

2008 WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE (WSC) CHAIR REPORT

Our Vision: Stewardship of a limited and vital resource, actively supported by an aware and educated citizenry.

Our Mission: To facilitate the move toward a more sustainable approach to water resource management – at all levels from the province to the household.

Our Members:

Raymond Fung, Chair	Fiona Crofton
Mike Tanner, Vice-Chair	Don Enns
Ted van der Gulik, Vice-Chair	Robert Hicks
Kim Stephens, Program Coordinator	Erik Karlsen
Peter Andzans	Lynn Kriwoken
Graeme Bethell	Gevan Mattu
Eric Bonham	Dave Palidwor
Glen Brown	Ron Smith
Patrick Condon	Rick Truong
	Neal Klassen (Conservation Corner)

Our Program: **Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia**

Developed in 2003-2004 by BCWWA through a partnership with the Provincial government, the *Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia* covers an array of on-the-ground initiatives that advance an approach to community planning and development that is water-centric. The Action Plan has since evolved into a comprehensive program called Convening for Action, formally launched in February 2005.

The Convening for Action objective is to move towards water sustainability in BC by implementing green infrastructure policies, practices and standards. The goal is to reach out to land and water practitioners and educate them about practices that better balance the relationship between settlement activity and ecological assets in local and regional landscapes.

Selection of 2007 Accomplishments:

- Implemented Year One of the *Convening for Action on Vancouver Island (CAVI)* initiative, a three-year program through a partnership with the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia, the Ministry of Environment, and the Ministry of Community Services including:
 - *Creating Our Future: What will Vancouver Island look like in 50 years?* – a consultation workshop organized as an adjunct event to the Gaining Ground Leadership Summit held in Victoria, June 2007;
 - *Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation on Vancouver Island: Designing with Nature*, in collaboration with the Regional District of Nanaimo and City of Nanaimo, September, 2007;

- *Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation on Vancouver Island: Partnerships & Collaboration – moving from Concept to Reality*, in collaboration with Cowichan Valley Regional District, District of North Cowichan, and City of Duncan, September, 2007;
- *Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation on Vancouver Island: Connecting to Sustainability*, in collaboration with Comox-Strathcona Regional District and City of Courtenay, October, 2007;
- *Green Infrastructure Leadership Forum: A Positive Settlement Strategy for Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities – What could it look like?* – a consultation event for local government, in partnership with the Vancouver Island Association of Coastal Communities, held in Nanaimo, December, 2007;
- Delivered a half-day session entitled, “Water Sustainability: Convening for Action in British Columbia” at the BCWWA 2007 AGM and Conference, held in Penticton, April, 2007;
- Represented BCWWA at workshop entitled, “Water Governance in Transition: utility restructuring and water efficiency in Ontario,” conducted by UBC Program on Water Governance, April, 2007
- Provided the water sustainability component of the *South Okanagan Regional Growth Strategy*, a water-centric pilot for action in British Columbia, through a partnership with the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen;
- As part of the Green Infrastructure Partnership (BCWWA, West Coast Environmental Law, Master Municipal Construction Documents, and Ministry of Community Services), conducted *Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation in Metro Vancouver: Greener Developments, Roadside Rainwater Management, and the Urban Forest*, in collaboration with Corporation of Delta, September, 2007; *Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation in Metro Vancouver: Harmony & Integration*, in collaboration with Township of Langley, October, 2007; and *Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation in Metro Vancouver: A Partnership in Action: from Vision to Implementation*, in collaboration with UniverCity, October, 2007, with the support of Metro Vancouver;
- Conducted a one day seminar entitled, “Beyond the Guidebook: Resources and Successes for Protecting Stream Health,” in collaboration with the Green Infrastructure Partnership and the Inter-Governmental Water Balance Model Partnership, delivered through the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia, November, 2007;
- Presented a paper entitled, “Dealing with Uncertainty and Managing Risk: How we can adapt water management systems,” as part of a panel session at a Fraser Basin Council Workshop entitled, “Preparing for Climate Change in the Fraser Basin,” in November, 2007;
- Published an article entitled, “Water Sustainability: from Awareness to Action in British Columbia,” in *Environmental Science and Engineering*, September, 2007;
- Published an article entitled, “Convening for Action on Vancouver Island: creating our future, one conversation at a time,” in *Watermark*, Fall, 2007;

- Continued “Conservation Corner” column in each issue of *Watermark* through 2007.

The WSC will see changes in 2008, as I step down and Glen Brown serves as the new Chair. It has truly been an honour working with the Committee, and I wish to thank each member for their support over the last five years. Last, but certainly not least, my thanks to Kim Stephens, who poured so many hours into the Committee’s work.

Respectfully submitted

Raymond Fung
Water Sustainability Committee Chair