

ALBERTA PLANNING EXCHANGE

The Newsletter of the
Community Planning Association of Alberta



July 2011

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Gloria Wilkinson

We had another successful conference in Red Deer in April. From the feedback forms I note we received some of the highest approval scores ever. Amongst the presenters, Bill Moore-Kilgannon indeed turned out to be our most controversial speaker. There was a 50/50 split between enjoying a lobbyist point of view vs. my reaction to not knowing the speaker would be a lobbyist. As a result CPAA has amended the form that speakers must fill out in order to be a presenter, so we can avoid such incidents in the future.

Planning 101 in our Education Session received a 94% approval rating. CPAA is happy to have met the needs of the large number of newly elected officials.

STARS: Watch their website for their fall newsletter. They gratefully received the \$80 donation collected during our conference from cell phone users. Our story that went with it is so unique that they intend to write it up in their newsletter.

I wish to again recognize retiring directors: Don Schultz, who is moving to eastern Canada to be near his children, and Kate van Fraassen, one of our student directors, who has graduated.

CPAA held its annual retreat last weekend to roll forward our three-year Strategic Plan and Budget. Look for those outcomes in the fall newsletter, but I can tell you we will have to increase our membership and conference fees because we did not cover expenses this year. We have already booked the Black Knight Inn for April 16 – 18, 2012. The Inn will have completed renovations by then.

Have a great summer, everyone.

NEW STUFF

At this year's Strategic Plan Retreat, it was decided to make a basic organizational change – to have an Outreach Committee and an Editor-in-Chief of this newsletter, instead of the former Communications Committee.

With that change, we decided to strike a different approach to the Alberta Planning Exchange, as well. The basic change is to have YOUR ideas, articles, themes for articles, etc. instead of OURS.

Some of the ideas coming forward from the Outreach Committee included:

- Theme ideas may be appropriate for the newsletter. Do you, our readers, have any ideas for themes?
- We want the articles for our newsletter to come from YOU;
- Do we need some sort of incentive to get articles from you? A prize of some sort?
- Maybe we should have a part of the newsletter entitled “Where are they now?” and highlight where some of our past members are now and what they are doing;
- Perhaps we can charge for advertising space;
- Perhaps it is time for a new look, a new name;
- Maybe we should have a question posed in each newsletter and do a web poll on it;
- “Social networking” seems to be taking over – how can we take advantage of this? What can we use that will not cost us a lot of money?
- We could have a part of the paper in which we could outline special achievements by members.

So, what do you think?

What ideas do YOU have? Contact the CPAA office via email: cpaa@cpaa.biz

An Opportunity for Our Membership!

CPAA suddenly 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 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.

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

MEET YOUR 2011 CPAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gloria Wilkinson, Chair

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

Leanne Beaupré, Vice-Chair (North)

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

Elizabeth Armitage, Vice-Chair (South)

Elizabeth graduated from the University of Calgary's Environmental Design (Planning) program in 2008 and is employed by the Town of Chestermere as a Project Planner.

Jamal Ramjohn, Treasurer

Jamal is a rural and regional land use planner and an Associate with Dillon Consulting Limited. He is a former Council Member and Past-President of the Alberta Association, Canadian Institute of Planners.

Lynne Dale, Director

Lynne has more than 25 years experience in planning, working with a variety of clients including the Cities of Ottawa, Edmonton and Calgary, Alberta Municipal Affairs, and the Calgary Regional Partnership. During the past few years, she has become certified to teach English as a Second Language.

Beth Sanders, Director

Beth is a freelance community planner working across Alberta with a focus on strategic community initiatives and leadership development.

Jolene Tejkl, Director

Jolene is a Planner with Parkland Community Planning Services in Red Deer. She provides planning services to a variety of Towns, Villages and Summer Villages throughout central Alberta.

Richard Neufeld, Director

Richard is currently in private practice serving both municipal and private developer clients. He has more than 21 years of planning experience in Alberta, primarily in the north central and northwestern areas of the province.

Peter Lehner, Director

Peter Lehner 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.

Lesley Vandemark, Director

Lesley is a Councillor for the Municipal District of Greenview #16. Municipal work, along with family, (husband, daughters and grandchildren) yard work at a new home and running her own business keeps her very busy.

Kayla Rogers, Student Director

Kayla is studying planning through the University of Alberta's Augustana College Campus in Camrose.

Meaghan Simister, Student Director

Meaghan is an undergraduate student at the University of Calgary, currently in her third year of study, in both Urban Studies and Political of Science degree programs. She grew up in Calgary and currently resides in Cochrane, Alberta.

Dr. TIM BURTON, HONORARY DIRECTOR
Gloria Wilkinson

Dr. Tim Burton was inducted as an Honorary Director of the Community Planning Association of Alberta, at the Banquet of the 2011 CPAA Conference in Red Deer, AB. Tim is only the ninth person to be awarded Honorary Directorship during the 30 years of CPAA's existence. Tim accepted this award in front of friends and colleagues to whom he gave thanks for their support over the years.

REMARKS ON INDUCTION AS AN HONORARY DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA - Tuesday, April 5th, 2011 Dr. Thomas L. (Tim) Burton

Thank you for this wonderful tribute.

I'm getting to the age now where I seem to get a lot of awards – mostly, it seems, just for living my life my way!

I have received recognition and/or an award on 10 different occasions during the past 20 years, including both the Award of Merit and the Wild Rose Award from the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association, an Outstanding Research Award from the University of Alberta, lifetime membership in both the World Leisure and Recreation Association and the Canadian Association for Leisure Studies and, in 2005, the Alberta Centennial Medal.

I am grateful for all of them, but, in some ways, this is one of the most satisfying – because it comes from a small organization that I cherish and from people who have been right there alongside me helping us sustain something unique and immensely valuable.

The Community Planning Association of Alberta is the last surviving association of its kind in Canada and, as I have travelled and spoken across the country, I have frequently been asked how we do it. How have we kept the 'community' in community planning all these years while, one by one, community-based planning organizations across Canada have quietly expired? My answer has always had two parts.

First, we're Albertans. As Aritha van Herk so aptly put it, we're mavericks; we don't run with the herd; we follow our own paths!

Second, CPAA has been blessed over the years with some amazing people who simply would not let the association die: it was just too important. People like Sandford Sydness, Anna Parkinson, Al Suezle, Jean Lewis, Tom Baldwin, Archie Grover and Bill Gillespie were determined to keep the association afloat – even during the worst times. And there were dark times!

Personally, I came late to the Association. While I had been involved peripherally during its first two decades, it wasn't until about 10 years ago, after I retired from the University of Alberta and moved to the southern part of the Province, that Bill Gillespie – whom I've known for half a lifetime – talked me into running for the Board of Directors.

Then, two years later, in March 2005, we lost our long-time Chair, Tom Baldwin. Tom had led the Association for a decade, running everything from the finances to the newsletter out of his office and home in Northern Alberta. He was a godsend to us and to lose him so suddenly was like a ship losing its rudder.

But we persevered. Over the next four years as Chair of the Board, I led the efforts of a remarkable group of people who turned the Association around, re-built its governance system, put it on a sound financial basis, expanded its membership categories, developed a strategic plan, and much more. CPAA has thrived!

What is particularly unique about the Association is that it has a working Board of Directors. When you are elected to the Board, you don't just attend Board meetings. You are expected to personally organize sessions at the Annual Conference; to work on initiatives with postsecondary planning schools; to seek out sponsors and raise funds for the Association; to prepare the Association's positions and comments on Provincial government policies; to take responsibility for production of the *Planning Exchange* newsletter; and much more.

By my own count, I worked with more than 30 different Directors during my seven years on the Board. All of them have been important contributors to the Association and all are cherished. But, inevitably, some were particularly helpful to me personally and, without taking anything away from the work of the others, I would like to thank my personal mentors. In no particular order, then, a special thank you to: Armin Preiksaitis, George Gehrke, Veronica Bliska, Carolyn Kolebaba, Mark Oberg, Don Shultz, Gloria Wilkinson, Leanne Beaupré, Lynne Dale, and Bill Gillespie. As well, there is our Secretary, Vicki Hackl – what a great day it was when we found Vicki!

Finally, there are two members of the Association who did not serve on the Board of Directors during my time and who, quite possibly, don't even know how much I valued their advice and support – most of it usually coming over a snack and a drink! My special thanks to John Simpson and Harry Harker.

Thank you, again, for this honour. In the words of Mr. Spock – Live long and prosper!

2011 ANNUAL CPAA CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

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!!!

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.

2011 ANNUAL CPAA CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Lynne Dale

Introduction

40% of conference delegates answered the questionnaire

- **Pre-Conference Education Session**
94% of those responding thought it was Very Good or Good.
- **Opening Plenary: New Ways of Doing Planning**
95 % of those responding thought it was Very Good or Good.
- **Tuesday Morning Plenary: Water is Life**
75% of those responding thought it was Very Good or Good.
- **Tuesday Afternoon Plenary: The Good, the Bad, and the Non-existent**
95% of those responding thought it was Very Good or Good.
- **Q & A Panel: Different Perspectives on Sustainability**
83% of those responding thought it was Very Good or Good.
- **Closing Plenary: Data, Information, and Knowledge**
96% of those responding thought it was Very Good or Good.

Concurrent Sessions

- **1A. 13 Ways to Kill Your Community**
100% of those responding thought it was Very Good or Good.
- **1B. SDAB**
93% of those responding thought it was Very Good or Good.
- **2A. Capacity Issues**
75% of those responding thought it was Very Good or Good.
- **2B. Grey Water Strategies in Canada**
91% of those responding thought it was Very Good or Good.
- **3A. Utilities and Water Distribution for Future Planning**
80% of those responding thought it was Very Good or Good.
- **3B. Interbasin Transfers**
91% of those responding thought it was Very Good or Good.

CPAA wishes to thank all of the speakers who took time to present their ideas, thoughts and experiences for the consideration of our members.

2011 CPAA CONFERENCE & EDUCATION SESSION SPONSORS

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Conference Grant

Alberta Municipal Affairs

CPAA is grateful for the support of its Conference and Education Session Sponsors whose total contributions of \$23,975.00 enabled us to continue to offer registration fees that make ours one of the best-value-for-money planning conference in Alberta.

Thank you delegates for supporting the Silent Auction, this year \$2,365.00 was raised in support of the Conference Scholarship Awards.

Thank you to the MLAs, private firms and municipalities for the quality items donated to the silent auction.

Thank you Alberta Municipal Affairs for the grant of \$2500.00 in support of the education session.

Events and Education Opportunities

Simon Fraser University's Urban Studies program is offering an online graduate-level course, Sustainability Assessment for Cities, in Fall 2011. We are looking for urban professionals/practitioners to join a rich mix of graduate students taking the course. Sustainability Assessment for Cities provides an overview of concepts, methods, tools and techniques for monitoring performance and measuring sustainability. A key focus will be on designing systems for measurement that are aligned with contemporary innovative urban policy goals such as sustainability, smart growth, and competitiveness and processes such as performance measurement and results-based accountability. A detailed course outline and video introduction is available at: <http://www.sfu.ca/urban/fall.html> The estimated cost of the course is \$1250, which includes the application fee, tuition, and ancillary fees in addition to tuition. As this is a **graduate-level course**, applicants must have an earned undergraduate degree. Interested professionals should be in contact with Meg Holden <mholden@sfu.ca> by July 31st, for additional information. We encourage prospective applicants to make their interest known soon, as space is limited.

September 25-27, 2011 Building Partnerships

Alberta Development Officers Association
The Coast Lethbridge Hotel and Conference Centre
Refer to www.adoa.net for updated information

October 14-15, 2011 et2011 – “electrifying transportation”

ABCtech

in Sherwood Park, Strathcona County, Alberta

The et2011 Conference will profile the status, issues and forecasts for "electrifying transportation": electric and intelligent vehicles, hi-speed rail, renewable and fusion energy options, power storage and distribution, public transit planning, SmartGrid electrification including 4 moderated panels, 8 seminars and ... KEYNOTES Al Cormier, Electric Mobility Canada - Why et and Why Now?; Anthony Perl, independent - Western Canada As A Future EV Manufacturing Centre; Brian Baudais, TransAlta - et Financing and Market Readiness www.abctech.ca

October 16 - 18, 2011 Connecting Our Communities: Planning For A Healthy Future

Alberta Professional Planners Institute

The Capri Hotel and Conference Centre, Red Deer, Alberta

Keynote Speaker - Guillermo (Gil) Penalosa

www.facebook.com/APPI_2011 www.twitter.com/APPI_2011 admin@albertaplanners.com
www.albertaplanners.com

October 27-29, 2011 Recreation and Parks: Bringing Quality to Life

Alberta Recreation Parks Association

The Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise

Opening Keynote Carl Honoré - In Praise of Slow and the Future of our Children and *Closing Keynote* Rhonda Victoor - Rituals of High Performance© for energy-strapped professionals
Program Highlights include sessions focusing on: • National Recreation Summit Highlights and Learnings • Positive Youth Development • Eco Energy Session <http://arpaonline.ca/>