

Sunday, October 6, 2019

T1: FireSmart: Mitigating Fire Risk in Wood Buffalo Bus Tour

FireSmart is a national program adopted by communities across Canada to reduce the risk of wildfire. FireSmart is composed of seven disciplines: education, vegetation management, legislation and planning, development considerations, interagency cooperation, emergency planning, and cross-training.

Representatives from the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo will explain the current implementation of FireSmart across the region. Participants will have the opportunity to visit sites in the Fort McMurray area impacted by wildfire and learn about recently implemented FireSmart treatments.

1A: Where Have My Property Corners Gone?

Information provided by land surveys is essential for Professional Planners. What do we do when natural disasters and subsequent heavy machinery work destroy survey monuments and threaten to delay the rebuild process? This session will explain the Re-Survey process completed in the aftermath of the 2016 Horse River Wildfire in Fort McMurray. Taking the advice of local Alberta Land Surveyors, the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) approached the Province with a proposal to restore the cadastral fabric in affected areas. The RMWB Council subsequently passed a resolution to perform an official Re-Survey under the Surveys Act of Alberta.

Presenters will share lessons learned from the Re-Survey process, the largest and quickest Re-Survey in Alberta's history, with 1,598 parcels re-surveyed. Attendees will learn about the latest surveying equipment and methods, and how government, professionals, and the public worked together to restore the cadastral fabric.

1B: How can we become "Weavers"?

Can decreased social isolation lead to fewer societal problems? A new movement, the Weaver movement believes it can. The Weaver movement focuses on how individuals and organizations can replace a culture of hyper-individualism with a culture of relationships.

Through facilitated conversations, this session will introduce planners to the Weaver movement and how it can be used to celebrate one another and build up communities. According to Weavers, every time you diminish a person, you've ripped the social fabric; every time you encourage or make a person feel known, you've woven it. Participants will walk away with tips for putting the movement into practice in their own lives. Will you be a ripper or a weaver?

2A: Conversations on Implementation: Lessons from Red Deer's Environmental Master Plan

This presentation will allow participants to gain deeper insights into the implementation process. Presenters will share their experience with the Red Deer Environmental Master Plan, which underwent a five year 'refresh' and will be presented as a case study. The session will then switch to a facilitated conversation where participants can share their own implementation experiences. Participants will reflect on questions like,

- How have you created buy-in amongst internal stakeholders when implementing your plans?
- How have you used data and indicators to improve the implementation of your plans?
- How has engagement with community stakeholders and the public enhanced the implementation of plans?

The aim is to tap into the wisdom of participants and generate a variety of insights, tips, and best practices for accelerating the implementation of plans. Ideas will be summarized and distributed after the session.



2B: Land Supply and Economic Development Panel

Fort McMurray has historically been subject to significant growth pressures, yet challenged by a lack of shovel-ready commercial and industrial land. The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) engaged Associated Engineering and Colliers International to re-assess and understand the current situation and future growth prospects for commercial and industrial land. Today, the Municipality has a significant supply of land and can confidently say, "We are open for business." However, prospects for growth have shifted as new challenges have emerged: changes in the oil and gas sectors contributing to a lack of employment, high vacancy rates, and a reduction in property values, as well as impacts from the 2016 wildfire.

Join panel presenters from the RMWB, Wood Buffalo Economic Development Corporation, and Associated Engineering as they share their experiences with promoting economic development through adversity. Panelists will invite questions about what is needed to close the gap between sustainable community planning and economic development. This panel will allow participants to challenge preconceived notions about community planning and what makes economic expansion happen.

W1: We Built it (kind of), they didn't come, what the __ do we do next?

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo is looking towards the future of its downtown. Despite a new civic square, unlimited height, and generous development incentives, vacant lots and storefront abound. What's a planner to do? This deep-dive workshop provides a hands-on opportunity learn about Fort McMurray's downtown. From boomtown to downtown, participants will learn about the history, past downtown revitalization efforts, and current challenges. Participants will share experiences through facilitated discussions before breaking into small groups to develop their own concept idea for the downtown.

3A: The Land Use Bylaw: A Re-designed Tool

Alberta is experiencing a renaissance in land use planning. An old tool, the land use bylaw, is being re-designed and re-purposed to ensure community visions can be realized. Land use bylaws need not be the mundane, challenging documents of the past.

High River and Beaumont have both demonstrated how a new hybrid approach, one that combines use and form, can be effective in Alberta. Melissa Ayers, lead planner for both High River and Beaumont's land use bylaws, will demonstrate how similar changes can be implemented throughout Alberta. Through this hands-on workshop, participants will take home a framework for their own communities and a better appreciation for how land use bylaws can be a tool to strengthen communities.

3B: Excuse me! What ARE my re-build options?

"With every obstacle comes new opportunities to support the rebuild of your community"

The 2016 Horse River Wildfire resulted in the loss of more than 2,500 homes in Fort McMurray. Pressure to rebuild was immense. In this presentation and workshop, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo planning staff will share some of the strategies, planning instruments, and tools used during the rebuilding process. This interactive workshop will simulate some of the real-time conditions and challenges faced by municipal planners. Participants will be tasked with identifying re-building options, while addressing challenges as new information arises. Participants will take away an understanding of the challenges of rebuilding in areas with non-conforming parcels, environmental constraints, grading challenges, and other issues. Expect a twist or two!

3C: Regulating the Profession Education Session

This education session will provide an overview of the professional standards of conduct governing planners. The Canadian Institute of Planner's new Professional Code of Practice will be the central focus and will be used to generate discussion about issues confronting planners working in the public and private sectors. This discussion will help planners address a range of questions including:

- Who to go to for advice?
- How does the Code provide a moral/ethical foundation?
- How can APPI help with difficult issues?

4A: Hidden Gems: Lessons from Faust, Joussard and Grouard, Alberta

During the early 1900s, the Hamlets of Faust, Joussard, and Grouard were the centre of northern Alberta's booming mink farming and fishing industries. However, these hamlets were surpassed by other communities as new resource-based economies took off. Today, spurred by a revived interest from tourists, new Area Structure Plans (ASPs) have been prepared in the three communities. Preparing the plans was no easy feat, as planners sought to balance competing development interests, resident values, diverse First Nation communities, and environmental protection. Despite similar origins, these three hamlets have each evolved in a unique way.

In this Fast, Funny and Passionate session, the presenters will discuss some of their learnings balancing diverse interests, while also sharing some of the rich histories of these hidden gems.

4A: Finding the "Suite Spot"

Municipalities looking to create affordable, inclusive, and complete communities have often turned to a "go to" tool – secondary suites – as a form of "gentle" density. In 2018, the City of Edmonton introduced new policies to encourage secondary suites in more types of housing across the City, including single family homes on narrow (skinny) lots, semi-detached homes, and row houses.

In just 10 minutes, participants will learn about Edmonton's recent experience and public response. Participants will learn how the new policy increases affordability and promotes safety by encouraging homeowners to bring their non-confirming suites into compliance. The presenter will also share Edmonton's Open City Initiative, which includes online mapping that allows residents to identify permitted, inspected, and regulated suites.

Monday, October 7, 2019

K1: Everything is About to Change Keynote

Disruptions have impacted almost every industry, but our communities have remained relatively unchanged in the last 50 years. This will not be case in the very near future. Technological and social changes will challenge communities, and those who are unprepared will not prosper. Doug Griffins, author of 13 Ways To Kill Your Community, will share his perspectives on change. Why do people resist change, even when it is inevitable? What challenges do communities and organizations face by being unprepared? And, how give greater consideration to and take advantage of the opportunities created by change?



T2: The Rivers That Join Us Bus Tour

This bus tour will introduce participants to Wood Buffalo's unique arts and culture scene. Participants will tour a variety of local arts, cultural, and historical sites in the Fort McMurray area. At each stop, participants will be met by community members who have an intimate knowledge of the site. Sites have been carefully curated to provide participants with an immersive experience that will leave them with a richer understanding of the region. Participants will gain an appreciation for how the collective work of arts and culture community leaders helps foster a stronger sense of community in the region. Participants will also be treated to a live performance at one of the region's premier performing arts facilities.

5A: □□□ (îNîW) River Lot 11[∞] (Edmonton's Indigenous Art Park): Stories of this Place

Edmonton's first dedicated Indigenous Art Park was created to not only exhibit artworks and celebrate Indigenous artists and cultures, but to serve as a place for gathering, education, and arts programming. To realize the art park, a multi-year collaborative process was developed that built trust, opened opportunities, and explored ways of thinking about place as it related to Indigenous cultures.

Michelle Hartlaub, planner with the City of Edmonton, will share how the art park was developed, how it integrated and strengthened the complex relationships between and with Indigenous partners, and how the process itself served to foster local meaning. Participants will take away lessons and strategies that can be applied to related endeavors.

5B: Rural Community Resilience through a Modernized Municipal Government Act?

Over the last 20 years, principles of community sustainability and climate change resilience have formed the foundations of planning practice. Yet, many rural communities and counties continue to face depopulation, along with social and economic decline. As part of the Modernized Municipal Government Act, the Province has mandated the preparation of Integrated Collaboration Frameworks (ICFs) and Intermunicipal Development Plans (IDPs) to help address these challenges and promote inter-municipal collaboration. All municipalities must prepare ICFs and IDPs by 2020.

This session will focus on what has been occurring in the fields of community sustainability and climate resilience. Presenters will discuss scholarly literature, while adding to the debate of whether these new ICF and IDP frameworks will address rural community resilience challenges.

Housing for Health

Plenary

The University of Alberta recently launched the Housing for Health Project. Bringing together sector partners from over 20 organizations, the Project seeks to improve the design of housing developments to better support the health and well-being of our communities' aging populations. This includes promoting active living, access to healthy food, social connection, and aging in place.

Panelists will discuss the role of local and regional planning in addressing today's health and wellbeing issues. Two pilot projects, an infill development in a mature neighbourhood of Edmonton and a greenfield development in the Town of Whitecourt, will be discussed. Attendees will be encouraged to share their questions and join the discussion.

6A: Coffee Talk: Re-engaging with the Agricultural Community *"Sometimes 'innovation' comes in the simplest of forms"*

As part of Sturgeon County's Agricultural Engagement Strategy, a certain success arose over a simple cup of coffee, a chair, stories, and a listening ear. Through these strategies, relationships began to flourish, and local voices grew louder. This session will focus on how municipalities can foster community spirit and trust through thoughtful planning and engagement practices. Join Natasha De Sandi as she shares Sturgeon County's recent experience with its Agricultural Engagement Strategy. But first, coffee?

6B: Finding Strength in your Surroundings

This presentation will introduce participants to Graystone, a recently approved brownfield redevelopment in the Town of Cochrane's downtown. Redevelopment of the more than 70-year-old Burnswest Gravel Quarry site presented a significant opportunity. This included the change to enhance the downtown, bring vibrancy to the lands adjacent to the recreation centre and the Bow River Campground, attract new businesses, connect communities, and allow more residents to live in proximity to places of work, shopping and recreation. Presenters from the Town of Cochrane and B&A Planning Group will share their approach to major site redevelopment, including strategies to help address community concerns through relationship building.

6C: Regulating the Profession *Education Session*

This education session will provide an overview of the professional standards of conduct governing planners. The Canadian Institute of Planner's new Professional Code of Practice will be the central focus and will be used to generate discussion about issues confronting planners working in the public and private sectors. This discussion will help planners address a range of questions including:

- Who to go to for advice?
- How does the Code provide a moral/ethical foundation?
- How can APPI help with difficult issues?

Tuesday, October 8, 2019

7A: Heritage Conservation: (Re)Understanding Plan in Old Strathcona

Heritage conservation provides the backbone of many planning efforts; however, heritage conservation often focuses on the physical aspects of a community that can be seen, touched, or experienced. In 2007, the Province designated Edmonton's Old Strathcona neighborhood as a Provincial Historical Area, with an emphasis on the built environment. Old Strathcona's historic buildings largely reflect the story of successful entrepreneurs and their contributions to Edmonton's growing economy and social life. In 2010, in the face of strong development pressures, new questions arose about "What do we mean by 'historically significant'?" Provincial staff realized that they only understood part of the community's past.

Representatives from the Historic Places Research and Designation Program will share their learnings from more than a year of research. Participants will take away an understanding of the benefits and obstacles of conserving historic resources in Alberta, an understanding of which stakeholders are best suited to undertake aspects of place-knowing and place-making, and the importance for Planning Professionals to continually learn, re-learn, and challenge their understanding of history.



7B: Collaborating with Your Neighbours

The nature of relationships is changing. Developing relationships at the interface between all levels of government is an emerging area for planners. Municipalities must increasingly seek to understand how to work and collaborate with Indigenous communities both within and adjacent to their jurisdiction and boundaries. Presenters from Urban Systems will share their experiences at this interface working on behalf of the Fort McKay Metis Community Association (FMMCA) to build strength in new partnerships with the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

Participants will learn about the recently approved Fort McKay Area Structure Plan and future projects (new Land Use Bylaw, Community Infrastructure Plan, and Community Master Plan), which will be products of genuine collaboration. Participants will then work through an activity that will help them draw connections between evolving jurisdictional responsibilities and interests, and recognize how they can (or already are) act as conveyors of these interests.

Closing Plenary

Details to be announced shortly.