



ICAP

# Milestone

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Newsletter of the Infrastructure Canada – Alberta Program

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## A CITY, A PLAN, A PARTNERSHIP

### *THE FIRST ICAP PROJECT – FUNDING ACCELERATES LETHBRIDGE PROJECT FROM 15 TO JUST THREE YEARS*

COLIN SMITH

The area around Lethbridge is pretty dry. Rain is infrequent, but when it does rain it rains hard. While these storms may only last an hour or two, they can dump a lot of water on the city.

For many years heavy rainfall caused serious problems in southeast Lethbridge, where overloaded sewer systems resulted in basement sewage backups and surface flooding.

A plan to solve the problem was put forward, and Lethbridge city council approved the design and funding of a wastewater management project to be undertaken together with an upgrade to Mayor Magrath Drive, one of the city’s major traffic arteries.

At the same meeting, councillors voted to apply for funding for the project through the Infrastructure Canada-Alberta Program (ICAP).

The \$10.3 million East Lethbridge Sanitary Sewer Upgrade Project, as it came to be known, was the first project to be approved for ICAP funding. A groundbreaking ceremony took place in June 2001, at which time funding was announced for an additional 36 projects across Alberta.

The East Lethbridge Sanitary Sewer Upgrade Project addressed what had become a problem of major proportions for the city, points out Mayor Robert Tarleck. During a particularly severe rainstorm in 2002 basement flooding affected approximately 800 homes throughout the city and surging water displaced manhole covers, presenting a safety concern.

“As well as being an important financial concern for people it was a social and emotional issue,” said Tarleck. “When it starts impacting on lifestyle, that’s when you have a serious problem.”



**And now...Lethbridge finishes work on the large-scale project in just three years**

The project’s number one priority was adding wastewater collection capacity to deal with wet weather flows, said City of Lethbridge municipal engineer Doug Hawkins.

The project involved construction of an upgraded sewer line in southeast Lethbridge, underground wastewater storage and a pumping station. Excess wastewater is pumped through five kilometres of forcemain uphill into the gravity sewer system of north Lethbridge, where additional sewer upgrades were also completed. From there, the wastewater makes its way into the city’s wastewater treatment plant before draining into the Oldman River. The project became fully operational last November.

**“AS WELL AS BEING AN IMPORTANT FINANCIAL CONCERN FOR PEOPLE IT WAS A SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL ISSUE.”**

**ROBERT TARLECK**  
Lethbridge Mayor

“The ICAP funding gave us the opportunity to accelerate a major retrofit that would have taken many more years to complete – three years versus 15 years,” Hawkins said. “There is a huge advantage in being able to get the project done in a shorter period of time.”



**Then...June 2001, Senator Joyce Fairbairn and MLA Cliff Dunford enjoy the day in Lethbridge when announcing the \$10.3 million project, the first for ICAP**

• Improving the quality of our environment

• Supporting long-term economic growth

• Enhancing community infrastructure



## A MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE REY PAGTAKHAN

Welcome to *Milestone*, the quarterly newsletter of the Infrastructure Canada-Alberta Program (ICAP). As minister responsible for implementing the Infrastructure Canada program in Western Canada, I am extremely impressed with the accomplishments achieved by this partnership program in such a short time.

ICAP is an excellent example of how the three levels of government are working together for the benefit of Canadians. It also reflects our shared commitment to finding innovative ways of improving the quality of life for all Canadians.

This program provides a framework through which the Government of Canada can make investments in urban and rural communities in order to enhance the quality of our environment, support long-term economic growth, and enhance community infrastructure.

With this program, the emphasis is on local input and involvement because we understand that municipalities know their own needs best. In fact, the vast majority of projects funded through this agreement are suggested by the municipalities themselves.

In this newsletter you will find some of the success stories that exemplify what we can achieve when we work together for our goals. I invite you to find out more about ICAP's achievements in the pages of *Milestone*.

**Rey Pagtakhan**

Minister  
Western Economic Diversification Canada



## A MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE ED STELMACH

On behalf of the Government of Alberta and Alberta Transportation, welcome to another issue of *Milestone*. This quarterly publication highlights Infrastructure Canada-Alberta Program (ICAP) achievements and is an excellent information source for the program's various partners.

ICAP is all about partnerships and the positive working relationships built by those partnerships benefit all Albertans. I'm proud Alberta was the first province to include municipal representatives on the program's management committee. In addition, this province set up its program agreement with the federal government in such a way that ICAP is grassroots-driven from the municipal level.

ICAP demonstrates much can be accomplished when the three levels of government work together. The program helps provide Albertans with the necessary, effective and safe infrastructure they deserve and enhances their quality of life. I wish to thank both the federal government and our municipal partners for their contributions to ICAP.

I'm confident readers will find this issue of *Milestone* interesting and informative.

**Ed Stelmach**

Minister  
Alberta Transportation

# PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM ACHIEVES ITS GOALS

## ICAP PROVIDES HELPING HAND FOR ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES

TRENT BANCARZ

"There's no doubt the Infrastructure Canada-Alberta Program (ICAP) has been a success," says Eugene Wauters, a Lethbridge County councillor who represents the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMD&C) on ICAP's management committee. "When you see the program oversubscribed, that means something good must be going on."

Such positive endorsement comes in the wake of some serious infrastructure investment since ICAP's inception in October, 2000.

To date, ICAP has helped fund 581 community infrastructure projects in 272 Alberta communities. The three-way partnership is certainly a boon for cash-strapped communities with infrastructure deficits, says Dorothy Moore, mayor of Didsbury.

"I like the fact the federal and provincial governments are partners in this," says Mayor Moore, who also stands as the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association's (AUMA)



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## PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM CONT.

representative on ICAP's management committee. "It's definitely a step in the right direction. My community has a serious infrastructure deficit as I'm sure many others do."

Moore adds ICAP was designed to encourage smaller municipalities like hers to apply for project funding.

"You don't have to have a huge project in order to participate," she says. "Crumbling infrastructure is our number one priority now. A program like this has provided new resources to help pay for infrastructure improvements."

Of note, points out Wauters, is that ICAP has addressed serious water concerns in many parts of Alberta.

"ICAP has, by investing in regional water projects, helped to address water management issues." He adds, "This program's certainly done a lot of good for Alberta's communities."

To date, projects worth \$488 million have been approved under the program, with federal and provincial contributions totaling \$275 million. Roughly 64 per cent of these contributions are towards "green" projects that address water/wastewater, energy efficiency, and recycling purposes.

ICAP builds on the momentum of an earlier infrastructure partnership – the Infrastructure Works Program – that saw the Governments of Canada and Alberta invest \$411 million into over 2,000 community infrastructure projects across Alberta.

**"CRUMBLING INFRASTRUCTURE IS OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY RIGHT NOW. A PROGRAM LIKE THIS HAS PROVIDED NEW RESOURCES TO HELP PAY FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS."**

**DOROTHY MOORE**  
Mayor of Didsbury and AUMA rep on ICAP's Management Committee

Like its predecessor, ICAP is busy generating an impressive volume of projects across the province, offering testament that partnerships can, in fact, offer a measure of success.

# FORT SASKATCHEWAN FINALLY REACHES THE EDGE OF THE RIVER

## ICAP FUNDING HELPS CITY DEVELOP ITS RIVER VALLEY

ERIN GREGG

The City of Fort Saskatchewan has launched some exciting projects in recent months. Namely, a two-part development of the city's West River's Edge that includes construction of a boat launch and the development of a recreational area.

**WHILE THE LAUNCH IS A GREAT BENEFIT FOR RECREATIONAL BOATERS, FORT SASKATCHEWAN MAYOR KEN HODGINS EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BOAT LAUNCH FOR THE CITY'S EMERGENCY CREWS DISPATCHING THEIR WATERCRAFT INTO THE NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER.**

This past summer saw the city access Infrastructure Canada Alberta Program funding to complete construction of the concrete boat launch on the bank of the North Saskatchewan River.

"There wasn't any place to launch a boat in Fort Saskatchewan," says Glen Johanson,

engineering director for the City of Fort Saskatchewan. "This boat launch is a welcome addition."

Johanson goes on to point out it was a project a long time coming for the growing river valley community of almost 14,000, just northeast of Edmonton.

"This infrastructure funding was very timely. Without it, we would have had to delay the project."

While the launch is a great benefit for recreational boaters, Fort Saskatchewan Mayor Ken Hodgins emphasized the importance of the boat launch for the city's emergency crews dispatching their watercraft into the North Saskatchewan River.

"The boat launch allows easy emergency access to the river for river rescues and river rescue training," says Hodgins.

Construction of the concrete pad serves as a launching point for the next project in the works for West River's Edge. With additional ICAP funding, the City of Fort Saskatchewan

now aims to develop the area as a recreational site, complete with a picnic area, campground, and new access roads to the site. Residents can also look forward to a roadway between the recreation site and Valleyview Ridge as well as the development of a trail linking the site to a wetland conservation area.

After all, Fort Saskatchewan residents might agree, when a river runs through it, you really should enjoy it.



**West River's Edge development launched**

# THE MEASURE OF SUCCESS

## PLANNING FOR SUCCESS IN STAGES MAKES GRIMSHAW A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

CHRISTOPHER SPENCER

Leaky pipes were putting a damper on things in Grimshaw.

Water delivery depended on cast iron mains installed back when Louis St. Laurent was Prime Minister and Canadian soldiers were fighting in the Korean War. “Our crews were spending a lot of time responding to breaks,” recalls Mayor Brian Allen.

“When you start having a breakdown in the system, the possibility of contamination is there. By getting those old pipes out of the

ground and putting the new ones in, we can retain that good water quality that we’ve always had.”

The Peace Country community didn’t have the funds to undertake the work alone, so it pursued a partnership with the Infrastructure Canada Alberta Program (ICAP).

“We’re the same as every other municipality in the province in that we have a limited source of revenue — our tax base,” says Allen. “When we need to do these waterline projects, help from the provincial and federal governments enables us to go ahead.”

To spread out the costs, the town council decided to undertake the project, now complete, in three phases. The new mains, consisting of plastic PVC pipes, should last for hundreds of years.

Grimshaw also turned to ICAP for funds to pave a gravel road that was causing safety and air quality concerns in the community.

**“ANYTIME THAT THE THREE LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT WORK TOGETHER ON A PROJECT, IT SHOWS THAT EVERYONE IS INTERESTED IN MAKING SURE OUR COMMUNITIES ARE UP-TO-DATE IN TERMS OF INFRASTRUCTURE.”**

**BRIAN ALLEN**  
Grimshaw Mayor

“It’s a major artery, a very well used road,” says Cathie Bailey, the town’s chief administrative officer. “We had a very dry summer the year before and the dust was just outrageous.”

Evaluating ICAP’s overall impact on his community, Allen says the creation of new partnerships has made Grimshaw a better place in which to live.

“Anytime that the three levels of government work together on a project, it shows that everyone is interested in making sure our communities are up-to-date in terms of infrastructure.” 🍁



*Grimshaw makes the road to better living even nicer*

### EDITORS NOTE:

This will be the last issue of Milestone bringing you information about the Infrastructure Canada-Alberta Program. Watch for information in the fall regarding the upcoming Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund. In the meantime, check for updated information at [www.icap-pica.ca](http://www.icap-pica.ca) in the “What’s New” section. Thank you to all our Alberta readers for your generosity and willingness to allow us to feature your communities and your projects in these pages. You’ve made our work a pleasure.

— Sherry Brownlee

**web site**

[www.icap-pica.ca](http://www.icap-pica.ca)

**MILESTONE IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY TO PROVIDE NEWS AND INFORMATION TO ALBERTANS ABOUT HOW THE INFRASTRUCTURE CANADA-ALBERTA PROGRAM (ICAP) IS PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK TO HELP COMMUNITIES IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THEIR ENVIRONMENT, SUPPORT LONG-TERM ECONOMIC GROWTH, AND ENHANCE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE.**

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