

ALBERTA PLANNING EXCHANGE

The Newsletter of the
Community Planning Association of Alberta



June 2008



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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Carla Semeniuk

Welcome to the summer edition of the Alberta Planning Exchange. In this edition, we are pleased to report on the success of the 2008 Community Planning Association Annual Conference, which was held for this first time at the Black Knight Inn in Red Deer from April 7 to 9th, 2008.

The Editor, along with the rest of the Board, would like to extend their gratitude to CPAA's Chair, Tim Burton for playing such a large role in making this year's annual conference such a success. Tim's dedication and enthusiasm demonstrates his strength of character and genuine interest and investment to the betterment of community planning across Alberta.

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

Carla Semeniuk, Editor



2008 CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

CPAA hopes its delegates enjoyed this year's conference as much, if not more, than previous years. Judging from the record number of delegates, formal and informal comments, the excitement of a new venue and an excellent line-up of speakers, we couldn't have asked for anything more!

CPAA Conference Trivia Question

Which County, MD or Municipality forgot to register for this year's conference?

Silent Auction A Success Again

Each year CPAA raises funds for up to five student scholarships from the proceeds of the silent auction. This year, a total of \$4045.00 was raised with 67 items. This is up from \$3530.00 with 76 items in 2007.

2008 EDUCATION SESSION

Bill Gillespie

The Education Session at the 2008 Community Planning Association of Alberta held on the morning of Monday, April 7, 2008 was a resounding success. One hundred and twenty eight municipal councillors, administrators, planners and other members of the development industry interested in community planning attended this half-day educational experience. The theme this year was *Planning is a Process: Back to the Basics*.

The presenters Lenz Kuiper, Steve Harty and Gavin Scot from the Oldman River Regional Services Commission did an excellent job. The content was complete and well expressed to the audience. Because the commission had done this presentation earlier to the new councillors in their service region they had confidence that the content was appropriate. They tailored their presentation to fit the Education Session's primary purpose, which was to inform new councillors how the planning process works in their communities and therefore, made the session relevant to those attending. Also, the commission was able to leave all of those in attendance with a copy of their presentation to use in their deliberations in planning matters in the communities they serve.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the cooperation of the Oldman River Regional Services Commission. From the first meeting CPAA Education Session organizer, Bill Gillespie, held with them to the time of presentation the cooperation could not have been better. Thank you again for taking the time and energy to present and facilitate the session!

The success of this year's Education Session has indeed set a precedent for future conferences to provide Education Sessions of such a high standard.

Bill Gillespie, Education Session Coordinator

CONFERENCE EVALUATION RESULTS

Tim Burton

This year's Annual Conference saw 210 registered Conference delegates (not including Board members, student volunteers, and speakers) from whom CPAA obtained 65 evaluations. This compares with 165 such delegates in 2007; 166 in 2006; 180 in 2004; and about 190 in 2005. Total registration for 2008, including Board members, students, and speakers, was about 275!

As with all five successive conferences, CPAA has conducted the evaluation for the responses received from registered delegates, not including Board members, student volunteers, and speakers. The following statistics illustrates and compares the rate of responses:

- 2008: 65 completed evaluations, about 31 percent of delegates;
- 2007: 55 completed evaluations, about 33 per cent of delegates;
- 2006: 60 completed evaluations, about 36 per cent of delegates;
- 2005: 70 completed evaluations, about 37 per cent of delegates; and
- 2004: 42 completed evaluations, about 23 per cent of delegates.

If we can continue to obtain a response rate of 30 per cent or higher, CPAA may consider this activity extremely successful, since response rates to self-completed surveys of this kind rarely exceed about 15%-20%.

Respondent rated the four Plenary Sessions; three Concurrent Sessions, social functions and characteristics of the Black Knight Inn. The results of this year' are as presented below.

The following percentages represent ratings of *Very Good* or *Good*:

Keynote Address: *A Perspective on Planning for the Calgary Region* - 91%

Plenary Address: *A Professional Perspective on Regional Planning in Alberta* - 98%

Question and Answer Panel: *Looking Back, Looking Forward* - 93%

Closing Plenary Address: *An Observer's View of Regional Planning in Alberta* - 92%

Concurrent Sessions:

Transfer of Development Credits - 94%

Regional Planning and Protection of Agricultural Land - 97%

The ratings of other sessions showed a little bit more variation in responses. The results are presented below.

Trials, Tribulations and Triumphs of the MMSA - Only 10 respondents rated this session: 4 of them rated it as *Very Good*; 6 thought it was *Good*.

Do's and Don'ts of Off-Site Levies - 63% rated it *Very Good*; 33% rated is as *Good*. 1 person rated it as *Fair*.

Regional Planning in the Capital Region -. 79% (*Very Good* or *Good*)

The Beaver Hills Initiative - Only 8 respondents rated this session: 7 of them saying it was *Very Good*; 1 rated it *Good*.

Geographic Information Systems in Regional Planning - 44 rated it *Very Good*; 44% rated it as *Good*; 13% rated it as *Fair*.

The Role of Land Trusts in Land Use Planning - 96% thought it was *Very Good* or *Good*.

Dispute Resolution Through Mediation and Arbitration – 47% said it was *Very Good*; 35% rated it as *Good*; 3 rated it as *Fair*.

Rating of the Social Functions:

Conference Reception - Overall, then, 96% rated the Reception as *Very Good* or *Good*.

Conference Luncheon - Overall, then, 100% rated it *Very Good* or *Good*.

Conference Banquet - Overall, 96% rated it *Very Good* or *Good*.

Rating of the Black Knight Inn:

Meeting Rooms - Overall, 87% rated them *Very Good* or *Good*.

Refreshment Breaks - 63% rated it *Very Good*; 37% said it was *Good*.

Luncheon Food - 75% saying it was *Very Good*; 25% said it was *Good*!

Banquet Food 86% said it was *Very Good*; 12% saying it was *Good*! 1 said it was *Fair*.

Meal Service - 79% saying it was *Very Good*; 21% said it was *Good*.

Hotel Staff - 75% they were *Very Good*; 25% rated them as *Good*.

Hotel Amenities - 58% said they were *Very Good*; 37% said they were *Good*; 2 people thought they were *Fair*.

Check-In Process - 87% said it was *Very Good*; 13% said it was *Good*.

Guest Rooms - 78% said their rooms were *Very Good*; 17% said they were *Good*, 1 person said they were *Fair*.

Commentary

The overall impression one gets from the evaluations is that, once again, the Conference was successful, with ratings of *Very Good* and dominant for just about every item evaluated.

CPAA can be proud of the 2008 conference. Our organization took the large increase in registration comfortably in stride! Though there were teething problems with the new location – most notably in the quality of the audiovisual services – the change from the Capri Centre to the Black Knight Inn seems to have been generally well accepted. The anticipated dissatisfaction with many delegates having to stay elsewhere for accommodation did not materialize. And, on the positive side, the quality of the food served at the meals and refreshment breaks was recognized as superior.

The topics and sessions reverberated well with delegates, the great majority of whom left at the end with positive feelings about their experiences. For the most part, Concurrent Sessions were as equally appreciated as the Plenary Sessions.

Perhaps the best way to summarize the predominant reaction of respondents can be found by the words of a couple of delegates:

"Thanks for the well planned conference in such beautiful surroundings."

"Best conference I have attended."



THANK YOU TO OUR 2008 CONFERENCE SPONSORS

This year's Conference was made possible by all our sponsors who helped raise a total of \$19,450. CPAA would like to extend their gratitude and appreciation. Conference sponsors are listed below.

Platinum Sponsors

Alberta Municipal Affairs
Armin A. Preiksaitis and Associates
Bordeaux Developments
Brown and Associates Planning Group
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
City of Calgary
Dillon Consulting Limited
Qualico Communities
Red Deer County
United Communities

Gold Sponsors

City of Edmonton
County of Grande Prairie
County of Lethbridge
Genivar - EXH Engineering Services
Lacombe County
Municipal District of Foothills
Northern Sunrise County
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Alberta Real Estate Foundation
Midwest Surveys Inc.
Municipal District of Rocky View
Scheffer Andrew Limited
Sturgess Architecture

Bronze Sponsors

Activation Analysis
City of Red Deer
Isle of Mann Management Services
Modular Manufactured Housing
Parkland County
Canadian Planning Technicians Association

AGM NEWS AND CPAA STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

At the AGM, Tim Burton, CPAA Chair, reported on the achievements of the past three years that are laid out in the Strategic Plan. In several areas, the organization has evolved and grown. In three years, CPAA has worked on improving and refining four areas. The important areas of focus and work are listed below.

Governance and Management

- Revised and adopted the Association's Bylaws;
- Established four permanent Board Committees;
- Written job descriptions; and
- Relocated the head office and retained an experienced Board Secretary.

Education Initiatives

- Began evaluating annual conferences;
- Initiated a Sponsorship Program;
- Established the annual Tom Baldwin Memorial Graduate Scholarship in Planning (2007);
- Conducted a comprehensive review of Conference and Education Session registration fees;

Membership Development

- Membership categories were simplified (2007) and more directly related to Conference and Education Session fees.

Outreach Initiatives

- CPAA's website was relocated in 2006 and its layout was improved;
- Participated in the development of the Provincial Land Use Framework;
- The newsletter was revived in 2006 and was improved in terms of format and frequency of publication; and
- Participated in reviewing the University of Alberta's new undergraduate Degree Program in Planning.

The Board of Directors will be working on other improvements in the year to come. Some of the main focus areas are:

- Reviewing the Sponsorship Program;
- Re-examining the silent auction process;
- Assessing and revising membership categories and fee structure;
- Developing CPAA promotional activities; and
- Examining a future speaker series.

DRAFT LAND USE FRAMEWORK

Bill Gillespie

On May 21, 2008, The Honourable Ted Morton, Minister of Sustainable Resources and Environmental Management released the draft *Land Use Framework* to the public. This is the culmination of 18 months of consultation and hard work to put together a policy and implementation program for integrated and sustainable land use in Alberta. Further public participation and work will be done to make this a document that can be used by all. It is anticipated that the final document will be finalized with implementation and legislative programs completed in the early fall.

In the spring of 2007, four working groups were put together to look at all aspects of land use in Alberta. These working groups were:

1. Growth and Resource Management
2. Planning and Decision-Making
3. Conservation and Stewardship
4. Monitoring and Evaluation

Each group was made up of from 20-30 people from a wide variety of expertise in land use and land use planning. The Community Planning Association of Alberta had three persons representing our interests: Veronica Bliska, and Bill Gillespie, Board Members, and Doug Parrish a former Board Member. During the spring, summer and fall each group met a number of times and prepared four documents on the topics stated above and presented them to the Minister in October of 2007. These, along with other reports and minutes from public consultation, were reviewed and out of these came the draft *Land Use Framework*.

The *Land Use Framework* when it is finalized will have a considerable influence on municipal planning in the province. The province is divided into six regions based on the six most important watersheds in the province. When the regional plans for these regions are completed and approved by the Government of Alberta, the regional plan will be the paramount plan. All municipal plans and provincial plans will have to conform to the regional plan. So, the province will have a provincial plan hierarchy, with the regional plan as the highest plan.

The draft *Land Use Framework* looks at a number of questions and issues. The first being: *Why do we need a Framework for the use of our land?* The draft looks at the steps and processes required to get to a regional framework in logical sequence: *Where We Are Now, Where We Want to Be, Provincial Leadership, Land-use Regions and Plans, Land Use Governance, Cumulative Effects Management (CEM), Conservation and Stewardship, Information and Knowledge System, Aboriginal Peoples, Priority Actions for the Land-Use Framework and The Time Frame for Implementing the Land-Use Framework.*

The purpose of the Land Use Framework is to manage growth responsibly, rather than stifle or complicate it. Six strategies were developed to improve land use decision-making in Alberta. They are as follows:

Strategy 1: Develop six regional land use plans based on six new land use regions.

Strategy 2: Create a Cabinet Committee supported by a Land Use Secretariat and establish a Regional Advisory Council for each region.

Strategy 3: Cumulative effects management will be the instrument used at the regional level to manage the impacts of development on land, water and air.

Strategy 4: Develop a strategy for conservation and stewardship on private and public lands.

Strategy 5: Establish an information, monitoring and knowledge system to contribute to the continuous improvement of land use planning and decision-making.

Strategy 6: Facilitate the inclusion of aboriginal people in land-use planning.

They also stated there were four priority actions for the Land Use Framework. These are: Metropolitan plans for the Capital and Calgary Regions; the Southern Alberta Regional Plan and the Northeast Regional Plan.

As an active participant this was an interesting and rewarding exercise. The knowledge and work ethic of all who were involved was of the highest quality and the leadership was excellent. We all hope that this will lead us to use our land resources for the betterment of ourselves and for those who follow in the future.

Should you wish to know more and to download the Draft Land Use Framework please go to www.landuse.gov.ab.ca.

*Bill Gillespie, Member
Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group*



CPAA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Congratulations to Lisa Eshpeter from the University of Calgary's Environmental Design Program for submitting the scholarship-winning paper. Please visit CPAA's website to read Lisa's work.

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY'S NEW SUSTAINABILITY COURSE

The University of Calgary is offering a new course called UNIV 207: *Exploring Sustainability*. The course is being taught by Professor Sinclair and William Tilleman, an environmental lawyer. The course takes up economic, environmental, economic, social and cultural aspects of sustainability in a seminar-based class.

EVDS AND FORT MCMURRAY PLANNING

The booming Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) has teamed up with the University of Calgary's Faculty of Environmental Design to come up with development concepts for a viable airport, sustainable downtown redesign and intensification, civic centre and sustainable village centre design for Saline Creek. There are a total of 22 students from EVDS involved with the partnership with RMWB.





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2008 MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Organization: (for Group Membership)					
Contact Name for group:					
Others in Group:					
Name: (for Individual or Student Membership) Student to indicate their full time enrolment with a post secondary institution					
CONTACT INFORMATION FOR All Types of Membership					
Street Address:					
Location:		Province:		Postal Code:	
Phone:		Fax:		E-mail:	
Type of Membership (Please mark one box with "X")*					
<i>*memberships are valid from January 1 to December 31 each year* GST not applicable</i>					
Group (\$180/year):		Individual (\$60/year):		Student (\$25/year):	
Fees enclosed (please make cheques payable to the Community Planning Association of Alberta). Credit card payment is not available.					
Invoice the above organization.					

Have a great summer!!!

