

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

Summary Report

on

Showcasing Innovation in the Capital Region



University
of Victoria

POLIS Project
on
Ecological Governance
University of Victoria



October 2008



Organized under the umbrella of the Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia
In partnership with the Capital Regional District and in collaboration with the Green Infrastructure Partnership

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

Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation on Vancouver Island: The 2008 Series

- ☑ **September 12 – Town of View Royal**
'Design with Nature and be Rewarded with Infrastructure Grants'
- ☑ **September 26 – City of Langford**
'Integrated Service Delivery – Transforming the Community'
- ☑ **October 10 – University of Victoria & POLIS**
'Towards a New Infrastructure – Integrated and Water-Centric Planning at UVic and Beyond'

Showcasing Innovation Format

INSIDE



First, the project preview

OUTSIDE



Then, the site visit and walkabout

“2008 Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation Series on Vancouver Island” featured community-scale projects

Doing Business Differently

The genesis for the **Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation Series on Vancouver Island** was a 2005 consultation workshop organized by the Green Infrastructure Partnership. This resulted in the 2007 Showcasing Innovation program, with parallel series held on both sides of the Georgia Basin. The goal of the Showcasing Innovation Series is to promote networking, inform and educate practitioners, and help local governments move ‘from awareness to action’ in doing business differently --- [The New Business As Usual](#)¹ --- through sharing of approaches, tools, experiences and lessons learned that will ultimately inform a pragmatic strategy for **climate change adaptation**.

Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation on Vancouver Island: The 2008 Series

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‘Integrated Service Delivery – Transforming the Community’

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‘Towards a New Infrastructure – Integrated and Water-Centric Planning at UVic and Beyond’

A ‘Design with Nature’ approach and re-use of resources are key to climate change adaptation

- Develop compact, complete communities
- Increase transportation options
- Re-use and recycle water, energy and nutrients from liquid wastes
- Protect and restore urban ‘green’ space
- Strive for a lighter ‘hydrologic footprint’
- Achieve higher levels of stream, wetland and receiving water protection



¹ <http://www.waterbucket.ca/cfa/index.asp?sid=9&id=221&type=single>

Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation in the Capital Region

Building on Success

The 2007 Vancouver Island Series was held north of the Malahat under the umbrella of [Convening for Action on Vancouver Island \(CAVI\)](#).² The Series was hosted by three regional districts, namely: Cowichan Valley, Nanaimo and Comox-Strathcona.

Building on the interest and momentum generated by the two successful 2007 series, CAVI collaborated with the Capital Regional District and the Green Infrastructure Partnership to present **Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation in the Capital Region: The 2008 Series**.

Design with Nature:

"While the 2007 Series was mainly about networking and relationship-building, the 2008 Showcasing Innovation Series in the Capital Region was about raising the bar and establishing expectations to truly achieve Design with Nature outcomes at a community scale," reports **John Finnie**, CAVI Chair (and General Manager, Environmental Services, Regional District of Nanaimo).



Looking Ahead to 2009:

"The 2008 Series featured projects that demonstrated what is meant by [The New Business As Usual](#),³ and set provincial benchmarks for others to measure themselves against," adds **Jody Watson**, Harbours & Watersheds Coordinator for the Capital Regional District. "The 2008 Series was a progression, starting with a roadway in View Royal and ending with the mini-municipality that is the University of Victoria. In 2009, we will be looking at different ways to redevelop an entire watershed that flows through three municipalities."



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<http://www.waterbucket.ca/cfa/index.asp?sid=19&id=176&type=single>

3

<http://bc.waterbalance.ca/index.asp?type=single§ion=Announcements&sid=29&id=84>

Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation in the Capital Region

Summary Reports for 2008 Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation Events

A summary report has been compiled for each of the three events hosted by the Town of View Royal, City of Langford and the University of Victoria. Each summary report consolidates relevant Water Bucket stories under one cover. To download these documents, click on the links below:

- [Summary Report on Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation in the Town of View Royal](#)⁴ --- The Town showcased its **Transportation Master Plan**, with the spotlight on the implementation strategy for reconstruction and enhancement of the old Island Highway in phases. Registration was capped at 30. Ten of 13 municipalities in the Capital Region were represented. In addition, there was participation by the District of North Cowichan. To access the complete set of web stories posted on Water Bucket, please [click on the link below](#).⁵
- [Summary Report on Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation in the City of Langford](#)⁶ --- The focus was on how to create neighbourhoods that integrate both good planning and innovative engineering designs, for overall greater sustainability, that is: environmental, social and economic. The



⁴
<http://www.waterbucket.ca/cfa/sites/wbccfa/documents/media/162.pdf>

⁵
<http://www.waterbucket.ca/cfa/index.asp?sid=13&id=294&type=single>

⁶
<http://www.waterbucket.ca/cfa/sites/wbccfa/documents/media/164.pdf>

event was attended by almost 50 people from a variety of organizations, including 10 of 13 Capital Region municipalities. In addition, the City of Nanaimo and District of North Cowichan were also represented. To access the complete set of web stories posted on Water Bucket, please [click on the link below](#).⁷



- [Summary Report on Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation at the University of Victoria](#)⁸ --- A community of more than 25,000 people, the University of Victoria (UVic) is a case study for green buildings and compact growth. Over the past five years, UVic has been able to transition from an incremental approach in planning and resource management to a water-centric approach that is much more holistic and integrated --- **the new business as usual**. Over 30 people attended. To access the complete set of web stories posted on Water Bucket, please [click on the link below](#).⁹



⁷
<http://www.waterbucket.ca/cfa/index.asp?sid=13&id=298&type=single>

⁸
<http://www.waterbucket.ca/cfa/sites/wbccfa/documents/media/163.pdf>

⁹
<http://www.waterbucket.ca/cfa/index.asp?sid=13&id=302&type=single>

Shaping Our Region's Future



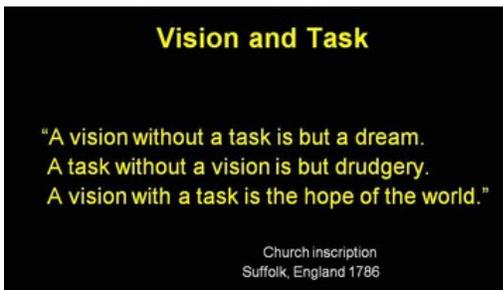
As part of the program for *Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation at the University of Victoria*, Councillor Vic Derman of the District of Saanich presented his blueprint for action titled [The Natural City](#).¹⁰ "Accomplishing it will not be easy but the rewards will be worth the effort," stated Derman. "Getting even close to The Natural City would: fulfill the vision of the Regional Growth Strategy, help meet the challenge of climate change and all but guarantee our future economic success. Can we afford to do anything



else?"

Well-versed in a water-centric way-of-thinking, Vic Derman chaired the organizing committee and was the driving force behind the highly successful **2006 Water in the City Conference**, held in Victoria. He is a Director of the Capital Regional District; and is Vice-Chair of the Capital Region Water Commission.

"Collectively, the three lenses bring our future into focus," writes Vic Derman. "The picture they define is one of environmental, social and economic sustainability. It portrays a new approach that cannot be accomplished with tinkering and incremental change. Instead, bold and visionary action will be needed."



¹⁰

<http://www.waterbucket.ca/cfa/sites/wbccfa/documents/media/156.pdf>

Who is CAVI?

The CAVI Partnership comprises the [British Columbia Water & Waste Association](#), the [Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia](#), the provincial Ministries of Environment and Community Development, and the [Green Infrastructure Partnership](#). CAVI is co-funded by



the Province and the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia. The Water Sustainability Committee of the BCWWA is the managing partner

and is providing program delivery. For more information about the CAVI Partnership and what it wants to do, please [click on the link below](#).¹¹



¹¹

<http://www.waterbucket.ca/cfa/index.asp?sid=13&id=124&type=single>



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

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

<p>WHY:</p>	<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>								
<p>WHAT:</p>	<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>								
<p>WHEN & WHERE:</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Friday, September 12, 2008</td> <td>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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<p>WHO:</p>	<p>The Series was designed for Engineering, Planning, Public Works, Development Services, Parks and Environment Departments in Regional Districts and Municipalities</p>								

For more information:

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sustainabilitycoordinator@shaw.ca OR www.conveningforaction.ca

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

2008 Series builds on 2007 Georgia Basin program successes to demonstrate what “The New Business As Usual” means

Doing Business Differently

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The 2007 Vancouver Island Series was held north of the Malahat under the umbrella of **Convening for Action on Vancouver Island (CAVI)**. The Series was hosted by three regional districts, namely: Cowichan Valley, Nanaimo and Comox-Strathcona.

While the 2007 Series was mainly about networking and relationship-building, the 2008 Showcasing Innovation Series in the Capital Region is about raising the bar and establishing expectations to truly achieve Design with Nature outcomes at a community scale.

The 2008 Series features projects that demonstrate what is meant by **The New Business As Usual**, and set provincial benchmarks for others to measure themselves against.



Bridging Engineering and Planning

According to **Dale Wall**, Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Community Development (and a member of the Green Infrastructure Partnership Steering Committee), “The vision is that the Showcasing Innovation Series can play an integrating role to cut across disciplines and ultimately serve as a catalyst to create neighbourhoods that integrate both good planning and innovative engineering designs, for overall greater sustainability....environmental, social and economic.”



“The strength of the Green Infrastructure Partnership lies in its engineering infrastructure foundation, with the Showcasing Innovation Series proving powerful in getting the images right and seeing them on the ground,” continues Dale Wall. “It is when we deal with engineering and planning issues together...telling the whole story of how to overcome BOTH engineering and planning hurdles...that we cut across other disciplines.”

From Exception to Norm:

“We are using the slogan **The New Business As Usual** to convey the message that, for change to really occur, practices that until now have been viewed as the exception must become the norm moving forward. We have to build regulatory models and develop models of practice and expertise to support The New Business As Usual”, stated Dale Wall at the Gaining Ground Leadership Summit in May 2008.



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

Design with Nature Outcomes

"In embracing a 'design with nature' philosophy, we have borrowed from Ian McHarg and the title of his 1969 book," explains **Kim Stephens**, series organizer and Program Coordinator for the **Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia**, "Furthermore, we have developed a definition of Design with Nature that is consistent with what McHarg intended in terms of ecological planning and letting the landscape inform development, yet goes beyond McHarg in terms of synthesizing Smart Growth principles with an infrastructure way-of-thinking."



The mind map for a Design with Nature strategy is presented below, and comprises six elements:



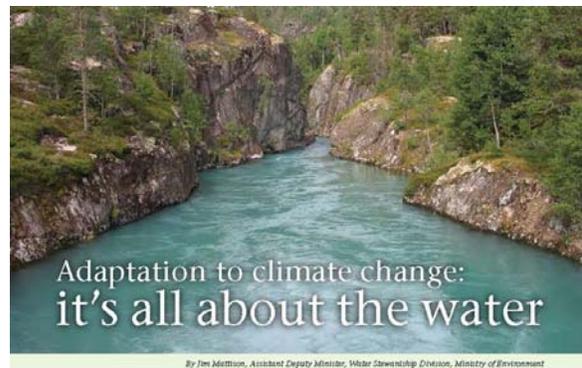
A 'Design with Nature' approach is key to climate change adaptation

- 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 receiving water protection

Climate Change Adaptation:

"The focus of the 2007 Series was on the last three bullets in the Design with Nature mind map because the showcasing emphasis was on rainwater management at the site scale," continues Kim Stephens. "In 2008, the focus is on the first three bullets because we are placing the emphasis on land use planning at a community scale, with the objective of achieving a transformation of the built environment."

"Furthermore, the Design with Nature paradigm captures the essence of **climate change adaptation**," concludes Kim Stephens. "If mitigation is about CARBON, says, Jim Mattison (Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment), then adaptation is about WATER. Adaptation is responding to the changes that will inevitably occur. Adaptation is at the community level and is therefore about collaboration. Our operating premise is that if we can show how to get the water part right, then other parts are more likely to follow."



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Integration and Innovation:

The Town of View Royal, City of Langford and University of Victoria are showcasing community-scale initiatives and/or projects that achieve all six elements of a Design with Nature strategy. In terms of a desired outcome, a unifying theme for the three events is 'a liveable community that is in harmony with nature'. The desired outcome is being achieved through the combination of *integration and innovation*:

- **Town of View Royal** - The Transportation Master Plan provides the backdrop for an holistic, ecosystem approach that integrates transportation, drainage and water quality objectives; and looks for opportunities and synergies to do business differently.
- **City of Langford** - The LEED-ND (Neighbourhood Development) designation is a catalyst for creating socially supportive, healthy neighbourhoods and promoting urban design excellence throughout the public realm in the Westhills Green Community.
- **University of Victoria** – Through leadership, partnerships, and collaboration, UVic has been able to transition from an incremental approach in planning and resource management to a much more holistic and integrated approach.

"Practitioners are passionate about their individual slices; but it is the rare individual who is passionate about integration," observes **Dale Wall**. "This reality creates its own set of challenges when promoting changes in policies, practices and standards relating to infrastructure and the Built Environment."



Origin of the Showcasing Innovation Series

Population growth and resulting cumulative impacts have been drivers for reassessing how land is developed and water is used. At a 2005 Consultation Workshop hosted by the City of Surrey, municipalities told the **Green Infrastructure Partnership** that they want to hear firsthand from those who are implementing green infrastructure, and they want to see what it looks like on the ground.

In 2005, the Green Infrastructure Partnership convened a Consultation Workshop that resulted in the 'Showcasing Innovation Series'



Because it is lonely being a champion, and everyone in local government is so busy, participants expressed a strong desire to pool resources and convene on-the-ground to share 'how to do it' experiences

In response to this need, and to promote a new way-of-thinking related to infrastructure policies and practices, the Green Infrastructure Partnership initiated the **Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation Series**. The goal of the program is to build local government capacity by facilitating province-wide networking and sharing of lessons learned. The 2006 pilot program was held in Metro Vancouver. In 2007 parallel series were held on both sides of the Georgia Basin on alternating Fridays during the September/October period.

A Unique Forum:

"The Showcasing Innovation Series creates pride and enables local governments to tell their stories in a way that no other forum currently provides," observes **Raymond Fung**, Chair of the Green Infrastructure Partnership. "A Showcasing Innovation event is not a conference. Neither is it a workshop nor seminar in the conventional sense. Rather the purpose of the presentations is to whet the appetites of participants for the site tour that follows. The quality one-on-one conversations take place on the bus and when we go for a walkabout."