



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**10 MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES HONOURED
AT THE 2007 FCM-CH2M HILL SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY AWARDS CEREMONY**

“CANADA’S GREENEST MUNICIPAL PROJECTS”

CALGARY, AB, June 2, 2007 - The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and CH2M HILL Canada Limited honoured the 10 winners of the FCM-CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Awards at a recognition ceremony at FCM's 70th Annual Conference and Municipal Expo™ in Calgary today. The Awards recognize municipal leadership in sustainable community development and give national recognition to projects that demonstrate environmental excellence and innovation in service delivery.

"FCM congratulates the 2007 Sustainable Community Awards' winners," said FCM President Gord Steeves. "These projects spotlight municipal governments that are leaders in sustainable community development. They demonstrate practical, innovative solutions to secure the environmental, economic and social well-being of Canada's communities."

The Awards are open to all municipal governments and their private sector partners. Communities of all sizes are encouraged to apply. To be eligible, 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.

"Sustainability is a powerful concept that inspires innovative problem solving and these award winning projects embody some of the best examples of sustainable development by municipal governments in Canada as they strive to increase the quality of life in their communities," said Peter Nicol, President of CH2M HILL Canada. "CH2M HILL is proud to be a founding sponsor of the FCM-CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Awards with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. In this, the eighth year of the Awards, we can look back on the important role they play in building capacity in Canadian communities. This is an important legacy of achievement."

This year 55 submissions were received. The 10 winners are:

Buildings

- 1. Québec City, Québec**
Bibliothèque de Charlesbourg

Solid Waste

- 2. City of Hamilton, Ontario**
City of Hamilton - Green Cart Program

- 3. Town of Ladysmith, British Columbia**
Ladysmith Organic Curb-Side Collection Program

Sustainable Community Planning

- 4. City of Calgary, Alberta**
imagineCALGARY

Wastewater

- 5. City of Toronto, Ontario**
Making Green Roofs Happen

Residential Development

- 6. Town of East Gwillimbury, Ontario**
East Gwillimbury Town-wide Energy Star Standards for new homes

Sustainable Transportation

- 7. City of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island**
City of Charlottetown Innovative Public Transit System
- 8. Regional Municipality of York, Ontario**
Viva BRT Project

Water

- 9. Capital Regional District of Victoria, British Columbia**
Toward Sustainable Water Demand - A Comprehensive Approach

Energy

- 10. The City of Dawson Creek, British Columbia**
City of Dawson Creek Community Energy Planning

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund (GMF) and CH2M HILL Canada Ltd. are the primary sponsors of the Awards. Transport Canada sponsors the Sustainable Transportation category and the Affordability and Choice Today (ACT) program sponsors the Residential Development category.

For additional information, please visit:

The FCM Centre for Sustainable Community Development website for details on the FCM-CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Awards, the Green Municipal Fund and the Affordability and Choice Today (ACT) program at <www.sustainablecommunities.fcm.ca>.

CH2M-HILL at <www.ch2mhillcanada.com>.

BACKGROUNDER

2007 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.

FCM has been the national voice of municipal governments since 1901. The Federation fosters sustainable communities enjoying a high quality of life by promoting strong, effective, and accountable municipal government. The FCM Centre for Sustainable Community Development offers resources, such as the Green Municipal Fund, for municipal governments to achieve their sustainable development goals.

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 2007 Sustainable Community Awards demonstrate best practices in the following categories: Buildings, Solid Waste, Sustainable Community Planning, Water, Wastewater, Residential Development, Sustainable Transportation, and Energy.

Buildings

Charlesbourg Library Quebec City, Quebec

Aiming to take a strong first step toward sustainable development and to reignite the community spirit of the Trait-Carré de Charlesbourg area, Quebec City decided to expand the original Charlesbourg library. Design and construction respected both modern standards and the building's ancestral character, and met the city's environmental and social goals. Opened in 2006, this popular 4,305-square-metre library now meets the needs of area residents and uses less energy, keeping operational and maintenance costs low. This cultural and civic landmark, located in a green, pedestrian-friendly and safe environment, is expected to attract tourists, businesses, and more residents. Fully completed in the spring of 2007, this restoration has also improved the appearance of the Trait-Carré area, thanks to buried wires, reconstructed streets, and an attractive, state-of-the-art lighting system that illuminates the front of the Saint-Charles-Borromée church.

Solid Waste

Green Cart Program City of Hamilton, Ontario

Hamilton city council approved a solid waste management master plan in 2001 that aimed to divert 65 per cent of waste from landfills by 2008. The Green Cart Program, implemented in 2006, is an integral part of this plan. Following small-scale demonstration projects, green carts were distributed to residents between April and June 2006. Since then, source-separated organic waste has been collected each week from about 150,000 households and delivered to the newly constructed central composting facility, which can process up to 60,000 tonnes per year. In its

first six months, the facility received 22,565 tonnes of material. Curbside waste audits done after just the first three months showed a 55 per cent diversion rate, compared to only 33 per cent before the project's implementation. Along with substantial environmental benefits, the city has profited financially by avoiding the expense of creating another landfill.

***Ladysmith Organic Curb-Side Collection Program
Town of Ladysmith, British Columbia***

In February 2006, the Town of Ladysmith became the first municipality in British Columbia to begin curbside collection of organic waste. During the program's first 10 months, residents of this small Vancouver Island community diverted an average of almost 33 tonnes of organic waste per month to a Nanaimo composting facility. By doing so, the town greatly reduced the volume of methane produced in landfill sites, a significant source of greenhouse gases. Public support for the organic waste program is high. The community is proud to be the first in the province to launch a successful program. As an added benefit, the rate of recycling for paper, plastics, and glass in the town has also increased since the organics program began.

Sustainable Community Planning

***imagineCALGARY
City of Calgary, Alberta***

More than 18,000 citizens helped to create a 100-year vision for Calgary. In 2004, the city joined the Sustainable Cities: PLUS Network, an international network of cities and communities committed to long-term urban sustainability. One year later, through a project called imagineCALGARY, the city immersed itself in 18 months of planning for its future. Citizens identified goals that will help the community meet its needs for water, energy and transportation, and they set 10 to 30 year targets to advance the vision and goals. The imagineCALGARY process has resulted in greater pride of place for residents and widespread support for clear sustainability targets from a growing number of institutional and organizational partners based in the city.

Wastewater

***Making Green Roofs Happen
City of Toronto, Ontario***

In late 2006, a green roofs pilot project — the first of its kind in Canada — funded construction of 16 green roofs on a mix of public and private buildings in the city of Toronto. The project was the culmination of more than 18 months of research and consultation by the City of Toronto on green roofs. The initiative began in early 2005 when the City of Toronto, Ryerson University, and a provincial Centre of Excellence produced their Report on the Environmental Benefits and Costs of Green Roof Technology for the City of Toronto. That report and a November 2005 discussion paper, Making Green Roofs Happen, laid the groundwork for the green roof strategy adopted by Toronto city council in February 2006. The city looks forward to reaping the benefits of green roofs, including reduced stormwater runoff, lower energy demands, beautification of the city, and reduction of the urban heat island effect.

Residential Development

Town-wide ENERGY STAR® Standards for New Homes Town of East Gwillimbury, Ontario

In April 2006, the Town of East Gwillimbury in York Region acted on its commitment to environmental stewardship, the first pillar of its 2005 strategic plan, by mandating that ENERGY STAR® standards be applied in all new housing developments in the town. ENERGY STAR homes use 30 to 40 per cent less energy than regular buildings and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about three tonnes per home per year. The town estimates that its policy — the first of its kind in Canada — will prevent 97,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions between 2007 and 2016. The new standard will also reduce the burden the town places on Ontario's energy system. Finally, homeowners benefit by having homes built to better standards and by saving on their energy bill.

Sustainable Transportation

Innovative Public Transit System City of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

Following a feasibility study in 2002 to determine the city's requirements for its first public transit system, the City of Charlottetown designed and instituted a cost-effective, convenient and environmentally friendly city-wide system using a fleet of five low-platform vintage-style trolley buses. The city aimed to provide a viable alternative to private vehicle use that would be accessible to commuters, students, lower-income residents and tourists. It realized its vision through an innovative partnership with Trius Tours Ltd., a local company that would operate the public transit system for at least five years. Ridership projections forecasted an annual 125,000-litre reduction in commuter fuel consumption, resulting in a 375,000 kilogram drop in greenhouse gas emissions. Actual ridership during the first year of operation was 40 per cent higher than projected, and is expected to climb even higher.

Viva Bus Rapid Transit Project Regional Municipality of York, Ontario

Launched in September 2005, the Viva Bus Rapid Transit project provides a rapid transit network linking four emerging urban centres within York Region. Using a new fleet of rapid transit vehicles, Viva operates six routes along more than 80 kilometres of the region's existing roadways, and supports the development of mixed-use transit villages along these corridors. By increasing the speed, reliability and accessibility of transit services, York Region hopes to double transit ridership, aiming for 25 per cent of trips to be made using a combination of public transit modes. As the region continues to expand, a greater reliance on public transit will improve traffic congestion and quality of life for residents, while reducing pollutants and resource consumption. Overall transit use has increased by 35 per cent along rapid transit corridors in less than one year since the program's inception.

Water

Toward Sustainable Water Demand — A Comprehensive Approach Capital Regional District of Victoria, British Columbia

Victoria began incorporating demand management initiatives into its strategic planning in 1994. During the 12 years that followed, a vast array of demand management programs were added that have helped to ensure the quality and sustainability of the city's water supply. These programs have raised awareness of the need to conserve water and have engaged the community in water stewardship and watershed protection. Over the years, public participation has grown, and so has political support from multiple orders of government. As a result, per capita water use has declined, holding total water demand at a steady level while the population increases. Demand management initiatives have delayed any expansion of the water supply until

beyond 2054, which will save the municipality approximately \$12 to 50 million, and protect the ecological integrity of the Sooke River watershed, even in low flow seasons.

Energy/Renewable Energy

Community Energy Plan City of Dawson Creek, British Columbia

Beginning in January 2005, Dawson Creek undertook an energy planning process designed to make municipal operations more environmentally and financially sustainable. With the assistance of the Pembina Institute, the city completed a baseline report to assess the current state of energy consumption in its buildings, infrastructure and vehicle fleet. A number of projects from the resulting community energy plan have helped the city meet its sustainability goals. The installation of low-voltage, high-pressure sodium streetlights has reduced electricity consumption by 100,000 kWh annually, and has saved the city \$14,400 per year. Solar hot water system installations at several municipal buildings offset approximately 60 GJ of natural gas and 3.3 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions annually. The new green vehicle purchasing policy has led to a more sustainable municipal fleet that produces eight fewer annual tonnes of greenhouse gases and will save the city over \$15,000 per vehicle every five years.

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