



## **FCM'S GREEN MUNICIPAL FUND SALUTES CANADA'S GREENEST ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES**

**WHISTLER, B.C., June 6, 2009** – Winners of the 2009 FCM–CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Awards were honoured today at a recognition ceremony during the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference and Municipal Expo™ in Whistler.

### ***Sustainable Community Awards: Canada's greenest municipal initiatives***

Across Canada, municipal governments are implementing innovative projects that contribute to sustainable community development. Since 2000, best practices in sustainable community development have been celebrated each year with the FCM–CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Awards.

"FCM congratulates all the winners of the 2009 Sustainable Community Awards," said Jean Perrault, president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and mayor of Sherbrooke, Que. "We are equally honoured to have directly funded three of the winning initiatives through FCM's Green Municipal Fund. All of the winners are contributing creative and practical solutions to some of the critical issues of the environment and sustainable development the world faces today."

The Awards are open to all municipal governments and their private-sector partners. To be eligible for an award in one of eight categories, projects must have been completed within two years of the date of application, or be in the final stages of implementation, and must have achieved measurable results. Submissions are judged by an expert panel of judges selected by FCM.

The winners of the 2009 FCM–CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Awards are:

#### **Brownfields**

City of Victoria, B.C.

*Dockside Green Phase 1*

#### **Buildings**

City of Toronto, Ont.

*Toronto Green Standard and Better Buildings Partnership*

#### **Energy**

Township of South Stormont, Ont.

*Kilowatt Countdown Challenge*

#### **Planning**

City of Edmonton, Alta.

*ISO 14001 Environmental Management System*

#### **Residential Development (two winners)**

Resort Municipality of Whistler, B.C.

*Cheakamus Crossing Legacy Neighbourhood*

City of Langford, B.C.  
*Affordable Housing, Parks and Amenities Contribution Policy*

**Transportation**

Town of Banff, Alta.  
*New Hybrid Bus System (ROAM)*

**Waste**

City of Victoriaville, Que.  
*Journée Normand Maurice*

**Water**

City of Kingston, Loyalist Township, Town of Wasaga Beach, Township of Wellington North,  
County of Oxford, County of Bruce and City of Thunder Bay, Ont.  
*Well Aware*

FCM's Green Municipal Fund and CH2M HILL Canada Ltd. are the primary sponsors of the Sustainable Community Awards. Transport Canada sponsors the transportation category and the Affordability and Choice Today (ACT) program sponsors the residential development category.

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**For additional information:**

See *Backgrounder* (next page)

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## **Backgrounder**

### **Project Summaries of the 2009 FCM–CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Award Winners**

#### **FCM–CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Awards**

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#### **FCM's Green Municipal Fund**

The Government of Canada endowed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) with \$550 million to establish the Green Municipal Fund™ (GMF). The Fund is a long-term, sustainable source of grants and below-market loans for municipal governments and their partners. The Fund provides below-market loans and grants, as well as education and training services to support municipal initiatives that improve air, water and soil quality, and protect the climate.

#### **2009 Winners**

##### *Brownfields*

City of Victoria, British Columbia

##### **Dockside Green, Phase 1**

The Dockside Green development has served as a demonstration model for many innovative measures and has influenced Victoria's future land-use policies. The City of Victoria chose co-developers Windmill West and Vancity to turn a large, centrally located brownfield site into a model of sustainable development and urban intensification (managing growth by increasing density within an existing urban area). After cleaning up the contaminated site, the developers took an integrated approach to designing the energy, water, sewage and waste management infrastructure to ensure maximum synergy and efficiency. They built four detached buildings on the site, all of which meet LEED Platinum standards for energy efficiency. Water is conserved by treating and reusing sewage water for irrigation and toilet flushing. A combination of green roofs, bioswales (landscape elements that remove pollutants from water) and a naturalized creek work to manage stormwater. A comprehensive transportation strategy and an on-site biomass heating plant reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Adherence to LEED building standards has reduced energy use by 53 per cent and potable water consumption by 67 per cent, compared to

traditional developments. Ninety-five per cent of construction waste was diverted from landfill. Phase One of the project created 200 construction jobs.

**Key results:**

- 53% less energy used, 67% less water
- 95% of construction waste diverted from landfill
- 200 construction jobs created

***Buildings***

City of Toronto, Ontario

**Toronto Green Standard and Better Buildings Partnership**

The City of Toronto used the Toronto Green Standard (TGS) and the Better Buildings Partnership – New Construction program (BBP–NC) as a two-pronged approach to encourage sustainable building design and address several of the city’s environmental challenges. The TGS includes both mandatory and optional performance measures for sustainable building and landscape development. BBP–NC complements the TGS by providing incentives for energy-efficient building design. Together the programs encourage new developments in the city to exceed the energy efficiency standards of the Model National Energy Code for Buildings (MNECB) by at least 25 per cent, reducing operating costs, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and infrastructure demands. Toronto condominiums constructed under the BBP–NC program have achieved 45 per cent greater efficiency than the levels outlined in the MNECB, while office buildings have achieved up to 63 per cent greater efficiency. The return on investment for buildings that meet TGS specifications is 20 to 30 per cent. The combined implementation of the TGS and BBP–NC is expected to save the city approximately \$1.2 billion in infrastructure expansion and health care costs over the next 25 years.

**Key results:**

- 45% more efficient condos, 63% more efficient office buildings
- 20–30% return on invest
- \$1.2 billion in savings over 25 years (approx.)

***Energy***

Township of South Stormont, Ontario

**Kilowatt Countdown Challenge**

The Township of South Stormont, encouraged and assisted by a small, dedicated group of volunteers, organized the Kilowatt Countdown Challenge, which offers 200 energy-saving tips to residents as a motivational tool to reduce electricity consumption. The 2008 challenge engaged every member of the municipality through a wide range of media and outreach activities, offering tips, ongoing support and tools such as watt meters. Hydro One helped the township tabulate results and calculate the energy savings resulting from the project. In 2009, the organizers expanded the challenge to neighbouring municipalities in an effort to further increase the scope and energy savings. The township saved an estimated one million kilowatt hours of electricity during the three months of the 2008 challenge, resulting in 650 fewer tonnes of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The challenge also empowered citizens to make ongoing, simple changes to limit their energy consumption.

**Key results:**

- 1,000,000 kWh saved in three months
- 650 fewer tonnes of GHGs
- 5% decrease in electricity use (approx.)

***Planning***

City of Edmonton, Alberta  
ISO 14001 Environmental Management System

The ISO 14001 standard represents the strongest possible commitment to environmental management, and few municipalities in the world have applied it as broadly to their operations as the City of Edmonton. Although the Federation of Canadian Municipalities has promoted this standard to its members for many years, it is a daunting task to implement and then become certified to the ISO 14001 standard. Between 2004 and 2008, the city's seven most environmentally high-risk branches were certified to the ISO standard by outside auditors through the city's EnvISO program. The city is on track in its plans to have other high-risk departments meet the standard by the end of 2010. The city has also produced an Environmental Construction Operations (ECO) Plan Framework for new construction. By becoming certified to the ISO 14001 standard, the City of Edmonton has reduced the environmental impacts of its operations while also implementing hundreds of changes to improve operations throughout the corporation.

**Key results:**

- Top seven environmentally high-risk municipal branches certified
- New EcoPlan framework for new construction
- Hundreds of operational changes implemented

***Residential Development (two winners)***

Resort Municipality of Whistler, British Columbia  
**Cheakamus Crossing Legacy Neighbourhood**

In preparation for the 2010 Olympics, the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) built a temporary athletes' village which will be converted into a sustainable, compact, pedestrian-oriented community after the Olympics. Covenants will ensure that 90 per cent of the development is used to house local residents, and will restrict prices to allow a diverse mix of inhabitants and increase affordable housing in the area. The development incorporates a district-based alternative energy system, innovative stormwater management systems, a car-share program, public transit access and a commuter trail network. With its new district energy system, the neighbourhood will emit 3,000 fewer tonnes of greenhouse gases (GHGs) than a conventionally supplied development. The athletes' village site, due to be completed in fall 2009, will be returned to the municipality in May 2010, following the games, and will quickly be modified into a permanent residential neighbourhood with 276 new affordable housing units (221 ownership and 55 rental units), all of which will achieve a high EnerGuide rating of 83.

**Key results:**

- 276 new affordable housing units (221 ownership, 55 rental)

- 3,000 fewer tonnes of GHGs
- All units to achieve high EnerGuide rating (83)

City of Langford, British Columbia

### **Affordable Housing, Parks and Amenities Contribution Policy**

The City of Langford designed the Affordable Housing, Parks and Amenity Contribution (AHPAC) Policy to increase the availability of affordable housing, improve ecological health and enhance public amenities in the community. While the policy involves the cooperation of many stakeholders, it is highly focused on engaging the development industry through a combination of incentives and requirements. The policy requires developers to build subsidized homes and secondary rental suites in new subdivisions and mandates minimum green space dedications. It also requires developers to pay into a broad range of amenity funds. These funds have been used to encourage urban densification and redevelopment, improve parks and trails, develop community safety programs, enhance watershed ecology, and support art installation and community beautification initiatives. Developer contributions to these funds have already resulted in 57.7 hectares of new parkland (a 400 per cent increase). The policy has led to the construction of 35 affordable homes and over 100 affordable rental units, representing a contribution of nearly \$7 million by the development industry toward affordable housing.

#### **Key results:**

- 35 affordable homes, 100 affordable rental units
- 57.7 hectares of parkland included — 400% increase
- \$7 million contribution from development industry

### ***Transportation***

Town of Banff, Alberta

### **New Hybrid Bus System (Roam)**

On June 2, 2008, the Town of Banff became the first Canadian municipality to operate a public transit fleet composed only of diesel–electric hybrid buses. Called Roam, the fleet of four Canadian-made buses save the town 14 per cent in monthly fuel costs. The town’s strong commitment to environmental sensitivity and sustainability goes further. Instead of selling advertising panels on the buses, Banff partnered with Parks Canada to install panels that promote appreciation and respect for the area’s wildlife. Each bus carries up to 84 passengers and is able to accommodate wheelchairs, strollers, bicycles, skis and snowboards. Ridership is up 36 per cent, fossil fuel consumption is down, and 16 new jobs have been created. The town expects the new fleet to reduce traffic congestion, parking problems and car dependency in Banff.

#### **Key results:**

- 14% monthly fuel savings
- 35% increase in ridership
- 16 new jobs created

## ***Waste***

City of Victoriaville, Québec  
**Normand Maurice Day**

Since 1998, the Groupe Solidarité Jeunesse (a youth organization), in partnership with the City of Victoriaville, has organized Normand Maurice Day, an annual environmental awareness event. Every year in October, local youth go door-to-door to collect hazardous household waste (HHW). The number of participating municipalities is on the rise: in 2006, six municipalities participated in the waste collection; in 2008, this number grew to 20. The last collection, in October 2008, enabled the municipality to divert 44,687 kg of HHW, saving \$3,828 in landfill costs. The initiative aims to educate youth and the public about environmental issues, and develop a sense of community responsibility with respect to the environment.

### **Key results:**

- 44,687 kg of hazardous household waste diverted (2008)
- \$3,828 saved in landfill costs (2008)
- 80 new jobs

## ***Water***

City of Kingston, City of Thunder Bay, Loyalist Township, Township of Wellington North, County of Bruce, Town of Wasaga Beach, and County of Oxford, Ontario  
**Well Aware**

The Well Aware program supports and encourages well stewardship among private well owners. Spearheaded by Green Communities Canada (GCC) and its non-profit member organizations, the program partners with municipal governments and groups in communities across Ontario. The program builds awareness among rural residents about the best way to install and manage wells to ensure safe drinking water. Educational materials are developed at the provincial level and delivered by peer well owners at the local level. This process is considered five times more likely to lead to action than if well owners simply attend an event, and 50 per cent of well owners are expected to upgrade their wells as a result of the program. Operating since 2002, Well Aware increases a community's capacity to address threats to groundwater quality. By helping to protect wells, the program also allows municipalities to postpone the expansion of existing municipal water and wastewater systems or the development of new systems.

### **Key results:**

- 50% of owners to upgrade wells
- Increased capacity to address threats to groundwater quality
- Postponed expansion/development of water and wastewater systems