



Garry Bezruki Receives Peter Bennett Award 2013



GARRY BEZRUKI, a founder of MISA/ASIM Canada who is still working to nurture its national vision, has been honoured with the Peter Bennett Award. Bezruki received Canada's highest municipal IT award September 9 during the Municipal CIO Summit in Whistler, BC.

Delegates gave him a prolonged standing ovation for his contributions to both MISA/ASIM Canada and MISA Ontario. Bezruki, from the City of Waterloo, is treasurer of both organizations. He is the only person, in fact, who has ever been treasurer of MISA/ASIM Canada, and was an organizer of its formal launch in 2006. His detailed financial reports, analyses and recommendations have formed the core of MISA/ASIM Canada's sustainability plan, which has now enabled long-term national initiatives to be supported. Bezruki has done much the same in Ontario, noted Kathryn Bulko, president of MISA/ASIM Canada, in presenting the Peter Bennett Award to Bezruki at the Summit's annual dinner at the Fairmont Chateau Whistler.

"Garry has been a strategic leader for the Ontario municipal IT community," Bulko said. "During Garry's term as president of MISA Ontario from 2009 to 2011, he initiated a process for the development of a five-year strategic plan that has put the association on a solid path of driving benefits to membership. His plan continues to be implemented by the MISA Ontario Executive."

Bezruki's 28-year career at the City of Waterloo has illustrated how information-technology expertise has become increasingly central to municipal governance. In recent years he has progressed from the position of director of information management and technology services to his current position as director of strategic initiatives and CIO. He is leading a newly formed division within the City, reporting directly to the CAO, on matters of strategic importance to the corporation.

Accepting his award, Bezruki recalled how the late Peter Bennett, manager of information systems for the City of Winnipeg, had provided information to the City of Waterloo to help it implement an enterprise GIS system. "More importantly from my perspective is being able to honour Peter by bringing to reality the vision that he had along with Roy Wiseman, and that's MISA/ ASIM Canada," Bezruki said.