



the partnership
for water sustainability in bc

Waterbucket eNews on February 22, 2022
<https://waterbucket.ca/wscblog/>



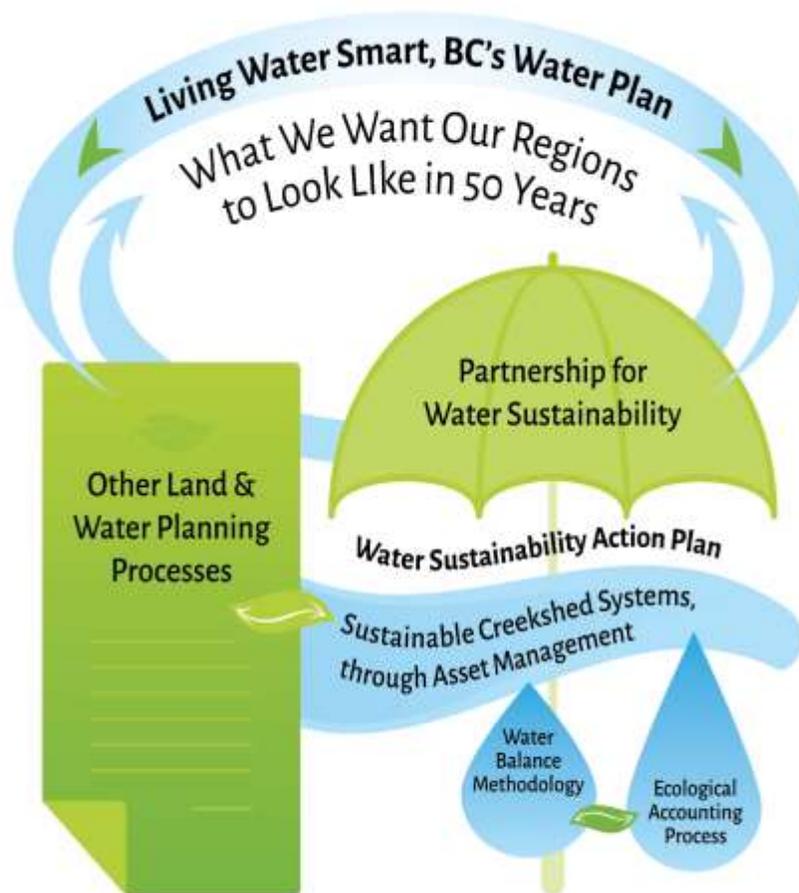
**Living Water Smart
in British Columbia:
*How We Transform the Land
- Intergenerational Vision to
Change Standards of Practice***

Note to Reader:

[Waterbucket eNews](https://waterbucket.ca/wscblog/)¹ celebrates the leadership of individuals and organizations who are guided by the vision for [Living Water Smart in British Columbia](https://waterbucket.ca/wcp/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2017/11/livingwatersmart_book.pdf)².

The theme for the edition published on February 22, 2022 is intergenerational change as illustrated by a “flashback story” about British Columbia’s Green Infrastructure Partnership, with emphasis on the timely role played by Lois Jackson when she was Board Chair, Metro Vancouver Regional District.

The umbrella for Partnership initiatives and programs is the [Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia](https://www.waterbucket.ca/cfa/sites/wbccfa/documents/media/81.pdf)³. In turn, the Action Plan is nested within [Living Water Smart, British Columbia’s Water Plan](https://www.waterbucket.ca/cfa/sites/wbccfa/documents/media/81.pdf).



Cover Image Credit: photo by David Mackenzie,
a *Lifetime Member* of the Partnership for Water Sustainability

¹ <https://waterbucket.ca/wscblog/>

² https://waterbucket.ca/wcp/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2017/11/livingwatersmart_book.pdf

³ <https://www.waterbucket.ca/cfa/sites/wbccfa/documents/media/81.pdf>

Editor's Perspective

The process for intergenerational change is one of building blocks combined with seizing the moment when there is an opportunity. Invariably, it is a matter of the right people being in the right place at the right time. This is illustrated by the story of the **Green Infrastructure Partnership**.

The trigger for presenting the “flashback story” that follows is an essay contributed by Lois Jackson. First elected to Delta City Council in 1973, she served as Mayor from 1999 until 2018, at which time she stepped down and was re-elected as a Councillor. Lois Jackson also served as Chair of the Metro Vancouver Board of Directors from 2006 to 2011.

Published on the Partnership’s waterbucket.ca website in June 2020, her article reflected on one aspect of Lois Jackson’s five decades of experience as an elected representative in Metro Vancouver local government.



The catalyst for Lois Jackson providing her reflections was a document published by the Partnership, and titled [Delta’s Rain Garden Program for Urban Landscape Enhancement: Sustaining the Legacy through the Second Decade and Beyond](https://waterbucket.ca/wscblog/wp-content/blogs.dir/7/files/sites/8/2020/06/Delta-Rain-Gardens_Sustaining-the-Legacy_June-2020.pdf)⁴. The document honours and celebrates the pioneering efforts of Lois Jackson and three other rain garden champions in the City of Delta.

The article on waterbucket.ca⁵ connected a series of dots about the Green Infrastructure Partnership (GIP) and past interaction with Lois Jackson. This established context for her essay. Interweaving the GIP storyline provides historical perspective, serving as a reminder of the importance of knowing one’s history. It helps one understand why and how things happen.

⁴ https://waterbucket.ca/wscblog/wp-content/blogs.dir/7/files/sites/8/2020/06/Delta-Rain-Gardens_Sustaining-the-Legacy_June-2020.pdf

⁵ <https://waterbucket.ca/gi/2020/06/04/today-what-we-as-leaders-do-will-resound-for-the-people-of-the-future-cities-and-regions-in-fact-the-world-at-large-stated-the-city-of-deltas-lois-jackson/>

Oral History Connects Dots: Know, Understand and Care

Formed in 2003, the **Green Infrastructure Partnership** was one of six original elements of the **Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia**, released in February 2004. The Action Plan provided a framework for building partnerships through on-the-ground initiatives that inform provincial policy through the shared responsibility model.

Over the following six years (2004 through 2010), the GIP played a prominent role by aligning efforts with the **BC Water Sustainability Committee** (WSC). The GIP helped drive early implementation of the Action Plan, primarily in Metro Vancouver but also extending to Vancouver Island.

“When we formed the GIP in 2003, green infrastructure was an emerging concept. The paradigm-shift that then occurred far exceeds our original expectations that the partnership would be a catalyst for change,” stated Chuck Gale, Founding Chair, in 2008 when he reflected on the process and progress for moving a good idea forward.

After incorporation of the Partnership for Water Sustainability as a not-for-profit society in 2010, the work of the GIP was absorbed by the Partnership. “The Partnership is the keeper of the GIP legacy,” stated Paul Ham, GIP Past-Chair in 2010. Ray Fung, who succeeded Paul Ham as GIP Chair, has carried on the **Design With Nature** mission as a Partnership Director.

Going back in time to October 2006, a defining moment occurred when the writer along with Paul Ham and Ray Fung, as the respective chairs of the GIP and WSC leadership teams, met with the **Metro Vancouver Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force**, a committee of mayors chaired by then Mayor Lois Jackson of Delta. We were joined by Dale Wall, then the Assistant Deputy Minister with the Ministry of Community Services.

The meeting purpose was two-fold: report out on the success of the inaugural **Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation Series** earlier in 2006; and seek support for program expansion to include elected officials. Less than a year later, in early September 2007, Mayor Jackson made an opening statement to kick-off the 2007 Showcasing Innovation Series.

Continue reading to learn about a “convening for action” process in British Columbia that has been a work-in-progress for the past two decades. The storyline is structured in four parts, beginning with the essay by Lois Jackson.



*Kim A. Stephens, MEng, PEng,
Executive Director*

Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC

February 2022



Knowing One's History: 30-Second Takeaway

There is a saying, look back to move forward. When each generation of practitioners understands and cares about the **oral history of green infrastructure in a Living Water Smart context**, then successive generations of practitioners are more likely to select the right path forward at each generational inflection point.

Our partners in provincial and local government tell us that "**the oral history**", and the intergenerational sharing and learning that goes with it, are rapidly being lost. The ramifications of this "new reality" create a sense of urgency to inform, educate and inspire BC audiences.

This is a legacy document in the [Living Water Smart in British Columbia Series](#). It provides the reader with a window into one aspect of the building blocks process that guides the work of the Partnership for Water Sustainability. The storyline for this legacy document is structured in four parts.

Part 1 is the essay by Lois Jackson. Her reflections on what she has observed and experienced over five decades are insightful. Her reflections explain why she was receptive to an overture from the [Green Infrastructure Partnership](#) in 2006 when she was in a position of leadership and authority as Chair, Metro Vancouver Regional Board.

Part 2 is the "story behind the story" of the players who were in the right place at the right time in 2003, seized the moment to form the Green Infrastructure Partnership, and developed the "**Design with Nature**" **framework** for integrating across infrastructure systems.

Part 3 describes building blocks in a collaborative and consultative process that secured high-level support from elected representatives for a "convening for action" vision to change the way that communities use and develop land by designing with nature.

Part 4 foreshadows how early successes in the Metro Vancouver region were replicated and then built upon by the [CAVI-Convening for Action on Vancouver Island](#) initiative, beginning in 2007.

Under the banner of [Living Water Smart, BC's Water Plan](#), this work-in-progress continues to this day. It is a building blocks process. **Exhibit A** conceptualizes parallel streams of effort, on both sides of the Georgia Basin that separates the island and mainland, over two decades.

The purpose of storytelling is to illustrate how "we got from there to here" through commitment and perseverance when the players are guided by a shared vision. Transferring knowledge and understanding through storytelling is part and parcel of how we hand-off the intergenerational baton to those who are keen to build on experience.

EXHIBIT A

LIVING WATER SMART IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Flowing Towards “Water Reconciliation” Within the Georgia Basin / Salish Sea



Blue Ecology is an ecological philosophy, which emerged from interweaving First Nations and Western thought. It is meant to be a companion because it augments existing Western science hydrology rather than displacing this knowledge.

Interweaving is about creating a new form of knowledge through collaboration by interweaving useful threads from each way of knowing.

Interweaving is not integration, just as equality is not about assimilation and creativity is not empirical.

- Michael Blackstock, 2021

What we are essentially talking about is going back to the headwaters of where we got our relationships with water and with one another wrong; and then starting back down the river of time – this time together – with a full understanding of the importance of embracing a water-first approach to planning human interventions in the environment. Western science and Blue Ecology are truly partners. It is time the marriage was made official.

- from an Op-Ed co-authored by Kim Stephens, Michael Blackstock and Bob Sandford, and published by the Vancouver Sun on January 23, 2017

Build a greener community, adapt to a changing climate, and protect natural watercourses



*In 2015, the Partnership presented a **Champion Supporter of the Partnership** “certificate of recognition” to Mayor Jackson and the City of Delta. This recognition highlighted City leadership in implementing a Rain Garden Program and kicked off the Second Decade of Delta’s long-term initiative to improve the urban landscape through a streetscape program that has three objectives: build a greener community, adapt to a changing climate, and protect Delta’s natural watercourses.*

Part 1 – An essay in 2020 by Mayor Lois Jackson: Historical context for “Design With Nature” as a framework for green infrastructure action

In an essay published on waterbucket.ca in June 2020, Lois Jackson reflected on what it means in practice to ‘make a difference’, both as a citizen and as an elected representative in local government.

“Hands-on involvement has a lasting impact on kids who’ve planted and maintained rain gardens. But as existing gardens become ‘part of the landscape’ that kids have always known, they need new rain garden opportunities if they are to experience the excitement of creating a better and greener urban landscape.”

- Deborah Jones, 2020

Guided by An Intergenerational Perspective

“Today, what we as leaders do, will resound for the people of the future, their cities and their regions. In fact, for the world at large. One of the reasons that I ran for office in 1972, and why I served for 20 years as Mayor of Delta, and 6 years at Chair of Metro Vancouver was ‘to make a difference’.... a difference to the children and their families of the future.”

“But we are wrong to stop there because we must also consider that we are not the only ones sharing this planet, and what we do on a daily basis, can impact positively or negatively having a resounding effect and rippling effect of which we must be aware.”

“How best to teach and lead the people to be generous to others and gentle with all species and their environment, of land, air and water? Well, I must go back to when I first met Deborah Jones, when she called my office one fine day inviting me and my executive assistant to have tea on her front yard by her ‘ditch’.... Deborah lives on a lovely sloping corner lot with a circular ditch system next to the roadway. ‘Yes, of course we will come’, says I wondering what was to follow!!”



Genesis of Delta’s Rain Garden Program: A Tea Party Next to “the Ditch”

“Deborah had ‘the tea’ laid out on the grass next to the ‘ditch’. Upon perusing the situation, I found that this was no ordinary ‘ditch’; it was full in abundance with wildflowers, grasses, and was a veritable beauty to behold!! Deborah explained the science behind drainage of residential areas, slowing down the speed of the runoff, cleansing the waters that made their way back to the ocean, providing habitat for birds, bees and small wild things!!”

“Hence the idea was hatched of the rain gardens. And I thought ‘what better way to make a difference’; teach the children how to use their muscles and brains outdoors to in turn ‘make a difference’.”

“Deborah, being the very quiet and unassuming person that she is, has worked tirelessly with her band of ‘Stream Keepers’ to bring this idea into reality. As Mayor, I had a certain influence over the Council for 20 years, assisting through utilizing our engineering and environmental staff to bring this idea into reality.”

How Deb Jones got involved

“In 2001, my husband and I obtained permission from Delta Engineering to landscape a weedy drainage ditch in front of our house and our neighbour's. This was followed by restoration planting projects in a local park and on the banks of Cougar Creek near Scott Road. These could never have happened without Delta’s openness to volunteerism, earning us some ‘street cred’ with Delta in the early 2000s.”

- Deborah Jones, 2020



Delta Mayor Lois Jackson at Richardson School on rain garden planting day (2011)

Call to Action to Make the Vision a Reality: “If You Can Dream It – You Can Do It”

A Fortunate Confluence of Personalities, Interests and Skills

“Looking back, I see now that the rain garden program evolved gradually, in the manner of any good garden -- from early conversations in 1999, through the first rain garden in 2006, to the 29 school and community rain gardens in 2019.

“The program came about through a fortunate confluence of personalities, interests and skills – it is not something that a community can necessarily just decide to do, and presto, it happens.

“Remove any one of the individuals or organizations who played roles in the process, and North Delta's school and community rain gardens either would not have happened at all, or would have been much less successful.”

- Deborah Jones, 2020

“How proud I was to attend the schools for all these years to be on hand to listen to the ‘world lesson’ that Deborah taught to the children through planting rain gardens on the school grounds. I remember always telling the children at these times that, *as they become adults and move throughout the world, to share your message of looking after and caring for people, yes, but also take care of the environment because, if they don't, who will?*”

“I hoped they would take that message through their lives and take action on it. You see I learned these lessons when I was a youngster, many years ago in my hometown of Sudbury, Ontario when International Nickel belched out thousands and thousands of tons of sulphur smoke each hour of each day.”

Lessons Learned During Childhood: “It was a thick fog and actually burned the edges of the lettuce leaves in my mom’s garden. We had to tear off those brown edges when we cleaned the lettuce for lunch. When walking to school or running through the fields, it would burn your throat and make you cough. Do you think I loved and appreciated the clean air of B.C. when we moved here in 1968? You bet I did!!”

“One of the first things I did when I became Mayor in 1999 was to introduce our community to caring about of our air, land and water. Many were opposed to this position, I must say. But we persevered and, as a result, I believe we have set a good example over all these years of good stewardship.”

“One of the things of which I am most proud is our success in leading four levels of government to purchase Burns Bog. I feel that is one of the legacies I can leave in my life’s goal of ‘making my difference’....!!”

“But I regress, yes, as one who has seen and done many things, I have learned that we must all be leaders who selflessly have a vision, and we must then act to make the vision a reality, because air, water and continents are interconnected and if you can dream it — you can do it.”

Part 2 – Flashback to 2003: Formation of Green Infrastructure Partnership and crystallizing of “Design With Nature” framework

The GIP organized consultation workshops in 2004 and 2005. The process clarified expectations and defined the vision for a “made in BC” approach to green infrastructure.

Formed in 2003 and co-funded by the provincial and local governments and the Real Estate Foundation, the Green Infrastructure Partnership (GIP) provided provincial leadership and influenced the nature and direction of the green infrastructure conversation in this province. The GIP was one of six original elements of the [Water Sustainability Action Plan for BC](#) (“the Action Plan”), released in 2004.

The original 5-person GIP Leadership Team comprised Chuck Gale (Founding Chair), Kim Stephens (Action Plan Coordinator), Ray Fung, Dale Wall, and Deborah Curran. They represented four organizations plus the Action Plan. Within the first year, Paul Ham and Susan Rutherford replaced Chuck Gale and Deborah Curran, respectively.

Introduction to a Systems Approach

In 2004, the GIP produced the [Green Infrastructure Consultation Report](#), which described “*green infrastructure as the ecological processes, both natural and engineered, that are the foundation for a healthy natural and built environment in communities*”.

Then, in 2005, the GIP framed a “made in BC”, **Design With Nature** approach to community development in terms of six objectives as listed below. They embrace yet at the same time transcend engineered infrastructure to provide a comprehensive view. It is a systems lens.

“When we refer to designing with nature, we are borrowing from Ian McHarg and the title of his 1969 book. We are consistent with what McHarg intended in terms of ecological planning and letting the landscape inform development.”

Ray Fung, 2007



Window of Opportunity: *Right people in the right place at the right time*



A Perspective by Chuck Gale

“When we formed the GIP in 2003, green infrastructure was an emerging concept. Also, it was a bold leap forward in 2004 when the GIP initiated a consultation process to develop a Model Subdivision Bylaw and Green Infrastructure Standards.”

“The paradigm-shift that then occurred during Paul Ham’s watch far exceeds our original expectation that the partnership would be a catalyst for change.”

Chuck Gale, GIP Chair,
2003-2004

As a City Engineer for three Metro Vancouver municipalities, Chuck Gale was known by many as “Mr. Sustainability”. He was the driving force behind formation of the GIP. He was also Chair of the Master Municipal Construction Documents Association (MMCD) from its inception in 1995 until he retired from local government in 2004.

“A confluence of events and circumstances brought a mix of key players together in 2003. It was a teachable year because of the impact of drought, forest fires and floods on public consciousness. This was a once in a generation reachable moment because minds were open and receptive to the message, **we must do better**,” recalls Kim Stephens.

“Nothing happens in isolation because everything is interconnected. It is about recognizing and connecting dots to paint a picture of what could be. By 2003, many building blocks were either in place or about to be initiated. It was a matter of seizing the moment. Timing is everything. The right people were in the right place at the right time.”



The GIP: Story Behind the Story

“Without the vision and leadership provided by Chuck Gale, there would have been no GIP. It is that simple. Relationships are key too. In the 1990s, Chuck Gale was a mentor for both Ray Fung and me. Those two had a history of intergovernmental collaboration with Dale Wall, then an Assistant Deputy Minister,” continues Kim Stephens.

“Chuck was standing at the back of the room as I co-presented “Design With Nature” at UBCM. It caught my attention that he was beaming. Chuck rushed up to me and said, we must talk about how to move this idea forward. The stars were aligning. Ray had succeeded me as Chair of the BC Water Sustainability Committee. He had proposed that “green infrastructure” be an Action Plan priority. Within two months, Dale Wall and Deborah Curran were on board and the GIP was a core element of the Action Plan, released in February 2004.”

“Design With Nature” framework for integrating across infrastructure systems



Ray Fung’s career experience spanned three municipalities. He retired in 2020 as Director of Engineering, District of West Vancouver

“From 2006 through 2008, for example, the Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation Series helped local government practitioners immeasurably by creating forums for them to share their experiences and lessons learned. This created a ripple effect that spurred even more innovation.”

Ray Fung, 2008

The six green infrastructure objectives introduced on page 7 define what “design with nature” means from a whole-system perspective. They are viewed through a local government lens.

“We adapted the paradigm from the title of the seminal book by Ian McHarg, published in 1969. Our experience is that it is intuitive, it resonates, and it serves as a focal point for changing the land ethic for the better,” explains Ray Fung. He was GIP Chair from 2008 until 2010 when the work of the GIP was absorbed by the Partnership for Water Sustainability. He is a Partnership Director.

“Designing with nature captures the essence of climate change adaptation. Adaptation is about responding to the changes that will inevitably occur. Adaptation is at the community level and is therefore about collaboration.”



Evolution of the Design with Nature Mind-Map: “The public unveiling of the water-centric version (above) of the 'design with nature' concept was at the Union of BC Municipalities Annual Conference in September 2003. Titled [Designing with Nature – Walking the Talk for Sustainable Community Design](#), the session was the launch event for the Water Balance Model,” adds Kim Stephens.

“In early 2005, the GIP essentially adapted Smart Growth principles, albeit in action-oriented soundbites, to create a new mind-map with the six objectives. A consultation workshop with the Metro Vancouver Regional Engineers Advisory Committee was the trigger for it.”

Metro Vancouver Consultation Workshop: *Context is everything and change happens*

East Clayton Sustainable Community

Circa 2000, the East Clayton project established the City of Surrey as a regional leader. The project was instrumental in overcoming fear and doubt, triggered a senior government grant for BC's first 'green infrastructure' pilot project, and laid early groundwork for achieving water sustainability through implementation of green infrastructure practices.

"The GIP outreach and education emphasis shifted from 'informing and educating' to 'showcasing and sharing'. We witnessed the motivational power of celebrating successes. We also recognized the need to get the story out about the leadership being shown by local government."

Ray Fung, 2010

"Chuck Gale as chair brought instant credibility to the GIP within the Metro Vancouver region. He then recruited Paul Ham, General Manager of Engineering with the City of Surrey, to succeed him. Paul further elevated the GIP profile because Surrey was seen to be at the forefront of green infrastructure innovation," explains Kim Stephens.

"Paul reached out to his peers in the Metro Vancouver region and asked them to participate in the [Green Infrastructure Consultation Workshop](#) in May 2005. This event proved to be a game-changer. The program design (shown below) was an application of the *What, So What, What* mind-map developed by Erik Karlsen for change management."



Showcase and Celebrate Innovation: "The 2005 workshop truly was a dynamic and transformational event; and inspired a complete revamping of our approach and work plan for a Model Subdivision Bylaw and green infrastructure standards. This influenced everything that followed, including on Vancouver Island," states Ray Fung.

"As we went around the table, the stories came out as to what Metro Vancouver municipalities were doing. A common refrain was, we didn't know you were doing that. The energy in the room just kept building and building. At the end of the day, we literally tore up our work plan."

"It was clear that practitioners did not need another guidance document that would go on a shelf. Rather, they needed to network and learn from each other. In 2006, the GIP launched the pilot [Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation Series](#). The goal, share experience and lessons learned as an outcome of designing with nature."



Collaborating under the Action Plan umbrella, a consortium of four organizations shared a vision of making green infrastructure practices more prevalent in communities across BC.



Part 3 – Flashback to 2006:

Green Infrastructure Partnership asked Lois Jackson to support a “Mayors Forum on Green Infrastructure”

“This part of the story opens with a meeting at the offices of Metro Vancouver on September 28, 2006. Paul Ham, Kim Stephens, and I met with Lois Jackson, Chair of the Regional Board, and senior staff. We were accompanied by Pamela Goldsmith-Jones, Mayor of the District of West Vancouver. Our purpose was to seek support for a [Mayors Forum on Green Infrastructure](#),” recalls Ray Fung.

Mayors and Chairs Focus Group

“The idea for a [Green Infrastructure Communication Guide for Elected Officials](#) had come out of the Metro Vancouver Consultation Workshop held in May 2005. The regional engineers group saw this as filling a gap because what was lacking was written information on green infrastructure from the perspective of elected officials, for elected officials.”

“The communication guide idea led the GIP leadership team to approach various Mayors and Chairs from Vancouver Island, the Okanagan, and Metro Vancouver. We then formed an advisory group to help us test the waters. Mayor Goldsmith-Jones was a member. For consistency, Kim Stephens conducted one-on-one interviews guided by a [Conversation Template](#) (Exhibit B).”

“A distinguishing feature of this group of elected leaders is that everyone had thought about how to achieve environmental, economic, and social objectives through infrastructure choices. All of them placed emphasis on the importance of mobilizing political will to achieve **settlement change in balance with ecology**.”

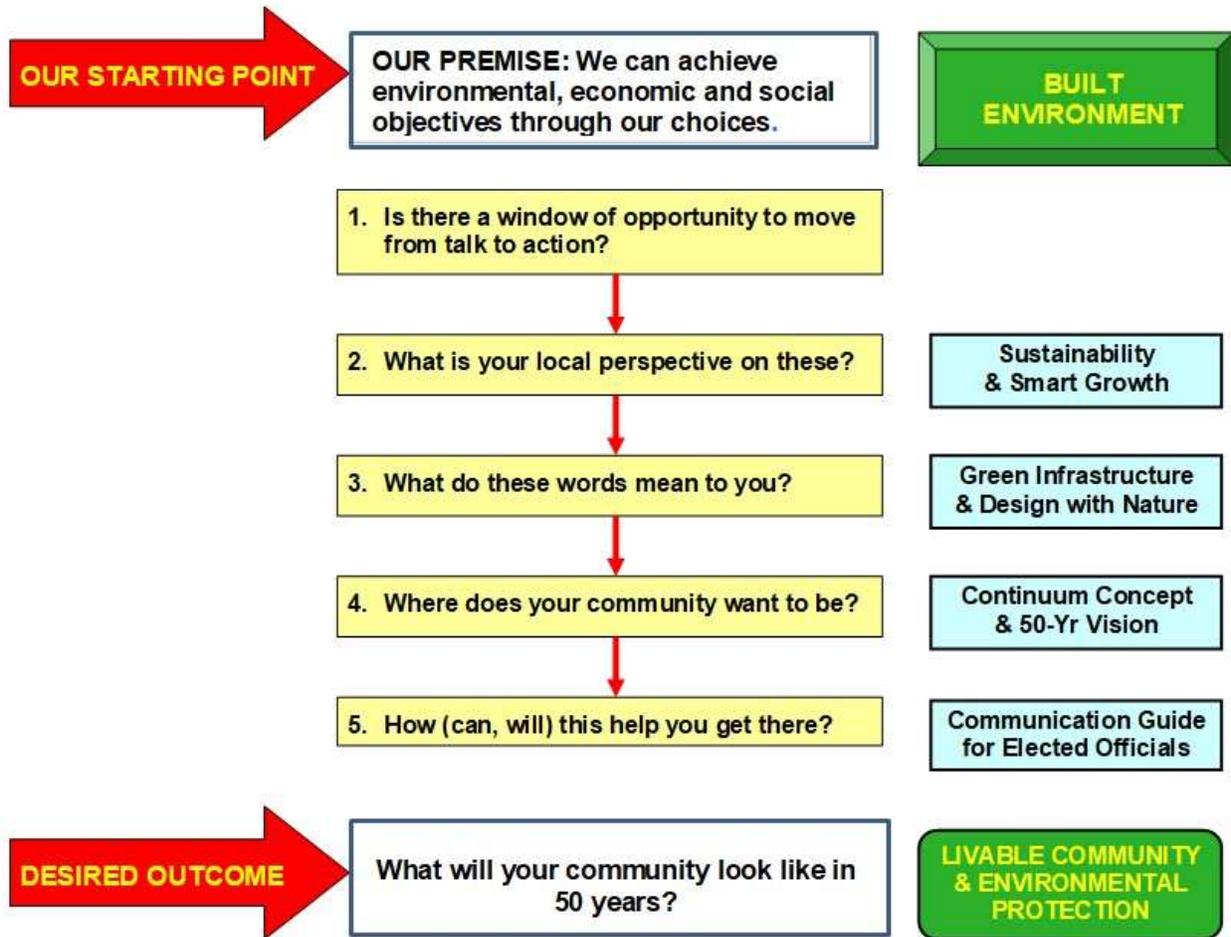
“Around the same time as meeting with Mayor Lois Jackson, the GIP released a report with details of the focus group findings. Funded by the provincial government, the interviews yielded consistent insights. What we learned was not unexpected. Rather, it was validation.”

“In the report, we synthesized eight messages. One was that *mayoral collaboration will be a powerful force for change when there is a shared regional vision for the Built Environment*. This message served as the springboard to meet with Lois Jackson in September 2006.”

The action item in September 2006 was an invitation from Board Chair Lois to the Green Infrastructure Partnership to meet with the Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force in October 2006.

The next year, 2007, Delta hosted the first event in the Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation Series which alternated weekly back and forth between Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island.

EXHIBIT B: Conversation Template for Interviews with Ad Hoc Mayors & Chairs Focus Group



Source: *Water – Choosing Sustainability for Life & Livelihoods: Convening for Action in British Columbia*, progress report released by the Green Infrastructure Partnership in September 2006

Green Infrastructure Partnership credibility enhanced by collaboration with Metro Vancouver Sustainable Region Task Force

When the GIP leadership team met with Board Chair Jackson and the [Sustainable Region Initiative \(SRI\) Task Force](#) in October 2006, West Vancouver Mayor Pam Goldsmith-Jones facilitated the meeting. In her introductory remarks, she provided this perspective:

Reflections

“It was enlightening to learn how much has been accomplished by the Green Infrastructure Partnership in such a short period of time, and I have certainly gained a better appreciation for the part played by Metro Vancouver in funding the development of tools such as the Water Balance Model and Waterbucket Website; and providing local governments with the opportunity to share their experiences through the Showcasing Innovation Series.”

Johnny Carline,
Metro Vancouver CAO,
Dec 2006



Design With Nature: “I have been asked by members of the Green Infrastructure Partnership to help them support local leaders throughout BC, so that we – the politicians – can champion the idea that **designing with nature**, particularly with regard to how water flows, has everything to do with achieving a built environment that is truly sustainable.”

“As the leaders appointed to design the [Sustainable Region Initiative](#) for the GVRD, we view you as critical partners in affecting positive change with regard to infrastructure design in the region. Right now, there is a body of practice emerging that demonstrates success in building green infrastructure.”

“The Green Infrastructure Partnership wishes to help you deliver on the promise of a sustainable region. We are looking for your leadership, and we wish to support you in taking the long-term view for the betterment of the region today, and into the future.”

Call to Action: Change the Way We Develop Land

At the conclusion of the meeting with the SRI Task Force, Chair Jackson invited the GIP to participate in Metro Vancouver’s Sustainability Community Breakfast program, a series of monthly breakfast meetings.

“The monthly breakfast meetings provide an ongoing opportunity for network and partnership building while at the same time building awareness and understanding of urban sustainability challenges, bringing together individuals and organizations interested in the sustainability of the region,” she explained.

The GIP brought its ‘design with nature’ message to an audience of 80-plus on December 13, 2006. West Vancouver Mayor Pamela Goldsmith-Jones again played a key role in anchoring the presentation team and articulating the importance of partnerships.

Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation

Vision for Showcasing Innovation Series

“Experience shows that intra-region communication among local government practitioners is the exception rather than the rule. At the 2005 consultation workshop, Greater Vancouver municipalities told us that they wanted to hear firsthand from those who are implementing green infrastructure, and they want to see what it looks like.”

“In response to this need, 2006 was the first year of the Showcasing Innovation Series. In Year Two, our aim is to continue promoting region-wide networking and sharing of lessons learned.”

Paul Ham, GIP Chair, 2007



“It was exactly a year ago that I met Paul Ham, Kim Stephens and Ray Fung of the Green Infrastructure Partnership,” recalled Mayor Lois Jackson in September 2007, when she spoke at the [Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation](#) event hosted by the City of Delta to kickoff off the second annual series.

“We talked about the success of the Showcasing Innovation Series as a pilot for the [Convening for Action](#) provincial initiative, and how it might help provide an on-the-ground focus for the Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force which I chair.”

“I remember that first meeting quite clearly. At first I was not sure I understood what was meant when they talked about ‘green infrastructure’ and ‘celebrating successes’. And then the light went on when I realized they were talking about things like Delta’s sidewalk retrofit strategy and our program for transforming ditches into landscaped amenities that beautify roadways.”

“I remember saying ‘now I get it!’ – the point being that when you have examples of what can be done, and projects are being built, you can then wrap your mind around the green infrastructure vision and say to yourself: ‘what’s the big deal, this is really common sense.... if we can do this, then we can do more.’ And before you know it, the ball is rolling, and the landscape is changing for the better. “

“Clearly, this program is resonating with local government. No other forum provides us with the same kind of opportunity to “tell our stories”. It is evident that there are many champions in local government; and it is important that we recognize and celebrate what they are doing. This is all part of creating our future.”

“And when we ask, what will this community look like in 50 years, we can point to the green infrastructure examples and then we will know what it will look like in 50 years.”



“THE SHOWCASING INNOVATION SERIES IS A MAJOR PRIORITY FOR ME BECAUSE THIS IS WHERE IT HAPPENS. LATER THIS MORNING I WILL BE CHAIRING A MEETING OF THE METRO VANCOUVER BOARD, AND I WILL TELL THEM ABOUT WHERE I WAS THIS MORNING. AND I WILL GET THEM EXCITED ABOUT HOSTING SHOWCASING EVENTS IN THEIR MUNICIPALITIES TOO.”

Mayor Lois Jackson, City of Delta, 2007

Part 4 – Flashback to 2007:

GIP experience in Metro Vancouver was adapted by “CAVI-Convening for Action on Vancouver Island”

Convening for Action in B.C.

“Pilot program successes in the South Okanagan and Metro Vancouver gave the various partners confidence to see what we could accomplish by ‘convening for action’ at a regional scale on Vancouver Island. In 2006, the Real Estate Foundation of BC and two Ministries (Environment and Community Services) came together to form the CAVI Partnership and provide funding for a program that would be delivered by the CAVI Leadership Team under the umbrella of the Water Sustainability Action Plan. It was Mac Fraser, Director of Planning Services with the Islands Trust, who suggested the CAVI acronym for Convening for Action on Vancouver Island.”

Glen Brown, Ministry of Community Services, 2010

“The success of the *Mayors and Chairs Focus Group* opened doors on Vancouver Island and led to the launch of CAVI at the [2006 Water in the City Conference](#), a world-class event inspired and chaired by Saanich Councillor Vic Derman and held in Victoria,” recounts Kim Stephens. “The CAVI launch was followed in 2007 by parallel [Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation Series](#), on alternating weeks, on Vancouver Island and in Metro Vancouver.”

CAVI Consultation Workshop: “The GIP and CAVI leadership teams collaborated to deliver the adjunct workshop at Water in the City. Their goal was to start a conversation framed by this question, *how will Vancouver Island handle a doubling of the population and what will it look like then?*” (The CAVI mission objectives are framed below.)

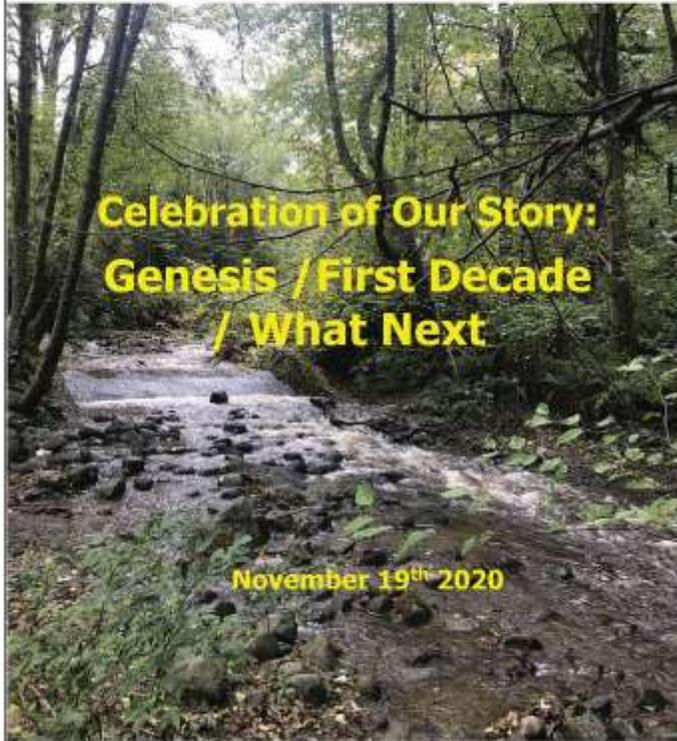


Green Infrastructure Leadership Forum: “Also in 2007, CAVI partnered with the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities to co-host the inter-regional [Green Infrastructure Leadership Forum](#). This closed the loop on an idea floated a year earlier and led to a change in approach,” continues Kim Stephens.

“It was clear that peer-based education is foundational to doing business differently. This takes commitment and time. In 2008, rollout of [Living Water Smart, BC’s Water Plan](#) created the opportunity to put this idea into play. A work-in-progress, this continues to this day.”



the partnership
for water sustainability in bc



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About the Partnership for Water Sustainability in British Columbia

Incorporation of the Partnership for Water Sustainability in British Columbia as a not-for-profit society on November 19, 2010 was a milestone moment. Incorporation signified a bold leap forward.

Over two decades, the Partnership had evolved from a technical committee in the 1990s, to a “water roundtable” in the first decade of the 2000s, and then to a legal entity. The Partnership has its roots in government – local, provincial, federal.

The Partnership has a primary goal, to **build bridges of understanding** and pass the baton from the past to the present and future. To achieve the goal, the Partnership is growing a network in the local government setting. This network embraces collaborative leadership and **inter-generational collaboration**.

The Partnership believes that when each generation is receptive to accepting the inter-generational baton and embracing the wisdom that goes with it, the decisions of successive generations will benefit from and build upon the experience of those who went before them.



the partnership
for water sustainability in bc