

Town of Olds wins 2008 Alberta Public Works Association Project of the Year – Capacity Expansion, Wastewater Treatment (Waste Not Ltd. and Town of Olds)

Award presented at Town Council meeting 27 October 2008



L-R: Scott Chant, Manager of Utilities & Public Works, Town of Olds
Darwin Durnie, President, Alberta Public Works Association
Shayne Robinson, Waste Not Ltd.
Stacy Dyer, Executive Director, Alberta Public Works Association

PWAA recognizes town project

Paul Frey, Olds Albertan

reprinted courtesy of *Olds Albertan*

November 4, 2008

Volume 16, Number 45

www.oldsalbertan.ca

The Public Works Association of Alberta recently recognized the Town of Olds for an innovative way of dealing with wastewater. The town was given the project of the year by the provincial association for the way it dealt with sewage treatment.

Town staff, along with a company known as Waste Not Ltd, piped an enzyme solution into sewage lines before waste reached the treatment facility, effectively increasing the capacity of the plant. Scott Chant, the town's manager of utilities and public works, said upon a chance meeting with Shane Robinson from Waste Not, the town was led to researching the effectiveness of treating the sewage before it gets to the plant.

Upon further investigation from the town, Waste Not agreed to help the town by injecting a pre-determined amount of solution into the lines at regular intervals. Chant compared the system to an air freshener that pumps a fragrance into the air every few minutes.

The town entered into a year-long contract with Waste Not to help the town with the problem. There are 22 points throughout the sewage line where micro-organisms in the solution are put into the line and feed on the matter in the pipes. That, in turn, means the treatment plant doesn't have to work as hard as it would without the solution being injected.

"We really wanted to try this out because ... we're going to a regional system and instead of trying to spend a lot of capital dollars on upgrading the plant and then trying to get that capacity for a period of time ... this is one way of dealing with that problem until the regional system comes into play," he said.

The project was initially discussed in 2007 and first tried out in June. It has met with good success thus far. Chant said it will take about 18 months for the full effect of solution to take hold. "We're seeing effects on the system in the first six months. It should just continually see better results as we go on," he said.

Olds is the first community in Alberta to try this technology, while other communities are watching intently to see how they might benefit from it.