

Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation on Vancouver Island: The New Business As Usual

The 2008 Capital Region Series is....

Organized by:

Convening for Action on Vancouver Island
Leadership in Water Sustainability



In partnership with:



University
of Victoria



POLIS Project
on
Ecological Governance
University of Victoria



And in collaboration with:



BCWWA



BRITISH
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Green Infrastructure Partnership



The CAVI Partnership is collaborating with the Capital Regional District and the Green Infrastructure Partnership to present....

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WHY:	<p>The purpose of the <i>Showcasing Innovation Series</i> is to celebrate....and build on....the on-the-ground successes that are enhancing the ways communities are being developed and water is being managed in the Capital Region.</p> <p>The goal of the Series is to promote networking, inform and educate practitioners, and help local governments move ‘from awareness to action’ in doing business differently --- <i>The New Business As Usual</i> --- through sharing of approaches, tools, experiences and lessons learned that will ultimately inform a pragmatic strategy for climate change adaptation.</p>								
WHAT:	<p>Green Infrastructure is the on-the-ground application of <i>Design with Nature</i> principles. See the list below. Water sustainability and climate change adaptation are desired outcomes, both in terms of how water is used and how water runs off the land, when <i>Design with Nature</i> solutions are implemented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Develop compact, complete communities</i> ▪ <i>Increase transportation options</i> ▪ <i>Reduce the loads on water, wastewater and energy systems</i> ▪ <i>Protect and restore urban ‘green’ space</i> ▪ <i>Strive for a lighter ‘hydrologic footprint’</i> ▪ <i>Achieve higher levels of stream, wetland and lake protection</i> <p>Stand-alone showcasing events can serve as building blocks to inform a comprehensive strategy for urban watershed restoration and enhancement, over time, in conjunction with land redevelopment.</p>								
WHEN & WHERE:	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Friday, September 12, 2008</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Town of View Royal</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday, September 26, 2008</td> <td>City of Langford</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday, October 10, 2008</td> <td>University of Victoria</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Date in 2009 to be determined</td> <td>Bowker Creek Initiative</td> </tr> </table> <p>Each event comprises presentations in the morning and a tour of project sites in the afternoon. The series is eligible for professional development credits from APEGBC and PIBC.</p>	Friday, September 12, 2008	Town of View Royal	Friday, September 26, 2008	City of Langford	Friday, October 10, 2008	University of Victoria	Date in 2009 to be determined	Bowker Creek Initiative
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WHO:	<p>The Series will be of interest to Engineering, Planning, Public Works, Development Services, Parks and Environment Departments in Regional Districts and Municipalities</p>								

For more information:

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A 'Design with Nature' approach is key to climate change adaptation...



- Develop compact, complete communities
- Increase transportation options
- Reduce the loads on water, waste and energy systems
- Protect and restore urban 'green' space
- Strive for a lighter 'hydrologic footprint'
- Achieve higher levels of stream, wetland and lake protection

Showcasing Innovation in the Town of View Royal: 'Design with Nature and be Rewarded with Infrastructure Grants'

The Town of View Royal will showcase its Transportation Master Plan, with the spotlight on the implementation strategy for reconstruction and enhancement of the old Island Highway in phases. Through a comprehensive consultation process, the community has embraced a holistic, ecosystem approach that looks for opportunities and synergies to achieve multiple objectives when replacing and/or retrofitting municipal infrastructure. A desired outcome is a liveable community that is in harmony with nature.

In 2007, the Town's vision and innovation was rewarded by a \$7.4 million grant to fund the first phase of the old Island Highway project. A driver is restoration of water quality in Portage Inlet, often described as the jewel of Victoria.

The project achieves five of six elements of a Design with Nature strategy. Furthermore, this regional precedent demonstrates what is meant by *The New Business As Usual*, establishes new and higher expectations for an environmental approach to infrastructure design, and sets a provincial benchmark for other municipalities to measure themselves against when applying for senior government funding.

The Town will share its Grant Application Template so that others can benefit from this successful precedent. The Town will also present its vision for a regional fibre optic network owned by local government. This would create opportunities for local government to generate new revenue streams. The old Island Highway project includes installation of a duct for a possible future fibre optic cable. This illustrates what can be done "While We've Got that Road Dug Up".

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Showcasing Innovation in the City of Langford: 'Integrated Service Delivery – Transforming the Community'

The City of Langford will showcase the Westhills Green Community which will comprise 6000 new residential units at full build-out. Because it is one of two Canadian pilots for LEED Neighbourhood Development, Westhills will set a new national standard for community development that achieves objectives for socially and environmentally sustainable design. The Westhills plan addresses all six elements of a Design with Nature strategy.

The City will also showcase its plan for implementing an 'integrated utility' for domestic, reclaimed water, and energy. A water recycling system and a renewable energy system are at the heart of the plan to achieve the goal of energy self-sufficiency. The renewable energy system will be based on geo-exchange, with other technologies such as biomass gasification as options for the future; and the whole process is central to assisting the City to become carbon-neutral by 2012. Reclaimed water is proposed to be provided by a new sewage treatment plant that will be located in the vicinity. The 'integrated utility' would establish a North American first; and would also create a business opportunity for the City to generate revenue streams that lessen its reliance on traditional sources of local government financing.

In addition to Westhills and the Integrated Utility, the City will also elaborate on its approach to managing risk, learning by doing, and adapting. This will be illustrated by the City's long-term approach to rainwater management, and will include a case study example: a new type of pervious paver that has a cobble finish and is designed for H₂O traffic loading is being evaluated through a pilot project; the cobble paver is the proposed surface for a planned European-style Ring Road in the downtown core.

Showcasing Innovation at the University of Victoria: 'Towards a New Water Infrastructure – Thinking Beyond Pipes and Pumps'

Situated at the headwaters of Bowker Creek, the University of Victoria, a community of more than 25,000 people, is a case study for green buildings and compact growth. The primary focus of the day will be on the built environment and implementing approaches and practices that achieve a Design with Nature outcome, and reduce physical impacts resulting from intensive urbanization.

The University and POLIS Project will showcase how each is 'walking the talk' in turning theory into action; also, POLIS will elaborate on how it is engaging local governments in discussions about new strategies for achieving the goal of sustainable water management and reduced 'hydrologic footprints'. Emphasis will be on how water sustainability can be achieved through the 'soft path' for water and complemented by green infrastructure practices that flow from a Design with Nature guiding philosophy; especially when those infrastructure practices reflect a full and proper understanding of the relationship between land and water.

The workshop will cascade in three major sections: *education* (with a focus on broader social and cultural contexts that shape attitudes and behaviour), *engagement* (taking research into the community) and *decisions* (making it work on campus). This will be followed by a walkabout to inspect green buildings and green infrastructure at UVic.