

# Sustainable Okotoks

*"Leave a Legacy"*



World Planners Congress  
June 2006

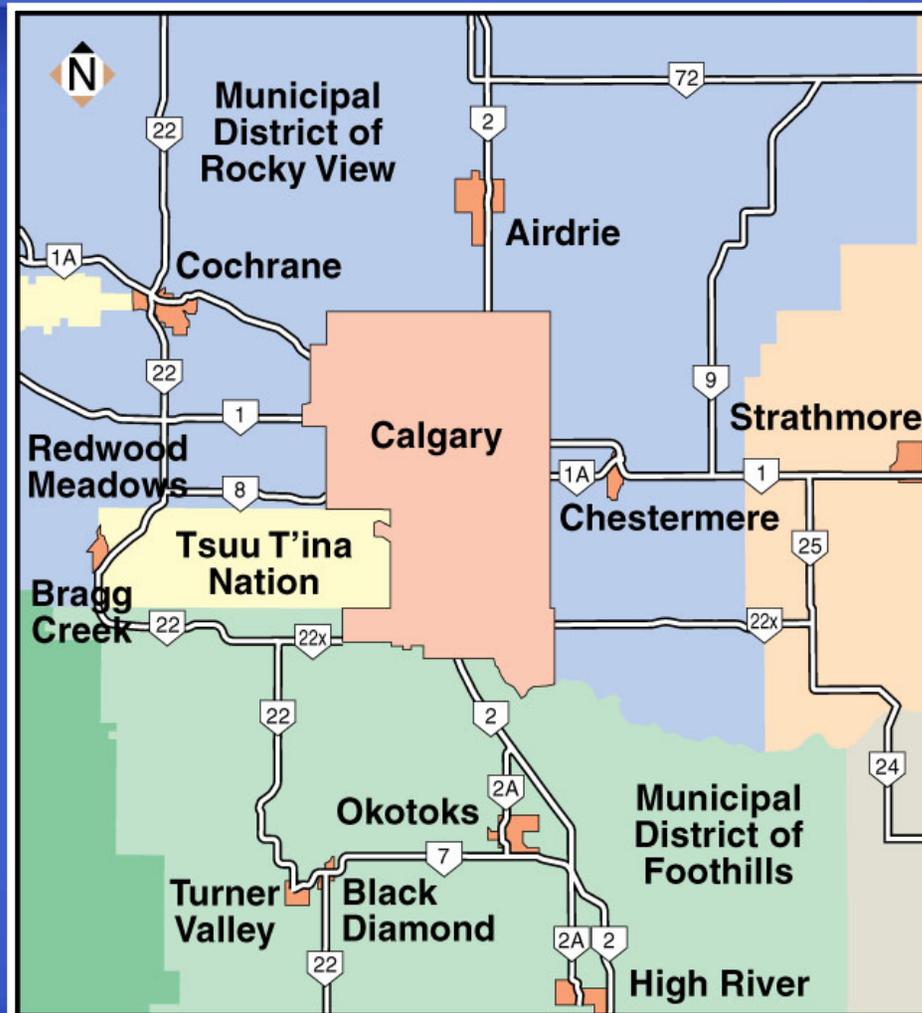
Presented by: Rick Quail, MA, MCIP  
Municipal Manager, Town of Okotoks

# THE SHEEP RIVER



“Heart of Okotoks”

# CALGARY REGION



# A VIEW FROM ABOVE



# WHY BE A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY?

Necessity

Desire

Willingness

Commitment

# WHAT KIND OF COMMUNITY DO WE WANT TO PASS ON TO THE NEXT GENERATION?

**Traditional  
Planning**

**Planned Growth Without Limits  
By Intent - Regional Utilities  
Continuous Boundary Adjustments  
Continuous Annexation as Required**

**OR**

**Choosing for  
Ourselves**

**Planned Destiny  
Live Within the Carrying Capacity of the  
Sheep River  
Minor Boundary Adjustments  
Self Reliance  
Long Term Watershed Management**

# NECESSITY



Municipal  
Development Plan



Inter-municipal  
Development Plan

Land Use Bylaw

# DESIRE

***“In the year 2030, Okotoks is a leader in sustainability, driven by an involved, connected and creative community. Through visionary leadership, citizens are engaged in maintaining a safe, caring and vital community that honours our culture, heritage and environment.”***

# WILLINGNESS

Take the challenge of creating a sustainable future.

Listen to and analyze ideas “outside the box”.

Consult with residents, as to their wants and needs.



# COMMITMENT



2003 Community Survey Results

**82%** of residents support a population cap of 25,000 to 30,000 people

**93%** of residents recycle

**75%** of residents compost

**93%** of residents support water conservation and recycling education programs

**79%** of residents support diversification of housing

**93%** of residents support the purchase of river valley lands for preservation purposes

**91%** of residents support the formation of partnerships to jointly manage the Sheep River

# FOUR FOUNDATIONS

Environmental Stewardship  
Economic Opportunity  
Social Conscience  
Fiscal Responsibility



# SELECTED TARGETS



Build Out Population of 25,000 – 30,000

Downtown as geographic centre, with 50% of the population north & 50% south of the river

22% of total assessment base as non residential

20% of total land area as open space

100% river valley lands owned by the Town

11.5 residential units per gross hectare

318 liters (70 gallons) per capita water use per day

20% reduction in CO2 emissions

# THE REACTION



Can It Be Done?

# STRATEGIC GROWTH



Clear targets negotiated well in advance

Gradual, managed evolution of land use

15-20 year build out



No significant annexation

Density targets for new development

Sustainable neighborhood design

Comprehensive community plans

# GOOD GOVERNANCE

Engagement in residents'  
hearts and minds

Participative

Grass roots support

Nurturing a safe and caring  
social fabric



Okotoks Town Council  
September 2005

# CORPORATE COMMITMENT



Staff Softball Team  
Calgary Corporate Challenge 2005



Winners of Staff Performance Awards 2005

*“Sustainable Okotoks”* is not a project or department of, it’s a way of doing business.

Twenty two Business Centres all have well defined tactical plans & benchmarks, which are evaluated annually and aligned with Council objectives.

Staff awareness and commitment with recognition of innovation & risk-taking.

# NETWORKING FOR SUCCESS

## **Calgary Regional Partnership**

Regional Servicing & Planning Framework

## **University of Calgary**

Sustainable Neighborhood Design

## **Alberta Urban Municipality Association**

Building Eco-Efficiency

## **Federation of Canadian Municipalities**

Sustainable Community Initiatives

## **PFRA, Natural Resources Canada, Alberta Environment, Private Sector**

Watershed initiatives

## **Natural Resources Canada**

### **Climate Change Central**

Seasonal solar storage neighborhood

## **Alberta Water Council**

Water for Life Alberta's Sustainability Strategy

## **Pembina Institute**

CO2 emissions reduction targets

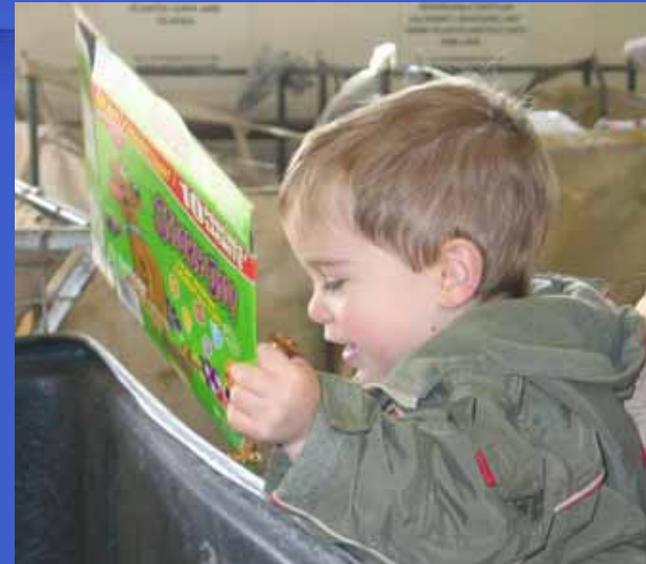


Rick Quail & Ed Sands  
LivCom Awards  
LaCoruna, Spain  
November 2005

# SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT



**Recycling**



**Refuse Collection & Disposal**

**Composting**



# ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Annual River Clean Up

Three Bag Garbage Limit

Water Conservation Initiatives

Community Composting

Comprehensive Recycling  
Program

Integrated Pest Management  
Program



# ENERGY EFFICIENCY



## **Swindells' Pool**

Solar Water Heating System

## **Murray & Piper Arenas**

Solar Ice Resurfacing System



## **Recycling Centre**

Cardboard Bailing Building Solar Heating System

## **Operations Building**

Solar Wall Heating System

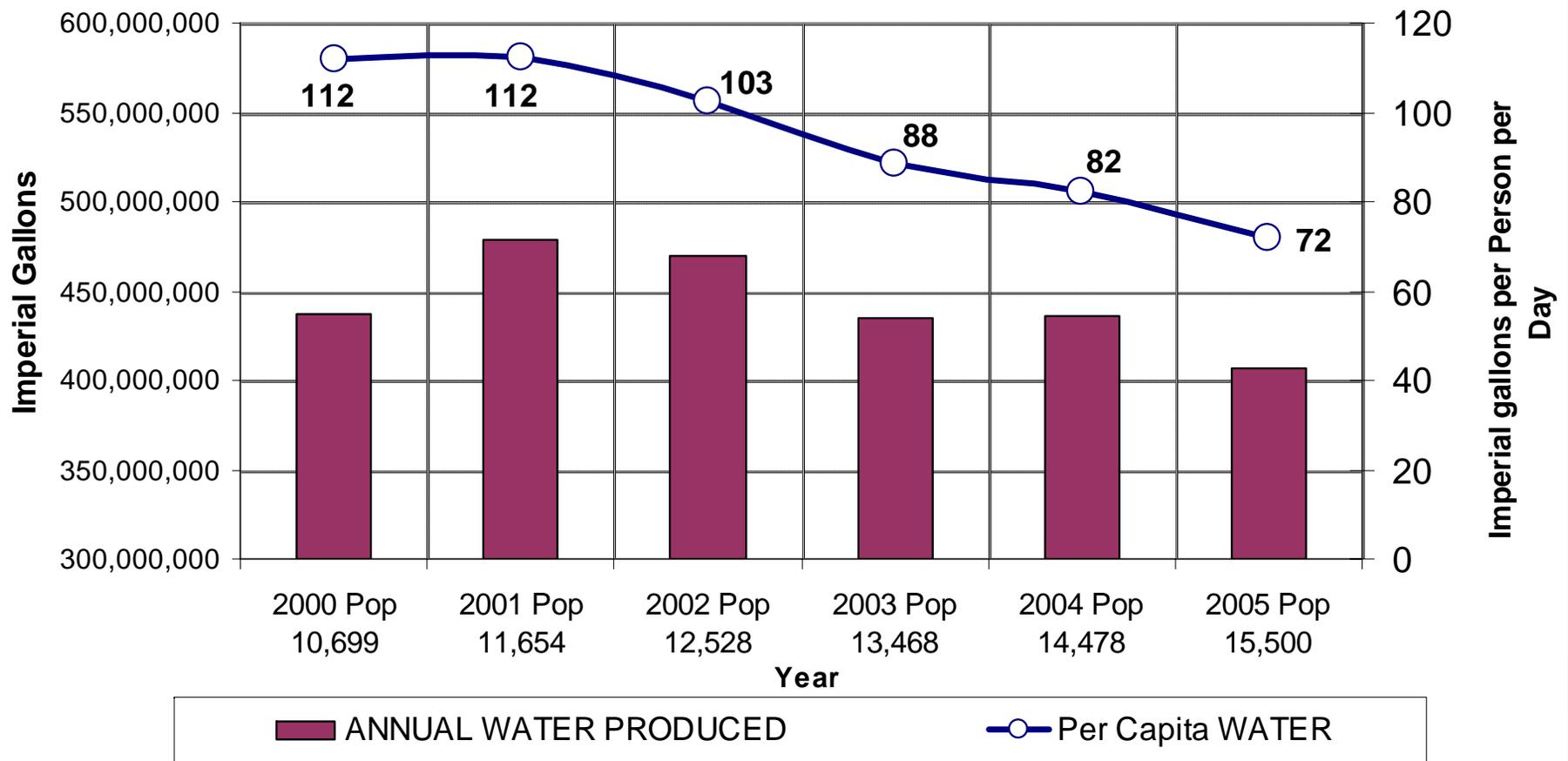
# FIRST SOLAR HEATED COMMUNITY IN NORTH AMERICA



**Natural Resources Canada R-2000 Certified  
“Built Green” Alberta Gold Standard**

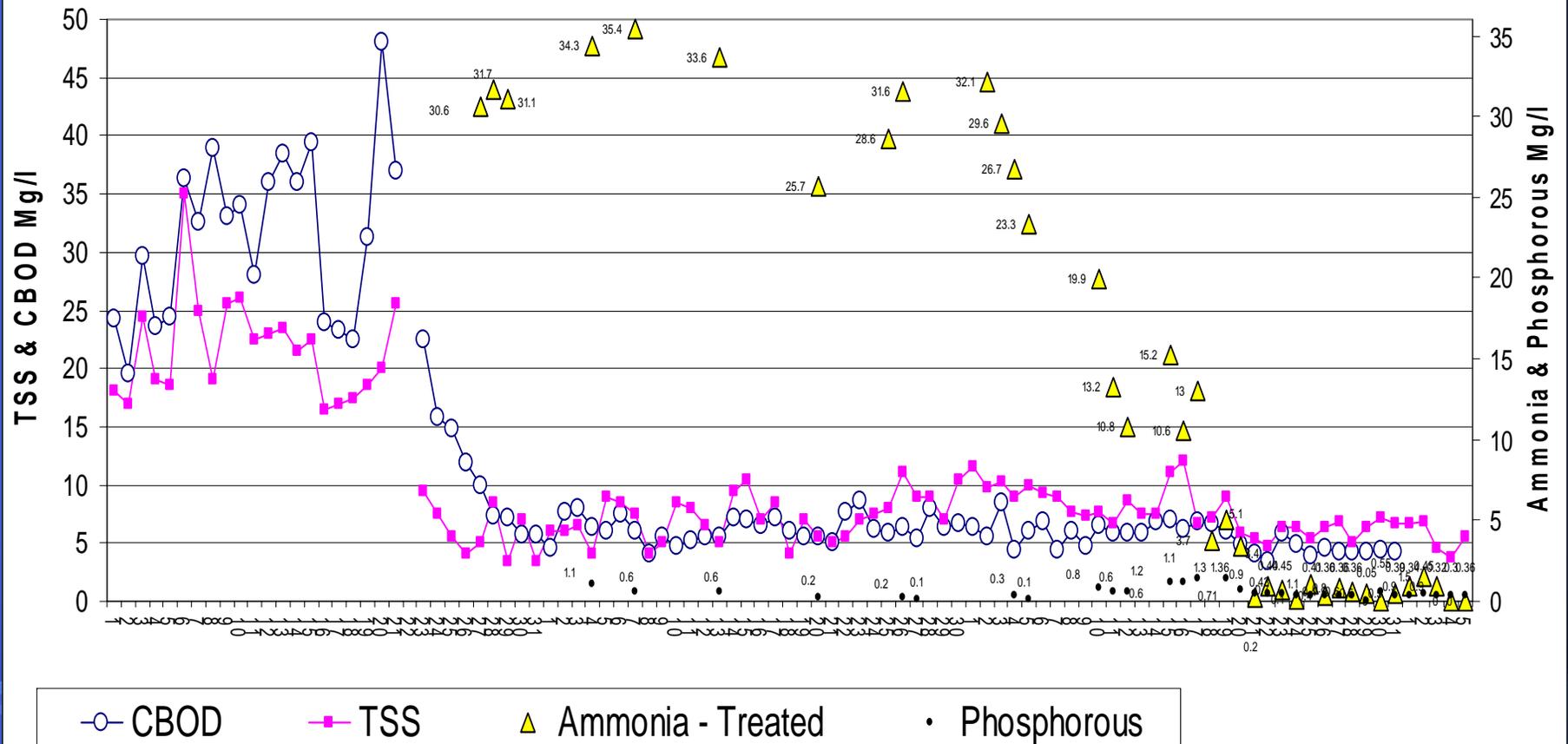
# WATER MANAGEMENT

## TOWN OF OKOTOKS Water Produced and Per Capita Consumption



# WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT

## Okotoks WWTP - Effluent Mar 1 to June 5, 2006



# HOUSING



## Yearly Residential Permit Starts

**2003**  
**449**

**2004**  
**467**

**2005**  
**711**

**2006**  
**142\***

\* Jan-Mar 2006



# SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD DESIGN



“A community within a community”

# WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

**“Leap Outside the Box”**

**Create a clear vision**

**Make your goals tangible and deliverable**

**Find & Form Partnerships**

**Ask “*Who Needs to be at the Table*”?**

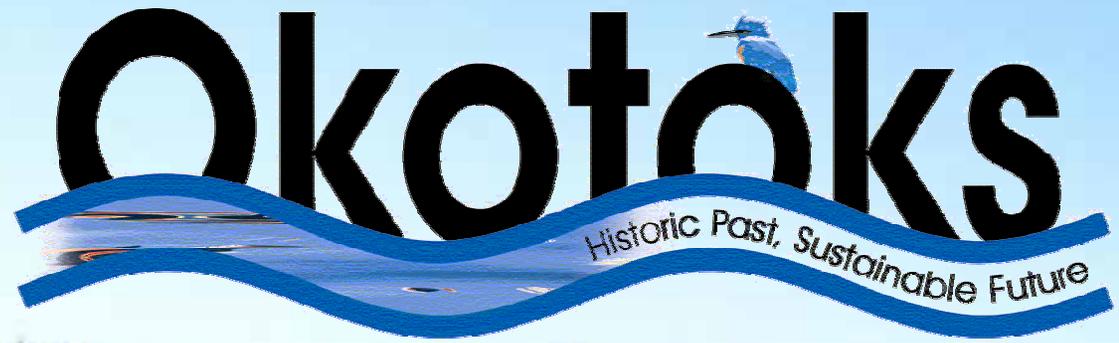
**(administration, public, council, developers, provincial departments, etc.)**

**Make sustainability the “*business that you’re in*” – not a “*program*”**

**Adapt and Adopt from others**

**Build a community you  
can be proud of!**

**Leave a positive legacy  
for future generations!**



*"We didn't inherit the Earth from our parents. We're borrowing it from our children."*

Chief Seattle (1788-1866)