data and are currently organizing the information and cataloguing the signs that were picked up as part of the image recognition functionality. As we work with the data more, we will be extracting the remainder of our utility information and street tree information. We expect that we will be able to get close to 90% of the outstanding data for our visible asset inventories and the remainder will need to be verified in the field.

Engineering Utilization

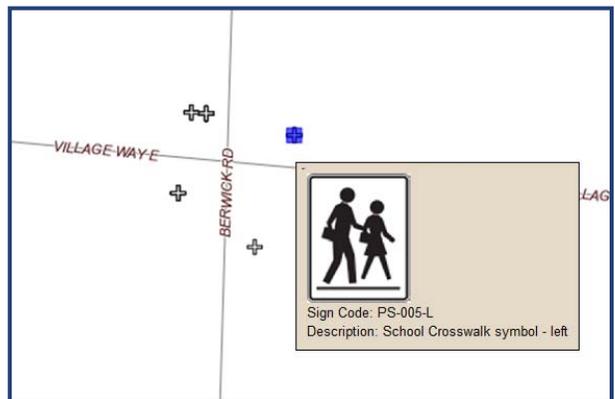
The Town expects to save significant contracting expenses in small projects that we will now perform with in-house staff. We will be doing small site surveys, slope analysis, cross sections, and terrain modelling without the need to hire outside survey crews. We are also linking photos of the signs and properties into our Mapguide Enterprise application and making them available to everyone within the organization.

Every summer, significant crew time and resources are dedicated to driving all the roads and finding pavement and road marking deficiencies. Coupled with a proper inventory system, we will now be able to find all the problems on the road network and establish a proper tracking and monitoring system. In past years, problem roads were usually fixed due to anecdotal evidence or resident complaints. While they are sometimes valid, we now have visual evidence to show which roads and sidewalks truly are in need of repair, without spending the time and resources to send out a crew for each issue.

Imagery Linked to Property



Sign Auto-Recognition



It has only been a short time since we first acquired the data but we anticipate many uses for the imagery from asset inventory to planning functions. The simple, easy to use GeoAutomation software currently runs in various GIS programs including Autodesk and ESRI. We expect to develop applications that will run in Mapguide so we can make the data available to all of our end users.

The Town will be happy to provide additional insight into how they are using GeoAutomation imagery. Please contact Arnold Schwabe at aschwabe@qualicumbeach.com.

If you are interested in seeing what GeoAutomation imagery can do for your community please contact Paul Currie at pcurrie@mcelhanney.com.

By Arnold Schwabe

Case Study Article: “As-Builts” Old Issues – New Realities

by Frank Blues ASCT, Asset Manager, City of Prince George

Having been in the Infrastructure business for more years than I care to remember, “As-Builts” or “Record Plans” always seemed to get left to last in terms of marking up the construction issue drawings with notes or modifications to record the actual details on installation for future reference. There was activity during construction to record the installed condition particularly when items were being covered up but all of this had to be transcribed into a form that could be handed over to a draftsman for drawing modification, the Engineer’s stamp & signature, then permanent storage in a filing drawer for future reference.

In today’s digital world, engineering drawings are made available electronically in various formats for end user convenience. Digital construction drawings can be electronically “marked up” by field staff to record the installed conditions and GPS capable equipment can record the digital location record of buried installations and related details. Digital photographs can add clarity to installation details. Attributes can be attached to Features/objects in drawings, for example a buried pipe could have the design data attached to the pipe electronically in an associated drawing database including the design flow, velocity, depth of flow, design material, pipe coating, etc.

How should we manage the large volume of complex details and data that can be generated during a modern infrastructure installation process, what information should be retained and in what form?

In larger organizations, more of this data is being held in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) that have been specifically designed to hold an array of infrastructure data. Spreadsheets could also be used to hold this data but with more limitations on how the data can be leveraged for future queries and no ability to do spatial queries. Some of this data may also be required in hydraulic modeling or other infrastructure management/modeling systems that may or may not be integrated to GIS.

The recent introduction of PSAB-3150 and the reporting of changes in the financial status of a community’s assets bring a new focus to record keeping for infrastructure and other community assets.

Basic asset inventory details are required to calculate their current value, rates of deterioration and related accumulated amortization including any new additions or disposals.

Condition information is desired but not required at this time. The new financial requirements requires the timely modification and notification of any changes in the status of assets and the processes for tracking and reporting on assets are subject to an independent audit.

In Australia, the ADAC (Asset Design & As Constructed) project was initiated in 2001 to support the efficient transfer of “As Constructed” asset information from the development industry to councils www.adac.com.au/.

In Canada, the National Research Centre has written a few papers related to the integrated management of asset data including:

Developing enterprise GIS-based data repositories for municipal infrastructure asset management; by Halfawy, M.R.; Figueroa, R.

<http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/obj/irc/doc/pubs/nrcc45583/nrcc45583.pdf>

In British Columbia, the Master Municipal Documents Association (MMCD) is considering the development of a digital drawing standard that would outline the requirements for drawings through the design, construction and “as-constructed” processes. This would standardize and help improve the efficiency of asset data management through the effective use of current software tools.

See the presentation on Information Strategies by Andrew Walther:

<http://www.mmcd.net/contentpage.aspx?id=associationres>

Despite the work that has been completed in the management of as-constructed records and related processes, I suspect that many agencies may still struggle with limited internal development of digital drawing (asset) records in their agency.

The City of Prince George has attempted to establish a few basic approaches to this issue including the development of an Asset Records Procedure. The procedure is intended to guide the management of asset records related to their creation, condition, redevelopment and retirement. The procedure also includes the capture of "other" records that may include engineer's reports or studies related to infrastructure that may have eluded capture.

Central to the procedure is the use of a tracking tool to follow the status of projects from creation through to completion, including the records ending up in the appropriate location including transfer into the City's GIS system where most infrastructure records are retained. The City already broadly uses Tempest - Calls for Service software and this has been adapted for use in the infrastructure tracking process. In short, once an infrastructure project is approved by Council or a Building/Engineering Permit is issued that results in a change in City

infrastructure, the Records Division issues a Tempest – Calls for Service to the Divisional Project Manager responsible for the project. The Manager updates the Call for Service at development milestones. The Project status can be queried/reported corporately including any outstanding records which may not have been submitted for retention and/or updating in our GIS.

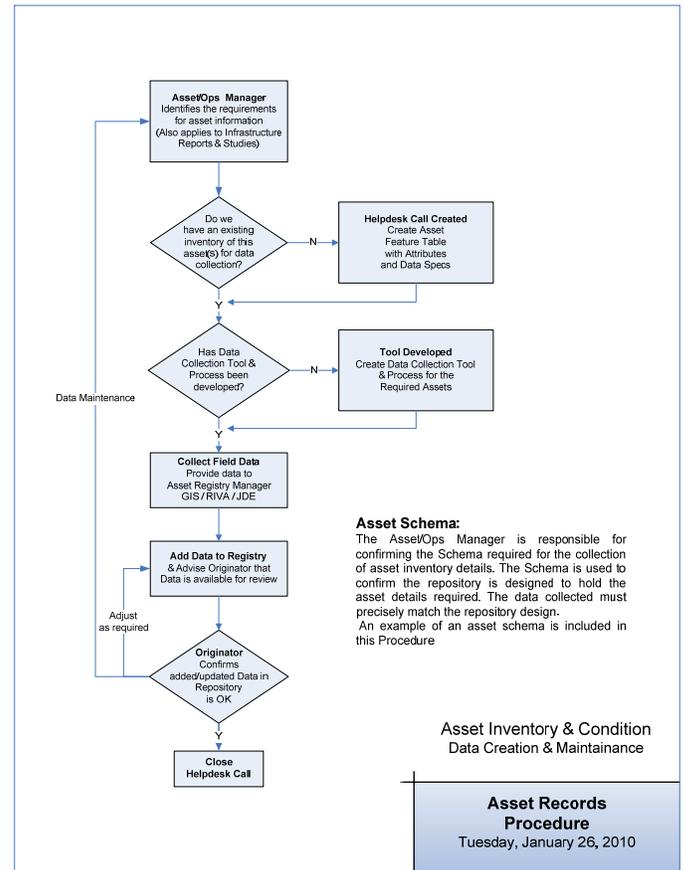
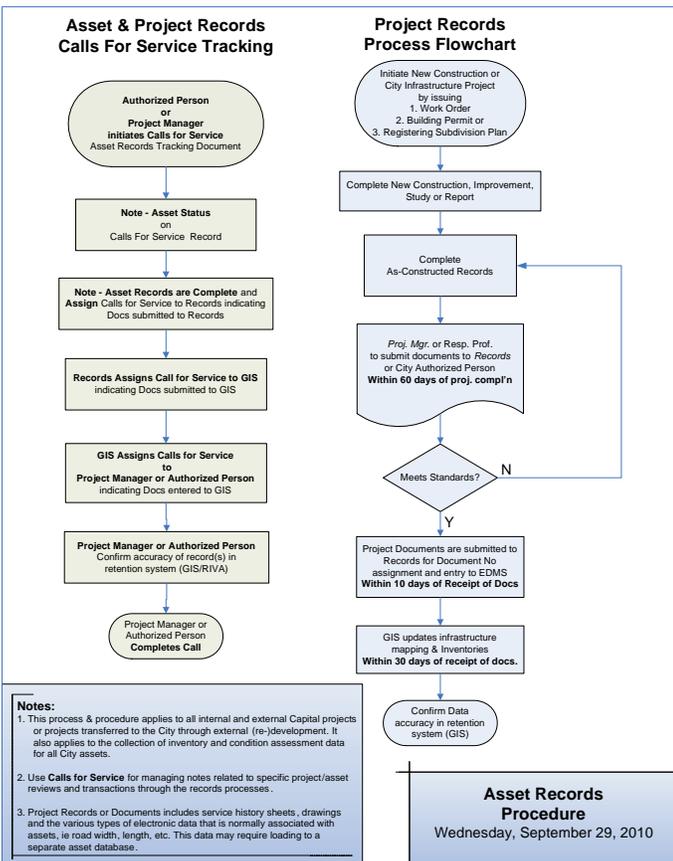
There has been a noticeable difference in the attention given to this important Project activity and initial feedback that the tracking process is not too onerous and is easily accessed.

While it is relatively early days, Senior Management's corporate support for this initiative has underscored its importance and our refocus on this important aspect of Asset Management.

Frank Blues ASCT, Asset Manager,

City of Prince George

Below is a schematic of the Asset Records Procedure. A full copy of the Asset Records Procedure may be obtained by contacting the writer.



Infrastructure Canada Hosts International Infrastructure Round Table (IIRT)

The sixth annual meeting was moderated by Bryce Conrad, Assistant Deputy Minister of Infrastructure Canada's Program Operations Branch, on August 16, during the 2010 APWA International Public Works Congress in Boston, when the Canadian Public Works Association (CPWA) also holds its annual meeting.



IIRT Participants (from left to right): John Truman (IPWEA - Australia), Bryce Conrad (INFC), Helena Allison (City of Napa, CA - USA), Jiří Neuzil (CZPWA - Czech Republic), Charles Button (Massachusetts Water Resources Authority - USA), Neil Buchan (ICE - UK), Jannie Pietersen (IMESA - South Africa), Ray McIndoe (INGENIUM - New Zealand), Ric Robertshaw (CPWA/NRTSI/Peel Region, ON - Canada), Mike Sheflin (IFME - Ottawa), Mike Mortimer (CSA - Canada), Chris Champion (IPWEA - Australia), Dan-Henrick Långström (FAME - Finland), and Greg Chartier (CPWA/NAMWG/CWWA/Saskatoon, SK - Canada)

The concept of the IIRT meeting was initiated through Infrastructure Canada to create a forum for countries to

discuss infrastructure issues. Representatives from Canada, the United States, Australia and New Zealand have taken part every year since 2004. Mexico has been represented in the past and will likely participate in discussions again in the future. This year, more countries were able to attend and Infrastructure Canada had the pleasure of hosting additional delegates from the United Kingdom, South Africa, the Czech Republic, and Finland.

After an update for the enlarged group by longstanding participant, Ric Robertshaw of CPWA, outlining the history of these meetings and prior year discussions, the group held a focused round table discussion on economic stimulus funding for infrastructure from the perspectives of the various countries represented. Each country provided a brief commentary on their circumstances, approach and successes. Mike Mortimer of the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), who leads the *Municipal Infrastructure Solutions Program* (www.csa.ca/infrastructure) provided brief remarks as a prelude to a round table discussion on the adaptation of infrastructure to the impacts of climate change. The meeting concluded with a brief discussion on the next steps and intent to continue to meet again next year, and on an annual basis.

Many delegates attended a luncheon hosted by the CPWA held over Congress, where David Rudberg, General Manager of Olympic and Paralympics Operations, delivered a presentation on the public works successes and challenges of the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver.

Expect more information in the future from the international scene.

Upcoming Events

FCM Sustainable Communities Conference and Trade Show

February 8 - 10, 2011: Victoria, BC



CNAM 2011 "Building Communities" Workshop

May 9 – 11, 2011: Burnaby, BC

BUILDING COMMUNITIES 2011
Burnaby, British Columbia

2010 Annual CWMA Conference

October 20 – 22, 2010: Parksville BC



From Rain to Resource: Stormwater Management in a Changing Climate Workshop and Tradeshow

October 28 - 29, 2010: Kelowna BC



From Rain to Resource
2010

CNAM Workshop in our Backyard

May 9 – 11, 2011

By Barry Davis

Municipal infrastructure is the foundation of a healthy and vibrant city. Deteriorating infrastructure and funding limitations threaten the ability of our communities to thrive. Asset management practices provide a thorough and comprehensive platform to help us address common issues and a financial plan for future sustainability. PSAB 3150 provides a platform for initial financial reporting and ensures consistency of approach plus provides some initial technical data on what we own for our asset management plan. However, many questions linger including “What is Asset Management? What does it mean for municipal government? Where do I get started? Where do we go after PSAB 3150”?

Four years ago, a number of municipalities across Canada met to discuss creating an annual workshop. Since its inception in Hamilton Ontario, the Canadian Network of Asset Managers evolved and successful workshops have been hosted in Halifax, Calgary and Ottawa. In 2009, CNAM was established as a non-profit association to promote industry awareness, innovation and knowledge transfer among municipalities in managing our assets.

In 2011, you have the opportunity of attending the CNAM Workshop right here in Burnaby with the theme of *Building Communities*. Mark May 8-11 on your calendar. You will benefit from a combination of inspirational keynote speakers, interactive breakout sessions, informative tours and especially excellent networking opportunities with people from across Canada and overseas. How can I participate? Share some of the innovative work you may already be doing. Learn more and submit your abstract at www.cnam.ca.

By becoming a CNAM member now, you can start connecting with industry leaders across Canada. Membership benefits include a discount on workshop registration, professional development and networking, knowledge sharing and the opportunity to develop your leadership skills by participating on CNAM committees. Whether you practice in risk, finance, engineering, operations, economics or information technology or management, you will benefit from being a part of this diverse group of professionals.

Visit www.cnam.ca for more information or sign up now at www.cnam.ca/membership.

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Sustainable Communities Conference and Trade Show

By Kim Fowler, Director of Sustainability, City of Victoria

February 8-10, 2011
Victoria, BC

The FCM Sustainable Communities Conference and Trade Show is going on the road! Don't miss our 2011 conference in beautiful Victoria, BC next February. Mark your calendars and plan to join hundreds of municipal leaders for innovative examples of sustainable development, training and networking opportunities, and resources for greening local communities.

On behalf of FCM and our co-hosts the City of Victoria and the Capital Regional District, we invite you to join us for this exciting event. Stay tuned to www.fcm.ca for program and registration information this fall.

Conference Theme

Embracing Change: Innovative governance, partnerships and financing for sustainability

Change is a constant in our world and happens at an ever-increasing pace. Cities and communities must adapt to ongoing changes in their natural, economic, political, social and cultural environments. A willingness to embrace new behaviours, technology, business models and governance is essential for a municipality to move towards sustainability.

As our understanding of sustainability continues to evolve, municipalities and their local partners are leading the way by taking innovative, integrated approaches to reduce environmental impacts, build social cohesion, and create economic opportunities in their communities.

Whether your community is just starting on its path towards sustainability or has already seen the changes that a sustainable approach creates, the Sustainable Communities.

The Conference is an opportunity to share your experience and learn from your peers in order to further your own change for the better!

Moving Saskatchewan Municipalities towards Asset Management

By Steve Brown, Saskatchewan Municipal Affairs

Like all municipalities across Canada, tangible capital asset (TCA) reporting was a task that everyone in Saskatchewan, including elected officials, enjoyed to the fullest! While TCA reporting was no vacation, it certainly proved to be a task that provided the necessary catalyst for some communities to start investigating their infrastructure needs.. Through hard work and dedication at our TCA implementation committee, our communities are on pace to achieve a high compliance rate reporting on the 2009 financial statements.

In early 2010, a couple of our provincial municipal associations expressed a desire to see a how the TCA information can be leveraged for defining the condition state of municipal assets, the expected life cycle costs and the long term financial plan for the municipalities. In short, they wanted to start slowly moving down the path of defining what the infrastructure needs are and better understand what asset management is. Presentations to audiences including both ministry municipal representatives on asset management pilots have built awareness sufficient to move asset management forward in the province. To date, a half a dozen presentations have been done on the pilot projects, with another half dozen planned until March 31, 2011. More projects are in the planning stages.

Individuals from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and our municipal associations have created the province's first asset management workshop in Saskatoon on October 13, 2010. The focus of the workshops will be building knowledge on levels of service, state of infrastructure reports, and learning from other communities currently implementing asset management strategies across Canada. TCA reporting has proved to be the catalyst in Saskatchewan to take stock of infrastructure and start to investigate ways for optimizing their assets.

We are working towards 'Asset Management Saskatchewan' and linking for information sharing with our partners across Canada. Let's all keep up the good work.

Notes of Interest:

- The "Local Government Asset Management Working Group" is the governing group supporting Asset Management BC. The Group meets quarterly.
- Asset Management BC involves all major Associations serving the public municipal sector.
- Watch for workshops seminars planned for the winter season.

Coming in the Winter Edition:

- Update on the Asset Management Roadmap Project
- More local government articles
- What do we do with the PSAB 3150 data?
- Grant program information
- Questions and Answers

Q & A Introduction:

In future editions we will incorporate a Q & A section. Submit your questions. Get your answers.

Want to contribute an article? Contact Asset Management BC

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