

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
MONDAY, MARCH 4TH, 2013

PRESENT: MAYOR BRIAN TAYLOR
COUNCILLOR BOB KENDEL
COUNCILLOR NEIL KROG
COUNCILLOR PATRICK O'DOHERTY
COUNCILLOR GARY SMITH
COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WIRISCHAGIN
COUNCILLOR CHER WYERS

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	D. Allin
CORPORATE OFFICER	D. Heinrich
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	R. Shepherd
DEPUTY CORPORATE SECRETARY	S. Winton
MANAGER OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT	S. Bird

GALLERY

CALL TO ORDER:

The Mayor called the Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

MOTION: SMITH / KENDEL

RESOLVED THAT THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA OF MARCH 4TH, 2013 BE ADOPTED AS CIRCULATED.

CARRIED.

MINUTES:

MOTION: O'DOHERTY / KENDEL

RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH, 2013, BE ADOPTED AS CIRCULATED.

CARRIED.

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MOTION: SMITH / KENDEL

RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH, 2013, BE ADOPTED AS CIRCULATED.

CARRIED.

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MOTION: O'DOHERTY / SMITH

RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH, 2013, AND ALL RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN, BE ADOPTED AS CIRCULATED.

CARRIED.

DELEGATION:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

REPORTS, QUESTIONS AND INQUIRIES FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL (VERBAL)

Councillor Wirischagin:

Councillor Wirischagin advised that he had no report this evening.

Councillor O'Doherty:

Councillor O'Doherty reported on the following items:

- He reported on his attendance at the Public Open House City Budget meeting on February 27th
- He reported on his attendance at a Grand Forks International Meeting last week

Councillor Wyers:

Councillor Wyers reported on the following items:

- Please see Councillor Wyers' report as attached
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Councillor Kendel:

Councillor Kendel reported on the following items:

- He reported on his attendance at an Economic Development Advisory Committee Meeting on February 26th and advised that John Drope spoke to the committee about community investment options. He advised that Grace McGregor, Area C Director, and Michael Strukoff, Director for the Grand Forks Credit Union, attended the meeting as well.
- He reported on his attendance at a meeting with the Grand Forks ATV Club and advised that the club is going to provide GPS mapping for ATV tourism in the area
- He reported on his attendance to the public open house dedicated to reviewing the 2013 budget at City Hall last week. He further commended the Chief Financial Officer for providing an understandable and well put together financial presentation
- He spoke with regard to the Committee of the Whole Meeting earlier today and of the presentation by Story & Co on the City's Branding initiative.

MOTION: KENDEL / SMITH

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL DETERMINES TO SUPPORT AND ENDORSE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE WITH REGARD TO THE NEW BRANDING INITIATIVE AS PRESENTED BY STORY & CO.

CARRIED.

Councillor Krog:

Councillor Krog reported on the following items:

- Please see Councillor Krog's report as attached

Councillor Smith:

Councillor Smith reported on the following items:

- Please see Councillor Smith's report as attached

Mayor Taylor:

The Mayor reported on the following items and advised that he is including his Regional District report with his regular report:

- The Mayor spoke with regard to the Pee Wee Tournament that is coming up. Councillor Wyers advised that she is making a donation in the amount of \$85.00 as

a Councillor, and advised that she is challenging all other members of Council to do the same. The Mayor advised that the City's Grant in Aid policy states that if an organization receives funds from the Regional District then the City does not contribute any funding.

- He advised that Boundary Economic Development Committee meets tomorrow at the Regional District Boardroom at 9:30 AM, and invited all members of Council to attend. Councillor Krog asked if the Mayor would bring forward the "Light Up" BC initiative with regard to Charging Stations for our area
- The Mayor advised that there is a Policy development is underway for communications at a Regional Level
- He advised that they are discussing animal control at this evening's Area D meeting at the senior's centre. He further commented that he would like to City to address some options assistance in animal control.
- The Mayor spoke with regard to Regional Community Forests and advised that stakeholders need to be invited to reply to become a part of the Community Forest group. He further commented that the funding is paid for by the Regional District for the resource.
- The Mayor advised that Area D Director, Irene Perepolkin is away indefinitely and that Roly Russell is acting as the Area D representative during her absence.

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN / O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT ALL REPORTS OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL, INCLUDING THE MAYOR'S REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF KOOTENAY BOUNDARY GIVEN VERBALLY AT THIS MEETING, BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED.

REPORT FROM THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF KOOTENAY BOUNDARY (VERBAL)

- See the Mayor's report as above

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STAFF FOR DECISIONS:

- a) Manager of Technical Services – Asset Management - Multi-Utility Capitol Prioritization and Design Work

The City of Grand Forks adopted the Sustainable Community plan in 2011 which highlighted the need to connect land use, with affordability and infrastructure services. The implementation steps and measures occurred through an asset management framework which highlighted the need to prioritize projects through Asset Management.

MOTION: WYERS / O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL AUTHORIZES EARLY BUDGET APPROVAL FOR ASSET MANAGEMENT SO THAT THE PRIORITIZATION PROCESS CAN OCCUR IN PARALLEL TO INITIATING THE WEST SIDE FIRE PROTECTION PROJECT.

CARRIED.

b) City Staff - Land Use Acquisition, Disposition and Leasing Policy

Adoption of the proposed new Land Acquisition, Disposition and Leasing Policy

MOTION: O'DOHERTY / WIRISCHAGIN

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL APPROVES CITY STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE LAND ACQUISITION, DISPOSITION AND LEASING POLICY AS PRESENTED FOR IMPLEMENTATION UPON THE DATE OF ADOPTION OF THE POLICY.

CARRIED.

Councillor Krog voted against the motion.
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AMENDMENT TO THE RESOLUTION:

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN / KROG

RESOLVED THAT THE RESOLUTION WITH REGARD TO THE LAND ACQUISITION, DISPOSITION AND LEASING POLICY BE AMENDED TO STRIKE ITEM NUMBER 4 FROM THE POLICY PRIOR TO APPROVAL.

MOTION DEFEATED.

c) City Staff – Visitor's Choice Publications

A presentation was made by Sandra Barron- Visitor's Choice Publications to Council at the COTW on March 4th, requesting the City purchase advertising in the 2013 Edition of the Boundary Country Visitor's Choice Publication, to be distributed throughout BC and the Pacific Northwest.

MOTION: KROG / WYERS

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES CITY STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION AND DETERMINES TO ADVERTISE IN THE 2013 VISITOR'S INFORMATION GUIDE BY PURCHASING A FULL PAGE AD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2360.00 PLUS TAX.

CARRIED.

d) Economic Development Advisory Committee – City of Grand Forks Branding

Matt Thompson, the representative for Story & Co, made a presentation to Council with regard to the development of the new brand for the City of Grand Forks at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on March 4TH.

Councillor Kendel previously made the motion for Council's support of the Branding initiative; therefore no motion is necessary for the report.

REQUESTS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

None

INFORMATION ITEMS:

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN / WYERS

RESOLVED THAT INFORMATION ITEMS NUMBERED 10(a) TO 10(f) BE RECEIVED AND ACTED UPON AS RECOMMENDED AND/OR AS AMENDED. CARRIED.

- a) Alex Atamanenko, MP Correspondence - Canada Post Decision to move towards a "new smaller retail model" **Recommend to receive for information.**
- b) School District #51 – City of Grand Forks Scholarship - Continued support for the GFSS Scholarship Program. **Staff to advise the School District in writing before March 10th, 2013 of any changes in either amount or criteria of Scholarship as per Council's Policy 502.**
- c) Ladies Auxiliary Branch Number 59 – Royal Canadian Legion-Re: Request for donation of the Wildlife Hall Dishes - **Recommend that Council direct Staff to write a letter to the Ladies Auxiliary Branch Number 59 and advise them of the City's Asset Disposal Policy that Staff is required to follow.**
- d) Healthy Forests – Health Communities – A conversation on BC Forests – Health Communities Final Report with the results of the two year dialogue with communities, experts and citizens. **Recommend to receive for information.**
- e) Auditor General for Local Government – Re: the undertaking of a planning process that will inform the first Annual Service Plan. **Referred to the Chief Administrative Officer who will be responding to the survey.**
- f) AKBLG Invitation – Friday, March 22nd from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm in Castlegar. You are invited to a Columbia River Treaty Review Conference. **Council to advise if they wish to attend.**

The Mayor advised that he has appointed Councillor Smith as Chair for the Deer Committee.

BYLAWS:

- a) Manager of Technical Services – Bylaw No. 1947 - Amendment to the City of Grand Forks Zoning Bylaw No. 1606, 1999

MOTION: KROG / O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1947, CITED AS THE "Amendment to the City of Grand Forks Zoning Bylaw No. 1606, 1999", BE GIVEN FIRST READING.

CARRIED.

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MOTION: O'DOHERTY / WYERS

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1947, CITED AS THE "Amendment to the City of Grand Forks Zoning Bylaw No. 1606, 1999", BE GIVEN SECOND READING.

CARRIED.

a) Manager of Technical Services – Roxul Road Closure Bylaw

MOTION: SMITH / WYERS

RESOLVED THE COUNCIL RESCINDS THE PRECEDING BYLAWS NO. 1931 AND NO. 1942 REGARDING THE ROXUL ROAD CLOSURE AS PRESENTED BY STAFF, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PROPOSED ADOPTION ON BYLAW NO. 1949, THE ROXUL ROAD CLOSURE BYLAW NO. 1949.

CARRIED.

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MOTION: KROG / SMITH

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1949, CITED AS THE "Roxul Road Closure Bylaw No. 1949, 2013, BE GIVEN FIRST READING.

CARRIED.

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MOTION: SMITH / WYERS

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1949, CITED AS THE "Roxul Road Closure Bylaw No. 1949, 2013, BE GIVEN SECOND READING.

CARRIED.

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MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN / O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1949, CITED AS THE "Roxul Road Closure Bylaw No. 1949, 2013, BE GIVEN THIRD READING.

CARRIED.

LATE ITEMS:

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: KROG

**RESOLVED THAT THIS REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL BE ADJOURNED AT 8:25
P.M. CARRIED.**

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



MAYOR BRIAN TAYLOR



CORPORATE OFFICER- DIANE HEINRICH

Councillor Wyers City Council Report For March 4th, 2013

The regular monthly Board meeting for the Grand Forks & District Public Library took place February 20th. With elections slated for the upcoming AGM on March 6th, nominations for Board Trustees 2013 have closed and the following four candidates have been approved. With four vacancies, this will complete the 2013 Board of Trustees.

Elise Rimbey - from Grand Forks Area D
David Rostek - Christina Lake Area C
Wayne Hind - Grand Forks
Martin Domeij - Area D

The library AGM is March 6, 2013 at 7:00 PM at the Library. Refreshments will be served.

A new learning session at the Library is Tuesday's FREE Sign Language training from noon to 1:00 PM in partnership with Sunshine Valley Community Services.

On Feb 19th, the Grand Forks Environment Committee's Neph Air Quality Sub-Committee meeting was held with University of Victoria's Eleanor Setton and AJ Downie from MoE on conference call. The stakeholder's evaluated the existing Neph maps collected to date; we have the opportunity to keep the Neph for another year. It is primarily a tool to incorporate into educating the public when air quality issues appear in our community. For example, a Feb 13th agriculture burn in Area D sent the neph off the map and it was identified that air circulation was missing. We also learned from AJ Downie that the TEOM on top of City Hall would be replaced probably within the next year. The new instrument will sit beside the existing unit for sometime to provide or detect any variables and evaluate why. The minutes will be presented at the upcoming Environment Committee meeting on March 21st with recommendation(s) to be discussed and brought back to Council.

I attended the regular monthly Citizens on Patrol (COP) meeting on February 21st. Volunteer recruitment is under way and those interested are invited to attend the March meeting at the RCMP Detachment Thursday March 21st at 7:00 PM. FMI contact Councillor Wyers at 250-443-1476.

Feb 22nd I attended the 8th Annual **No Boundaries Film Festival** with 14 documentaries presented over three days. It was well attended and a couple of documentaries stood out because of viewers' comments.

"Hooked on Growth" a 2011 documentary by Director Dave Gardner.

How do we become a sustainable civilization? This film takes a unique approach among environmental documentaries. It asks why population conversations are so difficult to have, and why a roaring economy is more important to us than a survivable planet. It explores our obsession with community growth and economic growth.

"The Carbon Rush" by Director Amy Miller

I found these two documentaries revealed that our local citizens have limited information on the impact of no growth and a lack of understanding of the Carbon offset program. A number of individuals felt buying carbon offsets is a money grab and verbal outcries implied that our own local City Council should see this film. Content included: "Hundreds of hydroelectric dams in Panama - incinerators burning garbage in India - biogas extracted from palm oil in Honduras - eucalyptus forests harvested for charcoal in Brazil; what do these projects have in common? They are all receiving carbon credits for offsetting pollution created somewhere else.

But what impact are these offsets having? Are they actually reducing emissions? And what about the people and the communities where these projects have been set up? The Carbon Rush travels across four continents and brings us up close to projects working through the United Nations Kyoto Protocol designed Clean Development Mechanism. This groundbreaking documentary asks the fundamental questions, "What happens when we manipulate markets to solve the climate crisis? Who stands to gain and who stands to suffer?"

February 27th the City's 2013 Budget consultation open house at City Hall was well attended by the public. It was good to see the gallery full and I thank everyone for attending. It was a good communication venue and budget introduction by the City's new CFO, Roxanne Shepherd.

I attended the regional local government (AKBLG) meeting in Columbia Valley's Invermere March 2 where the executive reviewed the 2013 Resolutions submitted from across the region. The Resolutions will be circulated to the submitting communities with comments from AKBLG and UBCM. Resolutions will be on the floor at the upcoming AKBLG Conference in Invermere on Friday April 19th starting at 08:15 AM.

AKBLG Resolution 2013

CITY OF GRAND FORKS

SENIOR GOVERNMENT GRANT PROGRAMS NOT WORKING

WHEREAS local government expenditure time and resources when applying for grant programs that essentially pit communities one against the other resulting in winners & losers;

AND WHEREAS local government sees the current granting program structure used by senior levels of government is lacking in recognizing essential criteria required to make fair and equitable decisions during the evaluation procedure:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that senior levels of government review their current granting program to include consultation with local government in formulating a new approach in granting.

Announcements:

Regional District of Kootenay Boundary Electoral Area D Town Hall Meeting takes place this evening Monday March 4th starting at 7:00 PM at the City Park Seniors' Hall, 565-71 Street. Area Director Irene Perepolkin, as many are aware, is in Kelowna General Hospital recuperating from a recent stroke. We wish Irene a speedy recovery.

Alternate Roly Russell has been very busy filling Irene's shoes. It's unfortunate that the City's Regular Council meeting is on the same evening and at same time. In the interest of Regional collaboration where we have shared services and a continuing relationship with Area D that surrounds our community, as a Grand Forks resident I encourage everyone to make an effort to attend and become familiar with the Regional District's role in local government, the services they provide to our community and those we share.

Submitted by:

Councillor Cher Wyers

Councillor Krog City Council Report For March 4th, 2013

Councillor Smith and I attended the Federation of Municipalities Community Sustainability Conference held February 12th to 15th. It was a pretty packed few days I took a lot away from the experience.

It featured topics such as:

- Sustainable neighbourhoods
- Bridging the Canadian Infrastructure gap
- Tools for climate change
- Assuring water and climate security
- Implications of alternate growth patterns on infrastructure costs
- Food waste diversion
- Leading edge of wastewater treatment
- And a lot more.
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Some of the highlights for me were:

Smart Growth

Municipalities are realizing that conventional growth patterns are driving unsustainable growth in spending. Whereas compact, transit-oriented development results in lower infrastructure costs than conventional, low-density, old school development.

Sustainable Cities and the City of Calgary gave an overview of the implications of alternative growth patterns on infrastructure costs. Showing the benefits of compact development including reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, air quality improvements, walkable neighbourhoods, and greater possibilities for transit development.

As well as saving huge dollars.

They evaluated the additional costs that would be generated by the roads, transit, water services, fire services, parks and schools that would be needed to support different development scenarios. This helped guide the city's decision making.

After they gave their presentation, we broke into groups to map out two different development scenarios: business-as-usual and compact, infill development. It was a cool exercise and enabled us to have a clear understanding of how growth patterns affect infrastructure costs.

I think it would be a worthwhile exercise for Council. It seems that most small cities wait for a developer to come and they are happy to just have development rather than pre planning the infrastructure. It would give us a good insight into the challenges that staff face and a better understanding of what we want our community to look like in the future.

The Creative Class

Another interesting seminar featured, Dr. Richard Florida Speaking through telepresence (from Florida, no kidding) He applauded municipal leadership in environmental protection and energy efficiency

He pointed out that the shifts in the way we organize our cities are accompanied by shifts in the workforce. We have seen transitions from agricultural to industrial to creative. Creative workers include people in science and technology, innovators, entrepreneurs, artists, designers and media. In the past communities have focused on attracting industry, or High tech we need to change our mindset, there are potential opportunities in between the two.

Only six to seven per cent of Canadian workers are in manufacturing, while 41 per cent are members of the creative class. (Only 33 percent of American workers are considered creative.) The creative class has rarely experienced unemployment over five percent, even as manufacturing employment plummeted.

Implimenting a sustainability plan

To bridge the gap between planning and implementation, municipalities should include these five steps in their sustainability framework:

Engage, Vision, Plan, Act, and Manage

To ensure implementation, sustainability should be integrated into the way our municipality does business.

One of the biggest things I took away, was how far ahead our community is in achieving sustainability compared to other municipalities including much larger cities.

And that progress I credit to our staff and commend them for their initiatives. It was really cool to sit there and say, "We are already doing that"

We looked at the Canadian Infrastructure report card In Canada.

That assessed the state of municipal infrastructure management, the report found many municipalities lack the ability to accurately assess the state of their infrastructure.

They gave some examples; about 30% of respondents had limited data on their water-treatment plants, reservoirs or pumping stations.

A large percentage of municipalities reported having no data on the condition of their buried infrastructure: 41.3% for distribution pipes and 48.2% for transmission pipes. While it is clear that municipalities monitor the quality of their drinking water through rigorous testing and monitoring, evaluating the physical condition of their treatment plants and buried distribution networks remains a significant, on-the-ground challenge.

With respect to roads, many respondents do not have regular condition assessment programs: 41.2% reported that they do not have an inspection program for their roads. Most of this we are well on our way, again thanks to our staff.

Climate Change

There was a dynamic speaker Robert William Sanford Author of Cold Matters - the state and fate of Canada's fresh water He explained in terms we could understand. The recent Hydrological changes we are seeing, and how it impacts our communities. We have seen everything from flooding, heat waves and other radical weather related events such as super storm sandy and the droughts and fires in Australia. And it will only get worse.

Honestly for me it seems that when I think about climate change and global warming it is just that "Global" I now have a greater understanding of the specific effect on our community and our infrastructure.

A common thread throughout the conference was the emphasise on water security, and making the most of our water. We have to be creative when it comes to water conservation. Again we are working towards that goal.

Another seminar I really enjoyed was

"Electric vehicles and infrastructure: On the ground in urban and rural contexts"

I had a long talk with Rob MacGregor, Sun Country Highway's regional director for BC (you may have seen him on Global TV news, he is the car expert guy in their ask an expert segment.

There is only one recharge station between Osoyoos and Fernie

I know our staff has brought this to us previously, I would like to look at it again.

You also get recognized on their map

We named ourselves as a solar community but a more realistic designation may be an electric friendly community or area. Charging stations are not that expensive and they can aid in economic development. An example would be that the stations are put in places that allow for and require a stay

Example - downtown people would eat, shop, visit while their car tops up.

There may even be partnership opportunities. Such as plug in BC.

I would like to see us have a regular Transit System and in the future we could see that and our city's fleet becoming fully electric.

We are looking at our branding and this could tie in nicely

"Rest – Relax - Re Charge" in Grand Forks _ Boundary wide

Councillor Smith City Council Report For March 4th, 2013

FCM Sustainability Conference Report to Council

March 4, 2013

On the first day I attended a plenary session in the morning where the Canadian Infrastructure Report Card was discussed. With the many figures presented it was clear that while Canadian infrastructure is not in disrepair it is at risk. Nearly 30% of all municipal infrastructure, based on a survey of 123 municipalities, is rated at “fair” to “very poor”. The four primary asset categories are: drinking-water systems, wastewater and storm-water networks, and municipal roads. The replacement cost of these assets alone totals \$171.8 billion. The point that was driven home is that municipalities cannot afford these costs on their own. It builds on the argument that municipalities cannot subsist on the current grant system of funding employed by senior levels of government.

Later I attended a session called “Storm Warning”, which went into detail on the effects of global warming, particularly about its effect on the hydrological cycle – which is how water is circulated through the atmosphere. As the climate warms more water is suspended in the air. For every degree increase in temperature the water holding capacity of the atmosphere increases by 7%. That means a lot of water can come down in unprecedented volumes and can cause severe flooding. Also, high temperature events are on the increase – Australia had temperatures of between 52 and 54C. If this trend continues in North America some areas of the Central Great Plains could become uninhabitable, affecting food production and forcing a migration of people northward. One of the most important things we can do now is to habituate ourselves to conserve water as it will become increasingly scarce. It was a pretty powerful presentation and certainly supports our desire to institute residential water metering.

I ended that day at a presentation on “Making sustainability work in Rural Communities”. It spoke to Internet connectivity being a key factor in making a rural community work. Of course, with our fibre optic network we have a real opportunity to be a leader in BC as we develop strategies around our asset. There was also discussion around energy efficiency and renewable energy. One thing that caught my attention was methane capture from organic waste landfills that can be used to generate electricity. Perhaps there is an opportunity here.

The next day I attended a plenary on creative communities. The presenter, Dr Richard Florida, who is a professor at the U of T, discussed the “Creative Class” and how they are revolutionizing the global economy. He showed how a number of factors coming out of the creative class, “will spur a fresh era of growth and prosperity, define a new geography of progress, and create surprising opportunities for all of us”. One of the biggest points was have comfortable places for the creative class to work. Small communities like ours can be those places as long as we have the digital infrastructure in place for them, which we do. Now it becomes a matter of marketing ourselves to them. I plan on picking up a copy of his book on the subject.

I next attended a workshop on how to take a sustainability plan and put it into action. A reason why some plans fail or fall short is because they are too ambitious, which referred to as a “Vision Gap”, or there is no follow through due to a lack of commitment. By using five distinct steps in every decision around a sustainability plan – Vision, Plan, Act, Engage, and Manage – plans have a far better chance at success. In my workgroup I met a gentleman who runs a website with over 100 SCP’s and noted that our SCP is there. A great place to get ideas from other communities. The session was very engaging and I made many contacts.

I attended a session called “The Rural Infrastructure Challenge”. The FCM represents approximately 2000 municipalities and of those about 1500 are rural. In 2007 the infrastructure

deficit was \$123 billion and has grown ever since. Nearly \$2 billion in infrastructure programs are due to expire in 2014 and that figure represents 1/3 of what municipalities receive. FCM is asking that the Gas Tax be indexed and that the Building Canada Fund (BCF) be renewed. They would like to see easier access to the BCF and want to see an annual investment of \$2.5 billion in a Core Infrastructure Investment Fund. There recommendations are being made to the Federal Government in a document entitled: "THE ROAD TO JOBS AND GROWTH: Solving Canada's Municipal Infrastructure Challenge." Hopefully, the Feds will not only hear the message but will also listen.

On the 15th all I was able to attend, due to illness, was a plenary session on creating cities for 8 to 80 year olds. The point was to design cities to promote healthy living, designing then for people and not cars. Another presenter was Catherine O'Brien, PhD – who introduced a concept of sustainable happiness. The idea is that by helping people to learn to be happy we can build stronger communities. The presentation was quite compelling. Finally, a talk was given that encouraged planners in transport and land use planning to give more thought to the needs of youth and seniors and encouraged us to use the resources available at Green Communities Canada.

I appreciate having had the opportunity to participate in this conference. I will endeavour to apply what I learned in my continued commitment to our community and look forward to networking with many of the passionate and hardworking people I met while I was there. Thank you.