

them address those challenges". More information is available at www.on-csi.ca

CERIU - Centre for Expertise and Research on Infrastructures in Urban Areas (Canada)

In Quebec there is a similar organization with focus on Quebec municipalities. CERIU has existed since 1994, has an annual world class conference, and of course a website in both French and English. (www.ceriu.qc.ca)

Asset Management BC is forming a partnership with the Canadian Network of Asset Managers. This gives AM BC formal linkages with a national network and a stronger ability to participate in the national dialogue with Infrastructure Canada and other senior government agencies. ALL of these organizations communicate with each other and we all share the common goal of transferring information and knowledge. Along with our international linkages with Australia through the Institute for Public Works Engineering in Australia, Great Britain, through the Institute for Asset Management, and the United States, we have a tremendous ability to share. **Asset Management BC** is revamping its website to take advantage of many of these resources and bring you even more information. The more you contribute the more you will get out of it. We encourage you to share your knowledge and information. Send your ideas and we will post it. (info@assetmanagementbc.ca)

2012 Vancouver Island Economic Summit: Springboard to Inter-Regional Educational Initiative on 'Sustainable Service Delivery'

By Kim A. Stephens, M.Eng., P.Eng.
Executive Director, Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC



Asset management usually commences after something is built. The challenge is to think about what asset management entails BEFORE the asset is built. Cost-avoidance is a driver for this 'new business as usual'. This paradigm-shift starts with land

use and watershed-based planning, to determine what services can be provided affordably.

Effective change in the way we develop land and respect water will result from collaboration of business, local government and community. A desired outcome is that local governments will view watersheds through a 'sustainable service delivery' lens.

A Forum within a Summit

On October 15 in Nanaimo, the Vancouver Island Economic Summit will feature the *CAVI-Convening for Action on Vancouver Island* initiative. CAVI began as a grass-roots initiative, now falls under the umbrella of the Partnership for Water Sustainability in British Columbia, and is a provincial demonstration application for moving from talk (awareness) to action (practice).

The Partnership has brought together four regional districts as partners in an **Inter-Regional Education Initiative**. The "CAVI forum within the Summit" is a springboard to collaboration, alignment and a consistent approach to achieve water and watershed sustainability up and down the east coast of Vancouver Island.

The CAVI Forum follows the keynote address by Mark Carney, Governor of the Bank of Canada. Eva Kras, a past-President of the Canadian Society for Ecological Economics, will connect the dots between the two as a featured speaker at the CAVI forum. Eva Kras is author of *THE BLOCKAGE—Rethinking Organizational Principles for the 21st Century*.

The Forum has two halves: first, LOOK BACK at what has been accomplished by the CAVI initiative over the past six years; then, LOOK AHEAD to paint a picture of settlement, ecology and economy in balance.

Settlement, Economy and Ecology in Balance

The time to shape future life-cycle costs is at the infrastructure planning 'front-end'; hence, the importance of thinking at a watershed scale. The linkages between the natural Water Balance, watershed and stream health, and infrastructure liability have emerged as important pieces in Sustainable Service Delivery, both fiscally and ecologically. Because nature has no borders, the Inter-Regional Education Initiative will help local governments explore how they can align and integrate their efforts at a watershed scale, and leverage more with the same resources.

The Inter-Regional Educational Initiative will link activities up and down the island so that those working in the local government setting can share experiences, benefit from lessons learned, and align efforts with the provincial Living Water Smart and Green Communities initiatives. This will help everyone to go farther, more efficiently and effectively. Launched in 2008, Living Water Smart and Green Communities comprise plans, strategies, targets, actions and tools to reduce the 'water footprint' of BC communities.

"The knack is to demonstrate that the road to both short and long term economic security is through COLLABORATION. We have to demonstrate that 'business as usual' will eventually result in economic loss both short and long term. Then hearts and minds will be receptive to a vision for **settlement, economy and ecology in balance**. This is why I am so impressed by the collaboration that is gathering momentum on Vancouver Island," states Eva Kras.

TO LEARN MORE about the Inter-Regional Education Initiative, visit www.vancouverislandwater.ca.

TO ENQUIRE ABOUT registration for the CAVI forum, send an email to Wendy Sears at registration@viea.ca. For more information on the 2-day State of the Island Economic Summit on October 15/16 event, visit www.viea.ca

How Golden has Progressed Asset Management

*By David W. Love, CD, BA, LGM(Dip)
Manager of Strategic Initiatives, Town of Golden*

PSAB 3150 required all municipalities across Canada to report Tangible Capital Assets (TCA) on their Statement of Financial Position effective January 1, 2009. While PSAB 3150 does not require local governments to practice asset management and/or long-term financial planning, the additional information on Tangible Capital Assets accounting, now provides what is an essential first-step in getting there.

The Town of Golden dedicated a tremendous amount of staff capacity to PSAB. After attending a TCA Workshop in October 2007, we formed a Working Group in Group in early 2008. Once the local implications of PSAB 3150 were understood

and further research was done, we concluded there was no satisfactory 'ready-made' IT solution, so we developed our own. After several hundred hours of technical effort, by mid-2009 the new software was ready for use and the assets entered. To our relief, we demonstrated compliance with PSAB 3150 in time for the 2009 audit.

Now we had to find a way to move from TCA to Asset Management. In the spring of 2010 several staff attended an Asset Management BC (AM BC) to learn techniques for translating our mounds of TCA data into a more useable form of organization-wide asset management. This was our next step in transforming the PSAB 3150 financial data into a practical decision-making tool for staff and Council. Our Chief Administrative Officer, David Allen, directed that we foster a close working relationship with AM BC; that this become a Project within our fledgling Corporate Workplan system; and that we 'make it so'.

In June 2011 Golden was asked to host a provincial government funded pilot project in partnership with Asset Management BC to introduce NAMS, the Australian National Asset Management System, training program to British Columbia.



NAMS Workshop in Golden

It included a three-day workshop led by representatives of the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA) to teach their National Asset Management Strategy (NAMS). NAMS was developed for the Australian public sector over several decades as the result of municipal financial management evolution similar