



News Release

Summerside Wins National Award for Municipal Innovation

Jasper, AB (June 3, 2015) – Summerside, PE has received national recognition for its MyPowerNet wind energy storage program from the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA). The City was presented with the 2015 Willis Award for Innovation, in the under 20,000 population category, during CAMA's national conference in Jasper, AB. Ravenhill Group Inc. is the sponsor for the awards.

"CAMA is pleased to recognize the innovation and administrative excellence demonstrated by the City of Summerside for its MyPowerNet program," said Robert Hughes, president of the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators and Chief Administrative Officer for Stratford, PE. "By blending ancient and advanced technologies, Summerside is achieving environmental and community sustainability."

Blows. Bricks. BTUs. Bytes. These four words sum up the City of Summerside's program called MyPowerNet.

In 2010, the City got into the wind energy game and built a 12 megawatt wind farm. Driven to innovate, the City then set out to tackle the fickle nature of wind energy using Electric Thermal Storage (ETS). When the wind *blows*, the City's wind farm captures and distributes the energy. But what happens when the energy produced exceeds local demand? The excess is collected and stored in *bricks*, as heat, using ancient technology.

The *BTUs* of thermal energy in the bricks then heats domestic hot water appliances and space heating appliances. A growing network of appliances – now topping 250 throughout the city – is monitored and controlled by electronic bits and *bytes* in an advanced smart grid network. Residents and businesses using highly efficient ETS appliances are not only saving money, they're helping to displace more than a 1,000 metric tonnes of greenhouse gases annually.

The advanced heart of the system is an optical fiber network through which the local electric utility can precisely monitor consumption and help control local energy demands. MyPowerNet is a City of Summerside success story that has garnered regional, national, and international recognition.

"With 57 applications received, this is the largest year ever for the CAMA awards program," said Jake Rudolph, Chair of CAMA's Awards Committee, as well as CAMA Representative, British Columbia & Yukon and Deputy City Manager, City of Abbotsford, BC. "Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all those who took the time and effort to enter a submission."

The Willis Award for Innovation, awarded in recognition of Jack Willis for his contribution to CAMA, is presented for programs, projects or services that demonstrate exceptional innovation or meritorious initiative. Since Canada has a unique mixture of small and large communities, awards are granted according to population – for municipalities under 20,000, for those between 20,001 and 100,000 and for those over 100,000. Certificates of Merit may also be awarded.

About CAMA:

A Canada-wide network and the national voice of senior municipal administrators, the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA) strives to nurture and build municipal administrative excellence by providing its more than 500 members with knowledge sharing and learning opportunities, access to best practices, and valued input into policies and programs aimed at ensuring healthy and thriving communities across Canada.

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