

**Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual
Create Liveable Communities & Protect Stream Health**

The Story of the 2008 Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series

Organized by:

**Convening for Action on Vancouver Island
Leadership in Water Sustainability**



In partnership with:



And in collaboration with:



Under the umbrella of the Water Sustainability Action Plan for BC

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2008 Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series exceeds expectations for doing business differently

Pilot program aligns local actions with provincial goals and objectives for creating liveable communities and protecting stream health



The New Business As Usual: **Visualize What We Want Vancouver Island to Look Like in 50 years**

The Mission is to Create a Legacy

- 1. Influence choices by individuals and organizations***
- 2. Use the term “sustainability” as a lens for considering approaches that influence choices***

Preface

*The purpose of this document is to “tell the story” of the **2008 Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series** in the words of those who embraced the concept and made it happen.*

The Learning Lunch series is precedent-setting. It came to fruition because of the commitment, the energy and the dedication of our local government partners in three regional districts – Cowichan, Comox and Nanaimo.

*We have endeavoured to weave a seamless storyline that shows how the Learning Lunch series fits into a bigger picture; and how the program elements that comprise **Convening for Action on Vancouver Island** are linked. Each success builds on the last, and paves the way for the next.*

John Finnie, Chair
Convening for Action on Vancouver Island
January 2009



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2008 Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series

Pilot program aligns local actions with provincial goals and objectives

1. Greening the Built Environment

Our story is about CAVI's work on Vancouver Island as a pilot region for making green choices that **create liveable communities and protect stream health.**



Precedent-setting in scope and approach, this water-centric and grassroots initiative is designed to inform and educate local government and private sector practitioners:

1. Founded on partnerships and collaboration, the regional pilot is being delivered through **CAVI - Convening for Action on Vancouver Island.**
2. CAVI is bringing together:
 - ✓ **Local government** - those who plan and regulate land use;
 - ✓ **Developers** - those who build;
 - ✓ **The Province** - those who provide the legislative framework;
 - ✓ **Universities and colleges** - those who provide research; and
 - ✓ **The stewardship sector** – those who advocate conservation of resources.
3. Designed through an inclusive and participatory process that draws on the experience of planning and engineering managers in local government, CAVI program elements are outcome-oriented.
4. The challenge posed by CAVI is this: *Visualize what we want Vancouver Island to look like in 50 years.*
5. The CAVI vision is to move toward water sustainability and **A Positive Settlement Strategy for Vancouver Island** by implementing green infrastructure policies and practices.
6. CAVI defines *green infrastructure* in terms of a **Design with Nature** approach to climate change adaptation.



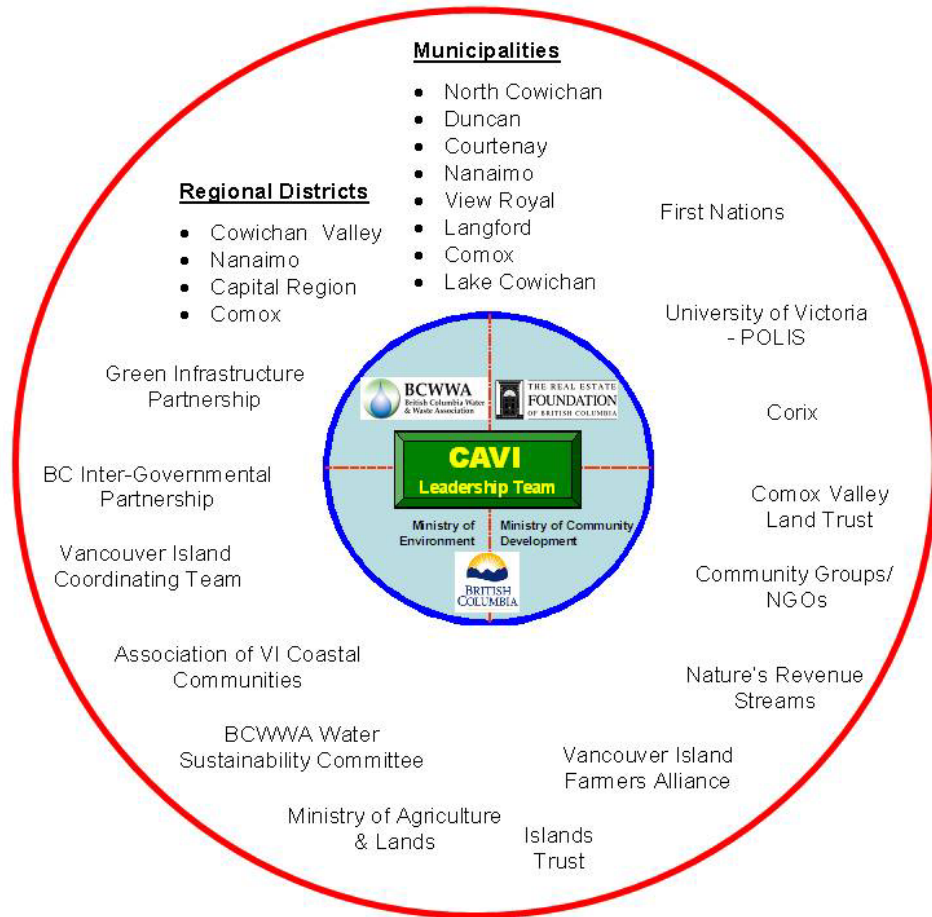
7. Program elements to get there include the **Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation Series** and the **Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series.**
8. These activities are providing local government and the development community with the tools and experience to do business differently.
9. This program is advancing a regional team approach that aligns local actions with provincial goals and objectives.
10. And is also establishing consistent local government expectations for implementing rainwater management and green infrastructure: *This is what we want to achieve, and this is how we will get there.*

The CAVI regional pilot is funded by the Ministry of Community Development, the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia, and the Ministry of Environment. The program commitment is multi-year.

The success of the pilot Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series has exceeded expectations; and provides a road map for adding depth to **Living Water Smart, BC's Water Plan.** This is a route to our vision of what Vancouver Island could look in 50 years and beyond.

In the telling of our story, we describe how local actions align with provincial goals and objectives. The series curriculum is described in Section 5.

The CAVI network is extensive and expanding



CAVI Program Deliverables

- 2006 Water in the City Conference: Convening for Action Consultation Workshop
- 2007 Gaining Ground Summit : Creating Our Future Consultation Workshop
- 2007 Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation Series
- 2007 Green Infrastructure Leadership Forum
- 2008 Gaining Ground Summit: Green Developers Roundtable
- 2008 Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation Series
- 2008 Cowichan Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series
- 2008 Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series
- 2008 Cowichan Valley Water Balance Model Forum

2. Genesis of Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series

In 2008, CAVI undertook the precedent-setting **Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series**. “When we came up with the Learning Lunch idea, our objectives and expectations were quite modest,” reports **John Finnie, CAVI Chair** (and General Manager of Water & Wastewater Services, Regional District of Nanaimo).



“We wanted to explore a collaborative approach that we believed would help local governments make informed land development decisions that meet multiple objectives.”

“The idea was an outcome of the **Green Infrastructure Leadership Forum** that CAVI and the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities co-hosted in December 2007.”

Inter-Departmental Alignment

“Although this high-profile event was a success, we concluded that there had to be a more effective way to inform and educate those who would benefit most. That realization led us to sound out several local governments about an idea we had for inter-departmental learning that would result in a shared understanding of green infrastructure challenges and solutions.”

“In early 2008, we were thinking in terms of a small group setting....perhaps 12 to 15 people drawn from the various departments within a willing local government. We wanted to bring together engineers, planners, building inspectors and bylaw enforcement officers; and we wanted the focus to be on aligning efforts to implement effective green infrastructure.”



Inter-Governmental Alignment

“The idea resonated, so much so that the original inter-departmental concept quickly mushroomed into an inter-governmental concept,” explains **Kim Stephens, Program Coordinator** for the **Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia** and the person responsible for curriculum development for the Learning Lunch Seminars.

“The Cowichan Valley Regional District and City of Courtenay both volunteered without hesitation to host a regional seminar series, in part because of the opportunity to play a leadership role provincially.”



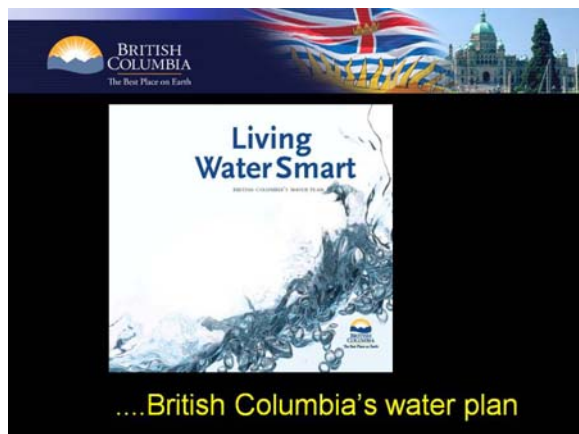
3. Living Water Smart, BC's Water Plan

"The evolution of planning for water sustainability by implementing green infrastructure achieved a milestone with release of **Beyond the Guidebook: Context for Rainwater Management and Green Infrastructure in British Columbia** in June 2007. This was followed by the first Beyond the Guidebook Seminar, held in November 2007," reports **Kim Stephens**.

"Beyond the Guidebook advances a runoff-based approach and tool – the 'Water Balance Model powered by QUALHYMO' – to help local governments achieve desired urban stream health and environmental protection outcomes at a watershed scale."

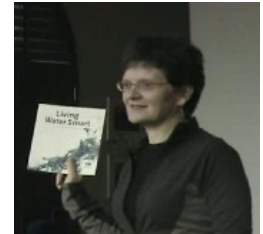
"In early 2008, the provincial government's Speech from the Throne provided a timely impetus for branding **Beyond the Guidebook** as **The New Business As Usual** and rolling it out through the Learning Lunch Series."

"An announcement by Dale Wall, Deputy Minister (Community Development) at the Gaining Ground Summit in May 2008 then underscored the Province's commitment. But it was the release of **Living Water Smart**, BC's Water Plan, in June 2008 that provided clear provincial policy direction for doing business differently."



Doing Business Differently

"Living Water Smart is the provincial government's vision and plan to keep British Columbia's water healthy and secure for the future. An over-arching goal is to encourage land and water managers and users to do business differently," states **Lynn Kriwoken, Director**, Innovation and Planning in the Water Stewardship Division of the Ministry of Environment.



Lynn Kriwoken is the Province's lead person for delivery of the Living Water Smart program.

Provincial Policy:

"We designed the Learning Lunch curriculum to help local governments determine how they will achieve the over-arching policy statement on page 43 in Living Water Smart. We describe this as 'adding depth' to Living Water Smart," reports **Kim Stephens**:

- *By 2012, all land and water managers will know what makes a stream healthy, and therefore be able to help land and water users factor in new approaches to securing stream health and the full range of stream benefits* (page 43, Living Water Smart)

According to **Lynn Kriwoken**, "This statement of government policy is the lynch-pin of Living Water Smart." This aligns with CAVI's Design with Nature framework for climate change adaptation.

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Pilot program aligns local actions with provincial goals and objectives

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**. "Furthermore, we have developed a definition that goes beyond McHarg in terms of synthesizing Smart Growth principles with an infrastructure way-of-thinking. Also, the Design with Nature paradigm captures the essence of climate change adaptation."

"Adaptation is about responding to the changes that will inevitably occur. Adaptation is at the community level and is therefore about collaboration. If we can show how to get the water part right, then other parts are more likely to follow," adds **Lynn Kriwoken**.

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



Rewarding Good Behaviour

"Living Water Smart is a provincial strategy; we must look at it as a shared responsibility," adds **Glen Brown, Executive Director**, Local Government Infrastructure and Finance Division of the Ministry of Community Development.



"Actually, it is not one strategy; the Province has a number of strategies. The Province is looking at raising the bar as far as what we are trying to accomplish with standards, provincial legislation and infrastructure grant programs."

"We really have to look at how we develop land. Ultimately this requires leadership and champions on the ground. The message is that the Province is rewarding good behaviour."

"Beyond the Guidebook is an on-the-ground application of Living Water Smart. It helps focus the attention of local governments and the development community on what is an achievable outcome that makes sense, and results in net environmental benefits at a watershed scale."

 **BRITISH COLUMBIA**
The Best Place on Earth

Living Water Smart:
"By 2012, all land and water managers will... factor in new approaches to securing stream health and the full range of stream benefits."

Desired Outcome: Create liveable communities;
Protect stream health!

 **BRITISH COLUMBIA**
The Best Place on Earth

LIVING WATER SMART

Living Water Smart
B.C.'s Plan to protect and preserve water resources through planning, regulatory change, education, and incentives like economic instruments and rewards.

water makes life on earth possible

4. Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual

The Learning Lunch Seminar Series refers to and uses a number of currently available guidance documents and/or tools, in particular **Beyond the Guidebook: Context for Rainwater Management and Green Infrastructure in British Columbia**.

Beyond the Guidebook builds on the science-based foundation provided by **Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia**, published in 2002, and incorporates lessons learned over the past six years in moving from planning to action.

"In 2007, Beyond the Guidebook introduced a performance target methodology for correlating green infrastructure effectiveness in protecting stream health," states **Kim Stephens**, project manager and principal author of the 2002 Guidebook. "This initiative adds depth to Living Water Smart."

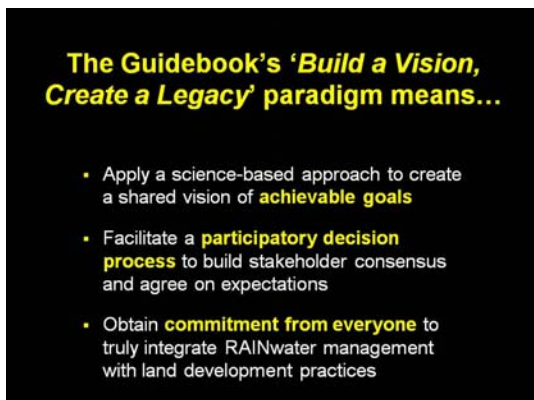
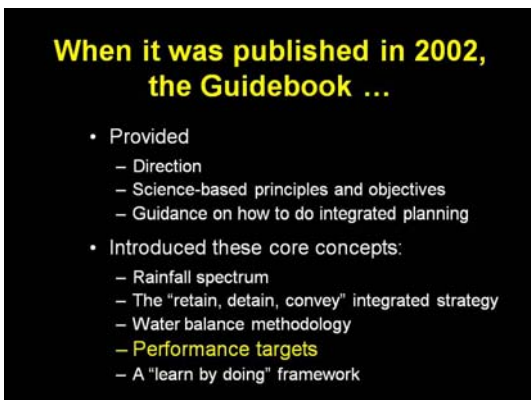
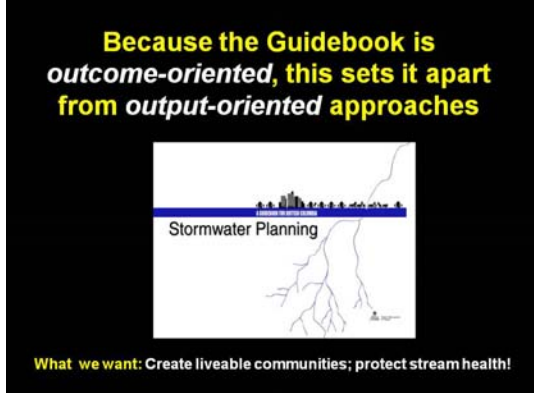
Guidebook Legacy

The Guidebook set in motion a chain of outcomes that has resulted in British Columbia being recognized internationally as a leader in implementing a natural systems approach to rainwater management in the urban environment.

"After six years, however, one of the lessons learned is the need for a program that will ensure province-wide consistency in understanding of approaches and desired outcomes," observes **Peter Law (Ministry of Environment)**, Chair of the Stormwater Guidebook Steering Committee.



"Hence, a premise underpinning the Learning Lunch Seminar Series is that this consistency is best achieved by taking a continuing education program into the places where local government practitioners work."



2008 Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series

Pilot program aligns local actions with provincial goals and objectives

Consistent Provincial Approach

The 2008 Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series is the first step in building a regional team approach so that there will be consistent messaging regarding on-the-ground expectations for rainwater management and green infrastructure.

The pilot program comprised two sets of three seminars each. Participating local governments represented some 250,000 people.

- The **Cowichan Valley** series was hosted by the Cowichan Valley Regional District during the June - July 2008 period.
- The **Comox Valley** series was hosted by the City of Courtenay during the September - November 2008 period.

Kim Stephens explains the rationale for a set of three seminars as follows: "By spreading the curriculum over three sessions, this enables participants to take in new information, reflect on it, blend it with their own experience, test it, and eventually apply it in making decisions."

Political Endorsement

Success begets success. In 2008, political endorsement of the Learning Lunch concept flowed from the earlier success of the **Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation Series** in 2007. The showcasing focus is on design with nature outcomes. The 2007 program was a collaborative effort involving three regional districts (Nanaimo, Cowichan Valley and Comox-Strathcona) and their member municipalities.

"The Showcasing Innovation Series enables local governments to tell their stories and share their experiences in a way that no other forum currently provides," reports **John Finnie, CAVI Chair**. "The 2007 series was the catalyst for Island-wide networking and relationship-building that, in turn, generated enthusiasm for implementing the Learning Lunch concept."

Both the Cowichan Valley Regional Board and City of Courtenay Council voted unanimously to sponsor and host the Cowichan Valley and Comox Valley series, respectively.

In May 2005, we convened a Consultation Workshop that resulted in 'Celebrating Green Infrastructure'



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

2007 Vancouver Island Series Network and Relationship-Building

- **Comox Valley**
Connecting to Sustainability
- **Nanaimo Region**
Designing with Nature
- **Cowichan Valley**
Partnerships & Collaboration – moving from Concept to Reality

2008 Vancouver Island Series Integration & Innovation at a Community-Scale

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

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Cowichan Valley:

Kate Miller, Environmental Manager for the Cowichan Valley Regional District, reports that the Regional Board viewed the Learning Lunch series as an opportunity to develop a policy framework for the valley. "It meant that we could foster an informed dialogue that would ultimately lead to adoption of a set of tools for implementing green infrastructure region-wide."



According to Kate Miller, the political commitment was substantial and tangible: "Inter-departmental participation by all member local governments effectively meant closing front counters on three Fridays for most of the day so that planning, engineering, operations and building inspection staff could attend the Learning Lunch seminars."



Comox Valley:

Kevin Lagan, Director of Operational Services for the City of Courtenay, reports a similar level of commitment on the part of City Council: "Council recognized that a common understanding of challenges and solutions would result in consistent expectations at municipal front counters across Vancouver Island. Council also recognized that hosting the series would have a better payback than selectively sending a few staff to conferences. In the current financial climate, the operative phrase is *stay local*."



"The Learning Lunch Series complemented what the City was already doing in terms of organizing an ad hoc Municipalities Group with membership crossing multiple regional district boundaries," adds **Derek Richmond, Manager of**



Engineering for the City of Courtenay. "In hosting the series, we wanted to drill down to the nuts-and-bolts of green infrastructure implementation."



5. Learning Lunch Curriculum

"The jump in scope from inter-departmental to inter-governmental had major implications for the curriculum design," notes **John Finnie, CAVI Chair**. "Initially we had been thinking in terms of a group of 15 people maximum. Now we had the



challenge of designing a program that would hold the attention of a group of 50-plus over an extended period of time. The dynamics of the two situations are totally different."

"This is where the experience gained and lessons learned from the Showcasing Innovation Series became invaluable," adds John Finnie. "We knew the keys to success would be engaging participants with case study applications, and interacting with rather than talking at the audience."

An overview of the curriculum is included as Attachment A.

Provincial Guidance Documents

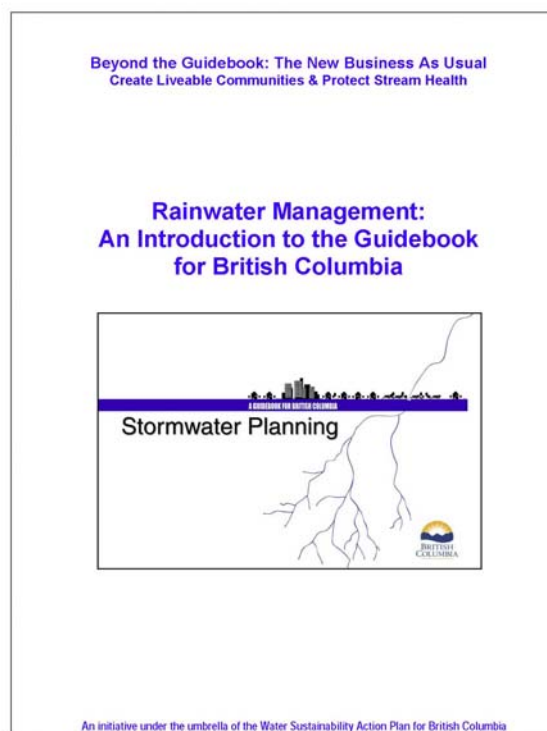
"In terms of the actual curriculum design, it was a question of how to draw on a number of provincial guidance documents and make them interesting and relevant to a mixed audience," continues **Kim Stephens, seminar team leader**. "Five provincial resources ultimately formed the curriculum backbone: the Stormwater Guidebook, Beyond the Guidebook, the Green Infrastructure Guide, Develop with Care, and A Guide to Green Choices."



A Guide to the Guidebook:

Rainwater Management: An Introduction to the Guidebook for British Columbia is a short-form document that is designed to provide the reader with a broad-brush picture of the Stormwater Guidebook. "This guidance document was developed to support the curriculum for the Learning Lunch series," explains Kim Stephens. "The emphasis is on core concepts. The desired outcome is that readers will be interested in learning more by delving into the Guidebook."

"This *Guide to the Guidebook* is written for both expert and non-expert audiences," elaborates Kim Stephens. "It explains how the Guidebook is structured to meet the information needs of different audiences; and it provides a transition into the current **Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual** initiative."



2008 Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series


Pilot program aligns local actions with provincial goals and objectives

Water Balance Model

"Because of our emphasis on practical tools, the series also provided the opportunity to familiarize Vancouver Island municipalities with the latest version of the web-based **Water Balance Model**," states Kim Stephens.

The model calculates annual runoff volumes under different combinations of:

- Building coverage
- Rainfall
- Soil type and depth
- Source controls
- *Tree canopy coverage*



"The original Water Balance Model was developed in 2003 as an extension of the Guidebook to promote rainwater management and 'green' development practices at the site scale," reports **Ted van der Gulik, Chair of the Inter-Governmental Partnership** that developed the Water Balance Model.

"As of 2008, the Water Balance Model web interface has been integrated with the QUALHYMO hydrologic engine. Because the 'new' Water Balance Model has considerably enhanced simulation capabilities, this now enables local governments to establish science-based watershed targets for rainwater runoff capture."



"Integration with QUALHYMO means the Water Balance Model is a pan-Canadian tool. Also, the BC Inter-Governmental Partnership is now part of an Inter-Provincial Partnership."


"The new Water Balance Model underpins **Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual**," adds **Kim Stephens**. "The integrated tool is unique, bridges engineering and planning, and links the site to the stream and watershed."

The New Business As Usual:

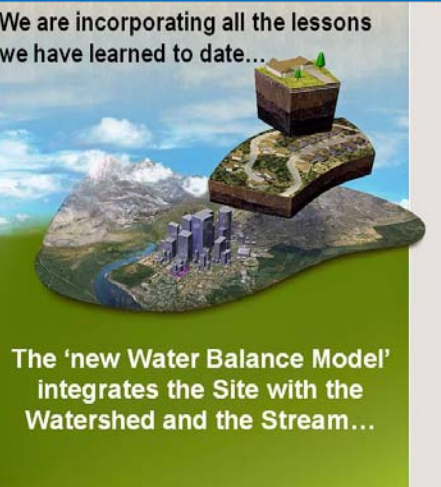
"We are using the slogan **The New Business As Usual** to convey the message that, for change to really occur, practices that until now have been viewed as the exception must become the norm moving forward. We have to build regulatory models and develop models of practice and expertise to support *The New Business As Usual*," stated



Dale Wall, Deputy Minister when he announced the change-over to the new Water Balance Model at the Gaining Ground Summit.



We are incorporating all the lessons we have learned to date...



The 'new Water Balance Model' integrates the Site with the Watershed and the Stream...

www.waterbalance.ca

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Seminar Program Design

"A key to the success of the Cowichan Valley series was that the organizing team represented a continuum of departmental perspectives, namely: environmental planning, engineering, development services, and building inspection," reports **Kim Stephens**. "We quickly realized that a litmus test for achieving long-term success on-the-ground would be early buy-in from building inspectors in particular."



David Hewetson, Rob Conway, Kate Miller, Peter Nilsen, Kim Stephens

Cowichan Valley Series:

According to **Kate Miller** of the Cowichan Valley Regional District, "The Learning Lunch series provided an inter-departmental learning opportunity for collaborative exploration. The series was conducted as a cumulative process, from philosophy to tools."

"Each session in the Learning Lunch Seminar Series started at 11:00am and ended at 2:30pm," notes **Peter Nilsen, Deputy Engineer** with the District of North Cowichan. "This was the right



length of time to maintain the interest and energy level of participants. Three and a half hours sounds like a lot of time, but it goes quickly; and we were just scratching the surface in terms of the material that we presented."

"We wanted to make it easy for participants to remember what they heard and why it is relevant to their day jobs," recalls **Rob Conway**,



Assistant Manager, Development Services (Cowichan Valley Regional District). "So, we identified a defining or over-arching message for each seminar by coming up with a memorable sound-bite."

"Throughout the series, our theme and our challenge was to ask participants what will they do better or differently to achieve a shared vision for the Cowichan Valley," states **David Hewetson**,



Building Inspector with the City of Duncan. "This is why it was so important to get everyone thinking in terms of the *What – So What – Now What* mind-map."

When 'convening for action', we create a picture of the future that we want:

1. **Vision:** What Vancouver Island will look like in 50 years ~WHAT~
2. **Goal:** Implement the New Business As Usual ~SO WHAT~
3. **Strategy:** What we are going to do better or differently to get from here to there ~NOW WHAT~

2008 Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series

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Consistency at the front counter !

The Learning Lunch Seminar Series facilitates inter-departmental alignment and a consistent regional approach to rainwater management & green infrastructure

THE CURRICULUM

- **EVOLUTION:** Today's Expectations are Tomorrow's Standards
- **TOOLS:** Legal and Policy Strategies to Support Green Infrastructure
- **TARGETS:** Nature Knows No Boundaries

2008 Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series

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Comox Valley Series:

"Because the Learning Lunch series is guided by a philosophy of continuous improvement, we adapted the Comox Valley curriculum to enhance the learning experience," reports **Kim Stephens**. "In particular, the Comox Valley series benefited from the insights that we gained from the successful Busy Place Creek walkabout, which was the finale for the Cowichan Valley series."



"Walkabouts facilitate conversations and on-the-ground learning. This approach proved especially successful when we hosted the Showcasing Innovation series," continues **Kevin Lagan**. "We decided to feature the east Courtenay area in Seminar #1 because this part of the city has evolved from fields and forest over the past two decades, and so has our approach to rainwater / stormwater management."

"By placing the spotlight on the east Courtenay area, this helped seminar participants understand why drainage practices comprise a continuum of paradigms, and communities progress at different rates along the continuum," adds **Derek Richmond**. "In the first seminar, the theme was evolution. After that, the focus was on tools, in particular legal and policy strategies that will help implement the New Business As Usual. Finally, the third seminar looked at how all the elements of regional needs fit together."



On September 19, you learned that 'today's expectations are tomorrow's standards' - **WHAT:**

1. From single purpose Stormwater Management to multiple objective RAINwater Management
2. To get to the big picture, start with the smallest pieces
3. Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for BC is science-based and outcome-oriented

On October 24, you learned about 'legal and policy strategies to support green infrastructure' – **SO WHAT:**

1. The Green Infrastructure Guide illustrates the extensive and very specific tools available to local government
2. Accept the risks when choosing a new path and look for the benefits that will result
3. If it is a dirty construction site, there will be no building inspection!

On November 21, you learned that 'nature has no boundaries' – **NOW WHAT:**

1. Water is the unifying element, and a regional conservation strategy is a key first step
2. A bottom-up regional team approach will ensure consistency in doing business differently to achieve:
 - ☐ Sustainability of water supply
 - ☐ Sustainability of aquatic habitat
3. Your homework:
Read *The Natural City* by Vic Derman to learn about the three lenses that will bring the picture of the regional future into focus

6. Overview of Series Outcomes

According to **Kim Stephens**, "What became clear very quickly about the value of the Learning Lunch Seminar Series is that it helped local government representatives conceptualize why a consistent approach to rainwater management is needed and what it means regionally."

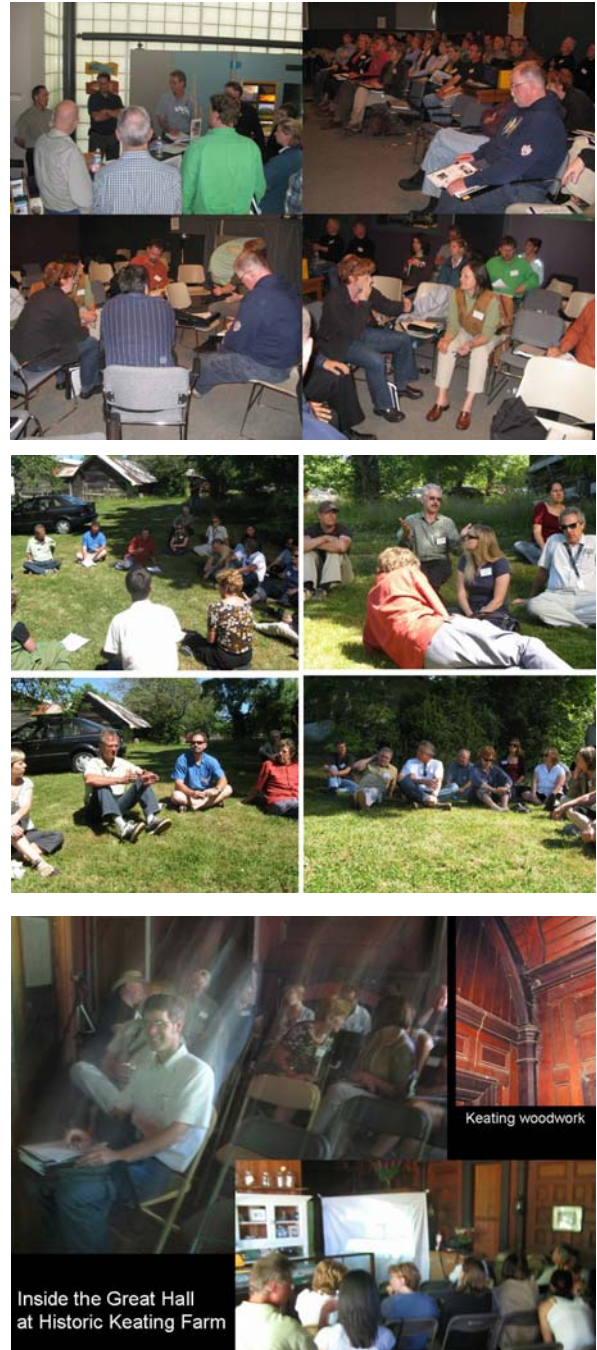
Cowichan Valley Dialogue

The holistic view is a key to doing business differently. "We have started a dialogue with regional technical staff...planning, engineering, building inspection and others....so that we can reach consensus on how this region will move forward with implementation of the **New Business As Usual**," stated **Kate Miller** at the conclusion of the Cowichan Valley series.

"Looking ahead to what we hope to accomplish when we organize a **Water Balance Model Forum**, we need to go to the next step regarding how to communicate with the development community and the public about what rainwater management and green infrastructure mean on the ground...in the Cowichan Valley. For this reason, everyone participating in the seminar series needs to be thinking about what role YOU can play in developing rainwater management policy in your organization or your constituency."

Consistency at the front counter:

"Within the Cowichan Valley Regional District, there are five local government jurisdictions; and the same group of developers and development consultants have projects in all or most of those jurisdictions," summarized **Peter Nilsen**. "It therefore becomes essential that developers and their consultants hear a consistent message regarding rainwater management and green infrastructure expectations when doing business at the front counters in each of those jurisdictions."



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Pilot program aligns local actions with provincial goals and objectives

Cowichan Valley Water Balance Model Forum

The 'by invitation' Water Balance Model Forum in October 2008 was an outcome of the Learning Lunch Series. Willing development proponents and their planning/design consultants collaborated with the Water Balance Model team to develop three case study applications that were shared at the Forum.

"The audience of over 50 primarily comprised developers and consultants," reports **Jay Bradley, Chair of the Vancouver Island Coordinating Team**, a sub-group of the Inter-Governmental Partnership. "In the larger context, the forum is indicative of how far along our community of Vancouver Island practitioners has come."



Runoff-Based Performance Targets:

"Case study applications help build a common understanding of how to achieve **runoff-based performance targets** for rainwater management and green infrastructure," elaborates **Rob Conway**. "What is unique about our approach is the educational context. Through this process, the design community is gaining an appreciation for protection of ecological values."

"The educational approach is helping us to identify and empower a core group of local champions who will then have the expertise to apply and advance the water balance approach to land development," adds **Peter Nilsen**. "This building of practitioner capacity encompasses both local government and the development community. Project proponents and reviewers will have a common language."

Political Endorsement:

Personal invitations from the Chair of the Regional Board enhanced the profile of the Forum. "When we did an orientation session for the newly elected Board in January 2009, we briefed them regarding the Learning Lunch Series and informed them that they are the change agents for the rollout of The New Business As Usual in this region. This resonated," reports **Kate Miller**.



Template for Metro Vancouver:

"Building on the Vancouver Island experience, the City of Surrey will host the first **Metro Vancouver Water Balance Model Forum** in March 2009," reports Ted van der Gulik. "This learning event will adapt the Cowichan Valley format for establishing local government expectations."



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Comox Valley Regional Team

At the concluding seminar in the Comox Valley series, participants explored a regional team approach that would ensure consistency in *doing business differently* to create liveable communities and protect stream health.

High-Level Endorsement:

High-level endorsement for a 'regional team approach' was provided when Mayors and Chief Administrative Officers representing the four Comox Valley local governments dropped in to show their support for the Learning Lunch Seminar Series.



Sandy Gray, City of Courtenay CAO, lauded the objectives of the Learning Lunch Seminar Series. "We are thrilled by the work of CAVI. It is a tremendous initiative," he said. "The cooperation that is taking place around a consistent approach to development is very critical to all of Vancouver Island."

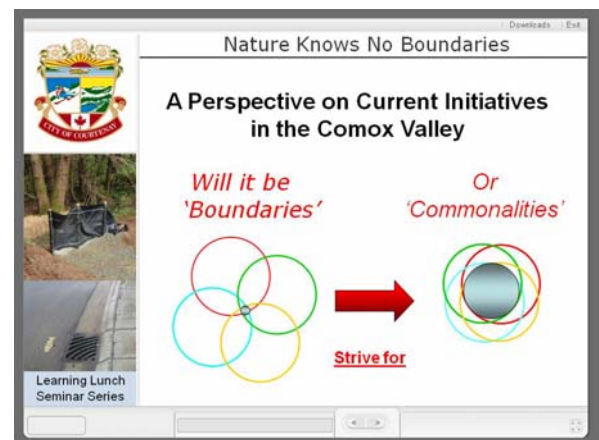


Striving for Commonalities:

The Learning Lunch Seminar Series has provided the springboard for bottom-up regional action to **communicate, cooperate, collaborate and coordinate**. "To be successful, we need to work outside our normal boundaries; and we need to proactively communicate and work with others," stated **Derek Richmond**.

"Man imposes his own boundaries. So, we have an issue of inconsistencies ... or incongruities ... between natural and imposed boundaries which sets up a series of problems. Our challenge is to work around and with boundaries. Ideally, we would like to shift the paradigm from boundaries to areas of commonality."

"If we are to have a team approach, we need to think globally and act locally," concluded Derek Richmond. "We need to think of ourselves as a team, not as individuals within silos; and we need to **break down boundaries through communication, collaboration, cooperation and coordination**."



2008 Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series

Pilot program aligns local actions with provincial goals and objectives

Comox Valley Conservation Strategy

At the third seminar **Jack Minard, Executive Director** of the Comox Valley Land Trust, explained the Comox Valley Conservation Strategy and introduced a Draft Workplan for a regional team approach.

"The main purpose of the Conservation Strategy is to lay down on the ground an infrastructure that protects biodiversity well into the future as we build to accommodate a 20% increase in population. One of the projects currently underway is a pilot for moving from a piecemeal approach by multi-jurisdictional land use planning in a given watershed to a new and exciting watershed-based land use planning framework," stated Jack Minard.

Millard/Piercy Pilot Project:



"The **Millard/Piercy Gaps Analysis Project** is being undertaken as a regional pilot. As an outcome of the Learning Lunch series, the project has evolved from a simple regulatory gaps analysis to a gaps analysis that forms watershed-based land use planning across jurisdictions...or in other word, into a *Collaborative Watershed Governance* exercise."



Regional Team:

"The current process has the Comox Valley Land Trust collaborating with regional and municipal planners, engineers and elected representatives to develop a new way of doing business in the Comox Valley," states **Derek Richmond**.

Bottom-Up Approach:

"The Millard/Piercy pilot illustrates how the Learning Lunch series is enabling the community to get together to collaborate at a starting point," observes **Tim Pringle, Director of Special Programs** for the Real Estate Foundation. "They then go to where they want to go."



"CAVI provides a beginning and expertise around an issue. This starts the conversation and generates the energy and passion. After that, it really is a matter of connecting the dots to create collaboration."

Through alignment and collaboration,
the Comox Valley Conservation Strategy,
Living Water Smart and
Watershed Governance can....

- Stop ecosystem loss
- Protect and restore biodiversity and natural systems
- Prepare for population growth
- Provide for a sustainable economy

7. A Positive Settlement Strategy for Vancouver Island

At the **Green Infrastructure Leadership Forum**, **John Finnie** stated that: “By 2010, the CAVI vision is that Vancouver Island will be on its way to achieving water sustainability; and further, that this outcome will be achieved through Green Infrastructure practices that reflect a full and proper understanding of the relationship between land and water.” He explained that CAVI is branding the desired outcome as **A Positive Settlement Strategy**.



Settlement in Balance with Ecology

“In 2007, CAVI started a conversation around achieving settlement in balance with ecology,” continues **Tim Pringle**. “We set out to shine a spotlight on the necessary link between accommodating settlement growth while protecting the ecological systems upon which community well-being depends.”



According to Tim Pringle, “Simply put, **A Positive Settlement Strategy** means benefits exceed liabilities. Settlement and ecology are equal values, and they must be as much in balance as possible for the wellbeing of human and natural systems. We are convening for action so that we can provide practitioners with the tools and experience to implement **Design with Nature** policies and practices.”

Actions on the Ground Add Up

Based on insights gained from the Green Infrastructure Leadership Forum, a unifying theme that shaped the approach to informing, educating and enabling Learning Lunch audiences is this: *To get to the big picture, it starts with the smallest pieces.*

“Actions implemented on-the-ground can ultimately add up to *A Positive Settlement Strategy*,” states **Tim Pringle**.



“Through programs such as the Showcasing Innovation and Learning Lunch series, it is a matter of changing expectations by illustrating expectations – that is to say, the mantra then becomes **this is what we want our communities to look like.**”

“This is a bottom-up approach to achieving *A Positive Settlement Strategy* through social, economic and environmental attributes that are in balance to the extent practicable.”

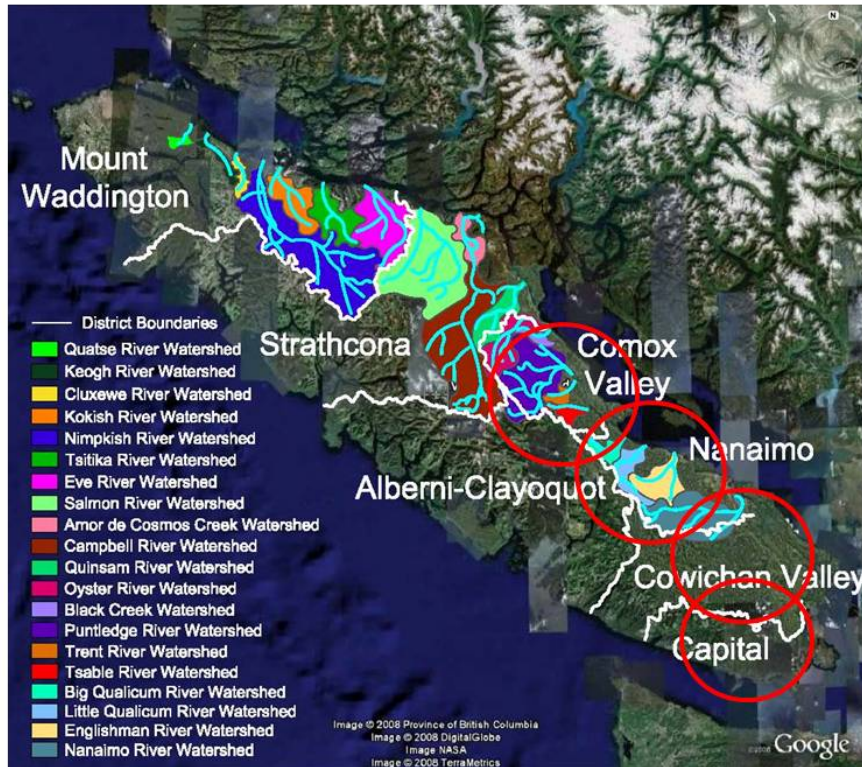
Exceeding Expectations

“In undertaking the Learning Lunch series, our initial objective was to explore a collaborative approach to practitioner education,” reflects **Kim Stephens**. “Once the vision for a regional team approach took on a life of its own in both the Cowichan and Comox valleys, it then became apparent that the respective Busy Place Creek and Millard-Piercy demonstration projects can in fact inform *A Positive Settlement Strategy*.”



“The combination of those two initiatives, plus the **Bowker Creek Urban Watershed Renewal Initiative** in the Capital Regional District, means that a picture is starting to take shape as to what *A Positive Settlement Strategy* looks like on-the-ground. We have come a remarkably long way in the short period of time since December 2007,” concludes Kim Stephens.

CAVI – Sphere of Influence



2008 Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series

Attachment A – Curriculum Overview


CONTEXT: Vancouver Island is the pilot region for rollout of ***Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual*** through an innovative and precedent-setting approach to practitioner continuing education, namely the Learning Lunch Seminar Series. This provincial initiative builds on the foundation provided by *Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia*, published in 2002, and incorporates lessons learned over the past six years.

Beyond the Guidebook advances a performance target methodology for correlating green infrastructure effectiveness in protecting stream health. To support Beyond the Guidebook, the Province has funded integration of the *Water Balance Model* with a hydrologic engine known as *QUALHYMO*. The web-based ***Water Balance Model powered by QUALHYMO*** is unique, bridges engineering and planning, links the site to the stream and watershed, and enables local governments to establish watershed targets.

Session	Theme	Scope
1	<p>Today's Expectation are Tomorrow's Standards</p> <p>EVOLUTION</p>	<p>Session #1 will trace the evolution of rainwater/stormwater management policies and practices over the past two decades. This will provide a frame-of-reference and a common understanding for subsequent sessions.</p> <p>The <i>2002 Stormwater Guidebook</i> and the <i>Water Balance Model</i> will be introduced so that participants have an understanding of the purpose and application of performance targets.</p> <p>A desired outcome is that participants will understand why drainage practice comprises a continuum of paradigms, and communities progress at different rates along the continuum.</p>
2	<p>Legal and Policy Strategies to Support Green Infrastructure</p> <p>TOOLS</p>	<p>Session #2 will introduce the extensive and very specific tools available under the Local Government Act so that they can proactively manage the complete spectrum of rainfall events: from light showers to heavy rain to extreme storms.</p> <p>The <i>Green Infrastructure Guide</i> will be explained so that participants will know how to use it effectively as a resource.</p> <p>A desired outcome is that participants will understand what bylaw and policy tools enable incorporation and retrofitting of engineered green infrastructure into development plans.</p>
3	<p>Nature Knows No Boundaries</p> <p>TARGETS</p>	<p>Session #3 will elaborate on a performance target approach to land development that makes sense, meets multiple objectives, is affordable, and results in net environmental benefits at a watershed and/or regional scale.</p> <p>A framework for 'bringing it all together' will be introduced so that participants can explore a regional team approach that ensures a common understanding and consistency at the front counter.</p> <p>A desired outcome is that participants will understand how a Design with Nature approach to rainwater management (i.e. using infiltration and trees) will influence the greening of the built environment and protect stream health.</p>

2008 Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series

Attachment A – Curriculum Overview

Themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “We can create our future” ▪ “What happens on the land matters” ▪ “To get to the big picture, start with the smallest pieces”
Purposes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide an inter-departmental learning opportunity for collaborative exploration ▪ Enable local government practitioners to obtain professional development credits ▪ Rollout <i>Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual</i>
Structure:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organize three 3½ -hour teaching sessions held at four-week intervals ▪ Conduct the series as a cumulative process, from philosophy to tools ▪ Provide information in an interactive way that triggers reflection, strategizing and action ▪ Incorporate roundtable segments and provide a challenge for subsequent sessions
Context:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Vancouver Island landscape is being transformed by settlement and economic growth. ▪ While the island has been experiencing a development boom, mitigation of environmental impacts has provided a driver for a ‘Design with Nature’ movement that is founded on a natural systems approach to rainwater management and green infrastructure. ▪ The desired outcome is human settlement in balance with ecology.
Guidebook Vision:	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="flex: 1;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health </div> <div style="flex: 1; text-align: center;"> <p>A ‘Design with Nature’ approach to community design means...</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 </div> </div>
Goal:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Help practitioners make informed land development decisions that meet multiple objectives, result in Green Value, and add up to <i>A Positive Settlement Strategy for VI</i>.
Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local government practitioners will have a common and consistent understanding of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. watershed performance targets and how they can establish them; 2. how they can integrate good planning and innovative engineering designs; and 3. the importance and maintenance of green infrastructure watershed performance targets (as they relate to land use and rainwater/stormwater management)
Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia</i>, published by the Province in 2002 ▪ <i>Develop with Care: Environmental Guidelines for Urban and Rural Land Development in British Columbia</i>, published by the Ministry of Environment in March 2006 ▪ <i>The Green Infrastructure Guide: Issues, Implementation Strategies and Success Stories</i>, published by West Coast Environmental Law in 2007 ▪ <i>Beyond the Guidebook: Context for Rainwater Management and Green Infrastructure in British Columbia</i>, jointly released by the Green Infrastructure Partnership and Inter-Governmental Partnership in June 2007
Tools:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Water Balance Model powered by QUALHYMO</i>, an online decision tool at www.waterbalance.ca