

Water treatment drives CVC conference

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CVC and its partners are currently developing plans to extend the lessons learned in Cooksville to other flood prone areas in Mississauga and elsewhere in the Credit Watershed. How does this all impact development? Greatly, says Zimmer, because in the GTA, land prices are four times that of infrastructure costs. "You can optimize your land with some good water management programs," she says.

There are incentives for implementing those changes, and while storm ponds take up a lot of land for developers, by building better run off systems, builders can optimize land use. In Brampton, for example, a builder was able to build five extra homes in a project because it solved its water management problems. Even things like installing permeable paving in parking lots – like that at CVC headquarters in Mississauga – saves money over the long haul, as well as helping the environment.

The CVC is currently monitoring 150 sites across its watershed, and its 'Credit River Water Management Study,' released in 2006, is a guidebook on how development can be both profitable, and good for the entire community.

Zimmer says the City of Mississauga has, in many cases, led the way in sustainable development. Three projects (Elm Drive, near Square One; a residential project in Lakeview; and IMAX headquarters in Mississauga) are prime examples of this.

- Elm Drive in Mississauga – CVC has partnered with the City of Mississauga and the Peel District School Board to install a bioswale in the road right-of-way to help capture, filter and clean rainwater from the surrounding road and parking lot, rather than have that water flow into nearby Cooksville Creek.

- IMAX – A corporate leader in LID – A new permeable parking lot will serve as a model for businesses looking to green their workplaces. Permeable paving uses sustainable materials that allow the movement of stormwater through the surface. In addition to reducing runoff, the special underground material traps suspended solids and filters pollutants from the water.

- Lakeview's Green Streets – In a project that is among the first of its kind in Ontario, CVC and the City of Mississauga are helping to showcase streets of the future, where rain gardens and permeable drives take the place of the traditional curb-and-gutter streetscape in this Mississauga neighbourhood.

Last year, CVC invited former Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley to talk about how his city embraced environmental issues, and turned Chi-town into one of the greenest on the planet. Daley's message to all was simple, yet profound: "Stay focused on your goal, and don't allow others to stop you."

That's the message driven home at the LID conference. Whether it was an emotional keynote speech by the colourful Dr. Avi

Friedman (co-founder of the Affordable Homes Program at the McGill School of Architecture, where he is a professor), or the hard work done in one of the LID workshops, the compelling narrative at the conference was this: water can be a powerful source for both good and bad. Managing it takes the supreme efforts of government, residents and businesses.

"Climate change influences both the environment and the economy," said Zimmer last year, during Daley's visit. "Natural disasters across the world have resulted in \$265 billion in economic losses in 2011, so far. The Greater Toronto Area has experienced three 100-year storm events and five 50-year storm events in the past eight

years," added Zimmer. "The economic cost of extreme weather events has resulted in water damage insurance claims soaring to 50 per cent from 20 per cent of all property-related claims in Canada in the past nine years, based on losses reported by Insurance Bureau of Canada."

The Credit River Watershed Health Report has just been released. It uses data collected by CVC through the Integrated Watershed Monitoring Program (IWMP) over many years of monitoring the Credit River.

It's little wonder why the CVC is obsessed with water and its management.

It's way past time that businesses were just as dedicated.

Tops in field

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Shaver's biggest job today is informing industry about its responsibilities when it comes to stormwater management.

Even homeowners with swimming pools need to know that they can't just pump their old water into any catchbasin.

Minotaur's growth is mostly by referral, and its presence on the Internet (www.minotaurltd.com) has certainly made it one of the tops in its field since inception.

"We are part of the treatment train [when it comes to stormwater]," says Shaver.

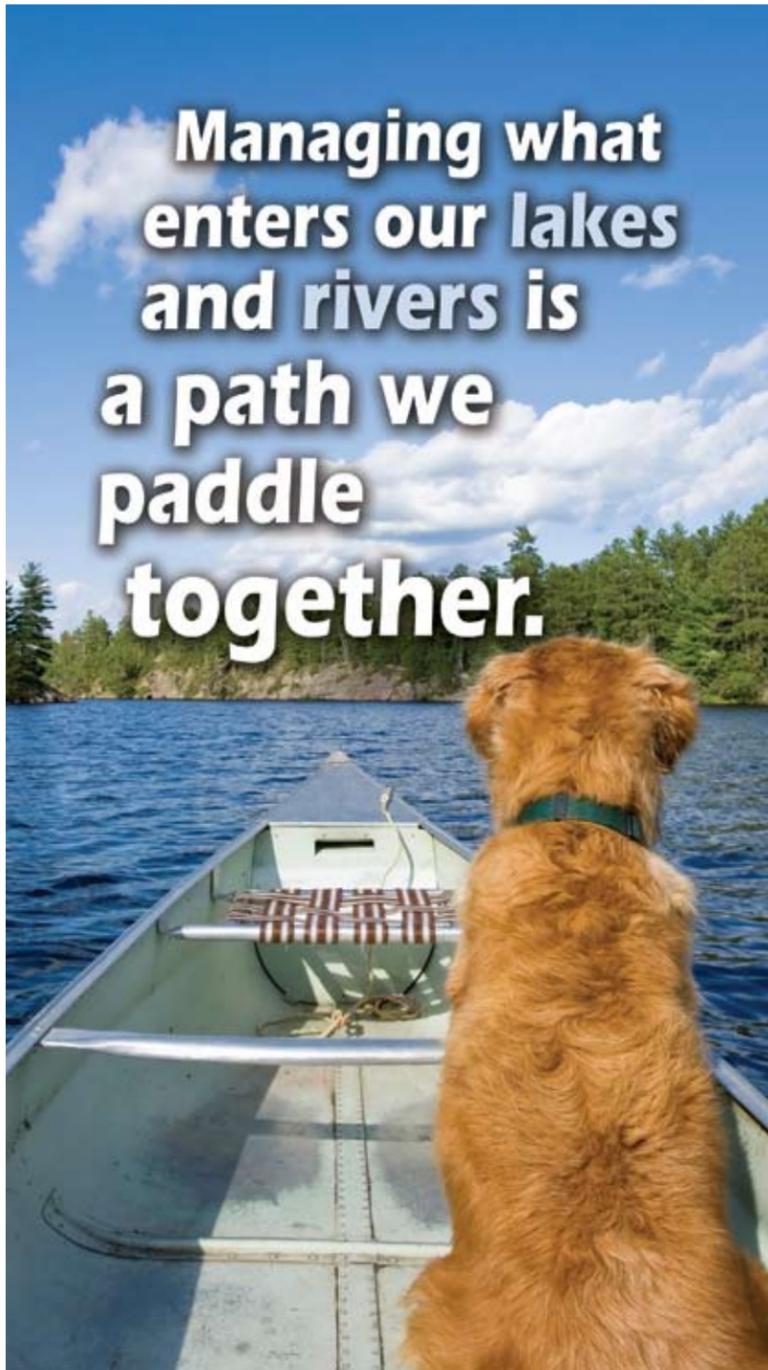
Creating a Quality Assurance Program for companies, educating business about the need to comply with regulations, inspecting stormceptors, and even getting to the root of a problem when it comes to a spill, are quickly making Minotaur a name brand in the property management business.

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Inspections are key to Minotaur's success in world of water treatment.



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