

ALBERTA PLANNING EXCHANGE

The Newsletter of the
Community Planning Association of Alberta



December 2010



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Gloria Wilkinson

Your CPAA Board is a well-oiled machine running under the governance guidelines we set up in our first strategic plan a few years back! Why do I say this?

I finally had my long-awaited knee replacement surgery at the beginning of September (you may just see me with no crutches next spring – yeah!) – AND – the Board got the work done anyway, under the direction of Vice Chair North, Leanne Beaupre.

The Conference and Education Committee co-chaired by Leanne Beaupre and Glen Lawrence has their planning work well underway for next April's event. The Board held their strategic planning retreat in September, facilitated by former Chairman Tim Burton, to move our rolling three-year strategic plan forward.

CPAA and the Alberta Professional Planners Institute (APPI) are moving forward on our joint effort to have a post secondary planning program delivered once again in Alberta. We recently sent a joint letter to Ministers Goudreau and Horner and met with senior administration at Alberta Advanced Education & Technology. We heard you loud and clear on the need for planners who have knowledge of the MGA and the community planning needs in our jurisdictions. We will keep you posted on the outcomes of our efforts.

FIRST TIMER: CPAA STRATEGIC RETREAT

Peter Lehner

We frequently know more, not because we have moved ahead by our own natural ability, but because we are supported by the mental strength of others, and possess riches that we have inherited from our forefathers.
- Bernard of Chartres, 12th Century

As a newly elected Board-Member, the recent strategic retreat in Leduc was my first chance to truly reflect on the history and the future of the CPAA and share my thoughts with other Board members.

Dr. Tim Burton gave us an excellent overview of the past, present and future, the CPAA's organizational roots in the CPAC and the transition into the current association. He shared with us the steps taken under his leadership to ensure growth and a prosperous future for the Association and its Members.

We, the members of the Board, had a chance to review the strategic plan 2009-2012 and reconfirm and update our shared Vision:

“CPAA envisions co-operative planning throughout Alberta that leads to sustainable and liveable communities”

So, what do I take away from the retreat?

That I am honoured to work with so many dedicated Board members on the implementation of the strategic plan 2010-2013. I see an even stronger need for the services that CPAA provides to our communities in the future. My colleagues inspired me to set goals for myself to assist in the creation of a membership development strategy and to work hard to make our next conference an inspiring and educational event for all participants.

BITS & PIECES

Climate Change

The impacts of climate change across Canada is varied and extensive, including extreme weather events and the long-term implications of more gradual change, like sea level rise, melting permafrost, receding ice caps, and drought. These changes affect all aspects of community life and range from environmental through long-term economic, health and social implications. Communities need to understand these changes but, more importantly, must develop strategies and plans for adaptation and build these strategies into their day-to-day planning and decision-making processes. The latest CIP Conference in Montreal, QC (October 2-5, 2010) drew delegates from Canada, US and around the world. Conference session notes and presentations may be found at: www.planningforclimatechange.ca

Economic Development for Elected Officials

Economic Developers Alberta's (EDA) Economic Development for Elected Official's course provides strategies, tools, resources and experiences to help your community survive, thrive and grow. For example, it provides you with information on:

- The Role and Function of Community Economic Development (CED)
- Issues and best practices
- How to manage the process
- How to create effective outcomes for communities

For more information or to book your course, contact:

Economic Developers Alberta

Phone: 1-866-671-8182

www.edaalberta.ca

UPCOMING EVENTS

FCM Sustainable Communities Conference

February 8-10, 2011

Victoria, British Columbia

Embracing Change for Sustainability: Innovative governance, partnerships and financing

Change is a constant in our world and happens at an ever-increasing pace. Cities and communities must adapt to ongoing changes in their natural, economic, political, social and cultural environments. A willingness to embrace new behaviours, technology, business models and governance is essential for a municipality to move towards sustainability.

As our understanding of sustainability evolves, municipalities and their local partners are leading the way. Municipalities are taking innovative, integrated approaches to reduce environmental impacts, build social cohesion, and create economic opportunities in their communities.

Whether your community is just starting on a sustainability path or has already seen the changes that a sustainable approach creates, the Sustainable Communities Conference is an opportunity to share your experience and learn from peers. Come to embrace change for the better!

www.fcm.ca/scc

Pathways 2 Sustainability

February 23 – 25, 2011

Red Deer, Alberta

Hosted at Red Deer College in partnership with ReThink Red Deer, the City of Red Deer, Growing Food Security in Alberta, and Sustainability Resources Ltd.

Pathways 2011 is featuring over 40 Marketplace Exhibitors, 20 Showcase Presentations and 12 Panelists highlighting renewable energy technologies, sustainable agriculture businesses, sustainable community concepts and plans, investment brokers, community finance, and organizations that support sustainability for Alberta.

Keynote speakers include Chris Turner (Geography of Hope), Mark Anielski (Economics of Happiness), Wayne Roberts (Real Food for a Change), Bob Mills (Net Metering), and Woody Tasch (Slow Money)

"Pathways is providing participants with a marketplace of ideas, innovations, technologies and an opportunity to network with the people who are creating solutions for motivating Alberta's sustainable communities"

www.pathways2sustainability.ca

Community Planning Association of Alberta

Annual CPAA Conference – Water: Our Scarce Resource

Annual CPAA Education Session – Planning is a Process: Back to the Basics

April 4 – 6, 2011

Black Knight Inn, Red Deer, Alberta

The CPAA Board of Directors are hard at work assembling an exciting, educational and inspiring line-up of speakers and presenters for our upcoming conference in Red Deer, Alberta. The theme is ever-timely, "Water: Our Scarce Resource" and the conference will examine the past, present and future of water resources in Alberta.

If you are an elected official, we will give you advice and tools to deal with water related issues.

If you are a Planner, we will provide you with facts, figures and ideas to approach water with a focus on sustainability.

If you are interested in the future of water resources in your community, you can not afford to miss this important conference.

The Education Session will introduce new councillors, administrators and other interested persons to the planning process.

www.cpaabiz.org

Alberta Rural Development Network

Rural Development Conference: Creating Rural Connections

April 12 –14, 2011

Edmonton, Alberta

ARDN is hosting its second rural development conference at the Mayfield Inn & Suites. Presentations will be about rural projects or programs underway or completed; rural research under development, in progress or completed; or about training / learning opportunities that are available throughout rural Alberta. Groups can showcase existing partnerships between researchers / post-secondary institution and communities.

www.ardn.ca

Faculty of Law, University of Alberta

Fifth International Conference

Planning, Law, and Property Rights

May 25–28, 2011

Edmonton, Alberta

The conference sessions will provide an exciting opportunity for scholars from around the world to present innovative research and engage in interdisciplinary exchange related to the theme of the Association – the study of the connections, in the broadest sense, between Planning and Law.

Both Law and Planning are social institutions aimed at promoting the public interest while safeguarding individual liberties. Both guide private decision making, but derive strength and authority from citizen participation. The challenges facing policy makers today emphasize the need to study the ways in which the law enables and restricts planning.

We invite papers on all topics related to law and planning, including all legal aspects of urban, regional, and rural planning; land use regulation; property rights, expropriation and compensation; housing; and public-private cooperation. We encourage submissions from researchers working in such areas as GIS, real estate, economics, and natural resources. PhD students are particularly welcome!

www.law.ualberta.ca/plpr/2011

STUDENT REPORT

Gloria Wilkinson

CPAA has made part of its mission, to interact with post-secondary planning students. We have interacted with the University of Calgary (U of C) for years, since they were the only location with a planning program. In 2010 we expanded our initiative to include the University of Alberta (U of A). You will have noted we had several student volunteers at the 2010 conference from both U of A and U of C. In 2011 we will expand our inclusion to the University of Lethbridge (U of L), when the Board meets with students from a variety of programs who offer planning courses. Look for students participating at the 2011 conference from all three institutions.

CPAA includes two student positions on our Board of Directors, and each Director mentors a student at the annual CPAA conference for their learning experiences. This is an opportunity for everyone to introduce themselves to future planning practitioners in our province, and CPAA provides price breaks to student conference costs.

It is all of us working together that makes the students cognizant of the community planning needs in Alberta. Thank you for working with us in this important piece of our future.

CPAA WORKING TO IMPROVE ALBERTA'S PLANNING EDUCATION

Don Schultz

To raise awareness of Alberta's planning education crisis and to find solutions that will lead to the re-establishment of an accredited planning program in Alberta, the CPAA Board of Directors has engaged in a program of advocacy with organizations such as the Alberta Professional Planners Institute (APPI, formerly AACIP), the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts & Counties (AAMD&C), the Alberta Association of Urban Municipalities (AUMA), Alberta Municipal Affairs, and Alberta Advanced Education & Technology. As a result of this advocacy, CPAA, APPI, AAMD&C, and AUMA have all adopted resolutions and policies calling upon the Government of Alberta to provide stronger support for planning education.

In September 2009, the CPAA Board of Directors approved a motion "that CPAA make connections and cooperate with other like organizations concerned about planning education in the province to increase planning education funding." In April 2010, APPI Council adopted a specific policy on advocacy for planning education "that the role of APPI in advocating for re-establishment of a fully accredited university planning program in Alberta includes:

- general advocacy in concert with other organizations for political and financial support at the Provincial level to establish an accredited university planning program in Alberta, and
- specific advocacy on behalf of particular institutions, provided that those institutions have demonstrated that they can satisfy national CIP accreditation requirements."

In March 2010, AAMD&C adopted a resolution that "encourages the Government of Alberta to:

1. Assist one or more universities in Alberta in creating and operating an accredited planning program; and further,
2. Allocate funding to implement and operate an accredited planning program at one or more universities in Alberta."

Most recently, in November 2010, AUMA adopted a resolution to "strongly encourage the Government of Alberta to work with academic institutions in Alberta to establish an accredited professional planning program in at least one Alberta University by September 2011."

In addition to promoting all of these policies and resolutions, the CPAA Board of Directors has been facilitating dialogue amongst our partner organizations and the Government of Alberta. Members of AAMD&C have met with senior administration at Alberta Advanced Education & Technology to advocate for stronger planning education, while AUMA has exchanged correspondence with Alberta Advanced Education & Technology Minister Doug Horner addressing the need for a revitalized planning education in this province.

CPAA has been working closely with APPI to coordinate advocacy in this endeavour. In September 2010, CPAA and APPI met with both Alberta Advanced Education & Technology Minister Doug Horner and Alberta Municipal Affairs Minister Hector Goudreau to discuss potential solutions to this problem and to explore ways in which CPAA and APPI could assist the Government in supporting stronger planning education in Alberta.

It is clear from the September 2010 meeting that both Ministers Goudreau and Horner recognize the need for better planning education and support our efforts to find solutions. More than acknowledging this need, these two Ministers agree that the need is urgent and that action must

be taken immediately so that new professional planners who are educated in Alberta will be able to start serving our communities as soon as possible. This common acknowledgment of Alberta's planning education crisis has established a strong spirit of cooperation among those Ministries, CPAA, APPI, AAMD&C, and AUMA.

Following the September 2010 meeting with Ministers Goudreau and Horner, 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 re-establishing university planning education programs in Alberta. Key to this initiative will be coordination with an organization under the purview of Alberta Advanced Education & Technology, known as the Campus Alberta Quality Council. Another outcome from that November 2010 meeting will be outreach to other champions of higher education to spearhead our multi-pronged advocacy. The CPAA Board of Directors will continue to work with our partner organizations over the winter of 2010-2011 to develop a coordinated approach to the delivery of planning education that will draw upon the resources of multiple institutions of higher learning across the province.

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 professionals. 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 Alberta Planning Exchange informed as we work toward our common goal of re-establishing an accredited system of planning education in Alberta.

PLANNING AROUND ALBERTA

Richard Neufeld

Starting with the summer villages in the spring and summer of this year and ending with general municipal elections on October 18, 2010, every municipality in Alberta has a new duly elected Council tasked with the responsibility of sustaining and improving our communities. People often forget that the closer a government is to you, the more influence it has on your daily life.

A municipal government has more day to day impact on daily living than a Provincial or Federal government. Councils set overall planning directions and goals in a municipality and often participate on planning commissions and appeal boards. Though planners provide qualified advice, Councils are the critical decision makers that guide the long term sustainability of their municipality.

Whether you are a new or re-elected Reeve, Mayor, Councillor or Alderperson, congratulations on your success! Similarly, a well deserved thank you to those of you that have retired from municipal politics. CPAA appreciates the contribution that you make in our daily lives and we look forward to continuing to be a valued resource for important planning decisions to come.



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2011 MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Organization: (for Group Membership)					
Contact Name for group:					
Others in Group:					
Name: (for Individual or Student Membership)					
CONTACT INFORMATION FOR All Types of Membership					
Street Address:					
City/Town:		Province:		Postal Code:	
Phone:		Fax:		E-mail:	
Type of Membership (Please mark one box with "X")*					
<i>*memberships are valid from January 1 to December 31 each year* GST not applicable</i>					
Group (\$180/year):	<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual (\$60/year):	<input type="checkbox"/>	Student (\$25/year):	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fees enclosed (please make cheques payable to the Community Planning Association of Alberta). Credit card payment is not available.					
Invoice the above organization.					