



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

MAYOR'S AND COUNCILLORS' REPORT

From: Councillor Lynda Hundleby

Council Meeting: July 16, 2018

Subject: Report from the FCM AGM and Conference 2018

RECOMMENDATION: that Council receive this report.

BACKGROUND:

The Annual General Meeting, Conference, and Trade Show for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), entitled *Tools for Tomorrow's Canada*, was held May 31 – June 3, 2018, in Halifax, Nova Scotia and attended by over 2000 delegates. Along with the formal meetings, there were many opportunities for delegates to avail themselves of the opportunities to learn and network.

Study Tour: Municipal Solid Waste

Thursday was the pre-conference sessions where I attended a Municipal Solid Waste information Study Tour provided by Sustane Technologies. This facility in Chester, Nova Scotia, will be opening in August 2018. Sustane has developed a set of disruptive separation technologies to transform municipal solid wastes (MSW) to high value fuels and recyclable materials at lower cost than landfilling. The initial commercial products will be high purity recovered biomass energy pellets and synthetic diesel, derived from waste plastics within MSW. Further products are contemplated.

Interesting to note that this project does not utilize organic matter so this and other recyclable products are separated out by homeowners.

Sustane Technologies states the process is energy self-sufficient and scales easily; claims reduction in disposal costs for municipalities; Increases recycling rates to over 90% of discarded waste; and reduces GHG emissions. The municipality did not provide any funding for construction or operations and the only requirement is to provide the supply of MSW to the company. We heard the process is working successfully in Spain. This technology has the potential to revolutionize a region's garbage, including ours. Hopefully the CRD and our Township would be willing to investigate such an opportunity.

Study Tour: Wastewater Treatment in Halifax

The wastewater treatment facility in Halifax is a secondary treatment process located near the harbor and residences and produces no discernible odour. The final product must meet USEPA Class A standards for bio-solids products, and also meet Canadian

Food Inspection Agency requirements under the Canadian Fertilizer Act, for labelling as a fertilizer product for sale in Canada. I was disappointed that Halifax uses their waste as fertilizer on land. The use of Ultra Violet (UV) disinfection means that high-intensity, ultra-violet lights are used to kill bacteria in the treated flows. This is the final stage in the treatment process before the effluent is released into the harbour. Interesting to note that there is an agreement in place with the Federal Government where Halifax will be required to have tertiary treatment in place by 2040.

Study Tour: Working Together when Every Second Counts: Emergency Management Operations and 911

The delegates to this Study Tour were bussed to the former Dartmouth Police Station which has now been converted to house the 911 Call Centre and Integrated Dispatch the Emergency Operations for the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM). In addition the Emergency Management Operations for the province of Nova Scotia are located in adjacent offices to effectively and efficiently manage and co-operate in joint ventures.

Trade Show

The Trade Show had many interesting offerings. One being the Connected Lab that provided assistance to delegates in connecting to the digital FCM program, and provided assistance to set up social media programs. Many booths were set up that showcased the latest technologies e.g. solar-powered speed readers, temporary rubber speed bumps, LED roadway lighting; agencies like FCM, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and Energy Ottawa, Transport Canada, CPA Canada; services like Commissionaires, Canada Helps; businesses like Carmanah Technologies, Canadian Pacific Railway, advertising/sales on playground equipment, Field Turf, fencing; advocacy groups for topics such as postal banking, national pharmacare, tourism opportunities, educational opportunities, sustainable living; organized groups like CUPE, CUPW, IAFF, IBEW, EU. Food, too, from the Egg Farmers of Canada, Tim Hortons, and others

Political Keynotes

The leaders of our 4 political parties spoke to municipal delegates.

The formal parts of the program - from registration to Annual General Meeting, plenaries, campaign speeches, elections, resolutions, and workshops - went smoothly – with appreciation to the well-rehearsed FCM staff and the host-city of Halifax who went out of their way to make all delegates and families feel welcome. It also really struck me how friendly and welcoming the Halifax tourism sector has worked hard at meeting tourists' expectations and encouraging return visits. And I see that happening in Esquimalt and in our region too.

I wanted to bring your attention to one resolution in particular – on Marine Litter that is part of living on the west coast and brought forward by the Regional District of Nanaimo. It reads: that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities urge the federal government to develop a national strategy to mitigate and manage marine litter.

The new Board Executive is:

President: Vicki-May Hamm, Mayor, City of Magog, QC
1st Vice-President: Bill Karsten, Councillor, Halifax Regional Municipality, NS
2nd Vice-President: Garth Frizzell, Councillor, City of Prince George, BC
3rd Vice-President: Yolaine Kirlew, Councillor, Municipality of Sioux Lookout, ON
Past President: Jenny Gerbasi, Deputy Mayor, City of Winnipeg, MB

Representing BC on the FCM Board of Directors:

Wendy Booth, President, Union of British Columbia Municipalities
Sav Dhaliwal, Councillor, City of Burnaby
Heather Deal, Councillor, City of Vancouver
Leah Main, Director, Regional Municipality of Central Kootenay
Rhona Martin, Chair, Columbia-Shuswap Regional District
Craig Speirs, Councillor, City of Maple Ridge
Sam Waddington, Councillor, City of Chilliwack
Gordon Klassen, Councillor, City of Fort St. John

The FCM Board will be focussing this next year on advocacy for local governments in the Federal Election 2019.

While not part of the conference, Councillor Hundleby shares some of her added activities.

There wasn't enough time within the Conference to attend all of the Study Tours and Workshops but I wanted to check out the buzz around the latest state-of-the-art downtown Halifax Central Library within walking distance from the Halifax Convention Centre. A small two-level paid parking lot is connected.

The Library itself covers 11,000 sq metres (120,00 sq. feet) housing its collections of books, videos, and community spaces spanning 5 floors in an airy, open concept stunning piece of architecture. Users can walk from level to level or avail themselves of 3 elevators. The glass walls and skylights (rooftop-to-first-floor) provide the atrium-like setting throughout the complex. Gone are the days of no eating and drinking in the library – one can purchase coffee and snacks in two locations, for enjoyment while reading or studying, on each level including the rooftop open air terrace. Gone are the days of no talking in the library – there are amazing ceiling baffles to deaden sound and allow dedicated places to have conversations in comfy seating areas. Banks of computer terminals throughout the building allow patrons to study and work amongst the stacks. Borrowers can check out their own books and videos while observing their returned materials accepted at each entrance through wall slots, by machines and conveyor belts. Librarians are available on each level. Study carrels, meeting rooms, an auditorium, and media rooms where music can be recorded, are available. There is room for art plus cultural and historical exhibits throughout this digital wonder called a library, built for \$57.6M and completed in 2014.

Here are a few of my favourite photos:



See more (including photos) at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halifax_Central_Library#Environmental_sustainability

I took the opportunity to visit friends in Paradise, Nova Scotia a small rural town (population 400) in the Annapolis Valley. Heritage homes along the highway were mostly well-cared for with some situated on regular sized lots and others on larger properties. Unfortunately, the rainy drive did not lend itself to photos. We stayed in a large 3-storey heritage Queen Anne styled home, 120 years old, which has been completely renovated – re-wired throughout, decorated mostly in the Victorian period. The 8-bedroom home, situated on 10 acres, has been beautifully restored and is still a work-in-progress as all such residential projects are. I was taken with the wood flooring and paneling throughout, several sitting rooms, the formal front room, beautiful stair cases, and the hidden “back way” exits, in addition to the stained glass and double hung wooden windows. The kitchen was very large to accommodate the traditional informal “kitchen parties” so well known in the Maritimes. The property itself is large and well-cared for, almost a park-like setting complete with its own mini-railroad and train engine. The owners are community-minded and allow their property to be used almost like a public park. People often do not realize they are on private property – they come to have picnics, get married (with permission), take photos, walk around, enjoying the greenery, and bird life. And once a year host a community music festival that draws up to a thousand people – not bad for a population of 400 people. I have a new appreciation for these beautiful old homes and properties and bringing them up to current living standards (as in this case – the acquisition of two riding lawn mowers!). I appreciate the efforts of Esquimalt owners of heritage homes who have lovingly restored their homes and properties for the rest of us to admire.

Next year’s conference will be held in Quebec City, QC May 30 – June 2, 2019.

Thank you Council and the Township for this opportunity to participate in this year’s FCM conference in Halifax.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Hundleby