

# ACCESS Alberta

## Alberta's six-year 'green' infrastructure program nears completion

by Marie Cusack,  
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Clean air, safe water, improved streets—Albertans have a three-way government initiative to thank for these improvements in their lives. Over the past six years, the Infrastructure Canada-Alberta Program (ICAP) has exceeded its target of investing up to \$508 million in municipal infrastructure projects. The initiative is scheduled to wrap up in March 2006.

More than three-quarters of Alberta's municipalities, 334 in total, have benefited or will soon benefit from an ICAP project in their area. ICAP approved 782 projects that incorporate best practices or new technologies, support long-term economic growth, improve community infrastructure, or protect the environment. The majority of projects involved the construction, renewal, expansion, or enhancement of 'green' municipal infrastructure. These 'green' projects were chosen because they protect the environment and maintain air and water quality, significant factors that impact quality of life for community residents. Some projects, such as Calgary's Cardel Place and Canmore's Civic Centre, achieved

levels of environmental stewardship so high that they won international acclaim.

While local municipal governments identified the majority of the projects, project costs were equally shared among the municipal, provincial, and federal governments. In some cases, additional private sector funds were also leveraged.

Implemented federally by Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) and provincially by Alberta Infrastructure

and Transportation, a joint secretariat called the ICAP Management Committee administered the program. The ICAP Management Committee was made up of representatives from the Governments of Canada and Alberta, the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA), and the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMD&C).

For more information about ICAP, call (780) 495-4164. ■

### Quick Facts about ICAP

Date program agreement was signed	October 10, 2000
Date of completion	March 31, 2006
Number of municipalities affected	334
Number of projects by category:	
Affordable Housing	3
Cultural and Recreational Activities	118
Green Municipal Infrastructure	490
Telecommunications	3
Infrastructure Supporting Tourism	13
Local Transportation Infrastructure	155
Total number of projects	782
Total project costs	\$620,806,957
Total federal contributions	\$168,871,588



by Nadia Anderson, WD Communications, Edmonton

# When community spirit connects with partnerships

In the fall of 2004, Fort Saskatchewan and its surrounding communities saw their collective vision of a new and significant public space become reality with the opening of the Dow Centennial Centre. The centre is now a Fort Saskatchewan landmark, providing space under one roof for recreational activities, cultural exhibitions, community events and corporate functions.

The Dow Centennial Centre services more than 438,000 people. The 154,600 square-foot facility includes a 550-seat theatre, art gallery, pottery and visual arts studios, meeting and banquet rooms, gymnasium, ice arena, indoor soccer pitch, fitness area, jogging track, indoor climbing wall, and childcare centre.

This impressive undertaking required more than just community spirit. Partnerships among different levels of government and industry provided the foundation for the centre, and Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) played an important role in seeing this project through to completion.

Through the Infrastructure Canada-Alberta Program (ICAP), the governments of Canada and Alberta, and the City of Fort Saskatchewan contributed a total of \$3.2 million to the Centre: \$1,999,996 through WD and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transportation, and \$1,209,998 from the City of Fort Saskatchewan. The total cost of the Dow Centennial Centre was \$21.2 million.

As with many ICAP projects, the rationale for investing in the Dow Centennial



*"Neighbour Day," from left to right: Tanya Stilborn, Dow Centennial Centre marketing coordinator; Councillor Tom Hutchison, City of Fort Saskatchewan; the Hon. Ed Stelmach, Minister of International and Intergovernmental Affairs/MLA Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville, Province of Alberta; Mayor Jim Sheasgreen, City of Fort Saskatchewan; Jim Fleury, director general Operations, Alberta, Western Economic Diversification Canada.*

Centre was to achieve the program's green objectives: to improve community infrastructure through energy efficient buildings and facilities owned by local governments. ICAP funding for the Dow Centennial Centre contributed to enhancing the building's energy efficiency, landscaping, signage, and paving the parking lot.

On September 10, 2005, WD participated in Fort Saskatchewan's Centennial Neighbour Day and the one-year anni-

versary of the Dow Centennial Centre.

In a congratulatory letter read at the celebration, it was noted that through investments in community infrastructure projects such as the Dow Centennial Centre, WD supports the development of energy efficient and sustainable public spaces and is pleased to help improve the lives of Albertans by investing in projects that protect our environment, and encourage cultural and recreational activities. ■



by Marie Cusack, WD Communications, Edmonton

# Edmonton's new approach to storm water management

The Mill Creek Pond naturalized wetland was completed in the fall of 2004 in south-east Edmonton, ushering in a new approach to manage storm water drainage. The wetland reduces the potential for upstream flooding in developed areas

and downstream overflows of the Mill Creek and the North Saskatchewan River. It is designed to store approximately 150,000 cubic metres of floodwater, a volume that scientists estimate could occur once in every one hundred years.

Local businesses now live free from the threat of flooding, thanks to the Mill Creek Pond.

The federal government invested a total of \$2,104,666 in this project through the Infrastructure Canada-Alberta Program (ICAP). This program, administered federally through Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD), is a three-way government partnership to enhance municipal infrastructure and improve quality of life in Alberta's communities.

Mill Creek Pond is one of the first

major sites to be used as a naturalized wetland. Traditionally, storm water lakes or dry ponds prevent urban flooding by capturing excess rainfall or floodwater. The water dissipates slowly over time. The Mill Creek Pond wetland is a variation on the storm water lake. The wetland is a natural habitat within an industrial setting, serving both a recreational and practical purpose. It will be integrated into the adjacent recreational area, where plans are currently underway for the construction of an indoor soccer centre, outdoor sport fields, and walking trails along Mill Creek.

The site was also chosen for practical reasons. If water overtops the banks of low-lying Mill Creek, the pond will serve as a natural catchment area for the overflow. If the region ever experiences a hazardous materials spill, the enhanced storage capacity of the pond will contain pollution and prevent it from spreading to the North Saskatchewan River.

Design plans for the naturalized wetland provide for future industrial development in the area and for future expansions of cost-effective storm water storage. The main components of the project are the reconstruction of the stream channel and detention pond, and the construction of additional low-flow ponds, channels and waterfalls to provide additional storm water storage. Landscaping around the pond incorporates as many natural features as possible. ■



Aerial view of Mill Creek Pond

by Marie Cusack, WD Communications, Edmonton

# Canmore Civic Centre basks in the glow of green

Residents of Canmore have always basked in their view of the spectacular Rocky Mountains, but lately they have been basking in the glow of a stunning collection of 'green' awards. Completed in 2004, the Canmore Civic Centre has garnered the attention of the environmental community, earning them awards such as

### Canmore Civic Centre Awards

**2004**

**Project of the Year,  
Alberta Construction Magazine**

**January 2005**

**Silver Leadership in Energy &  
Environmental Design (LEED)  
Certification, U.S. Green Building  
Council**

**February 2005**

**Award of Merit,  
Consulting Engineers of Alberta**

**May 2005**

**FCM-CH2M HILL  
Sustainable Community Award**

**June 2005**

**Emerald Award,  
Alberta Foundation for  
Environmental Excellence**

**September 2005**

**A featured project in *Sustainable  
Canadian Architecture*, published by Canadian Green Building Council, presented at the Sustainable Building Conference in Tokyo**

the prestigious Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver certification, Alberta's first. Ron Casey, Mayor of Canmore, is pleased with the centre's many awards and commented, "This certainly demonstrates Canmore's proactive respect for the environment and our need to use less of the earth's resources whenever we can."

All of the awards celebrate the town's new energy-efficient and environmentally friendly Civic Centre. This municipal building was constructed with the Town of Canmore's key priorities in mind: for structures to blend into their mountain surroundings and to provide a healthy and functional internal environment. These design considerations also met the eligibility criteria for investment from the Infrastructure Canada-Alberta Program (ICAP), a three-way government partnership dedicated to enhancing municipal infrastructure in Alberta's communities. Through ICAP, the Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta contributed a total of \$925,496 to the Canmore Civic Centre project.

The two-storey, 2,383-square metre centre accommodates the Canmore municipal government offices, town council chamber, museum and Geo-Science centre. During off-hours, the centre serves as a multipurpose community facility, an exhibition space and a public meeting place.

This hub of activity is exactly what municipal officials wanted: a cultural, administrative and communication focal point. But they got more than they expected. The centre is now an international example of environmental stewardship.

These are some highlights of the environmental initiatives that received special acknowledgement:

- 40 per cent reduction in energy use through high efficiency boilers, a heat recovery system, occupancy sensors, energy efficient temperature control and electrical systems
- 40 per cent reduction in water use through low-flow plumbing fixtures
- extensive access to daylight through narrow floor plates, light shelves and building orientation
- solar energy initiatives including exterior sunscreens and glazing
- fresh air flow and natural cooling through windows that open
- elimination of toxic chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) through a cooling system that uses the town's potable water

The Canmore Civic Centre, the newest landmark in the Rockies, will boost economic and tourism opportunities in the Canmore community for many generations to come. Residents can be proud of what their community has achieved. ■

