

West Vancouver Consultants Recognized for Ethics and Stewardship

Joanna Habdank – *North Shore Business Review*

WHEN the market dipped and the water surged, Hatfield Consultants Ltd. held its ground.

The West Vancouver environmental consulting firm has been working in Canada and internationally since 1974. When an economic crisis hit Asia in the late '90s, companies much bigger than Hatfield pulled up stakes, but as president Thomas Boivin explained, after 17 years in Indonesia, the firm “hung in there,” and kept its office open, even though they had to weather “a few quite tough years” there.

In 2004, when a tsunami ravaged the Indonesian coast, Hatfield Consultants opened an office in the affected area and has since been providing development assistance to organizations such as CARE Canada and the Canadian Red Cross helping them include environmental considerations in the reconstruction of the coastal zone, such as using sustainable timber sources.



“There’s such massive construction going on over there. They’re building something like 150,000 houses, and you can imagine the impact that would have on the environment,” said Boivin.

Much of the company’s time and money is donated to various projects, including on-going work tracking dioxin contamination in Vietnam from Agent Orange used during the Vietnam War.

In May, Hatfield Consultants was recognized for its efforts when the company received the Nexen Award for Excellence in Corporate Social and Ethical Responsibility at the Canadian Awards for International Co-operation in Fredericton, N.B. The award was presented by the Canadian International Development Agency and the Association of Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters. “What’s kind of neat, about us, I think, is that we’re a for-profit company of course here in Canada, but we give back quite a bit of our profits to helping out with international work, and also we give back quite a bit to have profit sharing with our staff and that type of thing. So if the company does well we re-invest that in our staff, in our people and also in hopefully some good causes overseas as well,” explained Boivin.

While committed to projects in Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand, Hatfield Consultants is also firmly entrenched in Western Canada, including the oil sands in Fort McMurray, Alta. “The developments up there are just so huge”

and it’s on such a massive scale, and there’s a real need for very good high-quality environmental work to be done to be monitoring the impacts of all these huge multi-billion dollar developments going on up there, and so that’s been quite rewarding work for us as well,” said Boivin.

The company is also currently serving as the environmental managers for the Sea to Sky Highway redevelopment.

“It’s been a real challenge,” explained Boivin. “It’s a huge project and that’s one of the things (about) being based in West Vancouver is it makes us perfect for that.” He explained that the medium-sized company – 45 employees in West Vancouver and 80 in total – is becoming a bit of a rare commodity these days because there is a trend in the industry for smaller companies to be swallowed up by bigger ones. With a company philosophy that includes settling in for long-term solutions, it’s no surprise Boivin notes that the bottom line is not the only deciding factor when it comes to business. “Obviously we want to have a strong and growing company and to thrive in the long term, but at the same time we also have a strong commitment to giving back, and we want to make sure that we’re contributing back to society as well as making a good life for our staff and for the company (and) partners. For more information about Hatfield Consultants, visit the website at www.hatfieldgroup.com.