

Champion Supporter Recognition  
Presentation to Council – October 2017

## **Green Infrastructure Innovation:**

*Township of Langley is a leader by example*

Ted van der Gulik, P.Eng., President

Kim A Stephens, M.Eng., P.Eng., Executive Director



# *We all learn from stories!*



**the partnership  
for water sustainability in bc**  
IREI - Inter-Regional Education Initiative

## **Green Infrastructure Innovation in Langley Township**

'Design with Nature' to Create Liveable Neighbourhoods



Rain garden on 211<sup>st</sup> Street in the Yorkson neighbourhood

October 2017

This publication is the 5<sup>th</sup> in the Partnership's  
"Watershed Blueprint Case Profile Series"

By telling the stories of those who are spearheading changes in practice, this helps other local governments eliminate the *“disconnect between information and implementation”* that may otherwise hold them back.



## *Langley's green infrastructure experience is informing the Georgia Basin Inter-Regional Educational Initiative (IREI)...*

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### Georgia Basin



Lands draining into the Salish Sea  
(Strait of Georgia & Puget Sound)

- Launched in 2012
- In 2016, five Regional Boards adopted Resolutions that helped the Partnership obtain federal-provincial funding.
- A program goal is that all local governments would understand how to achieve *'Sustainable Watershed Systems, through Asset Management'*

## The “**BC process**” for moving from **Awareness** to **Action**:

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### 1. **WHAT** is the issue?

The form of land development impacts how water is used, how water runs off the land, and how water reaches streams

### 2. **SO WHAT** can be done?

Influence practitioners to **‘design with nature’**



### 4. **THEN WHAT?**

Replicate in other communities  
*(or, in the case of Langley, in other neighbourhoods)*

### 3. **NOW WHAT** can we do?

Embrace share responsibility,  
learn by doing and  
establish precedents

## *Designing with nature is the 'new normal' in the Township of Langley*

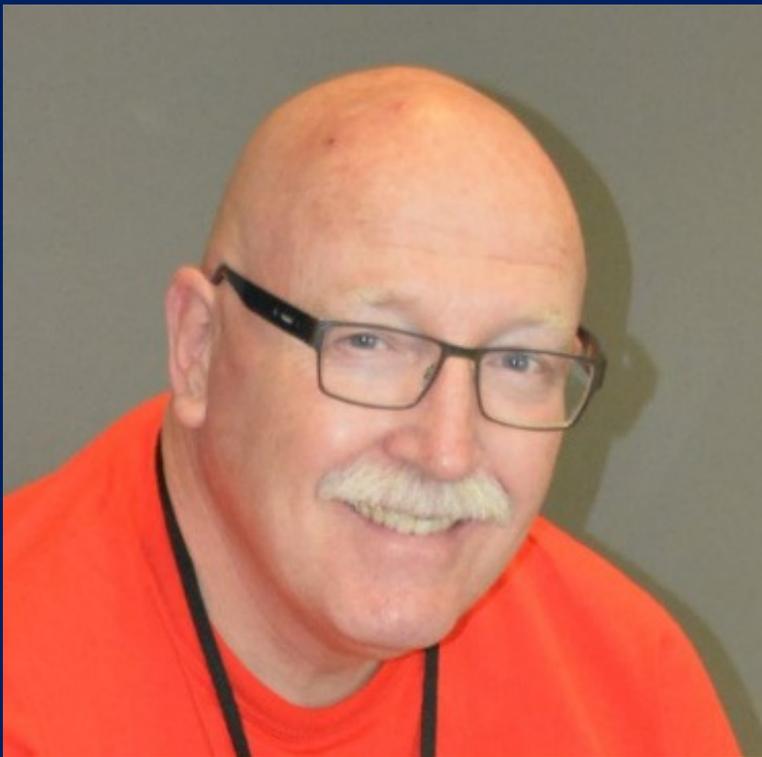
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The **blue link** is symbolic of the transformational change which has taken root in the Township.

The 'blue link' is your new drainage standard, replacing the traditional curb and gutter.



## *Integration: It is embedded in the culture*



Dave Cocking, Manager  
Green Infrastructure Services Department

“The infrastructure we build today is integrated.

We recognize that each part is a component of the whole. We strive to make all the parts work together without compromising any component.

Working together, we are solving community design issues.

# INTRODUCING THE NEW PARADIGM – “*Watersheds as Infrastructure Assets*”



A watershed is an **integrated system**.

The **three pathways** by which rainfall reaches streams are ‘**infrastructure assets**’.

The three pathways provide ‘**water balance services**’.

**The 3 pathways are:**

- *over the land surface*
- *shallow horizontal (interflow)*
- *deep vertical to groundwater*

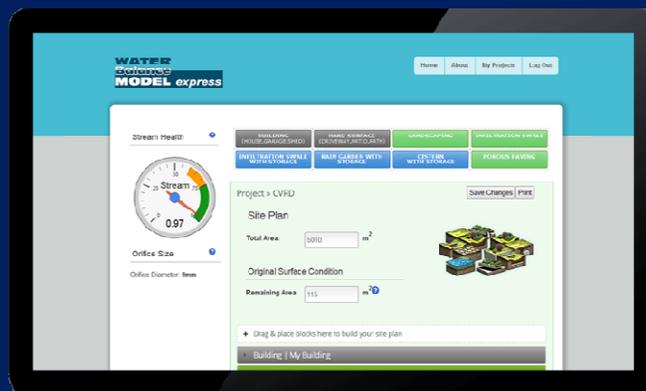
# *Slow, Sink and Spread Runoff – engage the homeowner with the ‘Water Balance Express’*

“People can locate their property on Google Map/Earth, recreate their current house and yard, and then like Lego, add building blocks of different rainwater management features to the property, to reduce their property’s runoff and infiltrate more water into the soil.



**Julie Wilson**  
Academic Coordinator &  
Instructor

Master of Land & Water  
Systems Program, UBC



The Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC is pleased to recognize the Township of Langley as a **Champion Supporter**

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“The Township’s long-term commitment is helping the Partnership advance the vision for water sustainability through implementation of green infrastructure policies and practices.”

Ted van der Gulik  
President

