



## **Maurice Gallant Receives Peter Bennett Award 2014**



Maurice Gallant, a quiet revolutionary who has been a leading figure in municipal IT progress in Eastern Canada for many years, has been honoured with the Peter Bennett Award.

Gallant was presented with the coveted award during the Municipal CIO Summit – an event he helped to create – on April 11<sup>th</sup> in Banff.

Gallant is CIO, Director Information, Improvement and Innovation / President, e-Novations for the City of Fredericton. He has other roles too, and has been widely influential at several levels.

At national and international levels, Gallant has been a leader of initiatives that have brought Fredericton outsized recognition for a city of about 57,000. Most recently Fredericton received a Willis Award for Innovation from the Canadian Association of Municipal Innovators for its municipally owned telecommunications company, eNovations, which has delivered “intelligent infrastructure” to the community.

Gallant is president and CEO of eNovations. In 2003 he led the implementation of a free WiFi network called Fred-eZone throughout the city, the first of its kind in North America.

Gallant also helped Fredericton achieve a finalist position in the global 2008 Intelligent Communities competition and to be the first ISO 9000 registered municipality in Canada.

With his genial, calm and practical approach to resolving issues, Gallant has been instrumental in maintaining Atlantic Canada’s involvement with MISA/ASIM Canada. He was president of the national association in 2010-2012 and led the Board through several significant advancements:

- Development and early implementation of a strategic and sustainability plan, including an equitable funding model and new partnership offerings for vendors;
- Strengthening of the linkages between MISA/ASIM Canada and regional chapters;
- Creation of the inaugural Municipal CIO Council Summit in 2011;
- Expansion of participation and dialogue with information-technology peers in provincial, federal and territorial jurisdictions. Gallant represented Eastern Canadian municipalities for several years on the Public Sector CIO Council.

Gallant has always had a vision of information technology as a collaborative means of improving municipal governance and services to citizens. In a 2011 column published in *Municipal Interface*, he said:

“The role of municipal IT leaders now is to add strategic value to internal business processes while helping to design, support, and maintain innovative service delivery channels to our always changing customers – and doing it on their terms. MISA/ASIM Canada, working hand-in-glove with its five regional member organizations across the country, can help us meet these challenges head on.”

In presenting the Peter Bennett Award to Gallant in Banff, Kathryn Bulko, president of MISA/ASIM Canada and manager of client relationship management with the City of Toronto, said he epitomizes the spirit of the award.

The Peter Bennett Award is presented annually to an individual making an outstanding contribution to the Canadian municipal IT community and to the MISA/ASIM Canada mission and objectives. It is named for the one of the founders of MISA/ASIM Canada, a technology pioneer from Winnipeg who died in 2005.

“Peter Bennett was a municipal IT leader known for working above and beyond the call with humour and humanity,” Bulko said. “I’m sure you’ll all agree with me that Maurice Gallant deserves recognition worthy of Peter’s name.”