



Hydroconsult

Currents

NEWSLETTER

8th EDITION

DEC. 2004




Dear clients, friends and colleagues

We wish you and your family all the best in the Christmas season and in 2005. May we especially be cognizant at this time of those less fortunate, here at home and abroad. As in past years, we will not be mailing out Christmas cards but will be supporting several organizations dedicated to helping those who need our assistance.

We have had another busy and exciting year and 2005, as you can see from the enclosed announcement, will constitute a significant change for Hydroconsult. We see the change as very positive as it will enable us to better serve the needs of our clients.

To all of you, we thank you for your support and trust in 2004.

W. Veldman *Jason White* *DeLaney* *Gary Evenson*
A. K. Lopez *Jeese Wang* *Fandie Doyle* 

Hydroconsult Acquired by Matrix Solutions Inc.



The need for an Exit Strategy has become increasingly clear as I approached my 60th year. Not only for myself but equally important for my staff as they considered their long term future. Attracting additional senior staff to a company with an uncertain 5 and 10 year business plan was difficult.

I am very excited about Hydroconsult merging with Matrix Solutions Inc. and look forward to the future as we develop our synergies.

Hydroconsult's one-on-one relationship with clients will change very little. The name will be retained in the near future. But with Matrix's consulting scope, personnel and overall corporate strengths, we will be able to better meet our clients needs.

To clients who have put your trust in us, thank you. To our friends and family who have encouraged us, we are forever grateful. To our excellent competitors, you have motivated us.

Wim Veldman

Hydroconsult Wins Awards of Excellence



At the 2004 Consulting Engineers of Alberta "Showcase Awards", Hydroconsult received 2 Awards of Excellence for their role in the OCP oil pipeline in Ecuador. We share these awards with our client Techint, Argentina (EPC Contractor) and OCP's Owners including, EnCana. Some of the judges comments were:



"The organization, risk, value and benefit elements of this project are unique and require specialized engineering thinking - sometimes that which cannot be handled in a computer model."

"The OCP Pipeline Project was very complex and had a high level of risk. Hydroconsult was able to apply innovative solutions,

managed the risks appropriately, and deliver the project on schedule."

In the July/August 2004 issue of "Alberta Venture" magazine, Hydroconsult's OCP project was featured in an article "Engineered to the Extreme."

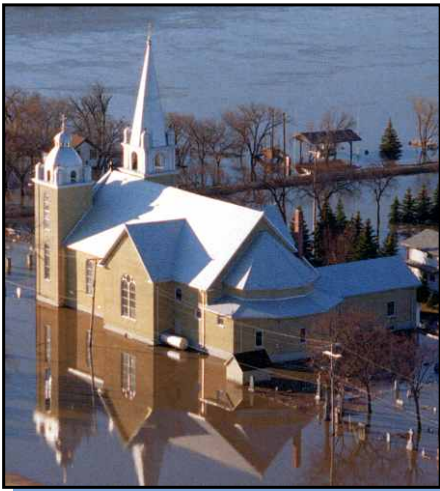


We Will Be Moving - Again See back page for our new address - phone numbers will stay the same.



International Water Resources Consultants - "Small in Focus, Global in Reach"

Winnipeg Floodway - Back to the Future

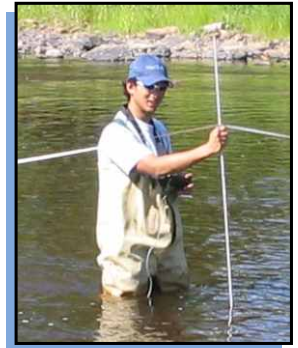


In 1969 Wim as a Junior Water Resources Engineer was involved in the first operations of the just - completed Winnipeg Floodway. As a consequence of the "Flood of the Century" in 1997, the Manitoba Floodway Authority has completed a Preliminary Design

for a \$500 million plus enlargement of the floodway system. Wim, on behalf of regulators assessing the project, is responsible for the hydraulic review of the gated inlet structure, dikes, floodway channel and outlet structure.

Mining Black Gold

Rising energy prices both in oil and coal in 2004 have fueled activity in Alberta to a frenzied pace. Hydroconsult has provided water management services in the opening up to two new coal projects in Hinton and Grande Cache, expansions for another near Edson, and the planning for a thermal coal mine/powerplant near Brooks as well as ongoing oilsands expansion in Fort McMurray. Our scope has involved EIAs, regulatory permitting, design, construction supervision and monitoring.



In the Land of the Amazon, Andes and Deserts - South America

In 2004, pipeline projects in South America continued to be a significant component of Hydroconsult's work. We completed our fifth year of monitoring the river crossings and 80 km of instream alignments on the GasAtacama pipeline in Northern Argentina. In Peru and Ecuador we prepared detailed site specific survey and monitoring plans for the significant river crossings for



the Camisea and OCP pipelines respectively. The extensive hands-on experience we have gained during design, construction and operations, whether in South America or Alaska, forms our engineering foundation for proposed major projects such as the Mackenzie Valley pipeline in Canada.

Hydroconsult Timeline

A flood of record on the Sagavanirktok River in the North Slope of Alaska. Hydroconsult opens its door with Wim Veldman and Dana Veldman, part time.

1992

Wim Veldman turns 50 and bicycles to Manitoba because "its there".
An evaluation of the failure of three railway bridges in New Brunswick is Project No. 100.

A 1000 plus year flood in Pincher Creek and Waterton Areas. Hydroconsult involved in damage assessment and repairs.

1994

Wim Veldman attends the opening of the Trans Alaska Oil Pipeline exhibit at the Smithsonian in Washington, DC. Dave Cooper joins Hydroconsult as Vice President. Hydroconsult commences work in Argentina.

1996

Monica Caine becomes Hydroconsult's first full time employee and senior engineer.

1997

The year commencing with the completion of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline, is Project No. 500.

In, Out and Over the Bow River

In the past year Hydroconsult managed the design, permitting and construction of a major intake for a golf course on the Bow River in Calgary.



At the present we are developing detailed designs and cofferdam construction and dewatering specifications for 2 - 1.8 m diameter sewer diffuser outfall pipes across the Bow River. We also assisted the City of Calgary in the permitting of bridge modifications and new bridges across the Bow River and Fish Creek respectively.

Future Employees ?

Gary Evenson and wife Corinna were blessed with a baby boy, Brady David born Feb. 19, 2004.



Juan Sarmiento and wife Liliana were blessed with a baby boy, Luciano born July 21, 2004.

The Mackenzie River - Lifeblood of the North

The Mackenzie River, Canada's largest river, was and continues to be the Lifeblood of the North. Barges pass under the vertical cliffs at the Ramparts and glide into the vast expanse of the Delta. In 2004 Hydroconsult assisted Imperial Oil Resources in evaluating their six artificial oil production islands at Norman Wells and continued its key role in assisting Colt KBR, Project Manager for the Mackenzie Gas Project.



Hydroconsult's studies for the MGP range from an evaluation of the effect of climate change on pipeline river crossings to the conceptual design of river intakes for the numerous camps required to build the \$5 billion project. In 2005 we expect to be involved in the regulatory phase.

Moose Calls at Richardson Lake

Tourism is an increasing business in Lake Athabasca and in the Athabasca River Delta in Northern Alberta. The vistas, wildlife and culture of the First Nations are all attractions.



Wim was able to experience that first hand in September as he overnights in the Delta after evaluating the feasibility of enhancing flows into Richardson Lake. Follow-up permitting, detailed design and field engineering during construction in early 2005 is anticipated.

through the Years

<p>2000</p> <p>ences with few Y2K problems. ate for the Foothills Alaska gas Commenced work in Ecuador.</p>	<p>2001</p> <p>September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center, New York. Hydroconsult wins multiple awards from provincial and national engineering bodies for work in Argentina. Commenced work in Peru.</p>	<p>2002</p> <p>Canada wins gold in mens and womens Olympic hockey in Salt Lake. Hydroconsult evaluates the impacts of a 7.9 earthquake in Alaska and volcanic eruption of El Reventador in Ecuador both occurring on November 3. Commenced work on Mackenzie Valley Pipeline.</p>	<p>2003</p> <p>Hydroconsult moves into a new office. Wim Veldman marks 30 years of consulting to the Trans Alaska Oil Pipeline.</p>	<p>2004</p> <p>Calgary Flames hockey team comes within one game of winning the NHL's Stanley Cup. Hydroconsult receives 2 provincial Awards of Excellence for work in Ecuador. Hydrologic Studies on Colville River, Alaska is Project No. 900.</p>
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Restoring and Maintaining Classic Structures

A wooden trestle railway bridge evokes strong images of a steam locomotive. In northern British Columbia, Hydroconsult is advising CN Railway on upgrading requirements as they evaluate re-establishing services on an old line.



In the City of Calgary, Hydroconsult has just completed a 2 year inspection program of all the bridges across the Bow River. The overall scope managed by Hydroconsult involved river surveys to determine pier scour, underwater inspections to assess footing and pier conditions and overall structure evaluations of areas of concern. This was a follow-up to a similar program undertaken 10 years ago.



In April 2004 Wim Veldman was elected to a 3 year term on the APEGGA Council.

Security at Work



While disconcerting at first, guards shadowing your every move quickly becomes acceptable and standard protocol in projects from Yemen to South America. Security is a concern as evidenced by kidnappings in Ecuador and Peru. Although on a day-to-day basis, greater dangers are likely posed by traveling mountainous roads, pipeline right-of-ways and "bridges" spanning raging streams as well as helicopter trips over the turbulent Andes at extreme elevations. It brings to mind the skilled pilots from Calgary who, after rescuing critically ill people from the South Pole in the dead of winter, were asked about the most dangerous part of the trip - *"The taxi ride to the hotel in Guayaquil, Ecuador."*

Staff Changes

Arrivals

Don Ramsey, M.Sc., P.Eng. - with more than 40 years of experience in electric, irrigation, flood control and water supply projects and river basin and environmental studies in Canada, China, Egypt, Nepal and Sri Lanka, Don has strengthened Hydroconsult's senior professional and management capabilities.

Jesse Wong, B.Sc. - a 2004 University of Calgary graduate in Geography, has been a valued addition in undertaking flow monitoring, surveys, project applications and permit coordination.

Departures

Best of Luck to **Amanda Ivers** (expecting baby #2), **Andy Wong** (who is focusing on structural engineering) and **Greg Standen** (now in BC).



Hydroconsult
ENB Services Ltd.

***** NEW ADDRESS *****
January 1, 2005

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Email addresses will remain unchanged for the near future.