



WSAMA News

Volume 2005, No. 1

February 2005

2005 Spring Conference Edition

Where: Hotel Grand Pacific in Victoria, B.C.

When: April 27-29, 2005

Hotel Room Block Cut-Off: March 27, 2005

Hotel Reservation Number: 1-800-663-7550

Conference and Hotel Registration

The spring WSAMA conference will be held at the Hotel Grand Pacific in Victoria, B.C. on April 27- 29, 2005. This is the first time WSAMA has been to Victoria since 1990. The Hotel Grand Pacific is a 5-star hotel located on the Inner Harbour.

The materials needed to register for this conference are available on the WSAMA Web site at www.wsama.org:

- Preliminary Agenda
- WSAMA Conference Registration Form
- Optional Golf Scramble Form
- Victoria Hotel Information
- Information on Transportation to Victoria

Conference attendees should make their own hotel reservations directly with the Hotel Grand Pacific at the following toll-free number: 1-800-663-7550.

The room rate for this conference will be \$179 Canadian for single or double occupancy. This rate is only guaranteed until March 27, so please make your room reservations early. Also be sure to identify yourself as an attendee at the WSAMA conference to obtain the reduced room rate.

Program Highlights

We will meet in a three half-day format that will allow one free afternoon for attendees to enjoy Victoria. Conference sessions

will be Wednesday afternoon from 1 to 5, Thursday morning from 8 to noon, and Friday morning from 8 to noon.

As usual, we try to cover as many facets of municipal law as possible with a mix of basic nuts and bolts topics along with some more specialized areas of the law. A legislative update will review significant legislation from the 2005 session, including the status of the proposed legislative response to the *Hangartner* case, which could dramatically impact the public records law. There will be several land use presentations, including one on required critical areas updates and another on transportation and SEPA impact fees.

Several presentations will focus on trial practices, including one by Tsongas Litigation, which gave an excellent presentation at our last spring conference, on making effective use of visuals and graphics in trials and other presentations. In addition, there will be presentations in employment law and other general areas of municipal practice.

A separate session on topics of specific interest to prosecutors will be offered Thursday morning. This session will focus on trial practice, including topics on DUI Trial Preparation, Evidence: Making and Meeting Objections, Conducting an Effective Voir Dire, and Understanding HGN, which stands for Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus, for those of us who don't practice in that area.

There will be one and one-quarter hours of ethics on the general program, with an additional ethics roundtable that will allow attendees to obtain their needed two hours of ethics credits at this one conference.

We have requested 10.25 hours of total CLE credits for this conference, which will include 1.25 hours of ethics for most attendees – if you attend the ethics roundtable attendees will be able to obtain 2.00 hours of ethics credits.

There will not be a New Municipal Attorney Seminar at this conference since that is offered every other year. However, we are going to have a New Municipal Attorney roundtable for the first time which will allow newer municipal attorneys to discuss topics of interest with other newer municipal attorneys. If this

roundtable is successful, we will add it as a feature at all WSAMA conferences.

Social Highlights!

There will be a welcome reception on Wednesday evening and also a hosted reception Thursday evening for attendees. We want to thank our sponsors who make our receptions possible: Kenyon Disend; Foster Pepper & Shefelman; Ogden Murphy Wallace; and Preston Gates & Ellis.

There will not be a lunch on Thursday so as to allow attendees more free time to enjoy Victoria on Thursday afternoon. There will be the usual continental breakfast on Thursday and a FULL course breakfast on Friday morning.

A golf scramble on Thursday afternoon.

The conference is designed to allow attendees some free time in Victoria. It will be great time to go visit Butchart Gardens, go on a whale watch trip leaving from the Inner Harbour, go the Royal BC Museum, or enjoy any of the many other attractions of Victoria. WSAMA does not make the specific arrangements for these attractions, but the hotel concierge can help with any questions or desired reservations.

Hotel Reservations

The convention hotel will be the Hotel Grand Pacific, right on the Inner Harbour in Victoria next to the Parliament Building. Attendees should make their own hotel reservations directly with the hotel. Their toll-free number is 1-800-663-7550 – be sure to identify yourself as an attendee at the WSAMA conference for the best rate. Make your reservations prior to March 27; after that date the hotel may release our block of rooms. For more information on the hotel, check out the web site at www.hotelgrandpacific.com.

The basic room rate for conference attendees is \$179 Canadian for single or double occupancy. This is actually less than the room rate we paid for the Sheraton Wall Centre Hotel, which was the conference hotel for the Spring 2003 conference in Vancouver, B.C. Unfortunately, due to the decline in the value of the dollar in the last two years, the actual expense for attendees will be greater.

There are other hotels in the vicinity of the Hotel Grand Pacific. These include the Best Western Inner Harbour, which is located less than one block away and whose standard room rate is about \$129 Canadian, at 1-888-383-2378. Another option is the Days Inn on the Harbour, which is also less than one block away

and has standard rates of about \$113, at 1-800-665-3024. See www.tourismvictoria.com for more suggestions.

Transportation to Victoria

There are a number of ways to reach Victoria from Washington State.

Victoria Clipper from Seattle –

One method is by the Victoria Clipper, which leaves from Pier 69 in Seattle. This is a passenger only ferry but may be the most convenient transportation option for many attendees who will not need a car in Victoria. We have negotiated a special rate of \$75 roundtrip for those who come over on Tuesday and Wednesday and leave on Friday. Ask for Fare Code: WSAMA.

The Clipper leaves Seattle daily at 8 a.m. and arrives in Victoria at 10:30 a.m. The Clipper docks right across the street from the Hotel Grand Pacific. The Clipper leaves Victoria daily at 6:30 p.m. and arrives back in Seattle at 8:30 p.m.

You can contact Victoria Clipper at (206) 448-5000 or check their web site at www.victoriaclipper.com.

Black Ball –

The Black Ball line operates a passenger and car ferry between Port Angeles and Victoria. The crossing takes about 95 minutes. The ferry leaves Port Angeles daily at 8:20 a.m. and 1:45 p.m. and leaves Victoria at 10:30 and 4:00 p.m. The cost is about \$35 each way for car and driver. For more information contact Black Ball Transport at (360) 457-449 or their web site at www.northolympic.com/coho.

Kenmore Air from Lake Union in Seattle or Lake Washington in Kenmore -

Kenmore Air has seaplane service from two locations - Lake Union Terminal in Seattle and Lake Washington Terminal in Kenmore. Kenmore has guaranteed a price of \$172.70 roundtrip for WSAMA conference attendees. Ask for the "Atty Conf" fare.

Kenmore Air departs the Lake Union Terminal in Seattle on Monday to Friday, 7:50 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 3:30 p.m. and returns from Victoria on Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m., Noon, and 4:30 p.m.

For more information on Kenmore Air, see the announcement on the WSAMA web page, or contact them directly at 1-800-543-9595 or www.kenmoreair.com.

Washington State Ferry –

The Washington State Ferry system operates a ferry for car and passenger traffic between Anacortes and Sydney, B.C. on Vancouver Island, about twenty miles from Victoria. The rate for car and passenger will be about \$40 one way. I was not able to locate their schedule for April yet but check on their web site, www.wsdot.gov/ferries or 1-888-808-7977.

WSAMA Board Applications

There will be at least one vacancy on the WSAMA board of directors, beginning in May 2005. The term of office is two years. The primary function of the board is to help plan the spring and fall WSAMA conferences. Serving on the board does require the ability to attend four board meetings a year – an all-day meeting in early February, an all-day meeting in July, and two lunch meetings following the spring and fall conferences. Reimbursement for necessary travel expenses is provided by WSAMA for the January and July board meetings.

The WSAMA board is very interested in having a board that represents all the WSAMA members. At the January 2001 board

meeting, a Resolution on Diversity was adopted to embody the commitment of the board to provide an opportunity for all WSAMA members to participate in the activities of the organization through association with WSAMA board programs, committees, and board membership.

If you are interested in being considered for membership on the WSAMA board, send your name and the city you represent to Donita Mowers or Patrick Mason, at the address listed at the end of the newsletter.

Conference Questions???

If you have any questions about the fall conference in Chelan, contact either Donita Mowers or Patrick Mason at the Municipal Research and Services Center:

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