

# ALBERTA PLANNING EXCHANGE

The Newsletter of the  
Community Planning Association of Alberta



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

February 2013

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### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Gloria Wilkinson

This is our abbreviated version of the Alberta Planning Exchange, to demonstrate why you need to register for our annual Education Session and Conference. It will again be held in Red Deer, at the Black Knight Inn. The date is April 15 – 17.

Our conference theme is: “**Growth Without Boundaries?**” The Education Sessions will kick-start your day with a morning spent learning about Public Input Toolkits for Municipalities or Conflict Styles. Your choice! Our intent, as always, is to bring new tips and tools for you to use in your planning decisions.

Networking opportunities with existing friends, new friends and students is another of our great offerings. CPAA has met with students from the University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and University of Lethbridge to tell them about our great Association. We encourage delegates to introduce themselves and to enjoy the student participation throughout the conference. They are our next generation of planners.

This is my last term as Chairman of the Association. In that I take this opportunity to thank all our members and delegates for their enthusiasm and support of the great mission of CPAA. Keep it up!

I look forward to seeing you all this spring in Red Deer.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS OPPORTUNITIES

CPAA is accepting nominations to fill current vacancies with individuals who are committed to excellence and have a passion for community planning. An even distribution for both geographical and elected vs. non-elected members is preferred. Elections take place at the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, April 17 at the conference luncheon. For more information interested members may contact the CPAA office prior to the conference at [cpaa@cpaa.biz](mailto:cpaa@cpaa.biz).

## 2013 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Leanne Beaupre and Elizabeth Armitage

The 2013 Community Planning Association of Alberta Conference is tackling another important topic that affects communities throughout Alberta, “**Growth Without Boundaries?**” But is this statement even possible? Everything has boundaries, does it not? But do we truly understand the boundaries of growth or their impacts on our respective communities? So as Alberta appears to be on the cusp of another boom and all our communities aspire for growth, can we not be better prepared for a better future?

The two and a half day conference will explore critical topics related to growth and changing nature of our communities. Topics covered will include discussions on aging infrastructure, offsite levies, barrier free development and even the latest trends in alternative energy. Our extensive list of speakers and presenters will have something for everyone – rural, urban and *rurban*! We have partnered with Municipal Affairs to offer truly unique Education Sessions and our Conference keynote speaker, Christopher Hume, will kick off the conference speaking about the impact of development from both a rural and an urban context drawing from his vast experience gained throughout his distinguished career.

This is a great opportunity to hear from experts and share ideas with colleagues from across Alberta and Western Canada. As always, CPAA is grateful for the contributions of our sponsors and their generosity that helps ensure the Alberta Planning Conference continues to be a great success!

### 2013 CPAA EDUCATION SESSIONS

Monday April 15<sup>th</sup> 2013 – Education Sessions – Breakfast starts at 8:00am

For this year's education sessions the CPAA has partnered with the **Municipal Dispute Resolution Services** of Alberta Municipal Affairs to offer two different workshops for municipal staff, elected officials and community leaders in order to develop and enhance skills in negotiation, public input and workplace conflict management. The CPAA is very excited about this unique opportunity and we are offering two concurrent workshops on '**Public Input Toolkits for Municipalities**' and on '**Conflict Styles**'.

Both sessions are quite relevant throughout Alberta and anyone attending these sessions will gain significant insights into these topics. In addition, every participant will come away with new skills to enhance their own personal 'tool box' and be able to take these back to their respective workplaces to utilize. We hope you enjoy this opportunity and please let us know your feedback.

### 2013 CPAA CONFERENCE PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Monday April 15<sup>th</sup> 2013 – Conference Opens at 1:30pm

**Opening Address:** CPAA Chair, Gloria Wilkinson will deliver opening remarks.

**Keynote Presentation:** with Christopher Hume, accomplished writer for the Toronto Star. Christopher brings a very unique perspective to development.

#### Concurrent Sessions

**Session 1A "Capitalizing on New Technology"** with Al McCully from Parkland County – Rural Broadband, who will be presenting together with a group from Grande Prairie.

**Session 1B "Bridging the Gap"** with Marcel Huculak of ISL Engineering and Land Services and Mayor Gale Katchur with the City of Fort Saskatchewan.

**MLA Reception with 'Minister to be announced'**

**NEW: CPAA Pub Night** – Join your fellow Conference attendees at Cities Gastro Pub for an evening of networking, and reconnecting with friends from industry, or simply to wind down from a busy day at the Conference.

## **2013 CPAA CONFERENCE PROGRAM AT A GLANCE**

**Tuesday April 16 2013 – Hot Breakfast starts at 8:00am**

### **Conference Starts 9:00am**

**Plenary “Procurement of Services”** with Grant Hallam and Troy McNeill of Consulting Engineers of Alberta (CEA) and Elise Harlick from Urban Systems.

**Session 2A “Leveraging the Power of Your Community: Cooperative Ownership of Renewable Energy”** with Paul Cabaj Founder and Chair of Spark.

**Session 2B “Accessible Communities”** with Art Erickson, Canadian Paraplegic Association

**Session 3A “Land Disposition”** to be announced speaker from Integrated Resource Management. Planning Division of Sustainable Resource Development.

**Session 3B “Edmonton City Centre Redevelopment”** with Shauna Kuiper of ISL Engineering and Land Services.

### **Plenary Sessions**

**Tuesday PM Plenary Panel “ Perspectives on Offsite Levies”** with Joanne Klauer of MacPherson Leslie & Tyerman LLP and Ray Watkins of the Urban Development Institute.

### **CPAA Banquet**

**Entertainment** with Ms. Randi Bouton

**CPAA Live and Silent Auction**

**Wednesday April 17 2013 – Hot Breakfast starts at 8:00am**

### **Conference Starts 9:00am**

### **Wednesday April 17, 2013**

**Plenary ‘ Land Use Impacts on Ecosystem Services** with Vic Adamowicz Alberta Land Institute.

**Closing Plenary “Asset Management Beyond the Spreadsheet: Managing in your context of today toward your vision of tomorrow”** with Jody Rechenmacher and Elise Harlick of Urban Systems Ltd.

### **Live and Silent Auction 2013**

This year we will have a Live Auction for three significant items plus our regular silent auction. Donations are respectfully requested for this Community Planning Association of Alberta fundraiser. Funds support our student scholarships. Delegates are asked to bring their items with them but please email Vicki Hackl, CPAA Secretary, prior to the conference, with the item information, so the bidding sheets can be prepared. [cpaa@cpaa.biz](mailto:cpaa@cpaa.biz)

### **Sponsorship and Exhibit Opportunities**

The Sponsorship Program has been revised and is included in this newsletter. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

# Article submitted by BROWNLEE LLP

## The Big Shift: Lessons on Walkability from Ken Greenberg

Ken Greenberg is an author, architect and urban designer and a well-known advocate for the renewal of downtown cores and urban centres. On October 23, 2012 the Regional Planning Speaker Series, hosted by the University of Alberta's Faculty of Extension/City-Region Studies Centre hosted a lecture by Ken Greenberg. He frequently presents across North America and Europe on issues facing urban municipalities. The lecture was an opportunity for attendees to hear his insight into one of the biggest issues for all urban municipalities, that of creating walkable communities. The recent lecture focused on the ideas in Greenberg's book, *Walking Home*.

Greenberg's lecture discussed a number of interesting ideas, many of which are applicable in a broad range of urban settings. His ideas highlighted the risks to housing supplies and municipal infrastructure costs if urban planning continues to emphasize automobile based communities.

### Shifting reality

Greenberg persuasively argues that all municipalities will increasingly plan walkable communities rather than traditional suburban, automobile based communities (what he calls a paradigm shift). Greenberg speculates that there will be economic and practical influences that will broaden the appeal of walkable communities. The most obvious influence he identifies in the paradigm shift is the increasing cost of owning and operating an automobile. The convergence of longer commuting times and increased gas prices, have made the option of automobile based communities increasingly uneconomical for individuals.

While the literature currently suggests that young people are choosing downtown urban cores for lifestyle choices, such as convenience, Greenberg also identified drastic changes in demographics that have influenced young people's housing choices. For example, Greenberg presented statistics from *The Economist* showing that in some places more than a quarter of people under the age of 26, who would be eligible to obtain a driver's licence, have chosen not to do so. For these young people, walkable communities will not only be desirable, but a necessity. Greenberg speculates that the reason that demographically young people have adopted walkable lifestyles in greater numbers is a result of their limited financial resources and flexibility in terms of housing (e.g. size and location).

### Shifting priorities

The evidence presented by Greenberg suggests that increasing sectors of the population will organize their lives in ways where they are not dependent on the automobile. Despite the focus on young people, Greenberg believes that as our population ages, senior residents will soon be making similar choices to abandon automobile based communities. This reality will arise as the health of an aging population makes driving impractical. Greenberg discussed a number of issues related to aging drivers, including accident rates and the ability of medical professionals to suspend a driver's licence for health reasons.

The early adoption of planning priorities that recognize this shifting reality will allow municipalities to appropriately plan for:

1. **Adequate stocks of housing that reflects demand** – As discussed above, the aggregate impact of individual choices and realities has increased the demand for walkable communities. Where a municipality has insufficient supply of housing in walkable communities, the cost of this housing stock increases and people leave to find more affordable options. Conversely, over supply of housing in automobile based communities depresses the prices and in worse case scenarios can result in abandoned or incomplete developments. Greenberg identified inconveniently located strip malls as particularly vulnerable to changing realities.
2. **Municipal infrastructure costs** – The cost of automobile based infrastructure is not only the capital costs associated with the construction of this infrastructure. In Alberta, the *Municipal Government Act* has given municipalities a number of tools to recover these types of costs. However, Greenberg identified that there are a significant number of hidden costs associated with automobile based infrastructure.

These costs range from the carrying costs associated with the maintenance of such infrastructure to opportunity costs associated with the occupation of otherwise valuable land by interchanges, additional lanes and parking facilities.

Municipalities have the unique opportunity to plan proactively for these shifting priorities, and to ensure they remain vital and vibrant communities.

### **Shifting strategies for urban planning**

This paradigm shift will require urban planners to re-evaluate the criteria they use to make planning decisions. Greenberg suggests that communities can be made more walkable with collaboration between a number of stakeholders, including municipal departments, experts such as planners, architects, landscape architects, artists, hydrologists, economists, and community members. Some strategies that Greenberg proposes include:

- Integrating transit planning with land use planning;
- Imposing standards that create complete street designs with spaces for pedestrians, transit, bicycles and automobiles; and
- At the planning stage, drafting conceptual statutory plans that envision mixed use of neighbourhood right, with easily accessible residential, commercial and public spaces.

Greenberg suggests the new Canadian dream is to live in a community where individuals can walk to buy groceries and take transit to work or school. Municipalities that adopt proactive strategies to address this paradigm shift towards walkable communities may be able to respond better to changing realities.



## **We Invite You to Get Involved!**

### **Write:**

The Alberta Planning Exchange offers a forum to express your or your organization's 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](mailto:cpaa@cpaa.biz).

### **Volunteer: Nomination Call for Directors**

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

CPAA is accepting nominations from individuals who are committed to excellence and have a passion for community planning. An even distribution for both geographical and elected vs. non-elected members is preferred. Elections take place at the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, April 17 at the conference luncheon. Please contact the CPAA office prior to the conference. to apply for these exciting and challenging volunteer roles by submitting a brief expression of interest to [cpaa@cpaa.biz](mailto:cpaa@cpaa.biz) which summarizes your interest and suitability for the role.

# CPAA Membership Drive 2013

## “Be a Member – Recruit a member”

**Help us stay a strong voice in Community Planning in Alberta**

A draw for an **I-Pad** will be held on April 17, 2013

at the Annual Conference in Red Deer

**Submission Deadline: March 15, 2013**

Current CPAA members (with paid CPAA membership for 2013) – group, individual or student – can enter as many times that they recruit a new member. Attendance of the conference is NOT required to win the grand prize.

Entry forms and complete details included as an insert with this newsletter.

**Thank you** to Starview and xplornet for their kind donation of this prize.



### Become a Member

Our membership represents those involved in municipal planning, including Councillors, administrators, development officers, professional planners (both private and public sector), academics, and provincial officials. This membership will enable your organization to share your experiences, achievements and challenges, and empower municipal decision-makers and the corporate world to work towards collaborative, community-minded planning solutions.

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.

We offer three membership types:

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

To download our Membership Registration Form, please visit our website:

<http://www.cpaa.biz>

# 2013 SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

## DIAMOND SPONSOR (Contribution of \$3,000)

This category includes the following benefits:

- There will be **only** two sponsors in this category.
- A representative of the Sponsor will be invited to speak as part of the Conference Welcoming Remarks and the Conference Closing Remarks.
- The sponsor will be recognized as the *Principal* Sponsor in all Conference materials: Program, on-site signage, major events, pre-Conference publicity.
- **One** free Registration for **both** of the following:
  - The Conference (Current Value = \$435)\*
  - The Education Session (Current Value = \$125)\*
- **One** free Display Booth at the Conference (Current value = \$250)
- Primary inclusion of the Sponsor's Logo in the Conference *Program*.
- Primary listing in the Conference *Program*.
- First Opportunity to sponsor additional "swag item" such as a notebook and pen for all attendees. Fees for this are to be determined based on item selected.

\* Conference Registration includes one ticket for each of the Luncheon and the Banquet.

\* Education Session Registration includes Lunch that follows.

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## PLATINUM SPONSOR (Contribution of \$1,750)

This category includes the following benefits:

- Recognition as the sole Sponsor of **one** of the following activities and events:
  - *Education Session*
  - *Conference Luncheon*
  - *Conference Banquet*
  - *Keynote Address*
  - *Silent Auction*
  - *Student Participation*
- **One** free Registration for only **one** of the following:
  - The Conference (Current Value = \$435)\*
  - The Education Session (Current Value = \$125)\*
- **One** free Display Booth at the Conference (Current value = \$250)
- Inclusion of the Sponsor's Logo in the Conference *Program*.
- Recognition of the Sponsor through prominent on-site signage.
- Listing in the Conference *Program*.

\* Conference Registration includes one ticket for each of the Luncheon and the Banquet.

\* Education Session Registration includes Lunch.

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## **GOLD SPONSOR (Contribution of \$1,250)**

This category includes the following benefits:

- Recognition as the sole Sponsor of **one** of the following:
  - *Concurrent Sessions*
  - *Banquet Beverages*
  - *Tuesday morning Plenary Session*
  - *Question-and-Answer Panel*
  - *Closing Plenary Address*
  - *Registration Desk*
- **One** free Registration for the Conference (Current Value = \$435.00)\*
- Inclusion of the Sponsor's Logo in the Conference *Program*.
- Recognition of the Sponsor through prominent on-site signage.
- Listing in the Conference *Program*.

\* Conference Registration includes one ticket for each of the Luncheon and the Banquet.

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## **SILVER SPONSOR (Contribution of \$750)**

This category includes the following benefits:

- Recognition as the sole Sponsor of the following:
  - *Education Session Lunch*
  - *Conference Program*
  - *Conference Management*
  - *Banquet Entertainment*
- Two free tickets for each of the Conference Luncheon and the Conference Banquet (Current Value = \$150).
- Inclusion of the Sponsor's Logo in the Conference *Program*.
- Recognition of the Sponsor through prominent on-site signage.
- Listing in the Conference *Program*.

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## **BRONZE SPONSOR (Contribution of \$500)**

This category includes the following benefits:

- One free ticket for the Conference Luncheon and Banquet (Current Value = \$95).
- Recognition of the Sponsor on the on-site Master Board of Sponsors.
- Listing in the Conference *Program*.

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## **CONTRIBUTING SPONSOR (less than \$500)**

- Listing in the Conference *Program*.

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## **Display Booth (\$250)**

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Priority for hosting opportunities will be given to sustaining sponsors. If there are multiple requests for a sponsorship item, priority will be given based on date of application and payment received. A sponsorship is secured only on receipt of payment. We reserve the right to amend rules and regulations governing sponsorship at any time. Exhibit space is available. Please refer to Exhibit Space form.