



Convening for Action in the Georgia Basin: Bowker Creek Forum promotes inter-regional sharing and collaboration

Bowker Creek Forum celebrates 100-Year Action Plan for Watershed Restoration



Bowker Creek Blueprint: A 100-Year Action Plan to Restore Watershed

Water Bucket Web Story #2 posted February 2010

Preface

Leading up to the Bowker Creek Forum, a set of four stories progressively foreshadow and/or elaborate on the core content for the Forum. A fifth story will document the Forum outcomes:

- 1. Week of January 25, 2010:**
Story #1 titled *Convening for Action in the Georgia Basin: Bowker Creek Blueprint establishes precedent for moving from awareness to action* describes the Bowker Creek Blueprint, summarize the process that culminated in the 100-Year Action Plan, and synthesize lessons learned.
- 2. Week of February 1, 2010:**
Story #2 titled *Convening for Action in the Georgia Basin: Bowker Creek Forum promotes inter-regional sharing and collaboration* introduces the vision for collaboration among the three regions (CRD, north of the Malahat, Metro Vancouver); and describes the 'regional team approach' to achieving water sustainability through implementation of green infrastructure.
- 3. Week of February 8, 2010:**
Story #3 titled *Shared Responsibility: Community Perspectives on Developing and Implementing the 100-Year Action Plan for Watershed Restoration* will describe the role played by community groups and associations; and will explain how community values influenced the plan development process and are reflected in the Bowker Creek Blueprint.
- 4. Week of February 15, 2010:**
Story #4 titled *Shared Responsibility: Local Government Perspectives on Developing and Implementing the 100-Year Action Plan for Watershed Restoration* will elaborate on what on-the-ground implementation means for municipal staffs which are tasked with making things happen.
- 5. Week of March 1, 2010:**
Story #5 titled *Call to Action: Bowker Creek Forum provides advances a 'regional team approach' to watershed restoration in the Georgia Basin* will summarize what was accomplished by the Forum, and will foreshadow where the outcomes may lead.

These stories serve as resource materials for participants; and as a publicly accessible record of the Forum process.

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1. Context

This article is the second in a series of resource materials for the 2010 Bowker Creek Forum. The organizing team is encouraging participating planners, engineers and other practitioners and community members to take the time to read and reflect on these articles in preparation for the interactive segments at the Forum.

Creating Our Future

Launched in September 2006 in conjunction with the *Water in the City Conference*, the **Convening for Action on Vancouver Island (CAVI)** initiative is now in its fourth year of collaborating with local governments and others under the umbrella of the *Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia*. The challenge posed by CAVI is this:

- ❑ **Visualize what we want Vancouver Island to look like in 50 years**

Design with Nature: “The CAVI vision is to move toward water sustainability by implementing green infrastructure policies and practices. CAVI defines *green infrastructure* in terms of a **'design with nature'** approach to climate change adaptation,” states **John Finnie, Chair**. In his day job, he is General Manager, Regional & Community Utilities, with the Regional District of Nanaimo.



“When we launched CAVI in September 2006, we identified three desired outcomes:

- By 2010, be well on the way to achieving water sustainability on Vancouver Island.
- Develop a voluntary framework for water-centric land development that could be adapted province-wide.
- Bring together a broad-based coalition of stakeholders under the CAVI banner.”

“Reflecting on what has been accomplished since 2006, the pieces of the puzzle are now in place to make a shared *Vancouver Island vision* tangible.”

A Call to Action

Through *Living Water Smart, BC's Water Plan* and the *Green Communities Initiative*, the Province of British Columbia has put in place a policy framework that enables local governments to commit to doing business differently:

- ❑ *This is what we want our communities to look like in 50 years, and this is what we will do starting now to ensure it happens.*

Regional Team Approach: “Local governments on Vancouver Island are demonstrating what can be accomplished through partnerships and collaboration,” states **Kim Stephens, Program Coordinator** for the Water Sustainability Action Plan.



“Moving from awareness to action on the ground depends on a 'regional team approach' that is founded on shared responsibility and alignment at three scales: provincial, regional and local.”

“The Bowker Creek Forum creates an opportunity for champions from the Capital Region to connect with champions from 'north of the Malahat', and also with champions from Metro Vancouver. We see the Bowker Creek Forum as a transformational event; it is an important milestone in terms of Georgia Basin sharing and collaboration.”

A Call to Action

Living Water Smart, BC's Water Plan and the **Green Communities Initiative** provide a vision of what the regions of our province can look like if local governments.....

- ❑ prepare communities for climate change,
- ❑ choose to live water smart, and
- ❑ strive to build greener communities

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2. Georgia Basin Initiatives

The Bowker Creek Forum will enable participants to share lessons learned and connect the dots between the five Georgia Basin Initiatives identified on the graphic below, namely:

1. **Comox Valley:** An Integrated Watershed Approach to Settlement
2. **Regional District of Nanaimo:** Action for Water
3. **Cowichan Valley Regional District:** Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan
4. **Capital Region:** Bowker Creek Blueprint
5. **Metro Vancouver:** Integrated Liquid Waste & Resource Management Plan

Moving in the Same Direction

“On Vancouver Island, the CAVI program has over the past three years facilitated relationship-building within and between four regional districts that represent ~90% of the Island population,” reflects John Finnie.

“The awareness of CAVI is significant. CAVI is a recognized acronym. Our experience is that people are interested and want to learn more. The CAVI role and goal is to keep getting the message out about the importance of a shared vision for Vancouver Island.”

“In addition, Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island are learning from each other, and are moving in the same direction.”



Settlement Change in Balance with Ecology

“When convening for action, we create a picture of the future that we collectively want. This is a common thread for the five initiatives,” adds Kim Stephens. “The Bowker Creek Blueprint is the most explicit in painting a picture of how the urban watershed landscape can be transformed.”

The Commons Values: “When one looks at what has shaped or is shaping each of the five initiatives, one finds that they all talk about the ‘commons values’ inherent in the landscape,” continues **Tim Pringle, Director of Special Programs** for the Real Estate Foundation, and a founding member of the CAVI Leadership Team.



“In particular, the Bowker Creek Initiative demonstrates that the community explicitly recognizes the ‘commons values’ in the stream riparian zone. They view it as an asset. It is a prized feature.”

“Community values that are focused on the ultimate goal of *settlement change in balance with ecology* ought to direct decisions on development proposals. And if communities align their efforts to achieve a shared vision by designing with nature, this will go a long way to determining what Vancouver Island and the Georgia Basin as a whole will look like in 50 years.”



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Learn from Each Other

“By bringing together the local government implementers from five regions in a neutral forum with community representatives, the Bowker Creek Forum will provide a platform for the implementers to share ‘how-to-do-it’ examples and learn from each other’s experience,” states **Eric Bonham**, also a founding member of the CAVI Leadership Team, and a former Director in both the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Municipal Affairs.



“Never forget that examples inform policy decisions by elected representatives. So provide them with commonsense examples that make it easy for them to move from awareness to action.”

Mission Possible: Eric Bonham will open the Forum with a call to courage. “To initiate change so that we do business differently means we set the vision based upon community values, support the vision with information and education, provide practical tools, seek partnerships and engage local decision makers.”

“Major breakthroughs happen when decision makers in government work with grass-roots visionaries in the community to create desired outcomes. This is essence of the Bowker Creek story.”

“The Bowker Creek Blueprint demonstrates that a tangible outcome can be achieved through a regional team approach.”

The ‘regional team approach’ is founded on partnerships and collaboration; and seeks to align actions at three scales – provincial, regional and local.



“Everyone needs to agree on expectations and how all the players will work together, and after that each community can reach its goals in its own way.”

Eric Bonham
CAVI Leadership Team

Connect the Dots

“The Bowker Creek story is important because the 100-Year Bowker Blueprint is an outstanding accomplishment. It can inspire and/or influence what happens in other parts of the Georgia Basin,” states Kim Stephens.

“Based on my experience over the past 30-plus years, the Bowker Creek Initiative has gone well beyond any other plan in terms of how it has achieved consensus and galvanized commitment to move from planning to action on the ground.”

Create a Legacy: “The Bowker Creek Forum provides a timely opportunity to connect the dots and weave the story of each initiative into a seamless Georgia Basin storyline. This will benefit each initiative by providing a common frame-of-reference for action. Looking ahead, cross-fertilization of the five regional initiatives means that the champions for doing business differently can continually build on the experience of their peers and take turns leapfrogging ahead.”



“Through outreach and education, the common vision for all these initiatives is to influence land and water practitioners to learn about and use practices that better balance the necessary relationships of settlement activity and ecological assets in local and regional landscapes,” adds Tim Pringle.

Convening for Action in the Georgia Basin: Visualize What We Want Our Region to Look Like in 50 years

Create a Legacy: Settlement Change in Balance with Ecology

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

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3. Inter-Regional Sharing and Collaboration

This page foreshadows how the Bowker Creek Initiative can inform and/or inspire the other four. All are keyed to integration of water and land planning. Bowker is the most advanced in terms of showing how to build commitment to 'designing with nature' and restoring ecological functions.

Hands Across the Malahat

"After we met with Jody Watson in January 2008 to explore Capital Regional District collaboration with CAVI, this led to a Smart Development Partnership Agreement with the Ministry of Community Development. The focus of this provincial program is on establishing precedents that can then be replicated by other local governments," states Kim Stephens.

"CAVI decided to coin the phrase 'hands across the Malahat' to draw attention to the need for a consistent Island-wide approach."

Provincial Precedents: "The Cowichan Valley, Nanaimo and Comox Valley regional districts have all established provincial water-centric planning precedents; however, these are at a watershed-scale. Looking ahead, the Bowker Creek Blueprint can serve as a catalyst to help all three jurisdictions drill down to the local scale and truly integrate water cycle and land use planning. Effective integration will help them achieve the *Green Communities Vision* on the ground."

The **Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan** is a provincial case study for watershed governance changes being contemplated as part of *Water Act Modernization*.

The Nanaimo Region's **Action Plan for Water** created a drinking water and watershed protection service area with taxation authority in an electoral area.

The Province intervened in the Comox Valley to both create a new regional district and mandate regional plans that can feed into **An Integrated Watershed Approach to Settlement**.

Hands Across the Georgia Strait

"Since 2007, the Green Infrastructure Partnership has made a significant contribution by supporting CAVI and helping to cross-fertilize Vancouver Island and Metro Vancouver experience," observes Kim Stephens. "North of the Malahat, Susan Rutherford has been the face of the Green Infrastructure Partnership."

Celebrating Innovation: "CAVI has implemented a bottom-up approach to outreach and education that flowed from a consultation workshop with Metro Vancouver's Regional Engineers Advisory Committee in May 2005. In particular, the **Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation Series** has proven to be a foundation block for relationship-building and celebrating innovation on both sides of the Georgia Basin."



Topsoil Primer Set: More recently, the Green Infrastructure Partnership has developed the **Topsoil Law and Policy and Technical Primer Set**. This inter-regional collaboration synthesizes the pioneering experience of the City of Courtenay, City of Surrey and District of North Vancouver. It is a critically important first step in developing a suite of practical 'green' tools.

"The Primer will help advance a new culture for watershed protection and landscape restoration on both sides of the Georgia Basin," observes Kim Stephens. "By linking the Primer Set to the Bowker Creek Blueprint, this will give other local governments the confidence to make a similar big picture commitment to a 100-year action plan."

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4. Team-Building North of the Malahat

Commencing in 2007, CAVI has partnered with three regional districts north of the Malahat to create a practitioners' network. Also, the Cowichan Valley has been the incubator for proving out ideas and approaches to building practitioner capacity. The experience gained in the Cowichan Valley has then been adapted in the Comox Valley and in Metro Vancouver.

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.

Convening for Action in the Cowichan Valley

"At the beginning of 2007, only those who had participated in the 2006 Consultation Workshop at the *Water in the City Conference* had heard about CAVI. Fortunately, Kate Miller of the Cowichan Valley Regional District was there," recalls Kim Stephens.

"Kate's understanding of what CAVI wanted to accomplish was the door-opener for exploratory discussions with her organization. It quickly became apparent that there was an opportunity for CAVI alignment with desired outcomes for the **Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan**. This then led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Cowichan Valley Regional District."

Build Regional Capacity: "Kate Miller brought representatives from the other Cowichan Valley local governments into the picture. This started the ball rolling. Within a matter of months, three regional districts and their member municipalities had volunteered to co-host the 2007 Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation Series."

The Series goal was to celebrate successes, promote networking, build regional capacity, and move communities from awareness to action in *designing with nature*.

2008 Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series

The 2007 Showcasing Innovation 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. The two series supported the rollout of *Living Water Smart*.

Regional Team Approach: According to **Kate Miller, Manager of Regional Environmental Policy**, her Board viewed the 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."



"The Learning Lunch Series was the first step in building a regional team approach....so that there would be a common understanding and consistent messaging regarding on-the-ground expectations for rainwater management and green infrastructure in the Cowichan Valley."

Implement Green Infrastructure: "The Learning Lunch Series was followed in October 2008 by the **Cowichan Valley Water Balance Model Forum**. The Forum was built around case study applications of the model to local development projects. These provided the technical foundation for roundtable sharing, exploration and cross-fertilization of ideas on how to implement green infrastructure effectively."

Building on the Vancouver Island experience, the City of Surrey hosted the first **Metro Vancouver Water Balance Model Forum** in March 2009. This learning event adapted the Cowichan Valley format for establishing local government expectations.

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Convening for Action in the Comox Valley

The Comox Valley is demonstrating a 'regional team approach' because a convergence of interests has created an opportunity for all the players to set their sights on the *common good*, challenge the old barriers of jurisdictional interests, and make water sustainability real.

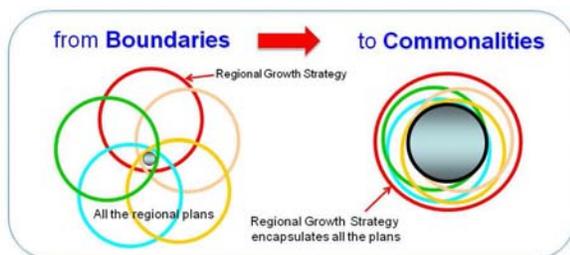
In 2009, the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) hosted the second annual *Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series* to advance a regional team approach. Collaboration of four local governments and the stewardship sector crystallized this desired outcome: **An Integrated Watershed Approach to Settlement.**

From Boundaries to Commonalities: "To be successful, we need to work outside our normal boundaries; and we need to proactively communicate and work with others," states **Derek Richmond, Manager of Engineering** with the City of Courtenay.

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



"If we are to have a truly successful regional team approach, 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.**"



Reconnect People with Water: "One of the thoughts that crossed my mind while reading about Bowker Creek is that it is viewed, not necessarily as a properly functioning waterway, but as an opportunity to 'reconnect' people with their water," states **Michael Zbarsky, Engineering Analyst** with the Comox Valley Regional District. "This is a subject that became a huge discussion point at the 2009 Comox Valley Learning Lunch Series."



"People are generally disconnected from water...where it comes from, what its value is, and where it goes to. Turn the tap and water comes out...pressure wash the driveway and water goes down a drain...out of sight, out of mind...disconnected."

"What a huge opportunity this is for Bowker Creek...with 30,000 people 'connected' by it across jurisdictions, it can serve as a focal point to reunite people with watersheds."

"Having a blueprint from which various organizations can integrate their activities and plans with is very relevant here in the Comox Valley where we have regional growth, sewer, water and sustainability plans in process. Once these plans are each completed it will be key to jointly incorporate the associated actions into regional, municipal and non-government plans."

"The Comox Valley is fortunate to have a major waterway that connects the mountains and glaciers with the Comox Lake and then flows past Cumberland, through electoral areas of the regional district, into Courtenay and finally out to Comox as it spills into the ocean."

"This is our major hydrologic connection, but also our main drinking water source and ultimately where our wastewater goes (the ocean part at least). Regional cooperation will be key to moving forward with our various regional initiatives, which all have water at their core. I am keen to see how others have approached the 'regional team' concept so that we can learn from them."

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5. Convening for Action in Metro Vancouver

The Metro Vancouver Regional Board is currently finalizing an **Integrated Liquid Waste & Resource Management Plan**. Comprehensive in scope, the Plan is aligned with Living Water Smart and other provincial initiatives. It also provides a framework for developing and implementing outcome-oriented watershed plans that have clear linkages with land use planning and development approval processes.

The City of Surrey and North Vancouver District are two outcome-oriented municipalities: Surrey is moving beyond pilot projects to a watershed objectives approach; and North Vancouver is in the process of developing implementation tools for an 'urban landscape restoration strategy'.

Moving Beyond Pilot Projects

In March 2009, the Surrey Water Balance Model Forum introduced the notion of shared responsibility, and started a dialogue between policy-makers and project implementers about rainwater management and green infrastructure. The Forum provided the City with a platform to announce that it has moved beyond pilot projects to get green infrastructure built right.

"We are moving to a broader watershed objectives approach to capturing rain where it falls. Then we can better protect our streams," states **Rémi Dubé**, Acting Development Services Manager with the City of Surrey.



Shared Responsibility: "Once we know what we want our watersheds and neighbourhoods to look like, the next step is to decide *what the tools are that will get us there*. The March 2009 Forum provided an opportunity to publicly explore how policy and legal tools can help developers, regulators and designers collaborate to ensure responsible outcomes. The Bowker Creek Blueprint is clearly about shared responsibility. Metro Vancouver municipalities can learn from the Bowker Creek experience."

Restoring the Urban Landscape

The District of North Vancouver has a bold vision to systematically retrofit individual properties as they come up for redevelopment. The catalyst for pending action is the current incremental impact of property redevelopment on stream health.

"Our cased study analysis clearly shows that our watersheds have been experiencing death by a thousand cuts as the house footprint has grown



larger and larger over the decades," states **Richard Boase, Environmental Protection Officer** (and Co-Chair of the Inter-Governmental Partnership that developed the Water Balance Model).

"The message for local governments is clear: single family properties hold the key to watershed health; we have to do a better job of educating residents about the link between their back yards and stream health; and we need to work directly with homeowners if we are to restore the rainfall capture capacity of the urban landscape."

"North Van District does not have a Bowker-type blueprint yet, but we are developing a landscape restoration strategy that we hope will be integrated into our Official Community Plan Update. The Bowker Creek Blueprint is timely because it demonstrates that we are not alone."

MacKay Creek Watershed Case Study: "To demonstrate the need for action on residential properties, we analyzed redevelopment trends in MacKay Creek. Within 20 years, 10 percent of the existing lots could be redeveloped, with a consequent **25% increase** in impervious area and **10% increase** in annual runoff volume."

"By improving soil depth to 400mm and collecting roof runoff in a simple rain garden at the time of redevelopment, the effective impervious area per lot would be **10% less** than existing, and the runoff per lot would be **5% less** than existing. This is why the **Topsoil Law and Policy and Technical Primer Set** is a potentially powerful tool to achieve a watershed restoration vision."

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Metro Vancouver's Integrated Liquid Waste & Resource Management Plan

In November 2009, Ed von Euw of Metro Vancouver was part of the inter-regional faculty for the second seminar in the **2009 Comox Valley Learning Lunch Series**. Representatives from four regional district governments contributed to the curriculum.

A Senior Engineer in the Policy and Planning Division, Ed von Euw has been responsible for development of Metro Vancouver's *Integrated Liquid Waste & Resource Management Plan*.

Stormwater to RAINwater: "For the past decade, in Metro Vancouver we have been considering *rainfall management* rather than *stormwater management*. Rainwater falls on the site. If you manage it on site, then you don't have stormwater runoff," Ed von Euw told the Comox Valley audience.



"As soon as the rainwater is concentrated as runoff and leaves a site, it can be carrying pollutants and it can also cause channel degradation. Now you have stormwater that needs to be managed. That's part of our Liquid Waste Management Plan; and so is RAINwater management."

"Rainwater is so all-encompassing that it is actually included under all three of our goals...and several strategies."

A presentation slide titled "Stormwater to Rainwater" with a blue background and white text. It lists three main points: 1. Traditionally react to stormwater (flood control, drainage and erosion control). 2. Stormwater is (rainfall and snowmelt runoff, a 'degraded' resource). 3. Manage rainwater as a resource before it becomes stormwater (needs collaboration and integration). The slide includes the Metro Vancouver logo at the bottom left and a background image of water ripples.

SUSTAINABLE REGION INITIATIVE . . . TURNING IDEAS INTO ACTION

Stormwater to Rainwater

- Traditionally react to stormwater
 - flood control, drainage and erosion control
- Stormwater is
 - rainfall and snowmelt runoff
 - a 'degraded' resource
- Manage rainwater as a resource before it becomes stormwater
 - needs collaboration and integration

metro vancouver

Vancouver Island Influence: "Through the advisory Reference Panel process, Vancouver Island experience has informed and influenced elements of Metro Vancouver's updated plan, in particular those actions that will advance a *regional team approach*. The Reference Panel cited the Comox Valley Series as an example that reinforces the approach to integration embraced by Metro Vancouver," reports Ed von Euw.

Appointed by the Board, the Reference Panel reports directly to the elected representatives. The Panel recommended that municipalities re-focus *Integrated Stormwater Management Plans* (ISMPs) on watershed targets and outcomes so that there are clear linkages with the land use planning and development approval process.

The Reference Panel also recommended a **regional team approach** to develop policy, legal and technical tools that will enable 'integrated solutions' for rainwater management, green infrastructure and integrated resource recovery.

Focus Plans on Outcomes: "To do an ISMP right, one has to start with the desired outcome – which is protect or improve stream health – and then determine what actions in the watershed will green the urban landscape," stated **Kim Stephens, Reference Panel Chair**, when the Panel presented its report in July 2009.



"Unfortunately, ISMPs completed to date have tended to be engineering-centric, and in general can be described as 'glorified' master drainage plans. ISMPs that do not integrate land use and drainage planning are resulting in unaffordable multi-million dollar infrastructure budget items that become municipal liabilities, without providing offsetting stream health benefits."

"The Metro Vancouver region now has seven years of ISMP experience to reflect upon. The message is clear – the Reference Panel believes the ISMP process has gone off track from what was originally intended. It is therefore time to re-focus ISMPs on watershed targets and outcomes – what will our neighbourhoods look like, and how will we change the built-form."

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6. Topsoil Law and Policy & Technical Primer Set

The decision to develop the **Topsoil Law and Policy / Technical Primer Set** was an outcome of the 2009 Surrey Water Balance Model Forum. The source of inspiration was the story told by Ken Anderson, a major developer who has a long-term commitment to the Morgan Heights development area in Surrey.

Establishing Clear Expectations

In the Morgan Heights development area, 'cash compliance' ensures that homeowners and builders understand what 'shared responsibility' means on the ground.

"The key message about the Morgan Heights development is that the developer has taken responsibility to make rainfall capture happen on the lots that he has developed. He is holding securities for landscaping and sediment control; and that money is not released until after the houses are built," reports Rémi Dubé.

At the time of lot sale, Ken Anderson provides the homeowner and builder with a laminated two-page set of instructions. This explicitly lays out what he expects on the site and on the street. "This requires a lot of hands-on attention and consistent enforcement to ensure consistent compliance," stated Ken Anderson at the Surrey Forum.



Provincial Launch at Bowker Forum

"When the organizing team debriefed afterwards, it was evident that we were all impressed and inspired by Ken Anderson's story. This was a defining moment. It was the genesis for the Topsoil Primer Set," recalls Kim Stephens.

"We realized there could be a benefit to providing municipal staff and the professional design community with a succinct statement of all of the legal, policy and technical 'essential elements' necessary to successfully implement a specific green infrastructure objective."

"The Topsoil Primer set is the fruit of that idea, and the first in what we hope will become a series of Primers," adds Susan Rutherford of West Coast Environmental Law.

The Topsoil Primer set reflects and incorporates the experience and lessons learned by the **City of Surrey**, the **City of Courtenay** and the **District of North Vancouver** in pioneering implementation of absorbent landscape policies and requirements.

Susan Rutherford and Remi Dube are the co-leads for the topsoil initiative. Susan synthesized the experience of the three participating municipalities to create the Law & Policy Primer. Remi was responsible for the Technical Primer.

From Policy Objective to Implementation: "My expectation is that the Forum will serve as an



opportunity for people to talk about moving from vision to action on water goals, and how to link the practical steps with the policy tools to get people there," states **Susan Rutherford**.

"My hope is that the discussion of the Topsoil Law and Policy / Technical Primer Set will assist in that endeavour by being one documented example of the kind of concerted planning, thinking and action that is needed to move from a green infrastructure objective to implementation on the ground."