Part A

The Story Behind the Story of a Watershed / Landscape-Based Approach to Community Planning in North Vancouver

It Started With a Culvert Project

Stewardship Ethic and Sustainability

Achieve More with Same Resources

Share the Vision; Implement

The Story Behind the Story

Experience shows that bridging the gap between awareness and action in local government requires that three critical success factors be in alignment: organizational/political ***commitment***; an internal ***champion*** who provides energy and leadership and stimulates willingness to change; and ***trust*** between individuals and departments.

Richard Boase and Ariel Estrada are the Hasting Creek co-champions. Their long-term working relationship built the foundation for the innovative and cost-effective approach that is embodied in the Hastings Creek Watershed Blueprint.

It Started With a Culvert Project

"Richard and my collaboration started a decade ago," recalls Ariel. "The genesis for our tag-teaming was a culvert project. My responsibilities are engineering in nature. Richard is responsible for environmental protection and enhancement. We learned from each other. We gained an appreciation for each other's challenges. And we cross-fertilized our areas of expertise."

"Looking back, a series of stream projects were stepping stones that have informed our current watershed-based approach," continues Richard. "Because we have this shared history, we bring an on-the-ground understanding of what is needed to restore watershed and stream health, what is possible and how to implement change."

Stewardship Ethic & Sustainability

"Our approach to the Hastings Blueprint captures the stewardship history and ethic which is deeply rooted in the North Vancouver community," reflects Richard. "The District is defined by the wilderness at the top, the water at the bottom, and the creek channels that connect the two. Our approach also recognizes that we have to look for opportunities within an existing footprint."

"Absolutely," adds Ariel, "the stewardship history and culture has definitely molded how Richard and I view watersheds. We look for opportunities to demonstrate what sustainability looks like on the ground. A sustainability vision, both financial and environmental, underpins what we do."

Achieve More with Same Resources

"We look for ways to do a better job, apply technology effectively and efficiently, and save the District money. This is the philosophy that we have brought to the Hastings Creek Blueprint," stresses Richard.

"We recognize the value of a life-cycle cost way of managing assets. The financial burden of stabilizing streams is a motivator for the District to do business differently. Because Ariel and I deal with the unintended and ongoing consequences of pipe-and-convey infrastructure (see photo opposite), we are proponents of **sustainable service delivery** that *'views the watershed through an asset management lens'*."

Share the Vision; Implement

"The Hastings Blueprint is a District team effort. This has been a journey. It has taken time for us to inform and educate others and to build their confidence in the expected outcomes. Our colleagues have bought into the vision for a watershed/landscape-based approach, and they have contributed to Blueprint development. Now it is a matter of aligning efforts to move forward with implementation," concludes Ariel.

Richard Boase, P.Geo.
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In the absence of a life-cycle approach to asset management, local governments bear the entire financial burden to stabilize and restore watercourses impacted by increased runoff volume after land is developed or redeveloped