



Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Fédération canadienne des municipalités

**UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL MAY 31, 2008 AT 5:30 P.M.**

## **FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES HONOURS MUNICIPAL EXCELLENCE**

**QUÉBEC, QC, May 31, 2008** – Winners of FCM's Awards for Outstanding International Volunteer Contribution and the 2008 FCM-CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Awards were honoured today at a recognition ceremony during the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference and Municipal Expo™ in Québec City.

### ***Awards for Outstanding International Volunteer Contribution***

The awards are presented annually to recognize excellence in the international cooperation activities undertaken by Canadian municipalities and individuals through FCM's international programs.

Canadian municipalities contribute to international cooperation through the volunteer participation of elected municipal officials and staff. In 2007, FCM members contributed more than 5,000 hours of volunteer service to improve municipal service delivery, management and operations in 20 countries.

"FCM's municipal volunteers are true global citizens," said FCM President Gord Steeves. "Year after year, they strengthen Canada's image as a country committed to international cooperation."

The winners of the 2008 Awards for Outstanding International Volunteer Contribution are:

#### **1. Mike Badham Award for Outstanding Volunteer Contribution**

##### **Daniel Poitras**

Director of Engineering and Planning (retired 2007), Ville de Saguenay, Québec (Municipal Partnership between Ville de Saguenay and Nam Dinh, Vietnam; post-tsunami reconstruction in Aceh, Indonesia)

#### **2. Award for Outstanding Volunteer Contribution – Institutional Category**

##### **Town of Drayton Valley, Alberta**

Municipal Partnership with Lushoto District Council, Tanzania (2004 – present)

FCM's international programs are undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

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

Since 2000, FCM and CH2M HILL Canada Limited have recognized municipal governments across Canada with Sustainable Community Awards for leadership in environmental excellence and innovation in service delivery.

"FCM congratulates all the winners of the 2008 Sustainable Community Awards," said Gord Steeves. "Each of the winners is helping to improve the quality of life for people in their communities. They 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.

#### ***Award winners***

The eight winners of the 2008 FCM-CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Awards are:

##### **1. Buildings**

**City of Toronto, Ontario:** Arenas Energy Retrofit Project

##### **2. Energy**

**City of Saint John, New Brunswick:** Municipal Energy Efficiency Program

##### **3. Planning**

**City of Pickering, Ontario:** The Sustainable City Project

##### **4. Residential Development**

**City of Kitchener, Ontario:** The Intowns

##### **5. Transportation**

**Regional Municipality of Durham, Regional Municipality of Halton, City of Hamilton, City of Mississauga, Regional Municipality of Peel, City of Toronto, Regional Municipality of York, Ontario:** Smart Commute Initiative

##### **6. Water**

**Regional Municipality of Peel, Ontario:** Water Efficiency Plan

##### **7. Waste**

**Towns of Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, Newmarket and Whitchurch-Stouffville and Township of King, Ontario:** The Northern 6 Joint Waste Collection Contract and Green Bin (SSO) Launch Project

##### **8. Wastewater**

**City of Québec, Québec:** Restoration of the Saint Charles river bank and the development of a linear park

The 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 category.

**For additional information:**

**Awards for Outstanding International Volunteer Contribution**

Noelle Grosse  
Outreach Officer  
International Centre for Municipal Development  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities  
613-907-6311  
[ngrosse@fcm.ca](mailto:ngrosse@fcm.ca)  
[www.fcm.ca/international](http://www.fcm.ca/international)

**FCM-CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Awards:**

Raymond Sullivan  
Communications Manager  
Centre for Sustainable Community Development  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities  
613-907-6294  
[rsullivan@fcm.ca](mailto:rsullivan@fcm.ca)

Green Municipal Fund and the Affordability and Choice Today (ACT) program:  
<[www.sustainablecommunities.fcm.ca](http://www.sustainablecommunities.fcm.ca)>.

CH2M HILL Canada: <[www.ch2mhillcanada.com](http://www.ch2mhillcanada.com)>.

## **BACKGROUNDER**

### **Awards for Outstanding International Volunteer Contribution – Project Summaries**

The Awards for Outstanding International Volunteer Contribution are given to individuals and municipalities. Recipients share a goal to help improve quality of life and build sustainable communities worldwide. The winners are:

#### **Mike Badham Award for Outstanding Volunteer Contribution**

Daniel Poitras

Director of Engineering and Planning (retired 2007), Ville de Saguenay, Québec

Daniel's efforts exemplify the best in volunteer cooperation. His international work began 14 years ago when he became involved in a project in Ha Noi, Vietnam with the Ordre des urbanistes du Québec and l'Université de Montréal. This role led him to FCM and eventually enabled Saguenay, Québec to forge a partnership with Nam Dinh, Vietnam through FCM's Municipal Partnership Program (2002-2007). Daniel's leadership skills contributed to the development of a linked database with a geographic information system. In addition, a newly computerized system manages land use, property, permits and taxation. Nam Dinh's capacity to generate revenue has increased, and a reference manual has been developed to encourage its replication at the national level in Vietnam. Daniel has also contributed to municipal rebuilding in the District of Aceh Jaya, Indonesia, which was devastated by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

#### **Award for Outstanding Volunteer Contribution – Institutional Category**

Town of Drayton Valley, Alberta

Municipal Partnership with Lushoto District Council, Tanzania (2004-present)

Since 2004, Drayton Valley has been involved in a partnership with Lushoto, Tanzania. An outstanding level of engagement has been demonstrated on the part of Drayton Valley's Council, staff and citizens to improve the quality of life for the people of Lushoto. Employees of the Town of Drayton Valley participate in a payroll deduction program to support the Irente Orphanage. The Drayton Valley Peace Makers Guild hand makes quilts and blankets for children. Residents have also established "Hearts of Lushoto!", a non-profit organization that raises funds for children's education. As a result of the partnership, Lushoto has begun to involve the community in local decision-making, with an increased role for both men and women. For Drayton Valley, the Town Council, staff and citizens have learned the value and practice of taking care of parents, grandparents, and conservation.

### **2008 FCM-CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Awards Winners - Project Summaries**

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and CH2M HILL Canada established the FCM-CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Awards in 2000 to recognize and celebrate municipal leadership in championing sustainable community development and promoting best practices in addressing environmental issues in municipal operations. Along with environmental benefits, winning projects demonstrate the economic and social advantages of sustainable community development.

FCM's Green Municipal Fund (GMF) and CH2M HILL Canada Ltd. are the primary sponsors of the Awards. Transport Canada sponsors the Sustainable Transportation category. The Affordability and Choice Today (ACT) program is sponsoring the new Residential Development category.

CH2M HILL is a global full-service infrastructure and environmental firm providing services in

water, transportation, energy and industrial systems to public and private clients in numerous industries. CH2M HILL is committed to developing innovative, practical and sustainable solutions to serve the needs of communities worldwide.

The winners of the 2008 Sustainable Community Awards demonstrate best practices in the following categories: Buildings, Energy, Planning, Residential Development, Transportation, Water, Waste, and Wastewater.

### **Buildings**

City of Toronto, Ontario  
Arenas Energy Retrofit Project

In December 2004, the City of Toronto partnered with Optimira Energy to implement the Arenas Energy Retrofit Project to reduce building operating costs, increase energy and water efficiencies, and deliver environmental benefits. The city retrofitted nearly 90 arenas for greater energy efficiency, implementing new building automation systems, as well as lighting, ventilation, heating and cooling systems, and other technologies. A complementary Energy Awareness Program was also implemented to promote the importance of energy efficiency to arena operating staff. The project has been a huge success, saving the city an estimated \$1,255,000 per year in energy costs and reducing electricity consumption by more than 10 million kWh, natural gas consumption by more than one million cubic metres, and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 4,660 tonnes.

### **Energy**

City of Saint John, New Brunswick  
Municipal Energy Efficiency Program

To become more financially prudent and environmentally responsible, the City of Saint John implemented a new Municipal Energy Efficiency Program (MEEP). Under the program, more than 70 energy retrofit projects have been implemented in more than 50 buildings and facilities. Projects include the installation of a state-of-the-art Energy Management Control System (EMCS) that allows for remote energy monitoring of individual buildings, high-efficiency lighting and HVAC systems, daylight harvesting, LED traffic lights, a photo control time system for street lights, an energy awareness program, a shutdown and start-up procedure and energy management procurement procedures. The program has been very successful with an overall reduction in greenhouse gases (GHGs) of approximately 17 per cent from 1996 to 2007, and a total cost savings of more than \$5 million.

### **Planning**

City of Pickering, Ontario  
The Sustainable City Project

In September 2005, faced with a large-scale development project that would essentially double the population, the City of Pickering began to research and implement a city-wide sustainability project called Sustainable Pickering. The city credits a large part of its success in implementing the project to educating staff, imparting a "lead by example" approach to the effort and engaging the community in sustainability issues. More than 1,000 households in a pilot project pledged to reduce energy consumption by 1,169,925 kWh (10 per cent), and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 253 tonnes. City council has approved GHG emission reduction targets of 35 per cent per capita for the community, and 50 per cent per capita for corporate entities by the year 2016.

## **Residential Development**

City of Kitchener, Ontario  
The Intowns

Through financial incentives and a streamlined development process, the City of Kitchener was able to guarantee the successful transformation of an industrial wasteland into “the Intowns,” a 128-unit townhouse live–work residential community. The development — which incorporates diverse housing styles and includes tree-filled, open greenspace at its centre — offers a new vision for how municipalities can manage redevelopment in their core. The city applied its tax incremental financing (TIF) approach, made possible under Kitchener’s Brownfield Remediation Program, to provide a grant to the developer to build on the site. The city’s ongoing public consultation process, and its responsiveness to the issues it raised, earned the support of Kitchener residents. The city expects to collect more than \$100,000 in new tax revenue per year.

## **Transportation**

Regional Municipality of Durham, Regional Municipality of Halton, City of Hamilton, City of Mississauga, Regional Municipality of Peel, City of Toronto, Regional Municipality of York, Ontario  
Smart Commute Initiative

Smart Commute was launched in 2004 as a collaborative initiative to reduce traffic and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. Smart Commute encompasses a variety of programs, including carpooling programs, cycling programs, new work arrangements such as telework and compressed work weeks, and other initiatives. Today, the Smart Commute initiative is delivered by more than 15 municipalities and regions, three Chambers of Commerce, and more than 50 businesses. Three universities and many non-profit organizations support the project. From 2004 to 2007, the project reduced the total number of kilometres travelled in the region by motor vehicle by 75 million vehicle kilometers, and GHG emissions by 17,400 tonnes.

## **Water**

Regional Municipality of Peel, Ontario  
Water Efficiency Plan

The Regional Municipality of Peel developed its Water Efficiency Plan (WEP) in response to increasing demands on its water and wastewater treatment systems. Key programs under the WEP include rebate programs for water-saving products (e.g. toilets and clothes washers), a system leak detection program, and an indoor and outdoor audit program. By 2015, the municipality aims to reduce daily demand for water and peak demand for water by up to 10 per cent, and wastewater flows by up to seven per cent. As of September 2007, reduced demand for water and wastewater treatment has saved approximately 3,000 ML of water and 2,000 MW/h of electricity — a savings equivalent to 671 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Reduced demand is expected to save approximately \$10.4 million in avoided capital costs that would have been incurred to expand the water and wastewater treatment system.

## **Waste**

Towns of Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, Newmarket and Whitchurch-Stouffville and Township of King, Ontario  
Northern 6 Joint Waste Collection Contract and Green Bin (SSO) Launch Project

In September 2007, after more than a year of planning, six municipalities in the northern part of the Region of York rolled out a new waste collection system. The new system offers real cost savings to local governments, includes a “green bin” organics collection program and expanded recycling for residents, and is anticipated to divert more than 65 per cent of waste from landfill by 2010. The participating municipalities launched a public education program to announce the new

system, and shared the cost of establishing a toll-free call centre to answer residents' questions. After two months of implementing the new waste collection system, the participating municipalities diverted almost twice as much waste from landfill, from an average of 34 per cent to an average of almost 70 per cent.

### **Wastewater**

City of Québec, Québec

Restoration of the Saint Charles river bank and the development of a linear park

The Saint Charles river, which flows through the heart of Québec City, has been transformed for the better as a result of 10 years of major wastewater treatment and site clean-up efforts downtown. This work was completed as part of the development of a linear park that includes a 30-kilometre pedestrian pathway linking Lake Saint Charles to Québec City's Old Port. Fourteen retention reservoirs were constructed and eight kilometres of formerly concrete banks were restored and naturalized, among other improvements. The Saint Charles is now a brand new river that participants in Québec City's 400th anniversary celebrations can enjoy.