

2007 CAMA Calgary Conference

The CAMA Conference will be taking place in Calgary, Alberta, May 28-30, 2007.

For information on the Conference, visit our website: http://www.camacam.ca/conference_2007.asp

The host hotel for the 2007 Conference is the Fairmont Palliser in downtown Calgary. To book your room now, visit their website at: <http://www.fairmont.com/palliser/>

Board News

- The next Board meetings will be held in Waterloo, ON, from September 21-23, 2006, in Ottawa, from November 23-25, 2006, and then in London, ON, from March 1-3, 2007.

Member Profile



Ron Penney
Chief Commissioner and City Solicitor
City of St. John's

Ron Penney became Chief Commissioner (Administrative Head) of the City of St. John's in 1995. He joined the City in 1994 as City Solicitor. As Chief Commissioner, Ron works with two Associate Commissioners and the Directors of the departments.

The City of St. John's has enjoyed tremendous growth over the past decade. There have been major investments made in City infrastructure, including a new convention centre and 6,000 seat stadium and waste water treatment plant as well as improvements in service delivery through such initiatives as the City's service centre, Access St. John's.

Ron worked as a lawyer in private practice in St. John's before joining the Newfoundland Department of Justice in 1975. He became Senior Legislative Counsel in the Office of the Legislative Council in 1978 and Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General in 1979.

In 1984 he was appointed as the Channing Fellow with the Political Science Department of Memorial University of Newfoundland. He was appointed an Adjunct Professor following the completion of the fellowship. He continues to teach a course in Newfoundland public policy.

Ron rejoined the public service in 1985 and served as Deputy Minister of Public Works and Services and Deputy Minister of Health until 1989. He served as Senior Policy Advisor to the Leader of the Opposition until 1991 when he became Executive Director of the Law Society of Newfoundland. He left that position in 1994 to join the City of St. John's.

During his career with the public service Ron participated in the negotiations leading to the patriation of the constitution, the Atlantic Accord and the Hibernia project.

Ron acted as Chair of the organizing committee for the CAMA and FCM conferences held last year in St. John's. He is also a member and Past President of the Newfoundland Branch of the Institute of Public Administration of Canada. Ron is Secretary of the Board of St. John's Sports and Entertainment Ltd., which operates Mile One Stadium and the St. John's Convention Centre.

Ron holds a B.A. from Memorial University of Newfoundland and an LL.B. from the Faculty of Law, University of Toronto. He lives with his wife, Cathy, a University Professor, in St. John's and feels himself fortunate to have his son and daughter, lawyer and physiotherapist respectively, living in St. John's.

Ron is an avid tennis player, cross country skier, hiker and cyclist who enjoys all that the Newfoundland outdoors has to offer. He particularly enjoys beating much younger and less fit tennis partners!

**If you would like to be profiled in this section, or would like to recommend someone to be profiled, please contact Alycia Morehouse at alycia.morehouse@fredericton.ca, or CAMA Administration at the contact information below.*

Community Leadership/ Literacy Project

This feature will appear again in two weeks.

For more information on the Municipal Leadership Project, please contact Patricia Nutter @ (613) 264-0111; pnutter@lincsat.com

CAMA Awards Program

2006 CAMA Awards

Congratulations to the Town of Morinville, Alberta, for winning the 2006 Willis Award for Innovation, for municipalities with a population under 20,000 for their Northwest Regional Utilities Study (Water and Sanitary Sewer).

In 1977, the Province of Alberta commissioned the Edmonton Regional Utilities Study with the purpose of developing Master Plans to supply water and sanitary sewer services to the Edmonton Metropolitan Region for the ensuing 25-year period. On completion of the Study, the Province implemented the recommendations contained within the final report, with several regional water and sanitary systems eventually being constructed.

In 2004, with the original 25-year design life having been reached, growth pressures in the Metro Edmonton area continued to increase and many of the regional systems that had previously been constructed were reaching their original design capacities. The need to expand the original system capacities was apparent.

The Town of Morinville recognized the need for expansion but noted that municipalities were proposing to expand servicing on an individual, as required basis only. The Town believed that significant cost savings could be achieved if the utility extensions were designed on a regional basis and suggested that a study be carried out, not only to update the previous one, but also with servicing being designed on a drainage basin basis, with no regard for political boundaries.

A service area was identified that was contributory to the St. Albert Regional Trunk Sewer system that included seven municipalities; Sturgeon and Parkland Counties; the Cities of St. Albert and Spruce Grove; and the Towns of Legal, Stony Plain, and Morinville. Discussions were held with each municipality, which outlined the concept of regional planning and servicing, and requested the support of each municipality to a funding application by the Town of Morinville, for the study. All of the parties agreed and letters of support were sent to the Town of Morinville from each of the member municipalities. The Town then submitted an application for funding to Alberta Municipal Affairs, which was subsequently approved.

The study was lead by UMA Engineering Ltd., engineering consultants to the Town of Morinville. The study consisted of three parts; planning, water supply; and, sewage collection and transmission.

At that time, UMA Engineering was also involved in a study being conducted for the Alberta Capital region Wastewater Commission (ACRWC) to look at methodologies to reduce wet weather flows to the ACRWC wastewater treatment plant. In the past, high wet weather flows had occasionally caused overloads at the treatment plant such that excess volumes of untreated effluent had been released into the North Saskatchewan River. With continued growth in the metro Edmonton area, the releases would only become more frequent unless steps were taken to accommodate the excess flows in an environmentally acceptable fashion. UMA looked at a number of alternatives and recommended storage as the preferred solution. For the municipalities in the Northwest Regional servicing area, the estimated cost to provide storage for sanitary servicing was \$60,000,000.

Through a series of workshops, UMA and the study members firstly developed a growth and population projection scenario for the 25 year planning horizon, and then developed servicing solutions to satisfy the planning scenario and population growth. Master plans for both the water and sanitary systems were then prepared. For the sanitary system alone, the cost advantage to provide servicing on a regional basis rather than on an individual basis reduced from an estimated cost of \$60,000,000 to an estimated \$31,000,000, a savings of approximately fifty percent. Although there are no comparables for the water system, it is anticipated that significant savings will be achieved.

The study demonstrated that significant benefits could be achieved by adopting a regional working relationship in providing major municipal services. The seven member municipalities now have in place Master Utility Servicing Plans that will enable them to move forward for the next twenty-five years, knowing with certainty how water and sewer servicing will be provided.

At completion, the NWRUS will serve as a master utility servicing plan for the next 25 years. Planning for growth can then be carried out with certainty, giving municipalities a tool to recognize growth scenarios and to plan utility extensions in a logical sequence to meet those scenarios.

Improvements to the utility systems can be forecasted and budgeted for on a long-term basis, allowing municipalities the ability to recognize long-term costs and then to develop financing strategies that are fair and reasonable. It should foster a renewed spirit of cooperation amongst neighbouring municipalities.

For more information on this project, contact Mr. Gary Maxwell, consulting engineer for the Town of Morinville, at 1-780-939-4361.

Membership Notes

- To have a job posting appear in CAMA's job broadcast, and on our website, the cost is \$100 for members, and \$200 for non-members. For more information, or to have your job listed, please email admin@camacam.ca.
- On behalf of the CAMA Board of Directors, we would like to welcome the following new members:
 - Larry Kotseff, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Guelph
- Best wishes and a pleasant retirement to the following members who are retiring:
 - Wayne Baldwin, Corporation of the City of White Rock who retired on July 7th, 2006-07-11
 - Bob Linner, City of Regina who retired in May.
- As a new feature to E-Brief's *Membership Notes*, we will be updating you on those members who have moved from one municipality to another.
 - Barry Carroll recently moved from the Town of Portugal Cove – St. Philips, NL, to the Town of Sackville, NB, as Chief Administrative Officer
 - Peggy Clark former Director of Community Services with the City of Regina is the new Chief Administrative Officer of the City of White Rock, BC
 - Ron Campbell moved from the City of Vernon, BC, where he served as City Administrator, to take up the same post in the City of Rossland, BC

The next CAMA e-Brief will be issued on Monday, July 31st.

Look for the next Job Broadcast on Monday, July 24th.

To have an item included in e-Brief, please contact Alycia Morehouse, at alycia.morehouse@fredericton.ca.

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