

Abstract Submission for 5th Canadian River Heritage Conference

Title of Presentation:
Wascana Lake – The Big Dig

Category: River Management

Presenter:

Van Isman

Abstract

More than 100 years have passed since Regina's Wascana Lake was originally developed from the lazy little Wascana Creek, and more than 90 years have passed since the Provincial Capital was established on its shore. Originally developed as a reservoir, the lake has become the focal point of Wascana Centre, one of the largest urban parks in North America.

Through natural processes, the lake was becoming a weedy marsh, and with a maximum depth of about 5 feet, no longer suitable for most sporting and recreational activities. Add in some people of vision, a determined workforce and \$18 million, and in the course of a winter the lake was drained, 1.4 million cubic meters excavated from the lake bed, a new shore line defined, new islands created, the lake refilled and major urban park was reborn.

This session will focus on what was done, how it was done, and the benefits of the project.

Biographical sketch:

S. P. (Van) Isman is the Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of Wascana Centre Authority (WCA).

Since completing his formal education (B.A., M.B.A.), Van's career has been equally split in the private and public sectors. Prior to joining WCA in 2004, most recently Van worked for the Province as Executive Director of Business and Cooperative Services.

Van has served as a director of various professional and volunteer organizations, including the Canadian Institute of Small Business Counselors and the Saskatchewan Economic Developers Association. In addition, he has taught as a sessional lecturer at the University of Regina.