

Alberta Planning Exchange

Community
Planning
Association of
Alberta
SEPTEMBER 2014

Building Bridges

by Gloria Wilkinson, Chair of the Board of Directors

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Next new team of conference chairs leads us to another exciting anticipation of our spring conference, so stay posted. Our student interest has grown again – not only do we have two student directors but a recent graduate, Anshu, is acting as our newsletter editor. Anshu is a regular attendee of CCAA events, who graduated from EVDS in June 2014, maintains her interest in that she volunteered to become the newsletter editor. Thanks Anshu. Our first meeting this fall is at the University of Alberta, where their growing programs in planning is another level of interest – beyond our traditional one at University of Calgary.

We held our annual strategic retreat in June. It was determined that the current three year plan be rolled forward as we are operating in the correct direction. There will be greater emphasis on outreach this year, so if you have ideas for us, please send them in.

IN THIS ISSUE



Draft State of the Watershed Report on the Mighty Peace

By Adam Norris, M.Sc., B.i.T., Page 2



Planning for Resilience: Winning Essay 1

by Courtney Laurence, Page 3

Planning for Resilience: Winning Essay 2

by Rachele Trovato, Page 5

CPAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Chair

GLORIA WILKINSON

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



Past 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.



Vice Chair (North)

TOM BURTON

Tom is a fifth term elected official, currently serving as Deputy Reeve for the Municipal District of Greenview #16. Tom also in his third term as the Director of District 4 of the Alberta Association Municipal Districts & Counties. Tom has been a member of the DeBolt Fire & Rescue since 1993 serving as Chief since 1995 and an EMR since 2001.



Vice-Chair (South)

DREW HYNDMAN

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.



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

GARRETT TOMLINSON

Garret is a Councillor of Ward 6 – Cadotte Lake/Little Buffalo in Northern Sunrise County. He began working with the Lubicon Lake Nation in 2004. Garrett studied Political Science and Native American Studies at the University of Lethbridge. He is an EMT, and he and his wife are local business owners.



Director

LARRY ARMFELT

Larry is a Councillor of Northwest, Baptiste/Island Lake Area in Athabasca County.

Draft State of the Watershed Report on the Mighty Peace

by Adam Norris, M.Sc., B.i.T.

The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance is a multi-stakeholder, not-for-profit, consensus-based organization concerned with the Peace and Slave Watersheds in Alberta. The organization is focussed on fostering collaboration and figuring out how to share the water resources of our watershed. All the land that drains to the Peace or Slave Rivers makes up the watershed, which is our geographic area of interest. Everyone needs water and we want to ensure that our watershed will be able to provide the water that we need to do those things that we want to.

We are pleased to release a DRAFT version of the State of the Watershed Report. This report draws on both scientific data and public input to create a snapshot of how our Watershed is doing right now. One critical purpose of the State of the Watershed Report is to provide a baseline so that we can measure any change in our footprint on the landscape.

The State of the Watershed Report is a critical piece of work because it provides a baseline or an understanding of how things are right now. In the future, we can compare the information in the State of the Watershed Report to the most current information in order to understand how our footprint has changed. Identifying and quantifying this change is so very important because it allows us to see which of our practices are beneficial and which are detrimental.

The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance is arranging a series of forums and webinars to provide opportunity for feedback on the DRAFT State of the Watershed. We will be publishing dates and venues shortly and hope to see you at one of our events. Input can be given through the survey found on the MPWA website or given directly to us.

Please let us know if the State of the Watersheds lines up with your understanding of the Peace and Slave Watersheds.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Adam Norris, M.Sc., B.i.T.
Watershed Coordinator
Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance
email: adam.mpwa@serbnet.com

Planning for Resilience: Winning Essay 1

by Courtney Lawrence

What is Resilience?

The theme of the 2014 CPAA conference, 'Planning for Resilience', was evident throughout all the sessions across the three days. To me, resilience means the ability to not only bounce back, but to move forward following the occurrence of a negative event, such as a natural disaster like a flood or fire. Some communities are naturally more resilient compared to other communities. This can be due to several factors including whether or not a community's residents feel are willing to help out their community following a disaster. The more connected residents are to their community and the better prepared a community is to react following a disaster, the more likely the community will be able to respond, bounce back, and move forward.

While some communities are more naturally resilient, it is possible to facilitate resilience by planning for it. This can be achieved by developing response plans that will lay out a plan of action if a negative event were to occur and building redundancy into infrastructure and services so that if one system were to fail or a major artery is blocked, there are other alternative options. While developing an action plan or response strategy is important, equally important is the ability to immediately adapt and respond to issues as they arise.

It is important for communities to have a plan of action, both short term and long term, to best be able to respond to a negative event, but each individual neighbourhood within that community should also be prepared. Research has shown that the more connected individuals are to their neighbourhood, the more likely they are to help out their neighbours or feel a sense of responsibility for their neighbourhood. These connections can also be described as social capital. By increasing the social capital of a neighbourhood, its residents and ultimately the neighbourhood, will be more resilient following a negative event, such as a natural disaster.

My interests lay in social capital and how to increase the levels of social capital experienced by residents in different neighbourhoods. Social capital can be influenced by the physical design of neighbourhoods. I believe my contribution for planning for resilience is through planning the design of new neighbourhoods and revitalizing old neighbourhoods. By creating walkable and safe neighbourhoods that have public spaces, which encourage residents to interact with each other, it is possible to increase the levels of neighbourhood social capital, and ultimately facilitate the ability of the neighbourhood to be resilient following an adverse event.

Opportunities

The most valuable experience at the conference came from attending the 'Preparing for the Grey Wave – Making our Communities More Senior Friendly' session. One of the major needs of communities, not

CPAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONTINUED



Director

CANDACE BANACK

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

ERIN O'NEILL, RPP, MCIP

Erin is the Manager of Land Acquisition and Issues Management with the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo in Fort McMurray. She has previously worked as the Manager of Planning & Development with the Town of Sundre and as a planner in Fort McMurray and the City of Ottawa.



Director

ROD MCDERMAND

Rod is a Councillor of Division 1 of Lacombe County.



Director

LUIS ESTEVES

Luis is a Senior Planner With Scheffer Andrew Ltd.



Director

DARYL BEESTON

Daryl is currently a Councilor with the County of Grande Prairie, Division 2. He was formerly an owner of an oilfield service company and President of the Grande Prairie Regional Agricultural and Exhibition Society.



Student Director

GENEVA CHAUDHARY

Geneva has a degree in Human Geography and is currently enrolled in the Master of Planning program at the University of Calgary. She has over five years of government administration experience from working at the City of Edmonton.



Student Director

EDGARD FARAH

Edgard is an architect and an urban designer with over 5 years of international experience in town planning and urban development. Edgard is currently enrolled in the Master of Planning program at the University of Calgary and will be graduating in April, 2015.

only in Alberta, but across Canada, is housing that is suitable for seniors. Currently, the common practice for when seniors are no longer able to live on their own independently is to move into assisted care homes, which can reduce their social relationships as they often have to move outside of their neighbourhood. It is important for residents to have the opportunity to age in place. A group of residents in one rural Alberta community took it upon themselves to plan and develop a senior friendly community where these residents could move into when they were no longer willing or able to maintain their current home. What was most interesting about this session was that rather than waiting for what would inevitably be the normal path, these residents took control and planned for a future where they would not have to move from their community.

Rather than being dependent on the system, these residents showcase what a current, common problem is in aging Alberta communities and how they can take control of their own future. Furthermore, the residents of this community are active participants and contributors in the entire planning process. This session demonstrated what could be achieved when residents are given the opportunity to not only voice their concerns for their community, but to also be active contributors to the future plan.

Areas of Concern

While there are clearly some examples of successful planning projects and potential opportunities for future projects in Alberta communities, there are still some areas of concern. I think one of the most relevant issues to community planning is public participation in the planning process. There were a couple of sessions at the conference that described how the public were actively involved in the different projects, but there is still room for improvement when it comes to involving people who are most directly impacted. Often the public is informed about various projects and plans through town hall meetings, but true engagement or participation by the public is limited. I think it is important to initiate contact with the public from the beginning of the planning process so they can be involved in the decision-making process and their concerns can be heard before the project is finalized. It was evidenced through the conference sessions how successful projects can be when all residents are actively engaged and involved in the process. As planners we need to move beyond the traditional town halls or mail outs and attempt more worthwhile and valuable engagement with the public. Even though it may be more time consuming or costly, the final outcomes are more likely to be successful if those individuals who are most directly affected by the project are included in the discussions from the beginning.

I think another issue in planning resilient communities that was evident in several of the conference sessions was the importance of communication, not only between members of the same community, but also across varying levels of government and between non-profit organizations. Without proper communication practices, valuable time and resources have the potential to be wasted or be utilized inefficiently. This is especially important during emergency situations, such as the 2013 Alberta floods. During the long-term, however, poor communication can result in projects stalling or multiple agencies duplicating work. It is important that planners do not operate in isolation and are vigilant about communicating to all their stakeholders, and ensuring that all stakeholders are continuously updated on the status of projects.

Looking Towards the Future

There are multiple means in which a community can plan for resilience. This can be through developing and supporting communities where residents can age in place, creating partnerships that enable large areas to be used positively for park space, and through the revitalization and redevelopment of a downtown core that encourages local residents to return and become active users of the space. By encouraging and supporting non-traditional partnerships and relationships between individuals and groups, in both the public and private sector, it will be possible to develop innovative solutions to the issues that are facing Alberta communities, and communities across Canada. Furthermore, the successful examples that already exist in communities in Alberta can be used to model future projects after.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Courtney Lawrence
MPlan., EVDS, University of Calgary
courtney-lawrence@hotmail.com

Planning for Resilience: Winning Essay 2

by Rachele Trovato

Recently, I was offered the opportunity to attend the 2014 Annual CPAA Conference, which was graciously hosted by the City of Red Deer. The Conference not only provided me with the opportunity to be surrounded by many like-minded professionals, but it allowed me the opportunity to be exposed to the opinions and needs of different municipalities. The Conference drew from the experiences of a variety of cities, towns and counties in order to convey a well-rounded view of resilience in planning and the many forms it can take. For example, during the three days of the conference I was exposed to topics ranging from aging in place and urban redevelopment to public engagement strategies and natural resource planning. I feel as though this year's CPAA Conference theme was quite relevant to the province, especially to the numerous municipalities located within southern Alberta who were devastated by flooding just last summer. The keynote presentation, given by Andrew Courbould, provided an excellent summation of not only the environmental impacts of disaster events, but the emotional and social impacts as well. As the anniversary of the floods draws near, it is an important time in the province, as governments work to further the rebuilding efforts and build back stronger. Essential to these efforts is the concept of resilience.

In my opinion, two of the most relevant issues that emerged from the discussions at this year's conference were the intricacies surrounding planning for an aging population and the opportunities and challenges associated with public engagement in the planning process. The discussions surrounding aging in place were of particular interest, as a considerable portion of the province's population will soon find themselves in need of different services and different forms of housing. Lori Kovacs and Phil Unland, members of the Rural Seniors Advisory Committee gave an exciting presentation on the Western Rockyview Communities Development Society (WRCDS) and their solutions to creating housing for aging communities. Hunt Coulee Village, the concept design for a senior friendly community, was presented as the WRCDS's solution to the displacement of elderly rural populations. Mr. Unland was able to provide a valuable account of what it

means to be a rural resident being faced with potentially having to leave his community for an urban environment, in which he will be closer to services but further from the long standing personal connections within his current community. Hunt Coulee Village allows seniors the opportunity to remain in their rural community and maintain existing social connections while still providing senior-friendly living accommodations. Hunt Coulee Village seems like an excellent example of planning for resilience, as the new development protects and maintains the existing social capital found within rural communities. Looking towards the future of planning for aging communities, I believe that creative solutions such as the Hunt Coulee Village should be explored as a means of strengthening existing communities.

Public engagement is another important issue in terms of planning for resilience as the inclusion of the public in planning initiatives allows for a more successful project and a more informed community. One of the plenary sessions at this year's conference provided information on how different communities were tackling the issue of public participation in planning efforts. Jared Kassel, from the Town of Cochrane, and Lauren Bartlette, from Urban Systems, recalled their own experiences regarding the encouragement of public participation through a discussion of the comprehensive public engagement strategy developed for the Town of Cochrane and its downtown revitalization plan.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

We are pleased to announce this year's recipients of the CPAA Scholarships. The receivers of this year's awards are Courtney Laurence, Rachele Trovato, and Riley Iwamoto.

Courtney and Rachele are MPlan. student at University of Calgary and Riley is a MAP student at University of British Columbia.

Congratulations, Rachele Trovato, Courtney Laurence and Riley Iwamoto !

UPCOMING PLANNING EVENTS



Design Matters: Lecture Series

- ⇒ September 24, 2014 - March 25, 2015
- ⇒ 6:00 PM University of Calgary
- ⇒ The Procuring Innovative Architecture exhibition at University of Calgary concerns innovation in architecture and its basis in spatial intelligence



ADOA 30th Anniversary Conference 2014

- ⇒ September 28-October 1 2014
- ⇒ Radisson Hotel & Conference Centre , Canmore Alberta
- ⇒ ADOA Conference at Canmore will provide an opportunity for discussion, communication and education for Development Officers, and those persons designated as a development authority, in the Province of Alberta



APPI 2014 Conference 'The Lifecycle of a Planner'

- ⇒ October 5 - 7, 2014
- ⇒ Delta Lodge at Kananaskis, Alberta
- ⇒ The 2014 APPI Conference at Kananaskis will focus on using the lessons learned by planners through diverse experiences in their professional journey or Lifecycle. The conference will provide a forum to explore key milestones in the learning and mentoring journey of a planner, within the context of our work in both physical and social communities

Planning for Resilience: Winning Essay 2 continued..

The public engagement strategy undertaken by Cochrane was implemented in order to establish an inclusive decision making process between the residents and other stakeholders. This session stressed that an inclusive and transparent form of decision making is key to the success and longevity of a project as residents are more likely to participate if they feel that their voice is heard. For example, Urban Systems looked to create exciting opportunities for the public to be involved in the process including creative workshops in which the residents were able to indicate what they desired downtown Cochrane to be. This session reinforced my belief that effective public engagement means inclusion throughout the entirety of the project, from start to finish. By establishing a more transparent form of planning, residents will feel more included in the project which may lead to increased pride for their community and a desire to maintain it.

After being exposed to the diverse selection of sessions and meeting such a variety of people at the 2014 CPAA Conference, I was able to re-evaluate what resilience in planning means to me. Resiliency is not just a physical quality, but one that is multifaceted. The conference sessions demonstrated that a community needs to not only be resilient in physical form but should take care to foster social connections as a means of increasing resiliency. Social cohesion is a vital component of a resilient community and we should constantly be striving to better these social ties, whether it is through urban revitalization projects to improve downtown conditions, inclusive public engagement strategies or even through the modification of existing housing structures to accommodate an aging population.

What I will take away from the 2014 CPAA Conference and what I hope to include in my own professional practice is the importance of social cohesion and its role in establishing a resilient community. I really valued my experience at the 2014 CPAA Conference as it provided an outstanding platform in which to see what other municipalities are doing to foster resiliency in their own communities. The Conference not only provided a wide array of informative sessions, but it brought together many different people with which to learn from and to share our own experiences and ideas of resiliency with. The Conference reaffirmed my belief that strong communities are not built by a few, but are a result of the actions of many and I look forward to attending the 2015 CPAA Conference!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

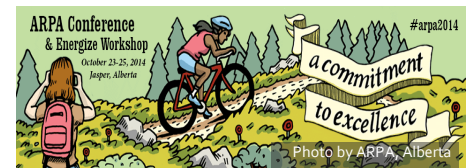
Rachelle Trovato
MPlan., EVDS, University of Calgary
rachelle.trovato@gmail.com

UPCOMING PLANNING EVENTS



Rules, Roles and Relationships: Understanding Municipal Governance (EOEP: Municipal Governance Seminar)

- ⇒ October 7-8 2014, 9:00AM-4:30PM
- ⇒ AUMA Office, Unit 300, 8616-51 Ave. Edmonton, AB Citizens for Safe Cycling
- ⇒ Seminar about how your council and community function, and their roles in municipal-decision-making



Alberta Recreation and Parks Association Conference and Energize Workshop 2014

- ⇒ October 23-25, 2014
- ⇒ Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge, Jasper Alberta
- ⇒ This conference is themed on "A commitment to Excellence". Learn about the new ways and efforts to be employed by ARPA for providing better recreational facilities to our communities

Canadian Property Rights Conference

- ⇒ October 16-18 2014, Calgary, Alberta
- ⇒ This conference is designed to give those interested in the role of property rights in a free society an opportunity to learn and to meet others who share their interest

UPCOMING PLANNING EVENTS



AAMDC Convention Fall 2014

- ⇒ November 18-20, 2014 & March 16-18, 2015
- ⇒ Shaw Conference Center, Edmonton, Alberta
- ⇒ Be a part of "Floodway Development Regulation Consultation Process" and learn and give suggestion about preventing future flood



LGAA Conference & Trade Shows 2015

- ⇒ March 4-6, 2015
- ⇒ Red Deer, Alberta
- ⇒ Local Government Administration Association Alberta-LGAA Chapter holds annual conference to facilitate networking and information sharing among members and agencies and represent local government administration



American Planning Association
Making Great Communities Happen

Photo by APA

APA National Conference 2015

- ⇒ April 18-22, 2015
- ⇒ Seattle, USA
- ⇒ American Planning Association-APA provides a platform for finding out new possibilities and innovations by joining thousands of planners from around the world



Red Deer. Photo by Kevin M Klerks

2015 CPAA Conference

Planning vs. Economic Growth: How do we bridge the gap?

Monday, April 13 to Wednesday, April 15 2015
Red Deer, Alberta

Are you looking for creative ways to find a balance between a good plan and having that development be financially feasible? Has your Municipality been looking for creative ways to fund growth? Do you struggle with the conflict between Planning and Growth? **Join us at the 2015 CPAA Conference, April 13-15th, 2015 in Red Deer to debate and learn about how we can bridge the gaps.**

Do you have an interesting story that bridges the gap between Planning and Economic Growth? Submit your proposal to speak at the 2015 Conference. Speaker proposals can be sent to Erin O'Neill at erin.oneill@woodbuffalo.ab.ca exploring various aspects of community planning.

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.

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/>

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.

Alberta
Planning
Exchange
Community
Planning
Association
of Alberta
SEPTEMBER
2014

#205, 10940 - 166A Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5P 3V5

Contact:

Vicki Hackl, CPAA

Secretary

780.432.6387

780.452.7718 Fax

cpaa@cpaa.biz

<http://www.cpaabiz.com>

CPAA Mission:

To provide opportunities to share, promote and Encourage sound community among a full range of stakeholders.