

THE NEED FOR CHANGE

**Once upon a time,
not too long ago:**

How DYNAMITE *streamlines streams*¹



In many instances straightening out a stream has doubled its capacity for disposing of run-off water.

DYNAMITE may be used most efficiently and economically in taking the kinks out of a crooked stream.

It should be understood that dynamite is used only in the straightening of small streams.



Our idea of water management was to convey water quickly from the site via pipes and channels.

- ✖ Blast!
- ✖ Pave!
- ✖ Pipe!

We treated water in all forms with disrespect; disconnected from the consequences of our actions.



¹"How Dynamite Streamlines Streams," advertisement in *American Forests*, August 1935, p. 385.

A CHAMPION OF CHANGE

**VICT is a Storm
Water Action
Team:
It's goal is to build
capacity for
change on
Vancouver Island.**



Times have changed, and so have rain water management practices. VICT champions change on Vancouver Island by:

- ✓ Helping local government improve rainwater practices by providing access to resources and local expertise;
- ✓ Demonstrating practical, cost-effective, ecologically functional solutions to common problems that apply across all landscapes;
- ✓ Promoting knowledge transfer and showcasing innovative on-the-ground projects; and
- ✓ Aligning efforts across disciplines and across organizations to advance the state-of-the-practice of rainwater management on Vancouver Island.

WHO WE ARE



- ✓ VICT is a sub-set of *Convening for Action on Vancouver Island (CAVI)* and the *Inter-governmental Partnership (IGP)*.
- ✓ VICT is the “local government” part of the CAVI partnership umbrella. This includes outreach to municipal, regional district and First Nations governments.
- ✓ VICT is represented on the CAVI Leadership Team and the Inter-Governmental Partnership.
- ✓ Underpinning the primary focus of CAVI and VICT is a strong Vancouver Island communications network that enables government staff, practitioners and elected officials to readily exchange information.

WHAT WE DO

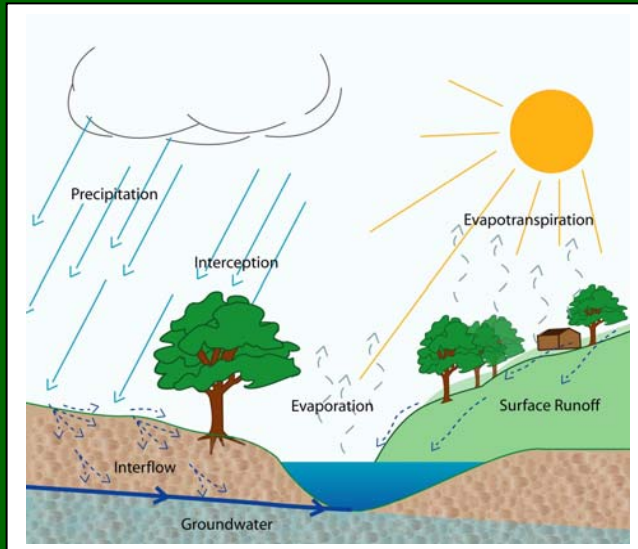
VICT is an outreach for the CAVI Mission:



- ✓ Provide leadership
- ✓ Integrate with other groups
- ✓ Bring together local government and the development community
- ✓ Provide access to expertise
- ✓ Encourage introduction of a 'design with nature' way-of-thinking in local government decision processes
- ✓ Celebrate examples of green infrastructure that achieve 'design with nature' outcomes
- ✓ Evolve a framework for water-centric planning that is keyed to accepting and managing risk, learning by doing, and rewarding innovation

WHAT WE DO

VICT affirms the Vision of the Inter- Governmental Partnership:



To promote changes in land development practices so that:

- ✓ The built environment will preserve and/or restore the natural water balance over time.
- ✓ Performance targets will be achieved for runoff volume and flow rate reduction at the source, where rain falls.

The Water Balance Model is a means to achieve this end.

PRINCIPLES

How water is used →
*sustainability of
supply*

**How water runs off the
land →**
*sustainability of
terrestrial and
aquatic habitat*

...SO:

**Mimic the Natural
Environment!**

Changes in land development practices are being promoted to create liveable communities and protect stream health.

Land development and watershed protection can be compatible.

We are thus supporting an ecosystem approach to protecting water resource health which recognizes that:

“What the cell is to the body, the site is to the region”

-Patrick Condon, 1998
University of British Columbia

OBJECTIVES

Beyond building partnerships and strengthening local sustainability initiatives, VICT's goal is to build capacity for change.

- ✓ **Build support for a paradigm-shift on Vancouver Island that, over time, will result in water being at the heart of decision-making for human activities.**
- ✓ **Promote “green value” by enabling a reduced hydrologic footprint on the landscape.**
- ✓ **Focus on the social, economic, and environmental benefits of an integrated and sustainable approach to water resource and land management.**
- ✓ **Educate and influence policy makers, practitioners and stakeholders regarding the benefits of protecting and/or restoring the hydrologic cycle.**

APPROACH

A 'Design with Nature' approach is the key to Rainwater Management.



- ✓ The site is a component of a system: water, waste and energy systems must be understood.
- ✓ Respect the system's carrying capacity and reduce the loads on those systems.
- ✓ Employ strategies that adapt to and mimic natural systems.
- ✓ Strive for a lighter 'hydrologic footprint'.
- ✓ Protect and restore 'green' space.
- ✓ Think outside the pipe.
- ✓ Achieve balance.