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Media Release

Central Saanich Receives FCM Watershed Award of Excellence

CENTRAL SAANICH – The District of Central Saanich is among six other Canadian municipalities honoured with a Watershed Municipal Award of Excellence on May 29, 2010, at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Conference in Toronto.

The newly launched Watershed Awards were presented by the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) and FCM to Canadian municipalities that have demonstrated leadership in their efforts to adapt to climate change by reducing their vulnerability to flooding and water damage. Central Saanich was selected as the winning entry from one of the five award regions - British Columbia - in recognition of its ground-breaking Integrated Stormwater Management Plan (ISMP).

“I was extremely honoured to accept the 2010 Watershed Award on behalf of the District, at the formal awards ceremony in Toronto”, said Councillor Terry Siklenka, Chair of the Public Works and Transportation Committee. “This recognition belongs to all of the many stakeholders who participated in the creation of the ISMP. Area farmers, local interest groups, and government agencies all worked together to develop a comprehensive plan that addresses ecological, social, cultural, agricultural and engineering issues in an inclusive manner. Our entire community can be proud of this achievement.”

Mr. Roland Rocheleau, Senior Engineering Technologist, as lead District staff member assigned to the ISMP project, also attended the awards ceremony on behalf of the District.

The District of Central Saanich is the first municipality on Vancouver Island to create an ISMP following the guidelines and recommendations of the BC Stormwater Planning Guidebook. Using innovative design approaches and best management practices in the ISMP, the District is restoring the dispersal of rainwater flows to near predevelopment levels. This reduction will substantially reduce the extent of damage caused by erosion, extreme variability flows, degradation of water quality and required conveyance works.

“As the Mayor and a farmer in Central Saanich, I am very proud of Councils’ commitment to develop the ISMP and implement its recommendations. The entire community will benefit from the investments we make to ensure storm water runoff is treated as a valuable resource”, said Mayor Jack Mar. “It is very gratifying that the District’s leadership role in watershed management has been recognized.”

Central Saanich is already implementing many of the ISMP’s short-term recommendations, while medium and long-term goals have been identified and assigned for achievement. Council approved the recommended ISMP projects as part of its 2010-2014 Financial Plan. By monitoring the progress of the implementation plan over the next five to twenty years, the District will measure the long-term success of this award-winning Integrated Stormwater Management Plan.

For more information please contact:

Roland Rocheleau, Senior Engineering Technologist,
District of Central Saanich
Office: 250 544-4213