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Message from the Chair

By Gloria Wilkinson

Season's Greetings, everyone! In addition to our ongoing operations, we have already begun planning the Education Session and the Planning Conference for next April in Red Deer. You will find further information on the Conference within the pages of this newsletter, and we look forward to seeing everyone next spring.

On November 16th, we held our first university "Meet and Greet" at the University of Alberta, and we had a great turnout for this event. Our next event will be on January 25, 2013, when we will be at the University of Calgary, and we are anticipating another great evening. We are also planning to schedule an event at the University of Lethbridge sometime in the next year, and we will keep you posted as further details are confirmed.

These sessions demonstrate a growing interest by the students in both our Association and APPI, who co-hosted with us, and we plan to build upon this growing relationship in the future. In the meantime, everyone have a marvellous Christmas/Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

If you have questions or comments for the board or any of the standing committees, please send us an email with your thoughts!

Message from the Treasurer

By Peter Lehner

Fellow CPAA Members, it is my duty to inform you about an upcoming adjustment. Continuing with our CPAA Mission to meet the goal of savings to cover one-years operating expenses, in case of any adverse events, and in addition to increased operating expenses, you will note that our membership fees will increase in 2013.

The Board has worked hard, and has been able to hold the cost level down for a number of years, but we can no longer do so. The raise will also help to ensure a strong CPAA into the future.

Perhaps we can take a vote at the AGM to see if you prefer us to hold the line for a few years between changes- or – if you would rather see small annual changes.

Looking forward to see you at the conference from April 15 to April 17, 2013 in Red Deer (for further updates please visit: www.cpaabiz.com)

Editor's Note

By Jennifer Black

It is an exciting time for planning in the Province of Alberta! The University of Alberta announces the launch of a new planning program, and the University of Calgary announces the name approval of their Master of Planning (M.Plan) program. Turn to our Planning Program News section for more.

We also celebrate student achievement this issue with the publication of our second winning student essay. Angela and I were the lucky recipients of scholarship awards this year... thank you to the CPAA for your support!

Meanwhile, the University of Calgary held their first annual student planning conference in honour of World Town Planning Day on November 8th, 2012. CPAA director Cam Lang provided the keynote address, with Dr. Sasha Tsenkova filling the role of Conference Chair. Student presentations addressed issues vital to smart growth and sustainable planning in the 21st century, drawing on local and international practices:

- Yvonne Pronovost: *Heritage Tax Abatement*
- Cheryl Clieff: *Energy Retrofits for Social Housing*
- Chelsea Whitty: *Tactical Urbanism*
- Jennifer Black & Liam Cummings: *Sustainable Cities - Lessons from Europe*
- Armaghan Baghoori: *Public Spaces in Calgary's Core*
- Ana Karinna Hidalgo: *Planning and Design Methodologies*
- Elmira Aghsaee: *Public Room - Animating Dead Spaces*

For more information: <http://evds.ucalgary.ca/event/connect-planning-change-conference>. Stay tuned for next year's conference.

Winning Student Scholarship Essays

In the August issue, we announced this year's recipients of the CPAA Scholarship valued at \$1,000 each: Jennifer Black and Angela Eaton both attended the 2012 Conference and wrote a 1000-word essay on their conference experience. Jennifer's essay was published in our August issue.

Complete Communities: Creating Sustainable, Resilient Communities through Citizen Engagement

By Angela Eaton

The Community Planning Association of Alberta (CPAA) annual conference this year started off with Michael von Hausen and his talk Complete Communities: the Next Generation. He defined complete communities as communities that are a place to live, a place to have fun and play, a place to work and learn, and a place with a unique spirit (von Hausen, 2012). The most intriguing aspect of this definition is in the last phrase – a place with a unique spirit. Often complete communities are defined as areas that you can live, work and play in. Not very often are complete communities described using something intangible, like “the spirit of place”. Although “the spirit of a place” is intangible and hard to describe, I argue that it is the most important aspect of a complete community. It is the “I cannot put a finger on what makes this place special”, or the “exciting vibrancy” that is felt in neighbourhoods that you cannot explain. This I believe stems from the communities biggest asset, the people that live in it. Michael Von Hausen said that the parks and the public realm are the core to creating sustainable communities, and I think he was on to something (von Hausen, 2012). They are the spaces in which people engage with each other, create connections, and build relationships with their neighbours. It is within the linkages between people that resiliency and true sustainability is born. For me, this concept became more obvious as the conference progressed; Brenda Herchmer presented on community transformations in Alberta all of which stemmed from community members coming together for a common goal (Herchmer, 2012); Mayor Réal Forest from Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan discussed how his community breathed new life into their town (Forest, 2012). In this essay I will be describing examples of communities in Alberta and around the world, that have worked together to create their own complete communities, communities that they can live in, work in, play in, and engage with.

One of the best example that I can think of, of a community of people coming together to create their own complete community is the neighbourhood of Vauban, in Freiburg, Germany. Vauban was originally developed as a military base however, was abandoned in 1992. After the military left, the citizens of Freiburg demanded their city council make the old barracks into a sustainable community. A group of citizens even formed an organization called Forum Vauban. The City of Freiburg worked with Forum Vauban to create the final masterplan for the area. The area definitely became sustainable; the entire area ended up being completely car-free. In Vauban there are two parking garages, at the edges of the neighbourhood, so within the community people walk, bike, or take transit. This makes it possible for lots of social interaction in the parks and in the public realm making it easy for community members to engage with each other. Most of the individual lots were sold to co-housing groups made up of prospective residents who were able to plan out the buildings to meet their specific needs. This is such an innovative concept because families, friends, relatives, groups of people could come together before hand decide they want to live together and build a complex that fits their needs instead of having to rely on the market. At the centre of the community in one of the historic barracks, is a self-governing community centre. When I was there a community farmer's market was taking place right outside the community centre. I could feel the love that the community had for the neighbourhood that they created together. Also in Vauban, there are restaurants, small businesses, schools, offices, lots of open space, and community gardens. Vauban is definitely an eco-friendly neighbourhood, but the most innovative thing about it was not that it has environmentally

friendly elements it was that it was built by the community for the community. The community of Vauban would not have existed without a community of people willing to engage and create the neighbourhood that they wanted. The community of people in Vauban is what will make the neighbourhood resilient for years to come (Bagaeen, 2006).

A more local example is 118th Avenue in Edmonton. For years The City of Edmonton had been trying to transform 118th Avenue. They had several pilot projects to try and stimulate redevelopment in the area including new art pieces on light fixtures and other urban design elements. However, many of the social problems did not decrease as a result of these projects. It was not until they had decided to give the responsibility to community members that the area really started to transform. The City of Edmonton brought the neighbourhood together and they started organizing themselves into different initiatives. One of the initiatives is what they call a “park crawl”. Neighbours would get together and all walk their dogs to many of the surrounding parks in order for more “eyes on the street” to stop some the crime in the area. As well, after The City had brought together the community members, the community realized that there are a lot of artists who live in the neighbourhood. As such, they decided to develop an organization called Arts on the Ave. One of the major objectives of Arts of the Ave is to establish 118th Avenue as the Community Arts Avenue in Edmonton. They host annual Arts on the Ave Festivals, showcasing local artists. They have refurbished two buildings along the Avenue one to be a live work facility and one just as a community art centre. Finally, they established “The Carrot” a community arts coffee house that is fully operated by volunteers from the community and is a space for community members to causally interact, to display their art, and to watch music, poetry, drama, and comedy. The community along 118th Avenue is a testament to the fact that a community is not just about building the right elements in an area, but about creating a social community, a network of people that love and care about where they live and will work together to create and maintain a complete community (“Arts on the ave,” 2012).

During the CPAA conference, I heard of examples just the ones that I mentioned above. I heard from Brenda Herchmer about the community of Sangudo that on the first project they completed (to rebuild their playground), had over two hundred people come out to help. Now every year on the summer solstice they have a new project that the whole community works on. They also now have a co-op meat packers as well as a Green Energy Co-op. Sangudo is most definitely a place where people love where they live, care about each other, and want to work together to improve their community (Herchmer, 2012). Mayor Réal Forest from Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan also talked about how his community came together to revitalize their main-street, and rejuvenated their community. The community put in new decorative lamp posts, and garden plots, widened sidewalks, and relocated and expanded their museum. Forest mentioned however, that it was in the community events that led to a lot of the improvements—that it took people coming together and engaging with each other to transform their community. The people of Gravelbourg volunteered their time, and energy into giving back to the place they live. Every garden plot planted, every new lamp post, every stone laid in the sidewalk came from love and devotion to the community. That is where I think the real spirit of a place comes from (Forest, 2012).

At the CPAA conference not only did I learn a lot about initiatives that are taking place in Alberta and different parts of Western Canada, I was also able to relate it to various communities that I have studied and visited over the course of my degree. Having that kind of reflection made it possible for me to not only have a better understanding of complete communities, but also to gain an understanding of what planning principles are important to me. The kind of planner I want to be is a planner that enables communities to better themselves. To give communities the tools, resources and direction to create the neighbourhood that they want. The spirit of a place does not come from planners making the decisions for communities, but from a community of people that work together to create something beautiful. The most beautiful community in the world, that you can live, work and play in will not be sustainable unless it has a network of community members that are willing to work together when an issue arises. Therefore, I believe that community

engagement and the spirit of a place is the most important element of a complete community—a principle that I will carry with me in every planning project that I work on.

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Angela Eaton graduated from the University of Calgary with an Urban Studies degree in April 2012. She is now working for The City of Calgary, helping to coordinate public engagement on the new Central Library. She plans to go back to school in fall of 2013 to get a Masters of Planning focusing on active community engagement and strengthening community involvement.

CPAA Presentation to

The Slave Lake Regional Library Board

On December 1, 2012 Lesley Vandemark, former CPAA Director, presented a cheque for \$500.00 to the Slave Lake Regional Library Board. Board Member Mark Missal accepted the cheque with Linda Duplessis of the Peace Library Association, in Grande Prairie.



Mark Missal, Lesley Vandemark and Linda Duplessis

CPAA 2013 Annual Conference

The CPAA Conference Committee is busy preparing for the 2013 Conference! We are excited to announce that the 2013 Conference theme is *Growth Without Boundaries?* The conference will be held April 15 – 17 in Red Deer at the Black Knight Inn. We are very excited to have secured Alberta Municipal Affairs to provide our Education Session on conflict resolution.

Our list of excellent sessions is growing and we have confirmed leading industry experts to present and share their knowledge on a number of topics including off-site levies; engineering and land use planning in municipalities; barrier free urban design for aging populations; changing housing requirements for immigrant families; and implications of new technology on municipalities. Keep your eyes peeled for the February 2012 CPAA Newsletter for more details!

We look forward to seeing you in April to share a few educational moments, networking opportunities and a few laughs with you! Refer to the CPAA web site for the Registration Form and Sponsor Opportunities.

Planning Programs' News

University of Calgary's Master of Planning Program Name Approved

The University of Calgary is pleased to announce that they have received approval from the Province of Alberta to change the name of their former Master of Environmental Design (Planning) to Master of Planning (MPlan). This supports the University of Calgary Board of Governors' decision to re-name the program in order to increase its visibility and identity. The program now has approximately 75 students in the two years of our program, which was re-launched in 2011, and which will graduate the first class in the spring of 2013. As well, the faculty announces the appointment of Dr. Beverly Sandalack as Associate Dean (Academic) Environmental Design and Planning, as the new Director of the Program. For more information, please visit the website: <http://evds.ucalgary.ca> , or direct any questions to either:

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University of Alberta Announces the Launch of New Planning Program

Dr. Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost, University of Alberta, Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel, and Edmonton's City Council are very excited to celebrate the launch of a new undergraduate degree program in planning. The University of Alberta Planning Program which has been accepted into the Association of Canadian University Planning Programs (ACUPP). <http://planning.eas.ualberta.ca/> For more information, please contact:

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Upcoming Events

CPAA - University of Calgary Student Meet and Greet

January 25, 2013 - Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Calgary

Sustainability Resources Seminars

Dates and locations vary

Sustainability Resources has developed a suite of learning resources and tools that were designed in consultation with municipal leaders, respected water managers, and skilled practitioners from across Alberta.

For upcoming seminars: <http://www.sustainabilitycircle.ca/>

University of Alberta Regional Planning Speakers Series

Dates and locations vary

The City-Region Studies Centre at the University of Alberta will be presenting a speaker series framed within two broad topics: Innovation and the Planning Community and Development of Sustainable Cities.

For upcoming seminars: <http://www.crsc.ualberta.ca/>

University of Calgary Sustainability Seminar Series and Design Matters Series

Dates and locations vary

The Faculty of Environmental Design will be inviting sustainability and design professionals throughout the year to discuss their ideas, projects, and career experience in global thinking and environmental stewardship. The series engage interested citizens, students, public officials, and planners.

For upcoming seminars: <http://evds.ucalgary.ca/event>

Environmental Project Management Planning Workshop

January 23 – 24, 2013 at Red Deer

<http://dgslearningcentre.com/>

CPAA Annual Planning Conference “Growth without Barriers?”

April 15 - 17, 2013 at the Black Knight Inn, Red Deer

www.cpaa.biz

Analytics BIG DATA and the Cloud II

May 13 - 15, 2013

Held simultaneously at Delta Bow Valley, Calgary and Delta South, Edmonton.

Alberta Council of Technologies www.ABCtech.ca and www.BESTofANALYTICS.com

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.

We Invite You to Get Involved!

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.cpaabiz.com>

Write:

The Alberta Planning Exchange offers a forum to express you 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.

Volunteer:

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

CPAA suddenly has three openings on our active board of directors. If you are interested in joining our board of directors, you are encouraged to apply to this exciting and challenging volunteer role by submitting a brief expression of interest to cpaa@cpaa.biz which summarizes your interest and suitability for the role.

