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Email: info@lgaa.ab.ca

LGAA Contact Info:

Box 565
Thorhild, Alberta T0A 3J0
Phone: 780-398-3963
Fax: 780-398-2632

Please direct inquiries regarding the newsletter or the website to:

Stacy Byer

Communications Coordinator

L G A A

Email: communications@lgaa.ab.ca

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA

This to give notice of the Annual General Meeting of the Local Government Administration of Alberta pursuant to Article IV, Subsection (2) of the Bylaws of the Local Government Administration of Alberta.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m., Thursday, March 19 2009 at the Capri Hotel Trade and Exhibition Center, 3310-50th Avenue, Red Deer, Alberta.

Proposed amendments to the Bylaws of the Association to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the undersigned by Thursday, February 19, 2009 pursuant to Article XI, Subsection (1) (a) of the Bylaws.

Carol Revega, Secretary-Treasurer
Local Government Administration Association
Box 565, Thorhild, Alberta T0A 3J0

Nominations Open for LGAA 2009 Executive

Nominations are being received for the positions of President, First Vice-President, and Second Vice President. A brief overview of each position follows.

PRESIDENT: One Year

Role: CEO and official LGAA spokesperson.

- To provide leadership and direction to the Executive Committee and LGAA Board.
- Chairperson of the Executive Committee and Professional Conduct Committee.
- To ensure all Board Members and Committees fulfill their duties and report to the Board regularly.
- Liaise with Municipal Affairs, AUMA, and other organizations.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: One Year

Role: Represent the President and is the LGAA's official spokesperson in the President's absence

- Chairperson of the Conference,
- Is a member of the Executive Committee.
- Chair standing committees and ad hoc committees as required.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT: One Year

Role: Represents the First Vice-President in the First Vice-President's absence.

- Chairperson of the Membership and Marketing Committee;
- Bylaw and Legislative
- Is member of the Executive Committee
- Chair standing committees and ad hoc committees as required.

Please address inquiries and nominations to:

Leagh Randle, Past President

Email: lrandle@wabamun.ca

Province caps property assessment complaint fees charged by municipalities

Edmonton... Effective January 1, a limit will be put on the fees municipalities can charge taxpayers to lodge a complaint about their property tax assessment. This is the first step in streamlining the assessment complaint and appeals system in Alberta.

"Taxpayers must be confident that the complaints and appeals system is fair, understandable and efficient," said Minister Ray Danyluk, Minister of Municipal Affairs. "Ensuring a fair fee is being charged to access the complaint system is the first step of the plan to improve the overall system."

Municipalities previously had no restrictions on the amounts charged to file complaints. The changes will set an upper limit on complaint filing fees at \$50 for single-family residential and farmland properties. The cap for multi-family residential (more than three units), non-residential (commercial), and machinery and equipment is set at \$650. This is based on a range of what individual municipalities currently charge to file property assessment complaints.

The fees allow municipalities to recover the costs of administering assessment review boards and ensure continued access for taxpayers.

Albertans provided feedback during an in-depth review of the assessment complaints and appeals system that was conducted in 2008. Municipalities, businesses and residential home owners were asked to provide comments to improve the current system. Based on the feedback received, additional reforms and a permanent fee structure are currently under consideration.

events calendar**Alberta Urban Municipalities Association**

Annual Conference & Tradeshow -November 3-6, 2009
www.munilink.net

Alberta Association of MDs & Counties

Annual Conference & Tradeshow - November 16 - 19, 2009
Spring - March 23, 2009
www.aamdc.com

Alberta Public Works Association

Conference & Tradeshow -October 5-7, 2009
Public Works Week - May 17 - 23, 2009
www.publicworks.ca

Alberta Municipal Clerks Association

Conference -April 22-24, 2009
www.albertamunicipalclerks.com

Municipal Affairs: Let's Resolve Workshops

March 12-13, 2009
Edmonton, Alberta
Registration Fees - \$110
More info at: www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca

SLGM: Municipal Administration Workshop

May 12-15, 2009
Kananaskis Village, Alberta
Registration Fees - \$169 (plus gst)
more info at: <http://www.clgm.net/>

If you have an event you want posted in this newsletter or online, please contact Stacy Byer at 403-990-APWA.

Alberta communities benefit from more than \$76 million in investments for roads, bridges, and other municipal infrastructure

Communities across Alberta will benefit from more than \$76 million in investments towards 22 municipal infrastructure projects through the Canada-Alberta Building Canada Fund - Communities Component program. The funding will help smaller communities throughout Alberta meet their pressing infrastructure needs, support economic growth and help stimulate the economy.

The projects announced will improve local roads, water, wastewater, cultural and green energy infrastructure. Other priorities eligible for funding under the Canada-Alberta Building Canada Fund - Communities Component program include sport, connectivity, solid waste management and collaborative projects for municipal capacity building. Project highlights from today's announcement include a new energy efficient firehall in the Town of Three Hills, a wastewater project in the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River, and a water-treatment facility in Hinton.

Under the Canada-Alberta Building Canada Fund - Communities Component, the federal and provincial governments provide up to two-thirds of the funding for eligible project costs. Partnering municipalities provide the remaining project funding. The federal and provincial governments together will invest \$48 million towards the total of more than \$76 million announced today. Municipalities will invest the remaining amount of more than \$28 million.

Participation in the Building Canada Fund is part of the Alberta government's \$22-billion investment to enhance infrastructure under the province's 2008-11 Capital Plan. The investment helps build necessary infrastructure and encourages economic activity across the province.

Communities can continue to apply for funding online at the Canada-Alberta Building Canada Fund - Communities Component website: www.buildingcanadafundalberta-cc.ca. The application deadline is March 15, 2009.

Shovel Ready Projects Identified

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has released a list of more than 1,000 infrastructure projects that would be ready to go as early as this spring if federal funding is made available.

The list of shovel-ready projects was derived from a survey of FCM members conducted over the last six weeks and includes simple rehabilitation to major new construction. If fully funded, these infrastructure projects would create over 150,000 jobs.

FCM says the best way to do that is for the federal government to adopt the Gas Tax Fund model as the way to flow money into these projects quickly so cities and communities can get started on new infrastructure projects, including simple-to-plan repair and rehabilitation.

Need help preparing your application for the Building Canada Fund? Find out how we can help.



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E: solutions@civicsolutionsinc.com

Celebrate 50 Years of Networking with us!

Conference 2009 Schedule Highlights

Wednesday, March 18

• **Pre-Conference Session: Brenda Robinson: Celebrating People**

Delegates will spend an energetic and enlightening morning learning about the power of appreciation and respect; challenging perspectives; communication in communities, teams or organizations; and back to the “bee”.

• **Pre-Conference Session: LaVerne Erikson: Social Entrepreneurship**

LaVerne Erikson presents a personal history of social entrepreneurship which highlights how strong local initiative leads to long-term social and financial stability. This workshop will drive the participant to deal with issues in their community.

• **Network Neighborhood Tradeshow & Welcome Reception**

Thursday, March 19

• **Keynote Speaker: Tim Vandenbrink: Just Another BORING Safety Talk**

Tim Vandenbrink challenges us to reflect on our attitudes toward fire and life safety. Delegates will walk away with a clear understanding of responsibility toward safety, and how they affect the safety of those in the community they serve!

• **Plenary Session: Tom Marriott & Shari Boyd, Brownlee LLP: TILMA and Today's Purchasing Policy**

The TILMA rules for procurements will be in force for municipalities as of April 1, 2009. Our expert presenters, from Brownlee LLP, will explain how this will impact your purchasing practices and policies.

• **Tradeshow luncheon**

Concurrent Education Sessions

• **Alberta Recreation and Parks Association : Making Your Community an ACE Community**

Alberta Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA) has developed *ACE Communities*. The focus of this program is to enhance the quality of life for Albertans by strengthening community leadership, collaboration, and innovation through recreation, parks, arts, culture, and heritage.

• **AUMA : Emerging Trends**

AUMA and its wholly-owned subsidiary AMSC, will share with LGAA members, the latest advocacy and business initiatives on which they are focusing that will address the needs of all members across the province.

• **Alberta Solar Municipal Showcase**

Delegates attending this session will hear about the Alberta Solar Municipal Showcase Project and what has been accomplished to date.

• **LGAA Annual General Meeting**

• **Banquet**

Friday, March 20

• **Alberta Municipal Affairs • Dialogue with the Provincial Government • Municipal Caucus Sessions**

To learn more, or to take advantage of all of AMSC's services, contact us today!

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Award Winning New Technology Utilizes Collection System as an Active Part of the Wastewater Treatment Process

by Shayne Robinson, Waste Not Ltd

The following article was submitted to the LGAA after the Town of Olds, Waste Not Ltd and In-Pipe Technology won a Project of the Year Award from the Alberta Public Works Association. The three organizations demonstrated ingenuity in addressing water quality issues in a short amount of time and on a very tight budget.

The collection system is often viewed as a means to transport the wastewater to the treatment facility. Many hours of retention time in the collection system have provided non-beneficial impacts to the wastewater treatment process. Growth of filamentous bacteria, Sulfate Reducing Bacteria (SRB), which lead to the production of hydrogen sulfide, and odor causing bacteria dominate the wild microbiology of the collection system. As a matter of fact, the indigenous biological growth within the collection system is generally considered detrimental to the treatment objectives at the WWTP.

Microorganisms act to catalyze the oxidation of biodegradable organics and other contaminants generating by-products such as carbon dioxide, water, and biomass. Bacteria grow and divide producing biosolids (sludge) and clean water. This metabolism occurs in wastewater treatment plants around the world. However, the limits of size, retention time, processing capacity, and operating budgets create economic challenges for every municipality. In an effort to utilize the miles of existing pipe and convert the passive sewer system into a meaningful treatment step, one company has developed a technology and service to utilize the collection system as an active part of the wastewater treatment process.

Treating Wastewater at the Source

The technology involves the introduction of a proprietary formulation of high concentrations of select, facultative, symbiotic, spore-forming, naturally-occurring, non-pathogenic bacteria at strategic locations throughout the sewer collection system. Continual addition twenty four hours per day, seven days a week (24/7) added to the outer reaches of the wastewater collection system transform miles of sewer pipe into an active part of the wastewater treatment process.

The bacteria grow throughout the surface of the sewer pipes and dominate the sewer biofilm through the biological principal of competitive exclusion. By out-competing the non-beneficial bacteria for nutrients, the high con-

centrations of microbes grow and populate within the sewer pipes and lift station wet wells optimizing the entire infrastructure. With the collection system acting a pre-treatment reactor, the technology improves the ability of the sewer biofilm to degrade the organic material and take advantage of the residence time of the wastewater within the sewer to degrade the waste.

Within a period of time, the added bacteria convert the biofilm on the surface area of the infrastructure into a controlled, beneficial biological population. They also metabolize fats, oil, and grease (FOG) in the collection system and at the treatment plant. This collection system reactor provides beneficial treatment in the sewer by accelerating metabolic conversions that reduce organic, solids, and nitrogen loads entering the WWTP.

The microbiological treatment for a system is carefully engineered and driven by such factors as organic loads,

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Wastewater Treatment Process cont'd

distribution, collection system layout, and treatment objectives, among others. Battery-powered dosing units consist of a panel slightly larger than a shoe box containing a solenoid pulse pump operated by a small circuit board. The dosing panel holds a one (1) liter replaceable reservoir with a 30 day supply that can provide time controlled treatment for as long as 90 days.

Using the collection system as a pre-treatment step improves WWTP efficiency in a number of ways. The bacteria work with or without oxygen inside the sewer system, converting organic materials and nutrients into carbon dioxide and nitrogen gas. Each pound of organic material and nitrogen removed in the sewer during transit, without energy input, is a pound that does not require treatment in the WWTP. This conversion involves two distinct operations, namely the conversion of TSS into a soluble format that bacteria can metabolize and the actual metabolism of the soluble material into carbon dioxide and nitrogen gas.

Performance History and Discussion

A municipal WWTP in Olds, AB selected In-Pipe Technology Company, LLC with goals to improve the biological treatment capacity at the WWTP without capital expansion of the current facility. The Town of Olds, located in Mountain View County along the Highway 2 corridor, planned to upgrade the WWTP. Designed and constructed over 30 years ago, the Town investigated options to upgrade or replace several components to meet short and long term wastewater treatment needs; however, the biological treatment capacity of the plant has never been increased.

The Olds WWTP receives an annual average flow of 1.0 MGD (3785 m³/day), but significant wet weather flow approximately six times the annual average has been experienced at the plant. The WWTP operating data indicates that the plant experiences trouble processing current loading and meeting the discharge limits. The plant contains six (6) Rotating Biological Contactor (RBC) units to remove biodegradable organic matter in the wastewater. The plant was designed and constructed in 1976/77. With the exception of the RBCs, The Town has upgraded several components of the plant since it was originally built. As a result of the conditions of the units, an inability to consume dissolved organic compounds caused overloading, contributing to poor effluent quality.

Working under Norm McInnis, CAO, the town's manager

of utilities and public works Scott Chant researched In-Pipe to determine the effectiveness of treating the sewage before it gets to the plant. After careful review of the collection system, In-Pipe installed 22 points throughout the system to dispense microorganisms into the sewer.

After 3 months of the technology in place, Olds decreased influent BOD load 26% from 829 kg/day to 609 kg/day and influent TSS load 19% from 691 kg/day to 560 kg/day. After 6 months, the plant decreased effluent TSS 61% from 30.7 mg/l to 11.8 mg/l and effluent CBOD 49% from 31.7 mg/l to 16 mg/l. A noteworthy change in the collection system is improved FOG control at two historical trouble spots. Reduced accumulation and remediation of old FOG deposits with In-Pipe eliminated the need for an additional chemical treatment and removed floating masses on the water surface. In addition, the WWTP grease collection manhole servicing the Primary Digester only requires hauling every four days compared to every other day.

Town of Olds Wins PWAA Project of the Year

In-Pipe has serviced Olds for 8 months. Scott reports the RBC units have improved dramatically with In-Pipe exhibiting a healthy reddish-brown color. The Public Works Association of Alberta recently recognized the Town of Olds for their innovative way of dealing with wastewater. The town received the project of the year award by the association for their success with this technology.

In a statement to the Olds Albertan, Scott said "we're going to a regional system and instead of trying to spend a lot of capital dollars upgrading the plant for additional capacity this is one way of dealing with the problem. We are seeing effects on the system in the first six months. It should just continually get better results as we go on."

Using the collection system as an active part of the treatment process increases the efficiency of the WWTP and extends the life of existing infrastructure. The fundamental process of increased microbiological activity in the collection system engineered to convert the existing, wild biofilm in the sewer pipes and wet wells into a beneficial pre-treatment step paid dividends to Olds.

Shayne Robinson
Waste Not Ltd.
p: 877-516-3727.
Simpler Solutions for Wastewater Services

Alberta One Call And Telecommunications: Managing Municipal Right Of Ways

By Lorne I. Randa, Associate, Brownlee LLP



An important aspect of sound right of way management is knowing what and where shallow utilities, including telecommunication, are located in the rights of way. One way of managing such lines and preventing damage is through requiring users of the rights of way, as a condition of access, to subscribe to a one call locate request service.

The rural municipality of Wheatland County, with a population of just over 8100 and 3,120 kilometers of open roadways, has taken the position that in order for it to effectively manage its road rights of way, utility providers using its rights of way register their lines and equipment with Alberta One Call. Wheatland County required utility companies using municipal rights-of-way to register their lines and equipment, specifying they use Alberta One Call. The County made membership in Alberta One Call a condition of access in its Right-of-Way Access Bylaw and a term of its proposed Municipal Access Agreement (MAA).

Alberta One Call is a non-profit organization that provides a utility notification service to the public, the digging community and its members. Alberta One Call is dedicated to preventing damage to buried facilities and promoting safety through education, advocacy, public awareness and dependable, cost-effective communication and exchange of information between members and those intending to disturb the ground.

In a request for access to Wheatland County's rights of way by Shaw Cablesystems Ltd. ("Shaw"), Shaw took issue to this condition of access and advocated to the County that its DIGSHAW service was just as effective as Alberta One Call. When Wheatland County declined to accept DIGSHAW, Shaw appealed to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC). Under the Telecommunications Act, telecommunication carriers have a right to access municipal rights of way and public property subject to the consent of the

municipality. Where the terms of consent are not acceptable to the telecommunication carrier, an application may be made to the CRTC to order the municipality to allow access.

In its application to the CRTC, Shaw raised not only the issue of Alberta One Call, but also a number of other concerns regarding the terms and conditions of the MAA, which were never issues of major concern to Shaw during its negotiations with the County up to that point. These additional issues included, but were not restricted to, relocation costs, indemnification, third party equipment, and abandoned equipment.

In the CRTC Telecom Decision 2008-45 deciding Shaw's Part VII Application, the CRTC granted Shaw access to Wheatland County's highway rights of way and public places. In keeping with previous CRTC decisions, the CRTC decided on the make up of the MAA by determining the terms and conditions of the MAA that it held to be reasonable terms of access. On the major issue in dispute and the matter that led to the Part VII Application in the first place, the CRTC refused to decide on whether membership in a one call locate request service was a reasonable condition of access that may be imposed by a municipality.

Despite the support of the Alberta One Call Corporation itself and several interveners representing the industry and the digging community, the fact that all other major telecommunication providers in Alberta are members of Alberta One Call and the CRTC's acknowledgement in the Decision that it has complete jurisdiction to deal with all issues of access, the CRTC stated that it would not decide if Alberta One Call membership could be a condition of access. The CRTC further stated that such a term should only be included in the MAA if mutually agreed to between the parties. The CRTC did, however, accept that DIGSHAW may be used (since Shaw had offered to provide the service).

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In addition, the CRTC was also provided evidence that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) (of which Wheatland County is a member), passed a resolution in 2007 by its membership to support provincial legislation in making Alberta One Call a mandatory locate service for all underground utilities located in road rights of way in Alberta.

MANAGING MUNICIPAL RIGHT OF WAYS cont'd

Wheatland County, to its credit, has stood up to Shaw, as well as the CRTC and the overwhelming CRTC decisions in favour of the telecommunication industry, to defend its legislative authority in the Municipal Government Act to manage its highway rights of way. Leave to Appeal to the Federal Court of Canada was applied for (among other grounds) on the argument that this issue of Alberta One Call is a road way management issue, which is purely a provincial matter and outside the jurisdiction of the CRTC; and in any event, if the CRTC did have jurisdiction, that the CRTC committed an error of law by failing to properly exercise its jurisdiction and render a decision on Alberta One Call as a term of access, giving due consideration to the public's use and enjoyment of public rights-of-way. Leave to Appeal was granted in August 2008 and the appeal should be heard by the Federal Court by the summer of 2009.

The outcome of this decision is of concern to all municipalities in Alberta and across Canada, and will have an impact on what role a municipality can truly fill in managing its own municipal rights of way. A positive result for municipalities may also be the catalyst to legislative reform to properly recognize the constitutional authority of the provinces and municipalities over roads and property rights and in striking a fair and appropriate balance in the Telecommunications Act between the interests of telecommunication providers and the provincial/municipal road authorities.

Lorne Randa, along with Barry A. Sjolie, Q.C., of Brownlee LLP is counsel for Wheatland County in its appeal to the Federal Court of Appeal of the CRTC Decision 2008-45.



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