

ALBERTA PLANNING EXCHANGE

The Newsletter of the
Community Planning Association of Alberta



November 2011

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In this Issue...

Message from the Chair

Winning Student Essays

Facilitating University Communications

Opportunities for Our Membership

2012 Annual CPAA Conference

Upcoming Events

Message From The Chair

Gloria Wilkinson

Indeed our fundraiser idea for STARS is in "STARS horizons", Fall/Winter 2011, p.7. They loved the idea and set out a challenge for other groups to come up with their unique ideas to raise funds.

Our strategic planning session came up with new approaches that we are trying this year. We are working from four *key result areas* – community planning education, outreach activities, membership development, and governance and management. All of our committee work is based on activities to achieve the stated outcomes. Our committee structure has changed to reflect this approach.

We now have an editor-in-chief of the newsletter, Lynne Dale, whose responsibilities lie under the Outreach Committee. As always, if you have topic areas you would like covered please send them to us.

The Scholarships and Awards Committee also has a sub-group now. This group is working on writing the policies we have loosely operated under for a number of years. We intend to bring these forward at the AGM, held during the conference in April 2012, for ratification.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will see a full report on the education and conference planning. Needless to say you have a keen board again this year and we are well on our way to having your conference plans in place.

Summer came late in this end of the province – but – lasted much longer than normal. Now I have my garden dug and am ready to settle more inside for the winter.

See you in Red Deer on April 16, 2012.

CPAA Scholarship Winning Essays

CPAA Conference Scholarship Winners

We are pleased to announce this year's recipients of Community Planning Association of Alberta Conference Scholarship. Applicants were required to attend the 2011 Conference and to write a short (3 to 5 page) essay discussing the Conference experience and how it relates to their planning education and career intentions. Scholarships are valued at \$1,000 each. The recipients of this year's award are Meagan Simister, Riley Iwamoto and Jack Moddle. They are all enrolled in the Planning program in the Faculty of Environmental Design at the University of Calgary. Congratulations, Meagan, Riley and Jack.

CPAA Student Volunteer Scholarship Essay by Riley Iwamoto

Riley originally pursued a career in computer graphics, completing a BFA in Media Arts at the Alberta College of Art and Design in 2007. Thereafter, witnessing the overlap in fine arts with environmental design and a surge in forward-thinking planning in the City of Calgary convinced him to begin a second undergraduate degree in urban studies in 2009 to prepare for further study and practice in urban design and planning. With interests in ecological sustainability, social justice, and democratizing development, Riley focuses on transportation planning and the possibilities of GIS and an existing computer graphics background in advancing new inclusive planning processes.

1.0 – Contemporary Evolutions of Planning Reflective of contemporary evolutions in planning, the diversity of scales being addressed in the 2011 Community Planning Association of Alberta conference can seem daunting to reconcile in their apparent divergence. Priorities in social capital and economic resilience in one's immediate community can appear to be part of a very different school of planning than the regional and global concerns of environmental sustainability and stewardship. We are simultaneously challenged to foster civic participation that strengthens social relations and life satisfaction while reconsidering how reliance upon abundant fossil energy has sculpted community forms and lifestyles. Such things are vulnerable to phenomena that often take distant and slow forms like ecological collapse or shocks to energy supplies. The duality of the message is to be more than neighbours but not at the expense of those far away or future generations.

2.0 – Growing Complexities These two scales of planning can, at times, present themselves as in competition for our community resources; it feels that often one cannot satisfy both interests at once. Should a local government, its planners and people work within the conventions of the Albertan economy to remain prosperous and competitive, as Doug Griffiths advises, giving its worldly and experienced youth a reason to return to the community and develop social strong social bonds through a sense of ownership and maintain a healthy demographic balance? The answer could be easy, yet what if this prosperity comes in the form of an environmentally abusive industry? Conversely, should planners impose highly sustainable urban forms and emphasize qualitative development, successfully alleviating reliance upon energy-intensive resources from abroad and doing more to restore the immediate natural environment than degrade it? Again an easy answer to reach until one considers that it may be an unfamiliar and unpopular model that needed to be forced upon the town to be realized, vacating their sense of ownership and constructive dialogue. For all its sustainability does this plan become a human project before a community?

R. Iwamoto Essay continued

Certainly, balancing the so called triple-bottom line is a very strained challenge. The complexity of these considerations is compounded by another development in professional planning practices: an invigoration of participatory decision-making in community development. Complementing the local focus of a sense of ownership, planners are increasingly trying to bridge the professional gaps between themselves and stakeholders while creating a constructive forum where potentially conflicting interests. Put simply, there is a push for greater democracy among stakeholders in planning.

A simpler case of this development illustrated at the conference is the drafting of riparian conservation policy that is contextually appropriate for each foot of a water body while providing certainty for development interests along the water's edge. A more generic case may be a land use decision between residents, business interests, and environmental protection groups. Put together with the above tension between socioeconomic and ecological priorities, the complexity of planning appears to be expanding exponentially from multiple geographic and political dimensions. Indeed, the word 'focus' becomes hard to confidently use in practice.

3.0 – Water: Reconciling Contention and Enhancing Accessibility Water, the theme of the conference, served as more than a narrow discussion topic about logistics or riparian health. From the diversity of sessions, water became a point of articulation and harmonization between otherwise seemingly divergent priorities. The discussion that follows will attempt to explain how water can continue to be used in planning to welcome stakeholders to civic participation and then flow into more advanced discussions.

3.1 - Encouraging Community Engagement Through a Basic Human Need As a community topic, water's first advantage comes from the fact that it's very immediate and essential in daily life, and thus a personal interest for all walks. It presents an easy way to open community dialogue. Just as the weather becomes the default small-talk topic because everyone can comment on it, water immediately becomes a shared interest in the community. Though perspectives on what to do about related issues may differ, everyone can start to talk about water issues knowing that they are affected similarly as their neighbours. Although the conference was attended by professionals and informed volunteers, one could argue that the sessional material could adequately be grasped by any layperson. As a basic human need everyone knows everyone else is a stakeholder, eliminating the need to officially identify interested parties as is the case in more specialized topics. In this way, the concept of "we" is quickly defined, easily followed by an appreciation for the need to engage others. One could argue that this sense of shared identity, and the cooperation that comes from discussion, is the basis for the social bonds that make a community out of a neighbourhood.

3.2 - Dissolving Interpersonal Rifts Both from our personal use and the regulatory constraints designed to prevent overdrawing our Albertan basins, the reality of water's preciousness is lost on very few people. One would be hard pressed to question the importance of quality water. It is a topic where everyone has an interest to stand behind. What makes it unique from higher-level topics such as transportation or governance, where perspectives on ideal means and goals are diversified by ideals and spatial interests, is that such objectives remain simple and universal: *It should be available and it should be clean.* In this way, it could be argued that water can be discussed relatively unbound from subjective lenses. This is not to say that proposed means to a solution will never be coloured by philosophies. It is, however, more likely that interests can be expected to respect the ends of one another, making dialogue quite resilient whilst facilitators and stakeholders develop their skills in the process.

R. Iwamoto Essay continued

This makes water seem to stand apart from other topics such as land use where different stakeholders may be trying to resolve goals that may stand in direct opposition of one another. Because water is so universal an interest, as a civic topic, it helps dissolve the rifts of political ideologies or expert/layman dualities, truncating knowledge gaps that often obstruct participatory planning.

3.3 – A Launching Point to Other Planning Topics

A broader advantage of this accessibility to planning is, once stakeholders are engaged in the process, their confidence and sense of ownership can more easily be extended to other planning issues which may be harder to engage from a cold start. Whether it becomes a desire to integrate other issues with the discussion around water as a resource or to set a precedent for civic engagement afterward, the momentum of constructive community dialogue towards normal practice can perhaps be set by a pilot example.

3.4 - Extending the Discussion Beyond the Horizon

Just as water is a part of our daily lives, it also came from somewhere afar, whether bottled or straight from a stream, and carries a story that continues downstream. Every household needs quality water and our indirect impacts to downstream communities, though they may be far beyond one's daily horizon, is as easy to grasp as the communal local interest discussed above. Opening to concerns of long-range sustainability, water serves as a defensible example of our interdependence and further-reaching impacts. The flow of rivers and streams are often used as a figure of speech in other topics to illustrate indirect impacts of our actions. In this way, it serves first as an accessible topic in sustainability and second as an analogue of other interdependencies, opening conversations for other common resources and global relationships between local players.

4.0 - Closing

To close, the apparent strength in water as an example is planning topic is that it is a community concern as well as a global resource. It takes a need that resonates in everyone and can bring them into democratic discourse. It is as easy to make stakeholders care personally about it, a point of argument Rachel Bocock and Doug Griffiths respectively declared essential to capacity building and political engagement, as it is to extend concern and understanding beyond personal, town, or regional limits. It doesn't necessarily flatten the growing complexity of contemporary planning, but it makes the practice much more navigable for professionals and citizens alike.

CPAA Student Volunteer Scholarship Essay by Meaghan Simister

Meaghan Albrecht is a third year undergraduate student at University of Calgary, where she is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in both Political Science and Urban Studies, in a Combined-Degree Program. Meaghan has been involved as the Student Director for the Community Planning Association of Alberta since June, 2011. She represented Canada at the 2006 and 2010 Winter Olympics in the sport of luge.

As a second-year urban studies student at the University of Calgary, I am still quite new to learning the process of community planning. However, I have quickly come to learn just how crucially important to society community planning is. The need for innovative community planning has become vital in the world today, as issues like urban growth and outward sprawl, climate change, and the alarming aspect of water scarcity; the topic at the annual conference in April, have all begun to affect the province of Alberta.

M. Albrecht essay continued

Therefore, the thesis of this essay is to relay the importance of proper community planning in our province today, as resource scarcity has become a pressing problem that has been somewhat ignored, and will only continue to develop into the future, if remained unchecked. Ultimately, it is important for individuals in Alberta to recognize that there are alternatives to planning that are highly adaptable, that will enhance the efficiency of our cities, preserve the environment, and provide workable solutions to counter the effects of increasing water and resource scarcity today.

Growing up in Calgary, the need for strong community planning was not always on my radar. I grew up in south Calgary in a cozy townhouse with my parents and my two younger brothers. I walked to my elementary school every day, and was often in walking distance to my closest friends. I loved to ride my bike to the local convenience store for a treat, and my parents were friends with most of our neighbours in the townhouse complex, often offering to watch each other's children in the nearby park.

When my family moved to another part of Calgary when I entered the sixth grade, I was happy to move from our small townhouse, but very disappointed to leave the community of my childhood, the townhouse complex. My life had revolved around the community, riding my bike to the store with my friends, going to the several surrounding playgrounds, and walking to my school with other children from the area. Once we moved to our new house in a typical 1970's era Calgary neighbourhood, and I entered Junior High, I could still walk to school, but of course it was a much longer walk now. I soon noticed that only about four or five of the students in my class actually lived in the same neighbourhood that I lived in. All the others lived in much newer houses, much farther away. I would walk to school most days envious of the other children who got to take the bus while I was walking in the snow by myself.

Finally, as I entered the ninth grade, I received the opportunity to go to a unique school in faraway North West Calgary for student athletes. To reach my goal of competing for Canada in the Olympics, I would need to switch to this school that would allow me the flexibility to compete overseas for months at a time, while working with teachers who had experience teaching other student athletes such as myself. One ten minute bus ride, a thirty minute C-train ride, and a seven minute walk later, I would be at the destination of my new school each morning. I often thought to myself; "I can't wait for the day that I have my driver's licence ... I will never have to take the bus or C-train again!"

Ultimately, I first began to understand the importance of proper community planning once I had to commute so long to my new school, on the other side of the city. I began to realize just how lucky I had been before, walking to school or my friends' houses each and every day. When I did get a ride to school, it was often a thirty minute commute in the car, which, unfortunately, is seen as an average commute in Calgary and many other North American cities today. Further, and probably most important to my interest in community planning, as I began to rise higher in my athletics I received many travel opportunities to compete around the world. This afforded me the opportunity to see the way other cultures and countries attempt to solve planning issues, and how drastically different my city had developed compared to the communities in these other nations.

Having travelled extensively for the past ten years, in countries such as Germany, Austria, Italy, Norway, Latvia, and Japan, I came to realize that in these nations there was no stigma attached with taking public transit, biking was often a popular, efficient, and safe mode of transportation, and the sustainability and preservation of resources such as water and energy was of great importance. I noticed that none of the toilets in Europe had water in them, people walked to the store even in the winter, and electric vehicles were a common and even enviable commodity.

M. Albrecht essay continued

I often began to question, why doesn't my home city share these same values? With environmental issues increasingly being reported throughout the world, I thought that a society that is aware of the consequences and makes small, workable actions for better, cleaner, and more efficient communities is worth the overall effort. If sustainability through efficient transportation, alternate residential housing methods, and overall awareness of environmental issues such as resource scarcity is possible in Europe, it can also be achieved in our communities here at home. Therefore, through my experiences and observations throughout my travels, I decided I would like to become an active and contributing member for a progressive change in our cities, before it becomes too late.

In the future, I see myself working in the planning field to emphasize different modes of transit throughout our urban areas that are efficient and workable within our existing transit networks. I understand that comparing communities in Europe to the ones in Alberta is difficult; European cities face far greater resource and energy scarcity which, in turn, enables quicker action for change and innovations in society. Also, the fact that the majority of European communities were already well established before the invention of the automobile is a strong factor regarding their walking and biking emphasis of planning.

I understand that legislation passed in Norway; for example a thirty dollar toll fee just to enter the downtown area in a car, is not a viable option in Canada for reducing automobile usage as of yet. However, while looking at community planning from a "30,000 foot level," with the understanding that the automobile is a part of life in North America, I still strongly believe that there should be other viable options of transportation for people in any region who may not be able to afford the rising costs of gasoline, or who disagree with the environmental impacts that reliance on the automobile causes. For example, many cities have adopted bike sharing programs, extended their bike pathways and networks that increases safety for these cyclists, have added or extended "pedestrian only" sections of cities and towns, and on existing troublesome road networks there have been "extra lanes" built alongside existing roads which could be opened in case of an accident, thus reducing gridlock and further frustration for commuters.

Also from the 30,000 foot level, it is extremely obvious how the cities in Alberta are growing out; seemingly without care for the important surrounding agriculture and hinterland, a strong point delivered by several speakers at the Water: Our Scarce Resource Conference. If this continues to be the case, we will eventually see our future generations short-changed, when there were viable options that should have been sought out. I believe that communities are much more beneficial to society if they are managed in a way that contributes to the interaction and cooperation within the community, not isolation. For example, many beautiful Albertan communities and neighbourhoods have been demolished in favour of freeways, big box stores, and vast parking lots. People find it hard to connect with their neighbours when all they have to do is pull into their garage and close the door. At the local level, I believe that it is important for planners to draw up new plans to fight this trend; I would like to work to create communities that are aesthetically pleasing, that people feel comfortable walking or biking in, and that hold a sense of pride and foster togetherness amongst all residents.

The problem is, in Alberta most citizens have been led to believe our resources are not going to run out any time soon, that they are inexhaustible and we are safe from future crisis. Therefore, this view has promoted the continuation of unchecked outward growth that has been so taxing on our agriculture and hinterland, leading to the problem of water scarcity in the south of our province. We will have a long fight ahead to create communities that are more environmentally aware of the impacts they create, but there are many great possibilities and potential for change.

M. Albrecht essay continued

For instance, after hearing various conference presenters, particularly Peter Lehner and Jorg Ostrowski's presentation on Grey Water Strategies, as well as the Utilities and Water Distribution for Future Planning from several different planning perspectives, it is evident that there are a variety of different solutions that can help preserve our existing environment and sustain our communities in southern Alberta where water scarcity is becoming a problem.

After attending the Water: Our Scarce Resource Conference, I further understood that environmental issues and resource allocation is indeed an increasingly important issue that can no longer be ignored by our councillors and community planning experts. Water supply, of course, is not a constant and the demand only continues to grow as our communities do. At a local level, if water scarcity issues and current technology and innovation continue to be ignored, citizens of this province will have to face a very bleak future. Therefore, it is important that the municipalities work with planners to use the many solutions that are currently being proposed. Measures such as "growing up" opposed to out, resulting in the reduction of damage to important riparian areas; keeping an open mind with innovations such as grey water strategies, as well as developing performance measures for our water usage, are crucial to the preservation of our province's ecosystems and citizen's quality of life. Ultimately, as landscape ecologist and conference keynote speaker Dr. Brad Stelfox eloquently stated, it will be a "mistake to continue to think what we did in the past should continue to be the same."

CPAA Student Volunteer Scholarship Essay by Jack Moddle

Jack Moddle is a Masters student in the Environmental Design- Planning program at the University of Calgary, with a background in Urban Studies and specialization in City & Community Planning. His fields of interest include economics, biophilic design, and ecological resource management. He has lived in rural settings as well as in the city, and is a born and raised Albertan whose research looks to address regional planning issues in the province such as water management and rapid urban growth.

As a student volunteer heading into the 2011 CPAA conference, I had limited knowledge of the topic, 'Water: Our Scarce Resource'. I, like many Albertans am familiar with the facts: that our liquid resources are limited in Alberta, and that, as some of the highest water consumers in the world, we need to adjust our usage habits or we will be facing a crisis in the coming years. However, the discussion of water conservation, in my experience, has rarely found any real footing beyond the passing of blame (in Alberta, blame for water usage and pollution usually goes to the oil and gas industry, developers, and agriculture) and vague promises to "use less".

My pre-existing position was that the economics of water make it a difficult task to approach in practice; although it is easy for many like-minded planners at a conference to nod heads in agreement at the importance of wetland preservation, grey water reuse, and water conservation, the realities of the current market present many difficulties. This is partially because water is a communal resource which we all have a hand in the use of, making it difficult to attach responsibility to any one individual or group. Primarily, though, it is very difficult to convince people to place value upon something they are used to getting for next to nothing. As well, in the case of environmental reserves for wetlands and riparian areas, many developers tend to have a disdain for the often expensive and bureaucratic processes involved. Although it is important for people to take an interest in water issues, in the end the final question will be about money. Since water has historically been a nearly free resource for rural and urban Albertans alike, if an alternative technology or conservation solution is too expensive, people will have a difficult time accepting it.

J. Middle essay continued

Despite my apparent cynicism upon arriving at the conference, I had many of my views changed and improved through the course of the two days. At its core, much of the message was as I had expected, and the same 'small-step' solutions were repeated (residential grey water conservation through reduction and reuse, for example), but I felt that each individual brought something new or unique to the table.

I was inspired by the number and variety of not just planners but decision-makers as well who seemed to take an interest in the issue, and I began to better understand the importance of the link to community planning. As MLA Doug Griffiths pointed out, people will not accept poor quality water in their community and are willing to pay to acquire better quality water (as shown through the market for bottled water). Griffiths identified poor quality water as one of his "13 Ways to Kill Your Community", which shows the central importance of preserving that resource.

I was especially intrigued by the presentations of a few industry professionals such as Dr. Brad Stelfox and Jay White, who were involved in the production of advanced computer modelling to solve complex water management issues. These models represent what I feel is the missing link between environmentalism and economics- relatively cheap, economically viable methods of improving water conservation, which are marketable to firms and governments alike.

Jay White's presentation on environmental reserves and riparian areas was probably the most inspiring moment for me at the conference. His group, Aquality, has developed a computer model for determining setbacks from environmental reserves to prevent pollution in water bodies. As someone with family in the development industry, I have had personal experience with the expensive and red tape-lined process that is associated with surveying and outlining environmental reserves. Aquality's product allows the entire process to be completed in a number of days, is extremely cheap, and has been proven to be very flexible and reliable. To me, this was nothing short of a revelation, and is an indication of the value that will in future be provided by such computer modelling. To be able to complete this process so quickly and efficiently means to me that developers and planners can properly assess the needs of wetland areas without significant concerns and cutting corners due to cost.

Similarly, I feel that Dr. Stelfox's work with ALCES (A Landscape Cumulative Effects Simulator) helps provide decision-making power to local and provincial government by analyzing and predicting water use and availability in the province. As he pointed out, it is important to provide government with the tools to move from ad hoc decision making to "management by objective". Initiatives such as the Alberta Land-use Stewardship Act (ALSA) are representative of this. It is also important for us as planners to begin to incorporate the concept of water management into the way we plan and design growth. The decisions we make today about where to put people, services and industry will determine our water futures.

One of the comments made by Dr. Stelfox was especially interesting to me, and I think that its truth, or lack thereof, will be of primary importance in determining how our future will look concerning a supply of quality water. The statement was that 'the win-win with economy and ecology is mathematically impossible'. In essence, this means to me that there cannot be growth in one without a reduction in the other. From an economic perspective, I hope very much that we can prove this statement false, because as humans, we have a propensity for rapid growth and, until recently, we have displayed a passing concern at best for the environment. Therefore, unless we learn how to value and incorporate environmental resources in our economic system, the likely result will be the destruction of ecology to make way for economic growth.

J. Middle essay continued

Unfortunately, a point that was reinforced several times during the conference was that despite the good intentions of many interested individuals, Alberta's position in water conservation is "significant progress yet to be made". I am led to believe that this is not because the conditions are not right for action, or that the technology for improvement does not exist. Rather, I feel that our existing legislative framework offers disincentives to make efficient use of our resources.

I was shocked to learn that despite the existence of the 'water market' in Alberta, our current allocation is still based on the First in Time, First in Right (FITFIR) system. With many of the attendees at the conference bringing rural perspectives to the table, it was easy to see that this system raises serious concerns for water security outside of the city. I find it difficult to imagine creating new legislation for water management while such an antiquated system remains in place. It undermines the whole concept of trying to create a market for a product when certain groups have better access and some have free use.

In my experience at the conference, I identified two very important themes that are somewhat at odds with each other and highlight the struggle to conserve, and protect the integrity of, water in Alberta. The first is that there is significant interest in water conservation and continued water quality, whether that interest is activated or not. It is clear that there is a rising movement amongst planners, government bodies, and rural communities to begin addressing future water concerns. As well, there are already several instances of leading policy across the world that can be followed and learned from, and, as was shown at the conference, there are many new technologies which communities, towns and cities can utilize to reduce water consumption and pollution. It is my belief that the water conservation movement has reached a critical point where the majority of the public is aware of the issue, and would be willing to make substantial improvements to water management policy given the right incentives.

However, this brings me to the second important theme that I obtained from the conference, which is that despite a prevailing positive attitude and many of the necessary factors being present, little change has occurred due to an aging framework and a preference for the status quo. Although water is clearly a valuable resource, we still struggle to value it. According to Peter Lehner, water contributed between 7 and 23 billion dollars' worth of value to the Canadian economy in 1995. Our cost for this is virtually zero. It is important for individuals and corporations alike to begin to take responsibility for their water usage, and there are various tools available to achieve that goal. Having to pay more for water and water rights has become a contentious issue, but perhaps it is a necessary evil to force people to put a dollar value on our liquid resources. Unless we stop subsidizing the system, we cannot truly call it a 'water market'. I believe that the universality of the need for clean, reliable water can unite us as communities and as planners, but that in order for that to become a reality we must begin to address issues with our policies and way of living.

CPAA Facilitating University Communications

Don Schultz, RPP, MCIP

Previous issues of the *Planning Exchange* have reported on the ongoing advocacy that the CPAA has undertaken to raise awareness of the need to enhance planning education in Alberta. When this advocacy began more than three years ago, Alberta had lost its only accredited university planning program. Now, the University of Calgary has re-established the Masters Planning program in the Faculty of Environmental Design, the University of Alberta has received provincial approval to open a Bachelors Planning program in the autumn of 2012, and the University of Lethbridge continues to build its capacity with a view to receiving the financial resources necessary to establish its own Bachelors Planning program.

Throughout this advocacy campaign, the CPAA Board of Directors has engaged organizations such as the Alberta Professional Planners Institute (APPI), the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts & Counties (AAMD&C), the Alberta Association of Urban Municipalities (AUMA), Alberta Municipal Affairs, and Alberta Advanced Education & Technology. CPAA, APPI, AAMD&C, and AUMA have all adopted resolutions and policies in support of enhancing planning education across Alberta.

Once the advocacy campaign got underway, it became apparent to CPAA that there is a need for better coordination and communication among Alberta's universities in their efforts to build their planning programs. Following a September 2010 meeting with the Ministers of Alberta Municipal Affairs and Alberta Advanced Education & Technology, a delegation of representatives from CPAA and APPI met in November 2010 with senior administration at Alberta Advanced Education & Technology to map out a plan of action for improving coordination and communication among the universities. After Alberta Advanced Education & Technology referred our advocacy group to the Campus Alberta Quality Council, CPAA learned that such coordination and communication was not necessarily part of the mandate of Campus Alberta. Consequently, CPAA decided to contact representatives of the three universities directly in order to facilitate better communications among their planning programs.

In October 2011, CPAA convened an initial meeting of the coordinators of the planning programs being delivered by the University of Calgary's Faculty of Environmental Design, the University of Lethbridge's Urban and Regional Studies program, and the University of Alberta's Faculty of Extension and Faculty of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. The discussion among the representatives of these institutions was broad-ranging and far-reaching. The professors from all three of these universities expressed a strong interest in sharing information and coordinating efforts so that planning education can be improved across the province. In addition, future opportunities for collaboration and networking among planning students from across Alberta received full support. CPAA looks forward to facilitating such opportunities for students at future CPAA Conferences.

This consortium of university planning programs will meet again in the New Year to continue the work of enhancing communications and coordination. One longer term outcome may involve other educational institutions in Alberta beyond the three initiating universities. The possibilities of this coordination are truly exciting. Communication among academics, students, and CPAA members promises to create more opportunities for collaboration, particularly as we explore the use of information technologies, the sharing of course offerings, the enhancement of ongoing professional development and community education, and the placement of well trained planning graduates in communities across Alberta. Where there's a will, there's a way.

This multi-institutional approach to providing planning education recognizes a new environment that is emerging around the world, which is requiring that governments, universities, professional societies, and community organizations find new ways to educate, train, and develop planning professionals and community members alike. CPAA looks forward to continuing this collaboration with the Government of Alberta and our partner organizations. We will keep our members and other readers of the *Planning Exchange* informed as we work toward our common goal of continually improving planning education across Alberta.

Please contact the CPAA office for information and interest. cpaa@cpaa.biz

CPAA Business

Board of Director Opportunities for Our Membership!

CPAA has two openings on our active board of directors. As you know, we try to have even distribution both geographically and elected vs. non-elected. Currently our preferences for volunteers would be from elected officials and from rural areas east and south of Edmonton and Calgary. One person east of Calgary is for a one-year completion of a term and one person east of Edmonton is for a full three year term.

CPAA has a Facebook Group! Community Planning Association of Alberta – join the conversation

CPAA Membership

The 2012 CPAA membership dues invoices will be mailed the first week of December.

If you are not already a member, an application form is included in this newsletter.

Our current membership represents a core group of individuals involved in varying aspects of municipal planning, including Councillors, administrators, development officers, professional planners, and provincial officials. This membership will enable your organization to share your experiences, achievements and challenges, to empower the municipal decision makers to work towards collaborative, community-minded planning solutions.

Your membership with CPAA will provide networking opportunities with community leaders and quarterly newsletters that will keep you informed of the latest planning activities along with legislative and planning initiatives. In addition, your membership provides reduced conference fees to our well-attended annual conference held in Red Deer that stress themes related to responsible land use planning and the inter-relationships between planning, economic development, tourism, recreation and other relevant sectors.

CPAA recognizes that community planning is about bringing the various players together, learning from each others different perspectives, expertise and experiences. What sets the CPAA apart from the rest is that we bring together a variety of professionals involved in all levels of community planning and offer conference sessions that are relevant to all of those in the room.

On behalf of the CPAA, I would like to extend a personal invitation to become involved in this exciting, diverse organization dedicated to responsible community planning.

Lesley Vandemark, Chair of Nominations and Membership

2012 Annual CPAA Conference

Free 2012 Conference Registration

As in previous years, a draw was made among 2011 Annual Conference delegates who completed Conference and Education Session evaluations and who provided contact information. The prize was one free Registration for the 2012 Conference. And the winner is...**Marg Lowen** from Rosemary, AB. For any of you who keep track of these things Marg was also our winner last year!!!

“Planning for Complete Communities - How to Get There”

Monday, April 16 to Wednesday, April 18, 2012
Black Knight Inn, 2929 - 50th Avenue, Red Deer

Below is the program schedule to date, there will be updates posted on the web site:

The Conference will commence at 1:30 p.m. on the **Monday**, with the Opening Keynote Speaker - Michael von Hausen, President of MVH Urban Planning & Design Inc and Adjunct Professor at Simon Fraser University.

“Revitalization” with Real Forest, the Mayor of Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan

“FireSmart” with Kelly O’Shea of Partners and Protection

The MLA Reception starts at 5:30pm. Delegates are on their own for dinner.

The program for **Tuesday** will start with a Plenary Session - The Fiscal Challenge.

Concurrent sessions throughout the day include - Urban Design 500: Adding Value to Your Community; Affordable Housing in Rural Alberta; Recreation; Environment; ending with another Plenary Session - Working Together within a Municipality presented by J. Popoff – Town of Chestermere, D McRae – ISL Consulting, P. Matthews – Mayor of Chestermere.

The CPAA Annual General Meeting will take place at the Luncheon on Tuesday with the Banquet and Entertainment wrapping up the day.

The program for **Wednesday** will consist of a Question-and-Answer Panel session, and the Closing Plenary - Intermunicipal Relations - Working Together; and conference closing remarks ending at 11:30am.

Refer to the Conference Registration Form at the back of this issue.

Fees: New rates. Note that the fees includes two hot breakfasts, luncheon and banquet

Conference Fees:

Member Registration Fee: \$435.00

Non-member Registration Fee: \$500.00

Education Registration Fees:

Member Registration Fee: \$125.00

Non-member Registration Fee: \$150.00

2012 Annual Education Session

AGENDA

Location: Mainstage

8 a.m. Hot Buffet Breakfast

9 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Education Session

12:15 - 1:15 p.m. Buffet Lunch for Education Session Participants

“Project Management for Municipalities”

By John Popoff, RPP, MCIP Director of Development Services, Town of Chestermere

Project Management is the process of managing projects. It is not the process of actually doing the work. Proven Project Management tools and techniques can be used to greatly improve the success of projects by bringing in more projects, on time, on budget and as expected. In municipalities, there are two primary sources of work: proactive and reactive. Municipal Staff typically have responsibilities in both categories. Reactive work includes addressing public inquiries, processing applications and attending Council meetings. Proactive work includes projects which have a definite beginning and end. Municipal Staff are challenged finding the time and resources to complete projects while addressing urgent and constant daily activities.

In this three hour educational, John will introduce the Profession of Project Management and how it applies to municipalities. He will introduce key concepts to attendees including how to determine “what is a project” and “what are operations”. John will also explain how a municipality can incorporate a Project Management process and he will share examples from his experience establishing a Project Management process with his staff in Chestermere.

Participants will be introduced to the Science of Project Management including the five process groups and nine knowledge areas, as advocated by the Project Management Institute (PMI), the largest and most influential professional Project Management organization in existence. Attendees will learn how to break projects down into manageable pieces and prepare schedules, budgets and project management plans. Participants will also be introduced to the Art of Project Management including stakeholder analysis, communications planning, leadership, team building and negotiation. Participants will leave with tools, techniques and tips they can apply immediately in their municipal project management efforts.

2011 CPAA Conference Sponsors

Our apology - We also thank Gold Sponsor – County of Stettler and Bronze Sponsor – CMHC who were not listed in the July issue.

Events and Education Opportunities

Brownlee LPP - Emerging Trends in Municipal Law 2012

The latest issues impacting municipalities – **“Keeping it Simple in a Complex World”**
The Best Laid Plans – Redevelopment Challenges and Solutions
The Cure for What Ails You – Simple Practical Solutions to Your Human Resources Nightmares
Social Media (Breakout Session) – Promotion, Pitfalls and Privacy
Inter-municipal Infrastructure Projects and Operations (Breakout Session) – Hit the Ground
Running – Stay on Track
Bear Pit Session – Your Questions Answered

Calgary, Thursday February 2, 2012 at the Carriage House Inn
Edmonton, Thursday February 9, 2012 at the Northlands Expo Centre

Contact; Karen Rampold (780) 423-7514 krampold@brownleelaw.com

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation’s (CMHC) **Housing Research e-newsletter** can help you stay up-to-date with the latest housing research findings and events related to sustainable housing and communities, housing conditions and trends, housing finance and more.

<http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca> Canadian Housing Observer

Sustainability Resources Ltd has developed a suite of water management learning resources & tools that were designed in consultation with municipal leaders, respected water managers, and skilled practitioners from across Alberta. They are a not-for-profit organization dedicated to bringing professional and educational resources to communities for sustainable water and land management in Alberta. They provide training and capacity building programs for municipalities, organizations, and industries on water policy, water conservation, and water management.

Refer to www.sustainabilitycircle.ca for information on upcoming workshops.

2nd Annual Analytics Conference - "Analytics, Big Data and The Cloud" hosted by Alberta Council of Technologies - Stuart Lomas, Athabasca University - George Siemens and Alberta ICT Council - Drew McNaughton
April 23 - Workshops - hands on learning April 24-25 - Conference - engage/network - fun!
Edmonton - Fantasyland Conference Centre. Contact: info@ABCtech.ca www.abctech.ca



REGISTRATION FORM

**CPAA 2012 PLANNING CONFERENCE
And EDUCATION SESSION**

**APRIL 16, 17, and 18, 2012
Black Knight Inn, Red Deer, Alberta**

#205, 10940 – 166A Street
Edmonton, AB T5P 3V5
(780) 432-6387 Tel
(780) 452-7718 Fax
cpaa@cpaa.biz www.cpaa.biz

Name: _____

Firm or Organization: _____

Position/Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Indicate Food Allergies and/or vegetarian preferences: _____

Full-time students please indicate (and see special rate below):

Program of Study and Institution _____

- Student Registration Fee: \$50.00 Students must be current members of CPAA.
Check all items that apply:**

Education Session 2012 Monday, April 16, 2012

“Project Management for Municipalities” 8:00am to 1:15pm includes Breakfast and Lunch

- Registration Fee: \$125.00 for CPAA Members
- Registration Fee: \$150.00 for non Members

NOTE: CONFERENCE OPENING - 1:30PM Monday, April 16

CPAA 2012 Conference April 16, 17, 18 2012

“Planning for Complete Communities – How to Get There”

- Registration Fee: \$435.00 for CPAA Members
 - Registration Fee: \$500.00 for non members
- Registration fee for Conference includes: Minister’s Reception, Conference Sessions, Breakfasts, Luncheon & Banquet

Indicate number of extra tickets:

_____ Extra Conference Luncheon Tickets\$30.00
_____ Extra Conference Banquet Tickets\$60.00

- Display space is available for \$100:00 per space (includes one banquet ticket). Tables and power available upon request.

TOTAL AMOUNT OWING: _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Payment Enclosed	<input type="checkbox"/> Payment to Follow	<input type="checkbox"/> Invoice Above
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GST is not applicable. Sorry, but we can not accept credit card payments. Cancellation Policy: There will be no refunds. However, registration is transferable to another person within your organization. Return registration form with a cheque payable to: Community Planning Association of Alberta (address above).



Community Planning Association of Alberta

#205, 10940 – 166A Street
 Edmonton, Alberta, T5P 3V5
 Phone (780) 432-6387 Fax (780) 452-7718
 E-mail: cpaa@cpaa.biz www.cpaa.biz

2012 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Organization/Employer: (for Group Membership)			
Contact Name for group:			
Others in Group:			
Name: (for Individual or Student Membership)			
Working Title:			
CONTACT INFORMATION FOR All Types of Membership			
Street Address:			
Employer:			
Location:		Province:	Postal Code:
Phone:	Fax:	E-mail:	
Type of Membership (Please mark 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. GST is not applicable.			
Invoice the above organization.			