

ALBERTA PLANNING EXCHANGE

The Newsletter of the
Community Planning Association of Alberta



February 2008

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Tim Burton

Welcome to 2008! This will be a year that promises to be an important one for community planning in Alberta. With continued rapid population growth in Alberta, a provincial election in the air, the recently released provincial *Land Use Framework* Report on our desks, and increasing concerns about appropriate governance and administrative structures for regional planning in the province, how we plan for our diverse communities will be in the public spotlight. 2008 promises to be a critical year for planning in Alberta.

It is in this context that preparations for the association's *2008 Annual Conference and Education Session* are moving ahead rapidly. The Board agreed several months ago that the theme for the conference would be *Planning Regionally – Planning Reasonably*. The focus will be on inter-municipal issues and opportunities, lessons learned from problems encountered in past joint municipal and regional planning efforts, and experiences from current voluntary cooperative planning activities. We believe this is a timely theme that will be welcomed by many of our members. As well, it will be a valuable learning opportunity for newly elected municipal Councillors. As of the end of January we have confirmed speakers for all but a couple of sessions. Highlights can be found elsewhere in this *Newsletter*.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR...continued

As was indicated in our October 2007 *Newsletter*, we have changed the duration of the Conference (from one-and-a-half to two days) and reduced the duration of the Education Session (from one day to a half-day), while keeping the combined duration of the two events at two-and-a-half days. As well, we have moved the location in Red Deer – from the Capri Centre to the Black Knight Inn. We believe these changes will be beneficial for our members, but will be sure to ask your opinions through evaluations carried out during both events.

As I noted in our last *Newsletter*, the CPAA is unique in Canada in that its membership is drawn from among elected officials, municipal and provincial administrators, professional planners, planning educators and students, other planning-related professionals (such as architects and engineers), developers and realtors, representatives of community organizations, and citizens at large. Our mission is to provide opportunities to share, promote and encourage sound community planning activities and initiatives among all stakeholders in the planning process. Given this mission and the diversity of our membership, it is vital that we keep ourselves engaged with our members. We welcome your questions and comments about planning issues, activities, and opportunities in our province.

I hope to see many of you at the *Conference and Education Session* in April and look forward to renewing acquaintance with long-established members and meeting new members for the first time.



Tim Burton. CPAA Chairman.
Photo taken at Board of Directors
Meeting in Peace River.
Summer 2006.

COMMENTS FROM THE EDITOR

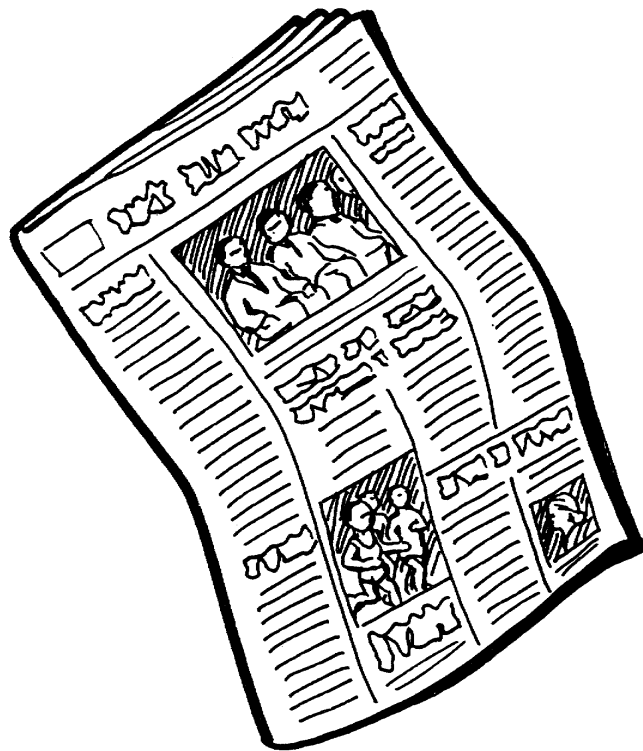
Carla Semeniuk

I am pleased and excited to fill the position of Editor of the *Alberta Planning Exchange*, CPAA's Newsletter! For the past year, Bill Gillespie, CPAA Director was in charge of putting together the newsletter and, may I add, did so fantastically! Thank you Bill! I'm sure I will be coming to you for advice and assistance.

I promise to strive to continue to communicate CPAA's news and initiatives to our members in a timely and interesting manner, and bring to light community planning trends and practices that affect our membership and rapidly growing province.

If you have any ideas that you think CPAA should cover in the newsletter, please contact CPAA.

Carla Semeniuk
Editor



CPAA ANNUAL CONFERENCES: A DECADE IN PERSPECTIVE

Carla Semeniuk

CPAA Annual Conference is a signature event for the Board of Directors, delegates and attendees. The conference is well-attended and always a great time for learning, networking and sharing ideas, experiences and lessons learned. The Board works hard each to carefully secure a lineup of conference speakers that will explore community planning issues and trends at the forefront of discussion within the industry.

This issue of the *Alberta Planning Exchange* takes a special look back at the past decade of CPAA conferences to highlight CPAA's history as an important organization working to gather, disseminate and discuss planning issues of relevance to all those who are interested. The chronology of past conferences listed below, covering 14 conferences, is illustrative of the themes that preoccupied the industry, and consequently CPAA, during that particular year.

CPAA Past Annual Conferences

- 2007 *Planning People-Friendly Places: Back to Grassroots*
- 2006 *Alberta –The Next Fifty Years: Masters of our Own Destiny*
- 2005 *Economic Opportunities and Fiscal Challenges*
- 2004 *Servicing our Communities and Regions: Opportunities, Processes and Partnerships*
- 2003 *Sustainability...Planning for the Next Generation*
- 2002 *Building Communities – Building Capacity – Building Neighbourhoods*
- 2001 *The Economy, the Environment – Striking a Balance*
- 2000 *Winds of Change*
- 1998 *Footprints to 2000*
- 1996 *The Challenge of Community Growth*
- 1995 *In the HereAfter: Alberta Post Amendments*
- 1994 *Coping with Change: Communities Meeting the Challenges*
- 1992 *Private – Public Partnerships...creating new opportunities with new attitudes*

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP AND NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Veronica Bliska

At the December 7, 2007 Board of Directors meeting in Edmonton, the CPAA Board learned that they would be saying goodbye to several Directors.

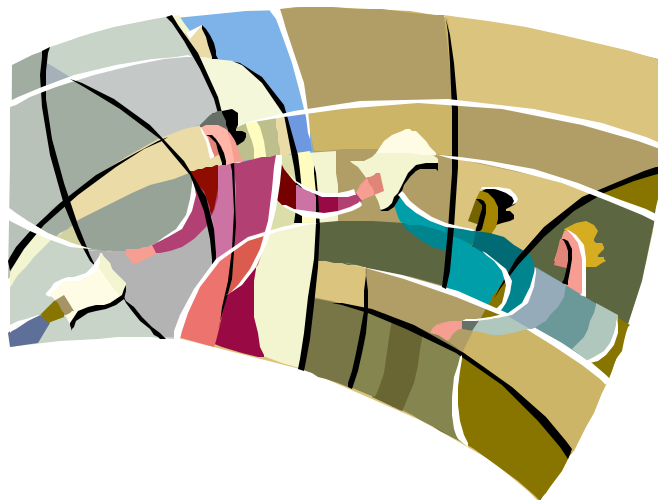
Veronica Bliska and Carolyn Kolebaba will be dedicating more time to their political careers. Veronica's new role as Reeve creates new challenges and demands on her time, and so she has made a difficult decision and her name will not stand for re-election. Veronica states, "I've truly enjoyed my time as a director; this is an excellent organization to work with. I still plan on attending as a delegate."

In her capacity as Vice President of AAMD&C and Councillor of Northern Sunrise County, Carolyn brought a great spirit and intelligence to the Board. Carolyn feels she has found a special group amongst the Board of Directors, and discovered friends that, like her, were looking to improve awareness about planning in Alberta.

In December the Board underwent another change. Regrettably, Derril Butler, Reeve of Lac Ste. Anne County, announced that he will be resigning from the Board. Through an electronic vote, the Board replaced Derril Butler with Lynne Dale. Welcome to the Board Lynne!

Directors, Nick Paladino and Carla Semeniuk are up re-election at the Annual General Meeting, held each year during the conference.

The Membership and Nominations Committee encourages interested and qualified individuals who would like to join the Board of Directors to contact our office in Edmonton at (780) 432-6387 or visit the website at <http://www.cpaabiz/>.



2008 CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nick Paladino

Your CPAA Board of Directors is excited about the upcoming conference. From the comments and suggestions made by members during last year's annual conference, we learned that the topics focusing on joint planning, annexations and other inter-municipal issues were important to you. So, as reported earlier, this year's conference theme is *Planning Regionally – Planning Reasonably*. We believe that this is a timely theme and will be welcome by many of our members. Along with the Education Session, the conference is a valuable learning and networking opportunity for newly elected municipal councillors.

A good number of presenters have already confirmed their attendance, including Bill McAlpine, Mayor of the Town of Okotoks, Harry Harker, Planning Director with Red Deer County, Dave Dubauskas with the Alberta Capital Regional Alliance and Nathan Petherick, former Planning Director of the Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency.

Plan to attend the CPAA Annual Planning Conference and Education Session at the Black Knight Inn in Red Deer, April 7-9, 2008. Mark your calendars and register today!

Your 2008 Conference Committee

www.cpaabiz.com for registration forms and more information

2008 EDUCATION SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Bill Gillespie

The Community Planning Association of Alberta's (CPAA) Education Session will have a new format this year. It will be a half - day session rather than a full day session as in previous years. The session will take place Monday April 7, 2008 from 9.00am to 12.30pm and is titled Planning is a Process: Back to the Basics.

The targeted audience for this session is newly elected councillors, administrators, persons in the development industry and those who have an interest in planning. It is also meant for persons who wish to have a refresher in the planning process

We are very fortunate to have teamed up with the Oldman River Regional Services Commission (ORRSC) this year for our Education Session. The Commission is presenting a Municipal Planning Orientation Session on January 31, 2008 at the Lethbridge Lodge. The targeted audience for their orientation program and our education session dovetail very closely so we have asked them and they have agreed to present their program at our conference.

The content of the Education Session covers a wide variety of planning related subjects. These include the municipal responsibility in planning, subdivision approval and appeals; statutory documents bylaw amendments, the Municipal Government Act and the relationships of these in the planning of our communities. For those new to the planning process and those who wish to increase their knowledge of planning this is a valuable exercise.

So we invite all who wish to increase their knowledge of planning given by practicing planners from the ORRSC to attend our CPAA Education Session at the Associations annual conference.

CPAA & THE FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN, UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Rose-Mary Damiani

The CPAA has a well-established relationship with the Planning program in the Faculty of Environmental Design at the University of Calgary. Beyond the financial support of the scholarships for planning students, the CPAA Board provide students with the opportunity to network with professionals and facilitate a dialogue about community planning in Alberta by inviting all planning students to the annual CPAA conference.

In January of each year the CPAA Board members organize a luncheon to personally meet the planning students and faculty. The luncheon provides an informal setting for the board to promote the initiatives of the CPAA. The planning students enjoy a very personal introduction to the CPAA and its work in disseminating information and promoting discussion of the planning issues in Alberta. The board is always very excited to meet aspiring planners and designers and, in return, the Board gains valuable student participation at the annual conference. This year's meeting between the Board and University of Calgary planning students and faculty luncheon took place on January 25th, 2008.

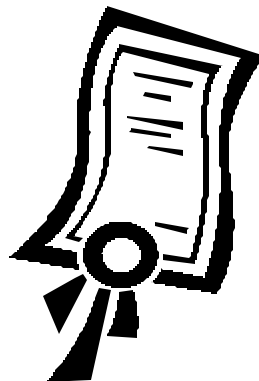
2007 TOM BALWIN SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Carla Semeniuk

The Board of Directors would like to congratulate Melissa Witwer from the University of Calgary Environmental Design Program, who is the proud first recipient of the Tom Baldwin Scholarship, valued at \$1000. The scholarship was named as a tribute to the late and much missed CPA Chair.

The cheque for the 2008 scholarship was presented to Professor Larissa Muller on January 25, 2008 during the Board's luncheon meeting with the EVDS students.

Members of the Scholarships and Awards Committee for 2007-2008 are: Mark Oberg, Bob van Wegen and Gloria Wilkinson.



UPDATE ON THE PROVINCIAL LAND USE FRAMEWORK

Carolyn Kolebaba

With a thriving economy and growing population, Alberta is experiencing unprecedented activity on its land. Alberta's land and natural resources have limits—it is imperative that the future be considered and a plan be set to balance the competing demands for land and natural resources.

The development of the LUF is a provincial cross-ministry initiative with participants from Sustainable Resource Development, Energy, Municipal Affairs and Housing, Environment and Agriculture and Food among others. This framework will provide an approach to better manage public and private lands and natural resources to meet Alberta's long-term economic, social and environmental goals.

A draft LUF is expected in early 2008. Once implemented, it is intended to become government policy that will help governments, industry and other groups make land-use decisions based on a foundation of good environmental management.

WHY YOU SHOULD BECOME A MEMBER

Whether you are an individual, a municipality or other organization, there are substantial benefits to being a member of the Community Planning Association of Alberta (CPAA).

The CPAA is the only planning organization in Alberta (and, indeed, in Canada) **whose principal purpose is to serve** non-technical and non-professional people involved in the planning process and affected by planning decisions: municipal Councillors, members of community organizations, developers and realtors, and members of the general public. We do this by bringing these groups in contact with planning professionals and educators and by providing opportunities for them to learn from each others planning experiences.

Our *Newsletter* frequently provides information about developments in community planning, planning legislation, and planning practice.

Participation in our *Annual Conference* and the accompanying *Education Session* are two other ways of learning about developments in community planning. There are, then, both substantive and financial benefits to be gained from membership. If you or your municipality/organization are not already a member, we encourage you to join now. A membership application form is enclosed with this Newsletter

