



Alberta Planning Exchange

Community
Planning
Association of
Alberta
September 2013

Building Bridges

by Peter Lehner, Chair of the Board of Directors

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It is my honour, as new chair of the CPAA, to officially thank Gloria Wilkinson for her untiring leadership of our venerable Association. During her tenure as Chairperson, the Association has reached stability and has continued to be a resource and partner in the field of community planning. Her tireless enthusiasm and "can-do attitude" will be missed.

We, as the newly elected members of the board, hope to continue in her footsteps, and with your help we will grow this Association into an even stronger partner in creating the future of Alberta.

There are a few things that tie all of us together. These include shared values, tolerance, and an even deeper, underlying love that we all share for this place we call Alberta.

For the first time ever we are faced with the fact that our resources are bumping up against their limits. Agricultural land is shrinking, timber allocation to the lumber producers has reached almost 100%, and we must now structure and control development based on the availability of water.

Our agricultural land is under pressure for development and re-allocation. We all agree that we do not want to live in a suburb that stretches

from Rainbow Lake to Milk River, or from Lloydminster to Banff. I ask myself: Are we creating the Alberta that you and I want to live in?

I am optimistic about our future! We are developing new technologies to reduce our environmental impact, as well as to reduce the unnecessary waste of resources. We can achieve much of the needed change with minor changes to the way we live. I am confident that we will develop and build exactly those cities that people want to live in. Let's begin to follow this road together- so that our children may be able to experience all the richness this wonderful place has to offer.

The CPAA, with your help, would like to assist in inspiring connections and communication between elected officials and planners. This partnership should ultimately give the politicians the tools in allowing planners to help to create sustainable communities.

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CPAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Chair

PETER LEHNER

Peter is a Technician with Plasser Canada. He is a graduate of the College of Marine-Technology in Austria and worked as a Marine Engineer until moving to Canada. He joined Plasser Canada in 1998 and has done consulting work for major railroads and transit systems.



Past Chair

GLORIA WILKINSON

Gloria is a retired municipal politician who has been active with CPAA since 1989.



Vice Chair (North)

LEANNE BEAUPRÉ

Leanne is a third-term Elected Official for the County of Grande Prairie. She is also Chair of the County's Municipal Planning Commission.



Vice-Chair (South)

ELIZABETH ARMITAGE, MCIP, RPP

Raised in rural Alberta and as a graduate of the Universities of Alberta and Calgary, Liz has a strong connection to Alberta. Liz is a Project Planner with ISL Engineering and Land Services in Calgary.



Treasurer

SYLVAIN LOSIER, MCIP, RPP

Sylvain has been practicing professional planning for more than a decade. He grew up in a rural setting, and he is passionate about the interaction between rural and urban areas. He is currently the Long Range Planning Manager for the City of Leduc.



Director

DREW HYNDMAN, MCIP, RPP

Drew has been practicing planning at Rocky View County since 2001. Raised in the Calgary area, Drew has always maintained a strong passion and personal connection to the rural areas surrounding the city.



Director

JENNIFER BLACK, M.PLAN, LEED GREEN ASSOC.

Jennifer has completed degrees in science and Sustainable Community Development, as well as a Master of Planning. She is a planner with CitySpaces Consulting, specializing in sustainability and active transportation.

The Final Countdown - Election 2013

by Michael S. Solowan, LL.B.

The upcoming 2013 Municipal General Election is right around the corner. Mark your calendars for the following important dates:

- ⇒ September 9 to 15, 2013 – First Notice of Publication (calling for Nominations) to be published at least once a week during this week;
- ⇒ September 16 to 22, 2013 – Second Notice of Publication (calling for Nominations) to be published at least once a week during this week;
- ⇒ October 7 to 13, 2013 – First Notice of Election Day (declaring that an election shall be held for an office if more than the number of persons for that office remain nominated);
- ⇒ October 14 to 20, 2013 – First Notice of Election Day (declaring that an election shall be held for an office if more than the number of persons for that office remain nominated);
- ⇒ September 23, 2013 – Nomination Day;
- ⇒ October 21, 2013 – Election Day.



Image by: League of Women Voters of California

Election time can be exciting and busy; as a result, our election team will be on standby to answer any questions on Nomination Day and Election Day.

Following the election, every municipality will have a new Council with a new mandate to govern. Each municipality needs to ensure that its Council receives an orientation regarding their roles and ►

responsibilities as elected officials. As leaders in Municipal Law and Council Orientation Training, Brownlee LLP encourages Council and key administration to partake in one of our interactive and comprehensive full-day, or condensed half-day, Orientation Seminars. Contact us now to book your seminar, as this popular service books up fast and available dates in the fall are limited.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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For further information on Council Orientation Seminars or election related issues please contact Michael S. Solowan or any other member of the Municipal Governance & Authority Practice Group of Brownlee LLP in Edmonton at (780) 497-4800 or in Calgary at (403) 232-8300. ■

CPAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONTINUED



Director

CANDACE BANACK, MCIP, RPP
Candace Banack is a Development Planner with the Town of Cochrane. She works on various long range and current planning projects within the Town. She currently resides in the City of Airdrie.



Director

HENRY DOEVE
Henry is a Councilor with the County of Lethbridge. He has also served on the Lethbridge College Board of Governors, the Alberta irrigation Council, and the County of Lethbridge Subdivision Development appeal Board.



Director

TOM BURTON
Tom is a fourth-term Elected Official for the Municipal District of Greenview #16. A third term Director for District 4 of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties. Chair of the Subdivision Appeal Board. He is also the Fire Chief for DeBolt Fire & Rescue for 18 years.



Student Director

EDGARD FARAH
Edgard is currently enrolled in the Master of Planning program at the University of Calgary. He is an Architect by profession and has over 5 years of international experience in Town Planning and Urban Development.



Student Director

ALEX GRAHAM
Alex completed the SAIT Architecture Technologies program, and currently works at S2 Architecture part-time while also completing the Urban Studies program at the University of Calgary.

ALBERTA EMERALD FOUNDATION



For more than twenty years, the Alberta Emerald Foundation has been working to recognize, celebrate and inspire environmental excellence in Alberta. This year, the Alberta Emerald Foundation received a record 123 award nominations. A crowd of 600 gathered for the 22nd Annual Emerald Awards, where 14 recipients were announced.

For more information: <http://emerald.foundation.ca/>

Climate Strategies and the Role of Planning

by Jennifer Black and Asrai Ord

The summer floods in southern Alberta have caused many of us to reflect upon what could be done to prevent such calamity in the future. Many homes were badly damaged, and, like a mine closing in a resource town, the value of land itself was thrown into question. While the plight of those who were directly affected is devastating, it is also important for planners to take the long view, and consider what we as planners can do to uphold our responsibility to the public interest. The Canadian Institute of Planners Code of Professional Practice requires that planners provide full, clear, and accurate information (1.2), as well as acknowledge the inter-related nature of planning decisions (1.3).

At the 2013 CIP Conference in Vancouver, which coincided with the flooding, the keynote presentation on the closing day featured a debate over whether planners have an obligation to intervene and advance the relocation of people, their homes, and social and physical infrastructure that are in harm's way, with a particular emphasis on those affected by climate change. In the end, both sides agreed that planners have a responsibility to act, but that they must do so by working with the public to develop solutions together.

Climate change is likely to cause increased severity and frequency of flooding and drought in Alberta, as well as forest fires. As planners, it is our responsibility to convey this information accurately to the public and decision-makers, and to acknowledge the inter-related nature of planning decisions by incorporating climate change mitigation and adaptation throughout our planning practice. It is also our responsibility to collect information from communities and individuals about the weather changes and challenges they are witnessing, and to integrate that information in our planning rationales by finding ways to build trust with the public and work together.



As far as adapting to climate change, municipalities can work with developers to create resilient development that uses water focused-design and engineering strategies for flood and drought. Residents and builders can be encouraged to implement Low Impact Development and install low-flow technologies that leave more water in the streams and rivers to ensure that local ecosystems stay strong and support business practices that small-municipalities tend to depend on. Municipalities can keep their staff and council informed and educated on the latest changes or trends in insurance especially as it relates to natural disasters, and what it means for them, their reserves, and their residents. Disaster preparedness is founded on the complex web of fiscal, environmental, and social preparedness, and is key when it comes to successfully enduring climatic fluctuations.



When it comes to climate change mitigation, even the smallest municipalities can start to develop and implement initiatives that can decrease their carbon emissions, thereby lessening their impact on our climate. By revitalizing their downtowns and clustering new development, municipalities can make it easier for people meet their daily needs as much as possible without a vehicle, thus decreasing transportation emissions while contributing to making their municipality a more livable and attractive place. It is possible to decrease the distance from farm-to-fork and the associated environmental impact of transporting food by increasing community agriculture and encouraging local food production, while simultaneously celebrating the agricultural base of many of Alberta towns. Local governments can also fast-track development that achieves a higher standard of green building in their community. Championing alternative energy projects is another significant move that local governments can make to lower carbon output; wind power and solar power are especially important to the future of Alberta. ■

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Asrai and Jennifer are planners with CitySpaces Consulting in Calgary. They are building a practice in Alberta in small municipality sustainable community planning, climate change adaptation, social planning, and housing.

Growth Without Boundaries?

by Kari Idland, M.Plan, EIT

Boundaries can be tangible or conceptual. They may be fixed or moving. Boundaries define the conditions in which staff must conduct their daily activities, yet also describe a physical limitation to the spatial extent of the municipality. Growth beyond boundaries signifies challenging the status quo and striving to increase the quality of life within a community. Growth may not always be physical, therefore growth without boundaries should not be disregarded as 'evil sprawl' in land use planning as sprawl, but embraced as a concept that allows process and people to shatter glass ceilings.

Marcel Huculak and Gale Katchur exemplified this idea in their presentation "Bridging the Gap." The session brought together the experiences of a mayor and an engineer in a discussion on the challenges often faced between Council and engineers. By growing personal relationships, they challenge long-standing divides that threaten successful works environment contributing to thriving municipalities. The topic of effective communication was addressed in several sessions during the conference. Since I just started at the Town of Olds as a Municipal Planning Intern, I have taken some of these ideas and put them into action. The predominant one is reading up on who it is I am working for. The backgrounds of the Councillors, the CAO, my director, manager, and coworkers are all vital for me to understand in order to perform as a team.

Often, municipal staff talk about communications strategies, discussing various topics around how government and the public interact. Keeping citizens informed about initiatives and feeling connected to the process of government, even involved where appropriate, is important; without internal communication however, it can be in vain. Therefore, one of the most relevant topics that came up was indeed internal communication challenges.

I plan to address the issue of ineffective communication by extending my network of mentors to avoid ending up in a silo. Maintenance of established connections is also vital. To grow beyond my boundaries, or comfort zone, I have opened-up to more diverse training options. Taking some human resource type courses has been instrumental in helping me understand the ways in which my communication style can work better with others during conversation and written correspondence.

The presenter's style I appreciated the most at the 2013 CPAA Conference was Art Erickson from the Canadian Paraplegic Association (Alberta). His heartfelt approach to accessible design made his presentation captivating. Afterwards, Art's approachability was second to none as he talked me through how to wheel up the ramp and onto the stage. Those few brief moments in the wheelchair were an invaluable experience. I had never considered how somebody must feel when they can't use the restroom because the chair doesn't fit through the door. It was truly eye opening to start considering all the ways in which a community may attract, or repel, residents.

"PHYSICAL GROWTH IS
TAXING ON ALL MANNER
OF INFRASTRUCTURE"

As municipalities grow, they must be responsible to maintain existing infrastructure. Perhaps, I believe it is a Council's job to ensure that existing neighbourhoods are cared for, and avoid neglect that sometimes occurs with growth into suburbia. Physical growth is taxing on all manner of infrastructure. With expansion and growth comes the obligation to modernize, update, and create a vibrant community in all areas. This includes the need to replace or retrofit infrastructure that does not meet the needs of the citizens. This includes anything that would discriminate against those with accessibility challenges. ▶

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

We are pleased to announce this year's recipients of the CPAA Scholarships. The receivers of this year's awards are Kari Idland and Armaghan Baghoori.

Both Kari and Armaghan submitted winning essays related to the April 2013 CPAA Conference.

Kari recently completed the M.Plan program at the University of Calgary, and Armaghan is completing a master's thesis degree in environmental design, also at the University of Calgary.

Congratulations, Kari and Armaghan!

UPCOMING PLANNING EVENTS



Photo by Hans Moor

"Everyone Can Ride A Bike" - the Ottawa Success Story

- ⇒ September 5, 2013, 7:30 PM
- ⇒ 3512 5 Ave NW, Calgary
- ⇒ Citizens for Safe Cycling President Hans Moor will explain how the capital became third nation-wide in commuter bike modal share and is making great strides in building a connected bike network.



Photo by SFU

SFU Professional Programs

- ⇒ Edmonton Fall 2013
- ⇒ Courses and certificates in the City Program, Urban Design, Sustainable Community Development, and Next-Generation Transportation



Photo by David Baker

Urban Systems - Creating Flourishing Communities of Wellbeing and Happiness with Mark Anielski

- ⇒ September 17, 2013, 6:00PM
- ⇒ Edmonton
- ⇒ Wellbeing will become the new bottom line of business and communities, and that progress will be measured in terms of genuine happiness.

Growth without Boundaries? continued

Art's presentation really contributed to my understanding of why entire communities must think about accessibility, and not just building inspectors. If a parking space doesn't work, or if sidewalks don't work, then the entire community probably doesn't work for an individual with a disability. I found the second most significant topic at the conference to be that of holistic planning.

There is a growing awareness that creating departments that are independent from one another may get the work done in an expedient manner, but often at the expense of the quality of the product. Silos, as they are often referred, occurred when workflow stays contained within a particular group of people who rarely, if ever, seek outside input. Silos in the workplace can result in devastating consequences. Therefore, it is noted that various experiences and educations are required to create the best project teams. Planning, if amputated from the rest of municipal governance, runs the risk of mismanaging policy direction, disregard for utilities and lack of respect for budgeting.

“IF SIDEWALKS DON'T WORK,
THEN THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY
PROBABLY DOESN'T WORK FOR
AN INDIVIDUAL WITH A
DISABILITY”

I like to use the analogy of a car when I discuss planning with my unknowing friends and family. A car runs by use of its engine, similar to how a city runs by use of its staff. There are of course other parts, like the body and wheels, similar to the volunteers and Council. They are all important to let you drive down the road; in a community's case, everybody is important for potential growth. I address planning as I would an engine. Everything is interdependent. Without the pistons, spark plugs, crankshaft, etc., there would be no way for combustion to translate to vehicle motion. Take even one of the parts out and the whole system fails. Take transportation away from planning, you may end up with a street conceptualized with separated bike lanes that physically cannot be built. Take utilities away from planning, the result could be buildings that cannot accommodate waste pickup. Divorce building form and building use, you could get a daycare next to an automotive repair shop. The last one may not seem harmful to an outsider, but safety is a huge concern. Or what happens when the daycare is having naptime and the shop is trying to tune a big-block?

Being forever conscious that everything is intertwined will enhance communities that are facing questions over growth without boundaries. The 'new' view of planning which considers more aspects of the community than ever before, is really inspiring. When I think about growth without boundaries, I still like to consider it from the conceptual side. How are we, as community planners, going to create communities that have no boundaries? That, I believe, is how real growth is going to occur. ■

FOR MORE
INFORMATION

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UPCOMING PLANNING EVENTS



Photo by George McKenna

FireSmart Community Series
Slave Lake 2013

- ⇒ Sept 30 & October 1-2
- ⇒ This series brings together municipal leaders, community planners, fire response personnel and wildfire management experts to tackle the complex issue of protecting homes from wildfire.



Urban Systems - Starting
Vibrancy at the Top

- ⇒ October 1st, 2013
- ⇒ What can our elected officials do today to ensure the vibrancy of our communities in the future?



APPI Annual Conference

- ⇒ October 6 - 8, 2013
- ⇒ Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge
- ⇒ The 2013 APPI Conference in Jasper will focus on the professional development of our competency tree as individuals and collectively as the planning profession in Alberta.

UPCOMING PLANNING EVENTS



**Alberta Congress Board -
Annual Workplace
Conference: 5 Million
Albertans**

- ⇒ October 24 – 27, 2013
- ⇒ Jasper



**Alberta Recreation and Parks
Association Annual
Conference - New Horizons &
Learning Together**

- ⇒ October 24-26, 2013
- ⇒ Lake Louise



Land Use 2014 Symposium

- ⇒ May 7th and 8th, 2014
- ⇒ University of Alberta, Edmonton
- ⇒ The event will combine a broad mix of land-use stakeholders. This event promises to deliver an exciting forum for land-use discussion, discovery and decisions.



**2014 CPAA Conference &
Education Sessions**

April 14-16, 2014
Black Knight Inn, 2929 - 50th Avenue
Red Deer, Alberta

The CPAA's mission is to provide opportunities to share, promote, and encourage sound community planning among a full range of stakeholders. We provide a forum for the discussion of community planning-related concepts, ideas and issues with a view towards solutions. We are a volunteer-based organization, comprised of members from diverse backgrounds and interests; the diversity of membership provides unique opportunities for exploring various aspects of community planning.

Become a Member:

Our membership represents those involved in municipal planning, including Councilors, administrators, development officers, professional planners (both private and public sector), academics, and provincial officials.

Your membership with CPAA will provide networking opportunities, quarterly newsletters to keep you apprised of the latest developments in the planning world, current information on our website, and reduced conference fees to our well-attended annual conference.

- ⇒ Students \$25/year
- ⇒ Individual \$100/year
- ⇒ Group \$250/year

To become a member, please visit our website: <http://www.cpaabiz/>

Write:

The Alberta Planning Exchange offers a forum to express your views on community planning and provincial legislation, as well as a means of sharing the innovative planning projects you are involved with. We publish case studies, analyses of trends, profiles of noteworthy planners/policy-makers, summaries of best practices, book reviews, and editorials. Three print issues are published annually. Article submissions are accepted on an on-going basis; if you're interested in submitting an article, please contact us: cpaa@cpaa.biz.

Volunteer:

Volunteering provides members with a unique opportunity to contribute to the CPAA and the profession, while broadening their professional networks.

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CPAA - Mission: To provide opportunities to share, promote and encourage sound community among a full range of stakeholders.